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Dear Douglas,

Thank you for your letters of 29 January to the First Minister and me along with the Poverty and Inequality Commission's scrutiny report on the progress made by Scottish Government on the Shifting the Curve recommendations.

I welcome the scrutiny undertaken by the Commission. While I am pleased with the assessment that considerable activity has taken place in the three years since Naomi Eisenstadt published her report, I note the Commission's concerns around the lack of hard data and detail on the impact of our actions.

I would like to reassure you that monitoring and evaluating performance is a key priority for this government. Our purpose, values, outcomes and indicators are enshrined in our National Performance Framework and collectively set out our vision of the country we want Scotland to be.

Going forward, my officials will reinforce the specific need to gather robust and reliable data to measure the impacts of cross-government action to implement the Shifting the Curve and Life Chances of Young People in Scotland recommendations.

The Commission may wish to note that a new approach is being taken to reporting in 2019. The Scottish Government will be publishing a single report in December that captures progress on Shifting the Curve, Life Chances and the Fairer Scotland Action Plan. We hope that by simultaneously assessing the actions and recommendations in each policy area across these publications, a more strategic assessment of the impacts of these policies can be demonstrated. This report will be thematic in nature, but care will be taken to ensure that each of the recommendations in Shifting the Curve and Life Chances is addressed and its key impacts drawn out.

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Thank you again for the Commission's help in our efforts to reduce poverty and inequality in Scotland.



AILEEN CAMPBELL

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