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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 April regarding the challenges facing East Dunbartonshire Council and the impact of the UK Government's decision to increase employers' National Insurance contributions .

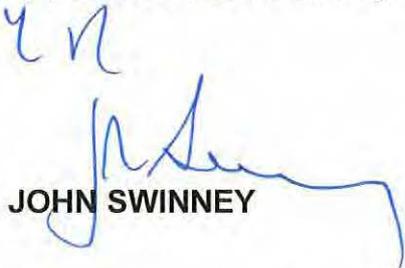
Ministers welcome support from COSLA and individual local authorities in urging the UK Government to fully fund this tax increase. The Treasury must fully fund the actual costs for Scotland's public sector, recognising the differing size and configuration of public services in Scotland, and not just give a much lower value Barnett share of spending in England.

HM Treasury have said that they will confirm implications for the 2025-26 Scottish Budget in time for the 2025-26 UK Government's Main Estimates process, this is usually published around June of each year.

In the meantime, we will continue to press for clarity on funding and full funding of the UK Government's increase, to inform planning for the 2025-26 financial year.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government raised these issues with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury when they met on 27 February and again called for the additional costs to public services to be fully funded.

The Scottish Government is committed to engaging constructively with the UK Government to highlight the importance of sustainable public services to ensure the people of Scotland continue to receive the high quality public services that they expect and deserve.


JOHN SWINNEY

