



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

First Minister John Swinney MSP

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Falkirk, 24 February 2026

Dear First Minister,

We are contacting you on behalf of the places of worship in our constituencies who are concerned about uncertainty regarding ongoing support for places of worship in Scotland. You will be aware that the UK Labour Government transitioned from a transitional VAT reclaim scheme to a Places of Worship Renewal Fund (LPWS) with a value of £92,000,000.

In the Spending Review, the Scottish Government received a substantial increase in revenue funding, including record Barnett consequentials. The additional funding being made available because of the UK Government's investment, for Scottish places of worship we understand should be administered by Historic Environment Scotland, and their funding should have been concurrently increased to support Scottish places of worship.

However, as Members of Parliament for places of worship who rely on additional support, we are dismayed to find out that the very opposite has happened and that your government has slashed Historic Environment Scotland's budget from £74.3m in 25/26 to £70.7m in 26/27.

Many places of worship have become the principle or only community asset in our areas due to the long-term underfunding of your Government in Scottish Local authorities subsequently leading to the closure of valued community spaces. This uncertainty about the provision of support which is within the remit of your Scottish Government risks causing real detriment to those planning to maintain places of worship in our communities.

We are requesting information on how Places of Worship will be supported by the Scottish Government.

What has happened to the additional resources secured by Scottish Labour MP's in the spending review, which should be spent on supporting the re-generation of Scottish places of worship in our communities?

Yours sincerely,

Euan Stainbank MP, Member of Parliament for Falkirk
Katrina Murray MP, Member of Parliament for Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch
Graeme Downie MP, Member of Parliament for Dunfermline and Dollar
Douglas McAllister MP, Member of Parliament for West Dunbartonshire

Euan Stainbank MP
Member of Parliament for Falkirk

Parliamentary office
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Constituency office
16-18 Newmarket Street
Falkirk FK1 1JQ

Email: euansainbank.mp@parliament.uk
Phone: 01324 868 715
Facebook: Euan Stainbank MP
X: @Euan4Falkirk
Instagram: @euansainbankforfalkirk
Website: euansainbank.co.uk