



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

21 September 2011

Embargo: None

SCDI Comment on the Scottish Spending Review

SCDI Chief Executive, Dr Lesley Sawers said:

"The Scottish Government has had to make tough choices and SCDI welcomes the priority which it has given to infrastructure, particularly the strategic transport network, by transferring funding from revenue to capital budgets. Capital investment is vital both for short-term economic stimulus and long-term sustainable economic growth.

"SCDI is, however, disappointed that the Scottish Government is reducing its contribution to Scottish Water's capital programme by £120m and admit that their approach has risks attached. Investment in water infrastructure enables sustainable development and is very important for jobs in the construction sector. Ministers must keep this under review and consider new sources of finance.

"Although Ministers have made significant commitments in relation to local carbon energy, SCDI is concerned that national and local economic development budgets will suffer disproportionately in the squeeze on spending.

"Excellence in education and skills development is a priority for economic prosperity. SCDI strongly believes there is a need for ongoing debate on how Scotland maintains the international competitiveness of our education sectors and delivers the skills needed for growth."

ENDS

Notes to editors

SCDI is Scotland's leading economic development organisation representing 1,200 companies, SMEs, public sector bodies, charities, trade unions and faith groups.



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