



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

17 November 2010

Embargo: None

SCDI Comment on Scottish Budget

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 investment, which is vital for the future growth and sustainability of Scotland’s economy, by transferring funding from revenue to capital budgets. We also welcome the commitment to develop creative financing to deliver essential infrastructure.

“However, given that the Scottish Government’s priority is increasing sustainable economic growth, SCDI is disappointed that the cuts affecting Scotland’s enterprise, education and tourism sectors are, once again, significantly larger than other departments. Investment in skills is an essential element of a successful economy and the substantial reductions in funding reinforce the need for a new approach which sustains the competitiveness of Scotland’s universities and colleges and offers opportunities for young people.

“We are concerned at the Scottish Government’s plans to increase business rates for large retailers. A level playing field on business rates must be maintained across the UK, otherwise Scotland will be at a competitive disadvantage for investment, risking economic recovery and jobs.

“SCDI would urge all parties to work together to agree a budget which delivers a sustainable future for Scotland in the short and long term.”

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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