

# council tax hike



is why we are making available record funding of more than £14bn to councils in 2024/25 and our commitment to meaningful budget engagement with Cosla will continue ahead of the Scottish Budget."

Mr Swinney was separately urged to deliver a "game-changing" tax cut to help Scotland's businesses in the Budget.

Scottish Conservative leader Russell Findlay told the First Minister that higher rates of income tax in Scotland were "stopping businesses from growing, preventing them from creating jobs".

On income tax, he said: "Everyone is pleading for the SNP to change direction."

In recent budgets, SNP finance secretaries have used powers over income tax rates and bands to increase charges for higher earners, with ministers seeing this as a method of raising more money for public services.

Mr Findlay raised this issue at First Minister's Questions after Glasgow University Professor David Heald told MSPs on Holyrood's finance committee the high marginal tax rates in Scotland were "ludicrous".

Hitting out at the SNP leader, the Tory said: "John Swinney surely knows that high tax kills growth and costs jobs. But in his topsy-turvy world, hitting hard-working Scots with high taxes will somehow boost our struggling economy. Even his own MSPs are worried."

The First Minister, however, told Mr Findlay that since the SNP had come to power, Scotland had seen higher rates of GDP growth per person than the UK as a whole.

"Since 2007, GDP per person has grown by 10.5 per cent in Scotland compared to 6.3 per cent at a UK level," Mr Swinney told MSPs.

"Just to remind Parliament, so Parliament has complete information, 2007 was the moment that this Government was elected. So in the lifespan of this government, we have delivered more growth per head than the rest of the United Kingdom."

## Thousands wait more than a day in A&E

Neil Pooran

Almost 9,000 Scots spent more than a day waiting in A&E departments during the first nine months of this year, Anas Sarwar has said as he clashed with John Swinney over the NHS.

The Scottish Labour leader raised hospital waiting times during First Minister's Questions yesterday, saying another 200 patients have had to wait more than two days.

Mr Swinney said his government is investing in the NHS and he urged Mr Sarwar to engage in good faith in the Scottish Budget negotiations.

Mr Sarwar opened by saying: "Statistics obtained by Scottish Labour show that almost 9,000 Scots waited over 24 hours in A&E up to the end of September this year.



Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar attacked A&E record

"That's a full day waiting for treatment."

He said the First Minister had attempted to "play down" the scale of the problem.

Mr Swinney said the government has invested in the NHS beyond what was necessary in the Barnett formula, which allocates much of Scotland's public finance levels.

He said: "This government has been prepared to invest in excess of Barnett consequences."

He acknowledged the NHS faces "challenges" and apologised to anyone who has waited longer than necessary.

But Mr Sarwar hit back, saying the situation has "got worse" under Mr Swinney's leadership.

The recent UK Budget will result in an additional £1.72 billion for Scotland's NHS next year, he said, and he called for the money to be spent on bringing down long waiting times.

## Cambushinnie Haul Road

Beaully-Denny 400kV Upgrade Project

 Scottish & Southern  
Electricity Networks  
TRANSMISSION

### Pre-Application Consultation Event

We are pleased to be holding a statutory Pre-Application Consultation to present our proposals for the access road to the new Cambushinnie 400kV substation, which forms part of the Beaully-Denny 400kV Upgrade Project.

The pre-application process is a key first step in the Town and Country Planning process for National planning applications.

During our face to face drop-in event you will be able to view our project proposals, ask questions to the project team and share comments and feedback. All stakeholders are invited to provide feedback specific to the proposals at this stage until **8 January 2025**.

### The event will be held on:

**Wednesday 20 November, 3–7pm**  
Braco Village Hall,  
Feddal Road, Braco, FK15 9QD

We encourage all members of the local community and all interested parties to attend the event.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Liaison Manager:

**Rosie Hodgart**

1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY

Tel: 07879 793 652 Email: BDUP@sse.com

@ssetransmission @SSETransmission



Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:  
[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/cambushinnie](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/cambushinnie)