

Permanent Secretary  
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#### CIVIL SERVICE SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT FORMATION DISCUSSIONS

I write to confirm that, with the agreement of the First Minister, the Civil Service will be ready to support each Party in any government formation discussions after the election, and I attach a short note outlining the support available. This note will also be available on the Scottish Government website.

As you know, we have designated Kenneth Hogg as your nominated contact, and both he and I are available to you throughout this process as you require. Our contact details are set out at the foot of this letter.

I am writing in these terms to the other Party Leaders, and the offer in the attached note will apply equally to all parties and any independent members who secure representation in the new Parliament and are engaged in government formation discussions.

Do let me know if anything further would be helpful.

**LESLIE EVANS**  
Permanent Secretary

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