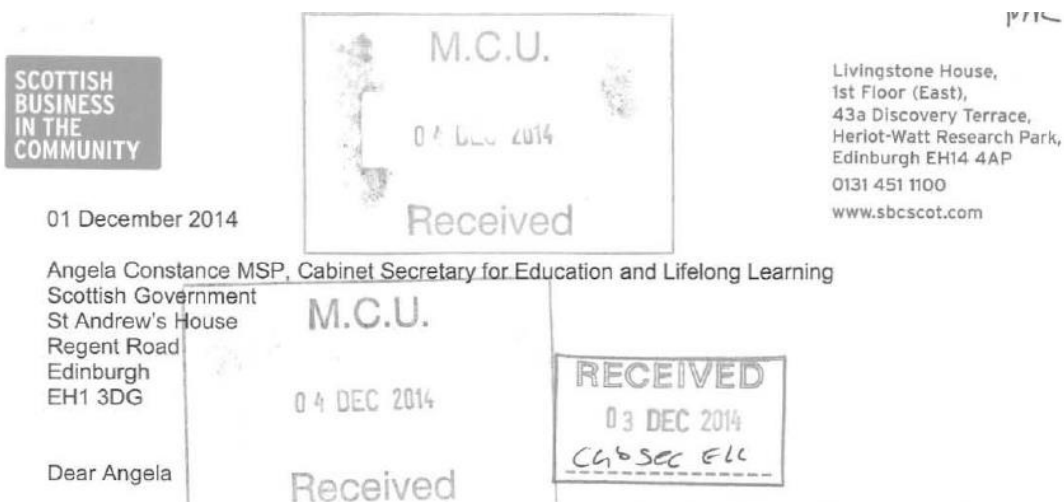


Correspondence between Scottish Business in the Community and Scottish Ministers since January 2012



Congratulations on your appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. You will be aware of the work of Scottish Business in the Community but I thought it would be worthwhile to highlight the work we are currently involved in that is appropriate to your areas of responsibility.

Scottish Business in the Community welcomes the First Minister's Legislative and Policy Programme for the coming Parliamentary Year and wishes to highlight its support for the key priorities of participation, prosperity and fairness.

Our recently published *Call for Action, The Responsible Business Journey for Scotland* recognises that this is a critical time for Scotland as together we shape our nation's future.

At Scottish Business in the Community (SBC) we have been working with our members and partners to embed responsible business behaviours that strengthen communities and economies so people can thrive, businesses can flourish sustainably and Scotland is a better place in which to live.

The first Minister's Legislative and Policy Programme focuses on the crucial areas of social justice and growing the economy and, as highlighted in our *Call for Action*, SBC seeks to work with businesses to:

1. tackle poverty by supporting businesses to engage with employees and communities to address inequalities and make a real difference
2. work with children, young people and disadvantaged groups to help them gain skills and experience and develop aspirations, through a range of education and employability projects in schools and workplaces
3. harness the effort, expertise and commitment of Scotland's workforce through focused, targeted employer supported volunteering
4. work with businesses of all sizes to help them become more innovative and competitive through sustainable, responsible and resilient business models and practices.

No single agency or sector in Scottish political, economic or civic society has all the answers – it is only through working together that we can effectively transform our collective future. Collaboration, innovation and investment in our communities and in our business models must form essential components of strong, durable partnerships within and between businesses, statutory and third sector organisations.



SBC has been working closely with colleagues within your Departments and with Education Scotland for the last 2 years engaging businesses in contributing to the development and delivery of programmes and projects that support the social justice and economic development agendas. These include:

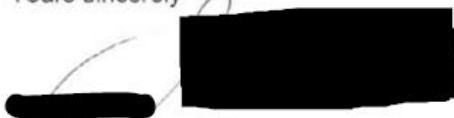
- We have been working with the Early Years Collaborative Team exploring how business volunteers can support and enhance the knowledge and understanding of Early Years Improvement Advisors encouraging them to consider commercial approaches when addressing societal issues.
- SBC's Business Class programme that establishes school/business partnerships for a minimum of three-years. The programme looks at how businesses can support each school's strategic development plan particularly in those areas where business can make the biggest contribution i.e. leadership and management, supporting the curriculum, employability and enterprise. The Business Class programme meets the requirements of recommendation 15 of the Wood Commissions report.

We continue to work with Scottish Government colleagues on a range of proposals for the 2015/16 operational year and beyond. SBC can contribute significantly in supporting your priorities by ensuring, through our Early Years and Business Class programmes and other business-led activities in schools that we ensure increased educational attainment.

I believe Scottish Business in the Community can, through strong and concerted business engagement, contribute significantly to addressing the issues outlined in the First Minister's Legislative and Policy Programme. By doing so we will help make Scotland an exemplar, globally recognising and demonstrating the value of sustainable business practices in boosting employment, fostering social cohesion and protecting the environment.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues to update you on these programmes and projects and to explore how we can encourage and support businesses to contribute and add value to your priorities.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer



Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlaim agus Ionnsachadh Fad-bheatha
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning
Angela Constance BPA/MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



[REDACTED]
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Business in the Community
43a Discovery Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH14 4AP

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Ur faidhle/Your ref:
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0037645
16 December 2014



Thank you for your letter of 1 December with an update on the work of Scottish Business in the Community in early years and schools.

Unfortunately I am unable to meet with you in the near future. I would like you to meet instead with officials from my Directorate to explore your schools' work in more detail, and look at how it can be of assistance in taking forward the joint implementation plan for Developing the Young Workforce. Please contact [REDACTED] in Learning Directorate to arrange a meeting. He can be contacted at [REDACTED]

Thank you for ongoing work to inspire the career aspirations of young people in Scotland.

ANGELA CONSTANCE

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk



SCOTTISH
BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY

Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

M.C.U.

18 FEB 2015

Received

RECEIVED

17 FEB 2015

CAB SEC ELL

Livingstone House,
1st Floor (East),
43a Discovery Terrace,
Heriot-Watt Research Park,
Edinburgh EH14 4AP
0131 451 1100
www.sbcscot.com

16 February 2015

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Scottish Business in the Community very much welcomes and supports the Scottish Attainment Challenge and the First Minister's vision of Scotland as the best place in the world to grow up with every child enjoying an education that allows them to be the best they can be - one that provides them with the skills and knowledge to succeed in work and in life.

You will be aware that Scottish Business in the Community (SBC) works to deliver the link between business and society in order to secure a sustainable future for Scotland. SBC engages hundreds of businesses and, through them, thousands of people across Scotland through our programmes and campaigns. We also work with government decision makers, ensuring that responsible business practice remains on the policy agenda and communicating the positive work that business does.

I believe that businesses across Scotland have a vital role to play in supporting the aims of the Scottish Government. Through our programmes many businesses are encouraging their employees to volunteer to support initiatives such as:

Paired Reading is a volunteering scheme that brings together business volunteers and schools, working to improve standards in Literacy. For example, one SBC Member company has a partnership with a local primary and secondary school in one of the most deprived areas of Edinburgh where volunteers visit on a regular basis to support the schools with literacy by listening to and supporting the children to read one to one.

One Day Enterprise Workshops are for Primary or Secondary schools, especially those in the more disadvantaged communities, and are designed to use business volunteers to work with young people to improve awareness, aspirations, and attitude towards the world of work. For example SBC took 10 volunteers to Castleview Primary School. The day started with an hour briefing where we covered how to lead a short enterprise workshop. After the training session the team spent the rest of the day operating the workshop with P5 in the morning and P7 in the afternoon. The exercise encouraged pupils to work successfully as a team with each pupil recognising where their strengths had a positive impact on the team's success and output.

I have attached more detailed information on both the programmes highlighted above together with a copy of our Responsible Scottish Business Journey - Call to Action.

Scottish Business in the Community strongly believes that businesses have a role and a willingness to contribute to breaking down the barriers, real and perceived, to learning and to contribute to making sure that in our schools, children are given the support they need to overcome these barriers. I would be pleased to meet with you and your officials to outline in more detail what SBC are doing and how we can support the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive Officer



Scottish Business in the Community, Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered in Scotland No: 80355 Scottish Charity No. SC007195 VAT No. 783425609



Printed on FSC
accredited paper

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlaim agus Ionnsachadh Fad-bheatha
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning
Angela Constance BPA/MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



[REDACTED]
Scottish Business in the Community
Livingstone House
43a Discovery Terrace
Heriott Watt Research Park
EDINBURGH
EH14 4AP



Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2015/0007198
10 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 16 February 2015 to Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, requesting a meeting to discuss the work of Scottish Business in the Community.

Unfortunately Ms Constance is unable to meet with you at this time due to intense diary pressures. Her officials would, however, be delighted to meet with you to learn more about the current work of Scottish Business in the Community and to hear how you can support the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Please contact [REDACTED] in the Raising Attainment Team on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] to arrange a convenient time to meet with officials in that area.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG



02 December 2015

Dear First Minister,

**Invitation to Business Engagement in Early Years Toolkit Launch
24 February 2016, Mitchell Library, Glasgow, 15:30 to 17:00**

We would be delighted to invite you to join us and make a short address at the launch of the Business Engagement in Early Years Toolkit.

The Business Engagement in Early Years programme is creating sustainable relationships between businesses and Early Years establishments in their communities with the aim of helping young children (4-8 years old) from less affluent backgrounds to achieve their full potential by breaking the cycle of poverty. In personally championing opportunity for Scotland's children as part of the Scottish Government's agenda, your support has been invaluable in enabling us to undertake this work.

The year-long pilot phase of the programme is currently working with 13 primary schools, nurseries or early years centres and numerous local businesses across 8 local authorities. Business volunteers are sharing their skills, knowledge and experience with young children to help them improve their life chances and become responsible members of their communities.

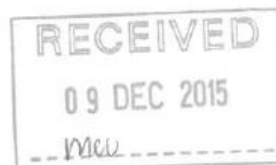
The event will provide an opportunity to thank everyone involved in the pilot phase, to demonstrate the positive impact it has had on the lives of the children involved, and to present the toolkit created by SBC with the support of the Scottish Government to allow businesses, schools, nurseries and centres across Scotland to replicate this fine work.

I do hope you can join us.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Jane Wood,
Chief Executive



Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
T: 0300 244 4000



[REDACTED]
Scottish Business in the Community
Livingstone House
1st Floor (East)
43a Discovery Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH14 4AP



Our ref: 2015/0042639
February 2016

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2015, inviting me to make a short address at the launch of the Business Engagement Early Years Toolkit on 24 February 2016. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

It was a pleasure to meet you earlier this month, and have the opportunity to discuss recent developments within Scottish Business in the Community and future initiatives, including the important role your organisation can play in supporting engagement of businesses in the Programme for Government.

Unfortunately, I am unable to accept your invitation on this occasion due to other diary commitments, but would very much like to take the opportunity to wish you a very successful launch and continued success with this piece of work.

Please accept my assurances that the Scottish Government wishes to continue to work with the business community to create a fairer society and more sustainable economic growth and my acknowledgement of the important role Scottish Business in the Community play in helping to achieve a more equal Scotland.

NICOLA STURGEON