

Fol document 1



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01 May 2020

Richard Lochhead MSP
Minister for Further Education
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: Richard.Lochhead.msp@parliament.scot

Dear Richard,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well during these uncertain times.

I'm writing to update you on the actions which have been taken at the University of Aberdeen in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ask for your support in helping to secure UK and Scottish Government financial assistance to underpin our continuing economic, research and social contribution to the north-east of Scotland and the wider UK. The Office of Budget Responsibility recently reported that the higher education sector will be one of the hardest hit in the UK as COVID-19 continues to impact on the economy.

In these times of unparalleled uncertainty alongside the strain on local and national resources, I'm pleased to let you know that the University has been supporting the government through our work with the NHS, and supporting our student and staff communities as well as our many regional, national and international partners.

As a result of the projected fall in international student fees resulting from COVID-19, the overall financial position of the University for 2020/21 is now under very serious pressure. We have a forecast shortfall in our revenue of at least £39m in 2020/21, which is around 16% of the total for the year. It is difficult to see how the resulting challenges can be avoided unless the higher education sector receives extra support from government.

Some of the steps we have taken to fight the virus include a suite of initiatives to help the NHS:

- Many of our clinical academics are working with the NHS full-time
- Our Class of 2020 medical students graduated early so they can be deployed by the NHS
- We've had almost 700 staff and students volunteer for the NHS from technicians and administrative staff and scientists
- Our academic staff have responded to both governments' calls for experts in the development of policy and to contribute to exit strategy planning activities

- The response has ranged from medical related research to expertise on the social and cultural impact of COVID-19
- The University has been awarded almost £1million in research funding from the Scottish Government for research linked to the national fight against COVID-19, which is 20% of the total fund made available.

To support our students during this period, we have undertaken a range of actions, including:

- Enhanced hardship funds to support students in financial difficulty
- Developed the provision of online learning so our students can complete their degrees successfully
- Put in place a no detriment policy to protect student qualifications in the wake of COVID-19
- Regular posts to social media on a variety of topics such as studying from home, managing stress and promoting general healthy mind and body messages.

To support University staff, we have offered a range of assistance, including:

- Paid “rest days” for every member of staff to offset additional stress and workload created by COVID-19
- Flexible approach to working arrangements
- Expansion of our University Counselling Service so that it is now also available to staff during the COVID-19 period
- Introduction of a weekly wellbeing ezine.

We are also supporting our many regional partners across business and industry in the north-east of Scotland. During the pandemic, we have been working on several projects to help the economy recover, including:

- Provision of skills training to local businesses
- Assisting companies to access COVID-19 related research funding opportunities
- Regular engagement with Local Authorities to play a part in regional economic recovery
- Enhanced our provision of online learning through our partnership with Skills Development Scotland.

One of our top priorities is to reduce our forecast deficit in 2020/21 while protecting jobs so that we are fit for recovery once the worst effects of the virus are behind us. We have already taken some important steps to achieve this:

- Freezing staff recruitment for the foreseeable future bar a very small number of business-critical appointments
- Suspending capital expenditure and all non-essential operating expenditure
- Freezing pay for 2020/21
- The senior management team has taken a pay cut of 10% and I have taken a pay cut of 20% for academic year 2020/21.

We are, therefore doing everything we can for ourselves to minimise the size of the financial challenge we face, but this in itself will not be enough to ensure that we remain fit for recovery and to continue making our social and economic contribution to Scotland and the UK

I therefore encourage you to support the new package of measures put forward by Universities UK and Universities Scotland.

This financial support will provide a degree of stability to the University of Aberdeen and institutions across the country, protect the interests of our students and staff, maintain our research capacity, and allow us to continue to play a central role in promoting health and prosperity.

The University remains committed to its role as a beacon for education and research, and to continuing to achieve our 1495 foundational purpose of being 'open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others'. Please contact me directly if you have any queries about the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic or how you can help us secure vital government support.

With best

regards.

Yours

sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'George Boyne', written in a cursive style.

Professor George Boyne MA MLitt PhD AcSS

T :0300 244 4000
E :scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Professor George Boyne
principalpa@abdn.ac.uk

Our Reference: 202000035655
Your Reference: University of Aberdeen Update

25 May 2020

Dear Professor George Boyne,

Thank you for your recent letter. I am well and hope that you too are safe and well.

I would like to start by thanking you, your staff and students for the help and assistance you are providing to key services at this challenging time. We couldn't manage the challenges of this crisis without the selfless work you and others are doing.

I would also like to thank you for your continued contribution to the Principals' meetings which, along with the Further and Higher Education Ministerial Leadership Group and my engagement with Universities Scotland, are ensuring I have an understanding of how this crisis is affecting our universities at an institutional and sectoral level.

Covid-19 has hit our universities extremely hard, but I want to reassure you that work around the financial impact of the crisis on universities continues to be progressed as a priority and at pace by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council. Using the information provided by the universities and new analysis provided by the SFC, we are building an understanding of the immediate and longer term impacts across teaching, research, staff and student issues and how to support universities now and when current lockdown measures are lifted.

I fully realise the detriment that the likely reduction in international student numbers will have in academic year 2020-21 and the difficult decisions principals will have to take over the weeks and months ahead. We are putting together a support package based on what we have responsibility for in Scotland but there also needs to be a substantial UK stabilisation funding element.

On the 6th May, we announced a one-off £75 million increase in capital funding for Scotland's universities to ensure they can protect their world-leading research programmes against the financial impact of COVID-19.

This significant intervention will help secure the jobs and training needed to support ongoing and future research work in a sector that is vital to the Scottish economy.

We will also ensure that any Barnett consequentialia that come to Scotland through funding announcements for particular sectors as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 will be passed on in full. Funding for universities is included in this commitment.

As you will be aware, the package of support announced by the UK Government was disappointing for Scotland's higher education sector and falls short of recognising the full scale of the challenge facing our universities.

We are in the process of developing an action plan for higher education sustainability which will be published in the next few weeks. However, I can confirm that I, along with the Deputy First Minister will continue to press the UK Government to find a fiscal response that meets the needs of our universities to ensure they remain at the forefront of global education as we emerge from this crisis.

We did welcome the UK Government's announcement on May 4 that it will set up a group, chaired by its Ministers and including key sector representatives, to consider how its International Education Strategy can be updated to respond to the impact of Covid-19 crisis and ensure universities continue to attract international students.

Scottish Government officials are working closely with UK Government on its International Education Strategy steering group and we are considering ways in which its international network can support organisations, including universities and colleges, in the Covid-19 recovery/reshaping phase.

I understand that this is a difficult time for our universities including the University of Aberdeen and I would ask for your continued engagement with the Scottish Government to ensure we find a resolution to this unprecedented situation.

Yours sincerely



Richard Lochhead

Fol document 2

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2020 11:21
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: University Strike Funds

Yes [redacted], for what its worth yes happy for you to share. We have a meeting with NUS this afternoon so my come up then.
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 11:06
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: University Strike Funds

Hi [redacted]:

Thanks again for your response on this. I am told that what you provided is sufficient for our purposes for the moment, but I've been asked if you are happy for what you have said to be shared with NUS colleagues.

Thank you

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 07 April 2020 15:16
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: University Strike Funds

Thank you very much for your response [redacted]. If contact with UCEA is required, I will do that.

[redacted]: I am assuming that your query was in connection with student hardship funds, but perhaps you can let us know if not. You can also let me know if an approach to UCEA is required, or whether this is sufficient for your purposes.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 April 2020 13:22
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: University Strike Funds

Hi [redacted]

My understanding was that this was a common use of those resources. However, we do not have a surveyed sector picture. I could ask, my first port of call would be UCEA. Could you give me a bit of insight about why the information is being sought? If it is connected to student hardship funds in the current emergency we have collected information on the deployment of these and we could offer that.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 07 April 2020 11:04
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: University Strike Funds

Hi [redacted]:

Hope you are safe and well.

In relation to our ongoing work on Covid-19, can you tell me please if university strike funds (ie monies saved by not having to pay those staff who have taken industrial action) are – or could be – used for student support?

My own researches suggest that St Andrews, Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow, at least in the past have done so; either in total or a proportion of the money saved. This suggests that universities have the discretion to do this, but I wondered if you had any sense as to how widespread the practice is?

Thanks very much for any assistance you can provide.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 3

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 27 April 2020 14:21
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Job Retention Scheme

Thanks very much as ever [redacted] – that's helpful. I've contacted UCEA too.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 27 April 2020 13:10
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Job Retention Scheme

Hi [redacted]

Yes, institutions are using it. You will probably have seen some reporting on applications to the scheme. The latest DfE guidance has helpfully clarified scope and has most likely guided people to a broader application. The SFC brought peoples' attention to the DfE guidance in a document that they published last week:
[http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/covid-19/UK Government Job Retention and Loan Schemes.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/covid-19/UK_Government_Job_Retention_and_Loan_Schemes.pdf)

We do not have statistics on its application either at institutional or sector level. UCEA have just concluded a UK-wide survey so data from that may emerge soon however, I would anticipate that its probably not going to get a 100% response rate – such surveys never do.

Overall, I would say that institutions are using the Scheme and it will be a contribution to meeting the challenges created by the pandemic and lockdown but that contribution will be a small one in the face of what we expect the financial impact to be.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 27 April 2020 11:47
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: Job Retention Scheme

Hi [redacted]:

Sorry to bother you yet again.

Have you received any soundings from HEIs about whether they are likely to apply for funding from the JRS, or indeed have already done so?

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 4

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 05 May 2020 11:21
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RKEC Meeting: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

Hi [redacted]

That's super – I'll add him to the Teams Meeting invite so he has the joining instructions.

With regards to joining times – this will be approx. **1.30pm**. I'll let [redacted] know that Roddy will be joining the call then.

RKEC Fortnightly COVID Meeting
Platform: Microsoft Teams
Time and Date: 2pm, Thursday 7th May
Scottish Government Agenda Item timing: approx. 1.30 – 1.50 pm

I'll send a separate email to Roddy with the logistics, joining instructions, and agenda.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 05 May 2020 10:30
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

[redacted]

I'm pleased to confirm that Roddy will be introducing this item. Could you confirm expected timing for him please.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 04 May 2020 16:37
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

Hi [redacted],

Super – really pleased to hear you'll be able to join us. To answer your questions:

- **Paper**, We weren't planning a paper for RKEC, aiming to keep things as light as possible. Instead we planned to include the key questions in the agenda. I've attached a draft version for your consideration and based these key questions on previous emails. Also happy for you to provide a paper if you think it's needed.
- **Introductions**, The meeting will be chaired by Professor Wayne Powell (our RKEC Convener) and supported by [redacted] and myself. Wayne can say a few introductory words, point towards the questions in the agenda, and handover to yourself for further background/explanation. Are you happy with that?
- **Teams**, No problem, we have dial in details for the meeting. I'll add you to the Teams Calendar invite which has the dial in details included. If you have any trouble seeing this then please do let me know. Just thinking logistically how best to 'invite you' into the meeting at the right time – perhaps I'll drop an email to you when we start agenda item 4 as a 10 minute warning? I'll check this out with our resident Teams Expert and get back to you asap.

I hope this answers all of your questions, of course please feel free to send through further suggestions etc which would help facilitate the conversation.

With best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 04 May 2020 15:57

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

[redacted]

Really grateful to you for scheduling this agenda item as part of your RKEC meeting at such short notice. Happy in principle to join you around that time. It would also be helpful for me to hear the feedback directly from your members.

Is there anything you need from me as part of this? Are you planning an introductory paper? (Happy to comment on that if helpful.) Who would be introducing the item?

Helpful to note that the issues here are of course wider than research and KE. And also helpful to note that any extension to the transition period would not necessarily result in *continuing* access to the *existing* EU programmes nor access to the *future* programmes such as Horizon and Erasmus.

I'm afraid we don't have Microsoft Teams so could I dial in please?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 04 May 2020 15:40

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

Dear [redacted],

I do hope you're well.

Just picking up on this with [redacted] and we've scheduled in a discussion with RKEC members this Thursday during our Fortnightly RKEC Meetings. Would it be possible for you to join this meeting for this agenda item specifically? Details of the meeting are below, although the exact timing for the agenda item may vary slightly.

RKEC Fortnightly COVID Meeting

Platform: Microsoft Teams

Time and Date: 2pm, Thursday 7th May

SG Agenda Item timing: approx. 1.30 – 1.50 pm

Look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 30 April 2020 11:50

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

[redacted]

Thanks for coming back so quickly.

Appreciate it was a challenging deadline! Yes we would very much welcome your members views on this on or soon after 7 May. And we would particularly welcome it if you could provide any specific examples that provide illustrations of (1) where an extension to the transition period would be important to enable recovery from Covid, as well as (2) where ending the transition period at the end of this year would be particularly harmful because Covid has prevented the negotiations and preparations needed to enable that transition.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Best.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 29 April 2020 17:08

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

Hi [redacted]

Hope all is well with you.

I am afraid that we cannot really give you a considered view in that timescale.

As you know the UK sector is seeking full association to Horizon Europe and full participation in Erasmus+. In Scotland, we are also awaiting a view from Scottish Ministers about the fee status of UG/PGT entrants in 2021-22 – the prospectuses for whom are now being finalised.

Whether the former of these matters are delivered through the negotiations is of course uncertain, although it has never seemed to be a point of particular contention between the two sides – note the content of the political declaration. We have of course picked up on reporting around progress of the negotiations and whether the current lockdown will mean that the cannot be concluded to the timetable.

As for covid, our members have just provided a set of updated financial forecast data to SFC which includes an assessment of likely impact. SFC are analysing that information now. From the comment I have heard from Karen Watt I am not sure if their analysis specifically includes an assessment of impact on research and innovation income although I know that this is a point of concern to members. I know that [redacted] has been speaking to each university to consider impacts.

Of course your latter two bullets will be affected by the prevailing public health restrictions around travel as well as funding.

We do have a RKEC meeting coming up on 7 May if you wanted to get views directly from members we could see if there is an opportunity on the agenda.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 29 April 2020 14:35

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts

[redacted]

Hope you and your colleagues are well.

I wonder if you might help us please in progressing some analysis that we're doing across SG (and across different sectors) to consider the economic impact of *both* the pandemic and the end of the EU Exit transition period on 31 December 2020? Our initial view is that the key COVID-19 related issues for the sector that are likely to intensify if the UK leaves the EU at the end of the year are:

- Loss of funding for the sector
- Reduced international research collaborations
- Reduced attraction and retention of global research talent
- Less international mobility

In particular, it would be helpful to have Universities Scotland's (informal?) views **on how the end of the transition period in December 2020 would impact on the recovery of the sector, and to what extent an extension of the transition period beyond December 2020 would help in recovery.**

If you could get back to us by this **Friday 2pm**, that would be much appreciated. Happy to discuss if helpful.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 5

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 05 May 2020 12:03
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RKEC Meeting 7th May - joining instructions and agenda
Importance: High

Dear Roddy,

I hope this email finds you well. Many thanks for joining us for our next meeting of RKEC, Thursday 7th May, where we will discuss COVID and Brexit. I've added you to the Teams Meeting calendar invite, please do let me know if you haven't received it.

I've also attached a document which covers joining instructions and the agenda for the meeting. Please can we invite you to join the meeting at **2.30pm**. Professor Wayne Powell, RKEC Convener, will chair the meeting. He will provide an introduction and then ask you to speak to the agenda item 5 *COVID and Brexit: Scottish Government Request for Information*.

If you don't have the Teams Platform, the dial in details for the meeting are:
[redacted]

Me and [redacted] will also be supporting the meeting. Should you have any questions please call [redacted] on [redacted] or [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

I do apologise but I made a mistake in my previous email to you earlier today – 2.30pm is the correct time to join the meeting.

If you have any questions or comments then please don't hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
Universities Scotland

Mobile: **[redacted]**

Fol document 6

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 06 May 2020 21:11

To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Universities Scotland RKEC meeting tomorrow

Importance: High

Dear Roddy,

I hope this email finds you well. Ahead of tomorrow's meeting I just wanted to send you an updated version of the agenda. The amendment being that [redacted] will join the meeting from 1415 to discuss today's announcement with RKEC members.

[redacted] is likely to stay on the call for your agenda item which should begin at **1430**, although timings may vary please do join from 1430 and we will flag this with the Convener, Professor Wayne Powell.

Joining instructions, including dial in details, are in the attached document (they remain the same as before). You now also have the e-invitation (again with joining instructions) for the meeting but should you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me or [redacted].

We look forward to welcoming you on the call tomorrow.

With best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
Universities Scotland

Mobile: **[redacted]**

Fol document 7

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 11 May 2020 17:59

To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Feedback from US RKEC Meeting

Dear Roddy,

Many thanks again for joining our RKEC meeting on Thursday. We do hope you found the conversation useful.

As promised, please find attached a document summarising the key points from the discussion and via the Chat Function.

If you have any follow up questions or wish to further engage with RKEC then please do let us know.

With best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
Universities Scotland

Mobile: **[redacted]**

Fol document 8

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 23 April 2020 09:48
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Link to SG publication for international students in Scotland during Covid 19

Dear All,

As mentioned previously, I am now sharing the Minister's letter to all international students in Scotland, with apologies for the short delay. We'd be grateful if you could share / disseminate this via your own websites and networks.

Many thanks,

Yours,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 16 April 2020 12:31
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Link to SG publication for international students in Scotland during Covid 19

Thanks [redacted], this is really welcome.

We would be very keen for the Minister to write to international students as per the suggestion in the email.

You will have seen the similar letter from UK Government (attached) and members would be really pleased to see something similar from Mr Lochhead. I am sure that institutions would be pleased to highlight it to their student communities.

On a broader point, we have noted a couple of times in Mr Lochhead's group that comms through Scotland is Now study pillar is now ever more important. We really value being a partner in SiN and have a longstanding ask around being able to input into the upper level of its governance structure.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 16 April 2020 12:15

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Link to SG publication for international students in Scotland during Covid 19

Dear All: SFC / SAAS / NUS Scotland / UKCISA / Universities Scotland / Colleges Scotland

You and your organisations all very kindly agreed to share our SG 'information and advice to international students in Scotland' publication, on your websites and by any other means of dissemination you may have.

I'm pleased to say that publication is now live on the SG website, accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-international-students-april-2020/>

We do hope that, very soon, we will have a supporting Ministerial letter, which will in itself link to this publication and will also be disseminated via our consular offices. If you wish, you could link to the published document in the first instance and then replace it with the letter, and its embedded link, once that is available? I will leave that to you for now.

All this is because there is no obvious 'home' for international students to seek information and advice, other than their own institution. You will see from the publication that we have, however and of course, very strongly recommended that particular route for support and information.

I'll be back in touch once the letter is cleared and, in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries about this.

And thank you again for your help.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 9

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 23 April 2020 14:33

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Link to SG publication for international students in Scotland during Covid 19

As promised:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-higher-education-and-science---letter-from-the-minister-for-further-education-higher-education-and-science/>

Yours,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 23 April 2020 13:37

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Link to SG publication for international students in Scotland during Covid 19

Hello,

A couple of you have asked whether the letter has been published online anywhere, for easier sharing. I've therefore arranged for it be published on the SG website a little later this afternoon and will send you the link as soon as it's available. I also hope to have a Scot Gov / Ministerial tweet issued later today for social media sharing purposes.

Hope this is helpful,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 23 April 2020 09:48

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Link to SG publication for international students in Scotland during Covid 19

Dear All,

As mentioned previously, I am now sharing the Minister's letter to all international students in Scotland, with apologies for the short delay. We'd be grateful if you could share / disseminate this via your own websites and networks.

Many thanks,

Yours,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 16 April 2020 12:15

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Link to SG publication for international students in Scotland during Covid 19

Dear All: SFC / SAAS / NUS Scotland / UKCISA / Universities Scotland / Colleges Scotland

You and your organisations all very kindly agreed to share our SG 'information and advice to international students in Scotland' publication, on your websites and by any other means of dissemination you may have.

I'm pleased to say that publication is now live on the SG website, accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-international-students-april-2020/>

We do hope that, very soon, we will have a supporting Ministerial letter, which will in itself link to this publication and will also be disseminated via our consular offices. If you wish, you could link to the published document in the first instance and then replace it with the letter, and its embedded link, once that is available? I will leave that to you for now.

All this is because there is no obvious 'home' for international students to seek information and advice, other than their own institution. You will see from the publication that we have, however and of course, very strongly recommended that particular route for support and information.

I'll be back in touch once the letter is cleared and, in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries about this.

And thank you again for your help.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 10

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 24 March 2020 16:36

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>;

Shona.struthers@collegesscotland.ac.uk [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;

Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr

<Linda.Pooley@gov.scot

Subject: SQA Statement

All

Please find attached the latest statement from the SQA:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93658.html>

Thanks

[redacted]

Fol document 11

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 05 May 2020 16:34

To: alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Fiona Robertson
<fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Shona.struthers@collegesscotland.ac.uk Pooley L
(Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot> [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Qualifications Contingency Group - SG website - update

Dear Qualifications Contingency Group members,

During discussions in an earlier meeting it was agreed that it would be useful to share a note of the meetings covering key activities discussed. I wanted to inform members that we have therefore taken the decision to publish a summary of the remit of the group and notes of the key points discussed at meetings. This page is now live and can be viewed on the Scottish Government website at:
<https://www.gov.scot/groups/coronavirus-covid-19-qualifications-contingency-group/>.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes, [redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 12

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 13 May 2020 09:36
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>;
Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: new term etc

Hi Roddy

I think I was in touch about a week ago on this. We have an **Academic Year Contingency Group which meets today as it happens**. I was in touch last week to try and get someone senior at SG in public health advice that the Group could work with on SG advice as it affects the sector. DfE has already started this process working with UUK and [redacted] (Secretary at [redacted]) joined a call last week.

We raised the value of working on guidance at the last Ministerial Covid Meeting and it sits as an action in the minute of that meeting.

More broadly, we are considering what statement can be put into the public domain about the start of next AY. Our work with members shows that their planning assumptions are for either a start on the originally planned date or a delay for 2 or 3 weeks – remembering that there has always been a diversity of start date across the sector. All are planning on the basis that either some distance or blended provision may be necessary.

There is an allied issue re. what PPE etc might be needed and available at that time and I think that this will get raised at tomorrow's Ministerial Group.

Hope that is sufficient update? Happy to chat quickly if that's easier. Am in meetings from 10.30 to 5 solid but could chat either side of that or drop me an email.

Regards
[redacted]

From: Alastair Sim
Sent: 13 May 2020 09:11
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;
[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Subject: RE: new term etc

Hi Roddy, [redacted] been leading on this and will get back to you.

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Sent: 13 May 2020 08:57
To: Alastair Sim@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: new term etc

Alastair

We are looking to up the work we are doing on new term/restarting and any guidance on that, could you clarify for me what you are doing on this (is there US group for example) and your involvement with DfE on this?

Thanks Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald

Head of Higher Education and Science Division

Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>;

Sent: 17 April 2020 16:25

To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: new term etc

Roddy

You're correct that St Andrews has today announced an intention to start the new academic year on time on 14 September, in a 'dual delivery' model of online face-to-face provision as a stepping stone towards full resumption of face-to-face teaching.

From information US has been collecting over the course of this week, most institutions are still considering whether to have a short deferral of the start of teaching in the new academic year. It's possible that the Aberdeen and St Andrews announcements may galvanise further announcements.

This isn't an area in which members wish to be co-ordinated. They're responding to different markets, and already have a fair diversity of start dates in normal circumstances. They're also facing substantial uncertainties about what the public health advice will be in the autumn, and when international travel might re-open. And many of them will have multiple entry points e.g. a January entry for some international students to have a better chance of getting them after travel restrictions have been eased.

However, I can see the point, not least in giving assurance to learners, in a collective message that Scotland's universities intend to be open for learners in the autumn. I think any such statement would have to be clear that institutions already have diverse start dates for their terms, and are considering whether to adapt those in the interests of learners. Also, it would be honest to say that institutions are considering what balance to reach between online and face-to-face provision, and that this will depend on the public health advice in force at the time.

If you think that's sensible we could work on it next week in anticipation of the next COVID high-level group – I'd want to check that whatever we say is true for every institution.

Let me know what you think.

Best,

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]

alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk

From: Alastair Sim
Sent: 17 April 2020 12:16
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Subject: RE: new term etc

Roddy

I'll check on the first point and get back to you.

Thanks to you too for a good conversation yesterday.

Best,

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Sent: 17 April 2020 11:46
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: new term etc

Alastair

We have been told that St Andrews will today announce that they plan to "open" the new academic year on schedule in Sept / Oct rather than delay the new year as others are discussing. They are not, as far as we are aware, going to get into the question of what "open" means (ie might be virtual etc). However, the Minister has previously said at the high level group he would ideally want to see a coordinated approach to this from across the sector not piecemeal individual announcements. What is US view on this? We can see the advantages in getting the message out that the sector will be open for business. Could you get back to me on thoughts.

Also thanks for good zoom meeting, I fed back to DFM and he was content with what we discussed re a Scottish plan etc, we will get a May meeting sorted out. He was keen to stress that you are aware, as I said yesterday, that he has been pressing

HMT and UKG generally on the need for financial support and will continue to do this strongly.

Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate
[redacted]

Fol document 13

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 14 May 2020 16:37
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Joint statement on 'Open for Business'
Importance: High

Hi [redacted], [redacted], hope you're well.

I've just logged out of the COVID-19 HE/FE Ministerial Leadership Group meeting, at which Mr Lochhead requested SG, along with Universities Scotland, Colleges Scotland, issue a joint 'Open for Business' statement, highlighting the arrangements being made to resume teaching and learning in the new academic year.

Clearly, he appreciates a lot of the finer details are still to be worked out across the sectors, given the complex considerations needing made, particularly around making spaces safe for staff and students, and understandable union interest in this.

But can I ask, if you could consider what messages you might want to send at this stage, and advise on timing, taking into account the application cycle and progress planning for new term.

We can support through Ministerial endorsement and disseminating through our own and partners' channels, such as SFC and SAAS, and hopefully NUS.

I am happy to coordinate the effort...

Grateful for your thoughts.

Best.

[redacted]
[redacted]

Fol document 14

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 14 May 2020 19:10
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot;
[redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Joint statement on 'Open for Business'

Hi both,

The fair assessment statement went out on 7 May.

Thanks,

[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 14 May 2020 19:05
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Joint statement on 'Open for Business'

[redacted] – on the fair assessment statement. I thought that was signed off and out?

S

Fol document 15

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 20 May 2020 16:35
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Re: Chat re public health guidance

Thanks Roddy

Myself and [redacted] and we would want to bring in some sector expertise - probably 2 or 3 colleagues for whom this is a current planning task.

Regards
[redacted]

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:27:37 PM
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Chat re public health guidance

[redacted] that would seem sensible, am discussing with colleagues working on this tomorrow, who would be on call from US?

Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 20 May 2020 13:17
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Chat re public health guidance

Hi Roddy

Just following up on our chat on Friday, when would be convenient to chat with you and colleagues about public health guidance?

I noted that the sector is working at a UK level to identify a set of principles with notes of some guidance and good practice examples and we thought that building from that foundation would be the most sensible approach.

I anticipate that the output of the UUK work will be in the public domain early next week so I wonder if a chat towards the end of next week might be helpful?

Regards

[redacted]

Fol document 16

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 08 April 2020 10:45
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Call on Student Accommodation: Agenda

Hi [redacted]

My colleague [redacted] will join this and any future calls for US instead of me.

I have passed her the dial in details.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 08 April 2020 10:43
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Call on Student Accommodation: Agenda

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached the agenda for this afternoon's call on student accommodation - Wednesday, 8 April 20 15:00 - 15:45

Agenda

1. Introductions (all)
2. Update from Scottish Government
3. Updates on student accommodation (all)
4. Date for next call/suggested additional attendees

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 17

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 07 May 2020 18:57

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Student Accommodation - Update

Hi [redacted], very much appreciate this helpful feedback.

Have a good weekend when it arrives.

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 07 May 2020 17:52

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Student Accommodation - Update

Hi [redacted]

Apologies for the slight delay in coming back to you following our chat yesterday morning. I wanted to consult a couple of sector colleagues as we discussed.

I think that the 7 day threshold for existing tenancies will not in of itself be a major issue but it will possibly add in a minor way to the sector's financial challenge. If, through amendment perhaps, it became retrospective, then that would have a significant impact and must be avoided.

On the 28 day threshold for new tenancies there is a concern about potential unexpected behaviours being driven that undermine the stable operations of halls. Might we see a turbulence in student choice and offer? Students might be lured mid-year by the private sector - with potentially inferior but cheaper offers in the non purpose built sector - which then undermines university and purpose built provision which is a high quality, good value offer.

Difficult to know until we get there.

Also, there is some concern about financial loss if we have another lockdown and resultant tenancy cancellations but that is more about the loss than the notice period per se. Again, there would be concern about any amendment to reduce the 28 day threshold which is, as we discussed, at least consistent with the broader rental market.

Hope that helps.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:31:54 PM
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Student Accommodation - Update

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for confirming. I will send you a meeting request and dial in codes.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 05 May 2020 16:27
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Student Accommodation - Update

I can do that [redacted], can you give any prior indication of what you want to discuss?

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 05 May 2020 15:20
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Student Accommodation - Update

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

I hope my email finds you both well.

We are looking to arrange a call with Universities Scotland to provide an update in relation to student accommodation. With apologies for the short notice, grateful if you can advise if you would be available tomorrow, 09:00 -9:30?

Please let me know if this time is not suitable and I will check calendars for other availability. If this time is suitable I will send a calendar invite with conference call details. [redacted] at the SFC will also be joining the call.

Look forward to hearing from you.

[redacted]
[redacted]

Fol document 18

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 14 May 2020 09:28
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Urgent: emergency legislation

[redacted] [redacted]

We would like, urgently, to clarify a point in the legislation.

As you will no doubt be aware, the Scottish Conservatives have highlighted that the Bill could be read such that students who have committed to, but not commenced, a tenancy could rely on the 7 day notice.

We don't think that was the policy intention and would be extremely concerned if that was the outcome.

We assume that SG will amend to clarify this point?

Can you contact me by 11 please? I am afraid that I do not have a number for you. If I don't hear by then I will give Roddy a bell.

Regards
[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 19

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 14 May 2020 16:34
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Accommodation Provider's Group Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached the City Living Update referred to at Item 3 for our rescheduled meeting on next Tuesday.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 12 May 2020 16:41
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Accommodation Provider's Group Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

Please find the agenda and papers for our meeting tomorrow at 15:00 hours.

1. Note of previous meeting and action points (attached)
2. Legislation Update.
3. Survey updates: AMOSSHE, ASRA and CUBO and City Living Update.
4. Catering and Accommodation Issues.
5. Ministerial Letter.
6. Date of next meeting.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]

Fol document 20

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 15:30
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Student Accommodation

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for joining this afternoons call, and for the very helpful update from Universities Scotland. Just to check, with 17 institutions offering early release from agreements in student accommodation; if I understand correctly, that would appear to cover all the universities that offer student accommodation.

Thanks again.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted] Higher Education Governance and Student Support | Higher Education and Science Division | Scottish Government

Fol document 21

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 28 April 2020 17:15

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Student Accommodation Providers Meeting: Agenda

Dear Colleagues,

Please attached the notes of our last meeting and the agenda for our meeting on 29 April. The dial in details are on the meeting request.

1. Introductions (all)
2. Discussion ASRA/Cubo and AMOSSHE surveys (all)
3. Date for next call

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Scottish Government, Advanced Learning and Science Directorate, Higher Education and Science

[redacted]

Fol document 22

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 15 April 2020 11:14

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Student Accommodation

Morning All,

Please see attached the note from our previous meeting.

Below is an agenda for our meeting this afternoon:

Agenda

1. Introductions (all)
2. Update from Scottish Government
3. ASRA/Cubo surveys (all)
3. Updates on student accommodation (all)
4. Date for next call

Look forward to speaking to you all then.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 08 April 2020 15:45

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Student Accommodation

When: 15 April 2020 14:15-15:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Telephone Conference

Tel: [redacted]

Code: [redacted]

Fol document 23

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 13 May 2020 10:24
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Accommodation Provider's Group Meeting

Dear [redacted],
Friday afternoon would work for me.
Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 May 2020 09:31
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Accommodation Provider's Group Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

I apologise for the short notice but I am writing to post pone our meeting this afternoon.

Can I suggest, as alternative, Friday afternoon or Tuesday afternoon, next week.

I'll also send a cancellation for today's meeting via Outlook.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 12 May 2020 16:41
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Accommodation Provider's Group Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

Please find the agenda and papers for our meeting tomorrow at 15:00 hours.

1. Note of previous meeting and action points (attached)
2. Legislation Update.
3. Survey updates: AMOSSHE, ASRA and CUBO and City Living Update.
4. Catering and Accommodation Issues.
5. Ministerial Letter.
6. Date of next meeting.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 24

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 12 May 2020 16:41

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Accommodation Provider's Group Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

Please find the agenda and papers for our meeting tomorrow at 15:00 hours.

1. Note of previous meeting and action points (attached)
2. Legislation Update.
3. Survey updates: AMOSSHE, ASRA and CUBO and City Living Update.
4. Catering and Accommodation Issues.
5. Ministerial Letter.
6. Date of next meeting.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 25

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 19 May 2020 19:02
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Universities Scotland Brief for Bill discussion

Thanks [redacted], helpful to see this.

I will give you a ring to update tomorrow.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 19 May 2020 11:43
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Universities Scotland Brief for Bill discussion

Hi [redacted]

Just a quick note to offer, in case you haven't seen it, the brief that we circulated to support consideration of the Bill.

I understand from a colleague following discussions that there was a positive engagement with [redacted].

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 26

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 12 May 2020 17:40
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Students returning to collect belongings

Hi [redacted]

I don't think we can add anything, as indicated the advice from the Scottish Government remains unchanged.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 12 May 2020 17:08
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Students returning to collect belongings

Hi [redacted],

Thanks. And can you confirm that it should be understood to apply to students on both sides of the border, with their belongings at a university on the other side?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 12 May 2020 16:47
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;
[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot;
[redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Students returning to collect belongings

Hi [redacted], hope all well.

We can confirm that the advice from the Scottish Government on this remains unchanged.

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 12 May 2020 15:52
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-

scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: FW: Students returning to collect belongings

Hi Roddy,

Hoped you might be able to provide a quick yes/no to this question – which looks to anticipate a flood of queries from our members. Great if we could include this in today's daily email to Principals (which goes out this evening) and get ahead of this before a trickle becomes a flood.

We're hearing from UUK that DfE will imminently advise students that they can return to student accommodation (university owned or otherwise) to retrieve belongings. The last advice from the Scottish Government on this issue was refreshed at the end of April and it was to stay put (whether in student accommodation or at a family home). As published here:

<https://www.saas.gov.uk/news/saas-coronavirus-faq>

Given the departure between nations this week, I'd assume that the guidance above remains the guidance and we should communicate that to Principals/COVID-19 leads but could you confirm that understanding is correct?

Additionally, given HE will have a lot of students caught between the divergent policies (Scots currently in Scotland but with possessions in England and English students in England but with their possessions in university accommodation in Scotland) can you clarify that students in both scenarios need to adhere to the Scottish Government's public health advice (i.e. this would not be considered essential travel so do not make the journey)?

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Fol document 27

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 15:38
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Student Accommodation

Thanks again [redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 15 April 2020 15:36
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Student Accommodation

Hi [redacted],

That is correct. 17 institutions *own* their own accommodation and so have a level of autonomy to offer contract breaks. This is excluding Open University and RCS who do not own accommodation and are not included in this list. All 17 are now offering early release from accommodation contracts.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 15:30
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Student Accommodation

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for joining this afternoons call, and for the very helpful update from Universities Scotland. Just to check, with 17 institutions offering early release from agreements in student accommodation; if I understand correctly, that would appear to cover all the universities that offer student accommodation.

Thanks again.

Kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted]

Fol document 28

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 12 May 2020 11:59

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Thanks [redacted].

Kind regards,
[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 12 May 2020 11:54

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Hi [redacted]

Its Professor Richard Williams Principal Heriot Watt University

r.a.williams@hw.ac.uk

[redacted]

Fol document 29

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 12 May 2020 11:09

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Hi [redacted],

Thank you very much for sending this on. Greatly appreciated. Can you confirm Richard William's job title and email address? Just so I can forward the papers onto him for Thursday's meeting.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 12 May 2020 10:53

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Hi [redacted]

Just to confirm the Universities Scotland attendees:

Andrea Nolan
Sally Mapstone
Richard Williams
[redacted]

Susan Stewart attends through direct invitation from SG.

Andrea will make lead comment on the update item and I expect that she will want to cover:

- SG support for the sector including the £75m allocation by SG for research and innovation and reflection on today's discussion with the DFM.
- Our statement on fair assessment which is now on our website
- Our work on a sector statement on commencement of AY [2020-21](#) and our ask at the last meeting for engagement with SG officials leading development of public health advice re education as lockdown is lifted.

On the international student item please note that Richard Williams will lead comment for Uni Scotland - he convenes our international committee- and Susan Stewart should be asked to comment too as vice convener of that committee.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:43:22 AM
To: a.nolan@napier.ac.uk <a.nolan@napier.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; principal@st-andrews.ac.uk <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Good Morning all,

Following on from my email below, I would be grateful if you could provide any key updates by **12 noon today**. Apologies in advance for the tight turnaround however, this is to allow us time to update the Minister ahead of the meeting on Thursday.

Kind regards,
[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 11 May 2020 12:10
To: 'a.nolan@napier.ac.uk' <a.nolan@napier.ac.uk>; 'n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk' <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; 'principal@st-andrews.ac.uk' <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find attached a draft agenda for the meeting this Thursday.

(a) Draft Agenda
(b) Minutes from Previous Meeting

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a very short summary (no more than 3 bullet points please) on what you would like to raise under **agenda item 4**. The Minister is keen for us to keep these updates as high level and as short as possible in order to protect time for our in depth agenda items. Can you confirm who will lead on providing this update for your sector?

I would be grateful if you could provide your responses for **10 am tomorrow, 12 May**.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 30

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 27 April 2020 15:57

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; 'n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk' <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; 'principal@st-andrews.ac.uk' <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>; 'principal@napier.ac.uk' <principal@napier.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 3 - 30 April

Dear Stakeholders,

Following on from my email below, just a gentle reminder for any contributions to be provided for **close of business today**. I'd be grateful if you could confirm who will be leading on each update.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 24 April 2020 13:04

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; 'n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk' <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; 'principal@st-andrews.ac.uk' <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>; 'principal@napier.ac.uk' <principal@napier.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 3 - 30 April

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find attached a draft agenda for next week's meeting. Please note, the Minister has still to approve and may amend the draft agenda.

(a) Draft Agenda

<< File: Further and Higher Education Covid19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 3 - Draft Agenda.docx >>

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a short summary (no more than a few bullet points) on what you would like to raise under agenda item 2 and any other substantive items. This is to help us with chairing the meeting especially when it is a teleconference. Can you also confirm who will lead on providing this update for your sector?

I would be grateful if you could provide your responses for **close of business on Monday 27 April**.

I will issue the approved agenda, future agenda planner, dial in details and slido instructions ahead of the meeting next Thursday.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

Fol document 31

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 14:41
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot'; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Hi [redacted],

That would be fine on this occasion but going forward we would ask you to limit the number to 4 people maximum.

Hope this is ok and happy to discuss.

Kind regards,
[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 15 April 2020 14:05
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Hi [redacted]

Overall, I think that my colleague Alastair Sim noted that we would change our 'cast list' depending on the agenda. So [redacted] may well be one of our 3 reps in future.

For this meeting however might we be allowed to have 4 principals plus myself? We would promise to be very disciplined about contributions and succinct which I hope you would recognise we have done to date.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 14:01
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Good Afternoon [redacted],

Thank you for your email.

For the Ministerial Leadership Group we are keen to limit the number of attendees to confirmed members only however, we do welcome an appropriate substitute if members are unable to attend.

In relation to your query regarding Gerry McCormac, can you confirm if this is a one off request for Gerry to attend the next meeting to aid the discussion on financial sustainability?

Please note, the meeting has now moved from 23 April to **1330-1500 on 30 April**.

Hope this is helpful and happy to provide anything further.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 15 April 2020 11:59
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

I'd like to ask a quick question about attendance of the Group. We have 3 principals attending along with myself. We would like to vary those individuals depending on the main themes of the agenda – we have different 'lead members' for different issues. I am assuming that is OK so long as we give you a heads up of who is representing US.

On a practical point for the next meeting I would like to invite our Vice Convener (and incoming Convener) Gerry McCormac to add to our attendees. I am conscious that the action points from last meeting point to us discussing financial impacts and Gerry is a prominent member of our leadership team now and will be our Convener from 1 August when the hardest impacts of the pandemic will start to kick in. Also, on a very practical point, Andrea Nolan has indicated that she will join the meeting late and I would value having Gerry there (assuming that he can make it – I haven't asked him until I get your feedback).

Meanwhile Sally and Nigel have been leading for us on admissions issues and so it would be very sensible to have them there – assuming that they can make it.

Does all that make sense / is acceptable?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 32

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 14:00
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Good Afternoon [redacted],

Thank you for your email.

For the Ministerial Leadership Group we are keen to limit the number of attendees to confirmed members only however, we do welcome an appropriate substitute if members are unable to attend.

In relation to your query regarding Gerry McCormac, can you confirm if this is a one off request for Gerry to attend the next meeting to aid the discussion on financial sustainability?

Please note, the meeting has now moved from 23 April to **1330-1500 on 30 April**.

Hope this is helpful and happy to provide anything further.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 15 April 2020 11:59
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

I'd like to ask a quick question about attendance of the Group. We have 3 principals attending along with myself. We would like to vary those individuals depending on the main themes of the agenda – we have different 'lead members' for different issues. I am assuming that is OK so long as we give you a heads up of who is representing US.

On a practical point for the next meeting I would like to invite our Vice Convener (and incoming Convener) Gerry McCormac to add to our attendees. I am conscious that the action points from last meeting point to us discussing financial impacts and Gerry is a prominent member of our leadership team now and will be our Convener from 1 August when the hardest impacts of the pandemic will start to kick in. Also, on a very practical point, Andrea Nolan has indicated that she will join the meeting late and I

would value having Gerry there (assuming that he can make it – I haven't asked him until I get your feedback).

Meanwhile Sally and Nigel have been leading for us on admissions issues and so it would be very sensible to have them there – assuming that they can make it.

Does all that make sense / is acceptable?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 33

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 08 April 2020 09:44

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 2 - 9 April

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for providing this update. Greatly appreciated.

Can you confirm who will lead on the updated for Universities under agenda item 2 please?

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 08 April 2020 08:35

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 2 - 9 April

[redacted]

Re. your question about agenda item 2, I imagine that members will want to reflect on the financial challenge faced by the university sector – sitting as it does between public and private sector and therefore have a much less clear path to government support. Members are speaking to the DFM later today on this matter.

At the last meeting we noted the value of SG promoting the sector internationally, utilising Scotland is Now. I don't think that this is an issue for discussion under item 2 but might be something that we return to at a future meeting?

On the rest of the agenda:

Student hardship: we can reflect on the additional funding going into institutions' hardship funds (>£500k)

Calibrating the sectors' contribution is something that we noted. Perhaps SG could invest some staff time in gathering a picture of this, assisted by the different organisations represented.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 07 April 2020 14:15

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 2 - 9 April

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find attached the minutes from last week's meeting and a draft agenda for this week's meeting. Please note, the Minister has still to approve and may amend the draft agenda.

(a) Minutes

(b) Draft Agenda

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a short summary (no more than a few bullet points) on what you would like to raise under agenda item 2 and any other substantive items. This is to help us with chairing the meeting especially when it is a teleconference. Can you also confirm who will lead on providing this update?

I would be grateful if you could provide your responses for **10 am tomorrow**.

I will issue the approved agenda, future agenda planner, dial in details and slido instructions over the course of tomorrow.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

Fol document 34

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 06 April 2020 10:12
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Ministerial Covid Meetings

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your email. We are currently in the processing of finalising the minutes from last week's meeting and drafting a minute for the meeting for Thursday. Once this has been approved I will be in contact to let you know and request any information we may need from yourself.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 06 April 2020 09:59
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Ministerial Covid Meetings

Hi [redacted]

I see that you are proposing a couple more meetings. Can you give me an indication of what the Minister would like to cover on Thursday please? Are there specific things that we want to progress? It would guide who we field from within our governance structure.

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 35

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 12 May 2020 10:53

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Hi [redacted]

Just to confirm the Universities Scotland attendees:

Andrea Nolan
Sally Mapstone
Richard Williams
[redacted]

Susan Stewart attends through direct invitation from SG.

Andrea will make lead comment on the update item and I expect that she will want to cover:

- SG support for the sector including the £75m allocation by SG for research and innovation and reflection on today's discussion with the DFM.
- Our statement on fair assessment which is now on our website
- Our work on a sector statement on commencement of AY [2020-21](#) and our ask at the last meeting for engagement with SG officials leading development of public health advice re education as lockdown is lifted.

On the international student item please note that Richard Williams will lead comment for Uni Scotland - he convenes our international committee- and Susan Stewart should be asked to comment too as vice convener of that committee.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:43:22 AM

To: : a.nolan@napier.ac.uk <a.nolan@napier.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; principal@st-andrews.ac.uk <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Good Morning all,

Following on from my email below, I would be grateful if you could provide any key updates by **12 noon today**. Apologies in advance for the tight turnaround however, this is to allow us time to update the Minister ahead of the meeting on Thursday.

Kind regards,
[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 11 May 2020 12:10

To: 'a.nolan@napier.ac.uk' <a.nolan@napier.ac.uk>; 'n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk' <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; 'principal@st-andrews.ac.uk' <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find attached a draft agenda for the meeting this Thursday.

(a) Draft Agenda

(b) Minutes from Previous Meeting

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a very short summary (no more than 3 bullet points please) on what you would like to raise under **agenda item 4**. The Minister is keen for us to keep these updates as high level and as short as possible in order to protect time for our in depth agenda items. Can you confirm who will lead on providing this update for your sector?

I would be grateful if you could provide your responses for **10 am tomorrow, 12 May**.

Kind regards,
[redacted].

[redacted]

Fol document 36

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 12 May 2020 10:53

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Hi [redacted]

Just to confirm the Universities Scotland attendees:

Andrea Nolan
Sally Mapstone
Richard Williams
[redacted]

Susan Stewart attends through direct invitation from SG.

Andrea will make lead comment on the update item and I expect that she will want to cover:

- SG support for the sector including the £75m allocation by SG for research and innovation and reflection on today's discussion with the DFM.
- Our statement on fair assessment which is now on our website
- Our work on a sector statement on commencement of AY[2020-21](#) and our ask at the last meeting for engagement with SG officials leading development of public health advice re education as lockdown is lifted.

On the international student item please note that Richard Williams will lead comment for Uni Scotland - he convenes our international committee- and Susan Stewart should be asked to comment too as vice convener of that committee.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 11 May 2020 12:10

To: 'a.nolan@napier.ac.uk' <a.nolan@napier.ac.uk>; 'n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk' <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; 'principal@st-andrews.ac.uk' <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 4 - 14 May 2020

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find attached a draft agenda for the meeting this Thursday.

(a) Draft Agenda

(b) Minutes from Previous Meeting

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a very short summary (no more than 3 bullet points please) on what you would like to raise under **agenda item 4**. The Minister is keen for us to keep these updates as high level and as short as possible in order to protect time for our in depth agenda items. Can you confirm who will lead on providing this update for your sector?

I would be grateful if you could provide your responses for **10 am tomorrow, 12 May**.

Kind regards,
[redacted].

[redacted]

Fol document 37

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 06 May 2020 10:23

To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot> [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: Follow up to yesterday's Ministerial Group - planning for the next academic year follow up

[redacted], [redacted] and Roddy

Just following up on this issue of engagement with sector on future public health guidance as it affects HEIs, I should update you on the commencement of joint work between UUK and UK Government, specifically discussion to inform the DfE of what an easing of restrictions on physical distancing might mean for the HE sector.

Our colleague [redacted], Secretary at [redacted], joined a first call yesterday ([redacted] convenes our Academic Year Contingency Group which is working with leads across the sector who have responsibility for planning for commencement of AY2020-21).

DfE indicated that it wants to co-design a set of jointly-agreed 'principles for safe operation'. The sector indicated strong support for this approach, which would help universities operate in ways that were consistent and that would reassure key stakeholders.

Some initial issues considered included the operation of student accommodation in the new Academic Year overall and the potential need for international arrivals to 'quarantine' prior to their start date. There was also a focus on the operation of laboratories / performance studios and of course issues around travel to and around campuses.

As per my earlier email, we would value an early discussion with SG colleagues as it develops public health guidance. It may be that SG would wish to take the output of, or ask to engage with the DfE work, as you develop Scottish Government guidance? Or would you wish to take a parallel look at these issues and consider whether there are any distinct issues for Scottish institutions?

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 04 May 2020 14:29

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Follow up to yesterday's Ministerial Group - planning for the next academic year follow up

Hello [redacted]

Yes we are keen to follow that up with you and soon – we will have a lead contact for you on this imminently and will be in touch.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 01 May 2020 11:41
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Follow up to yesterday's Ministerial Group

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

I just wanted to follow-up on one of the issues that arose yesterday re. planning for the next academic year. As I mentioned to the Minister I think there would be a lot of mutual benefit in a senior official involved in overall Covid public health planning meeting briefly (and virtually!) with our group of senior leads for planning for the commencement of teaching in each institution.

From the meeting of these leads yesterday they are wrestling with a range of issues that intersect strongly with public health advice and it might also be worth SG / Public Health Scotland colleagues understanding the university setting, including the potential for student mobility across Scotland / UK / world.

I wonder if we could be put in touch with a relevant SG colleague to discuss?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 38

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 28 April 2020 17:22
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@napier.ac.uk>
Subject: Ministerial Covid Group

Hi [redacted]

I just wanted to update you on US representation at the Group meeting on Thursday.

You kindly extended participation to 4 members plus myself but , as it turns out we will be 3 members plus myself. Specifically:

Professor Nolan
Professor Mapstone
Professor Seaton

Please also note that Andrea Nolan can only attend for the first 30 mins. Therefore it would be really useful if she could be called on at an early point under agenda item 2 to provide update reflections.

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 39

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 01 May 2020 11:41
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Follow up to yesterday's Ministerial Group

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

I just wanted to follow-up on one of the issues that arose yesterday re. planning for the next academic year. As I mentioned to the Minister I think there would be a lot of mutual benefit in a senior official involved in overall Covid public health planning meeting briefly (and virtually!) with our group of senior leads for planning for the commencement of teaching in each institution.

From the meeting of these leads yesterday they are wrestling with a range of issues that intersect strongly with public health advice and it might also be worth SG / Public Health Scotland colleagues understanding the university setting, including the potential for student mobility across Scotland / UK / world.

I wonder if we could be put in touch with a relevant SG colleague to discuss?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 40

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 28 April 2020 10:16

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; principal@st-andrews.ac.uk; principal@napier.ac.uk; n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 3 - 30 April

Many thanks [redacted]

In terms of lead contributions:

Agenda item 2, Key Issues and Update: Professor Nolan

Agenda Item 3, Co-ordinating Plans for Next Academic Year: Professor Mapstone

You asked for some bullet points on what we might cover under agenda item 2. The items on planning for the next academic year and on financial sustainability remain significant issues and we may want to comment on the latter under agenda item 2 as well given the scale of the challenge and complexity in addressing it.

More broadly we may want to reflect on:

- the positive engagement with both NUS and STUC over recent weeks;
- the significant achievement of the sector in continuing to deliver much of its operations;
- the importance of messaging to international students, applicants and institutional partners; and
- the continuing significant and broad contribution that the sector is making to the effort to fight the virus and treat patients including offering accommodation to the NHS; equipment; research to fight the virus; and of course many newly qualified medical staff alongside HE staff who have moved (back) into the NHS.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 28 April 2020 08:56

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; principal@st-andrews.ac.uk; principal@napier.ac.uk; n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 3 - 30 April

Dear stakeholders,

Following on from my email below, I would be grateful if you could provide your contributions by **noon today**. I would also be grateful if you could confirm who will lead on agenda items 2 and 3 for your sector.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 27 April 2020 15:57

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; 'n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk' <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>; 'principal@st-andrews.ac.uk' <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>; 'principal@napier.ac.uk' <principal@napier.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 3 - 30 April

Dear Stakeholders,

Following on from my email below, just a gentle reminder for any contributions to be provided for **close of business today**. I'd be grateful if you could confirm who will be leading on each update.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 24 April 2020 13:04

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; 'n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk' <n.seaton@abertay.ac.uk>;

'principal@st-andrews.ac.uk' <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>; 'principal@napier.ac.uk'

<principal@napier.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Further and Higher Education COVID19 Ministerial Leadership Group - Meeting 3 - 30 April

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find attached a draft agenda for next week's meeting. Please note, the Minister has still to approve and may amend the draft agenda.

(a) Draft Agenda

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a short summary (no more than a few bullet points) on what you would like to raise under agenda item 2 and any other substantive items. This is to help us with chairing the meeting especially when it is a

teleconference. Can you also confirm who will lead on providing this update for your sector?

I would be grateful if you could provide your responses for **close of business on Monday 27 April**.

I will issue the approved agenda, future agenda planner, dial in details and slido instructions ahead of the meeting next Thursday.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

Fol document 41

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 15 April 2020 14:05
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Hi [redacted]

Overall, I think that my colleague Alastair Sim noted that we would change our 'cast list' depending on the agenda. So [redacted] may well be one of our 3 reps in future.

For this meeting however might we be allowed to have 4 principals plus myself? We would promise to be very disciplined about contributions and succinct which I hope you would recognise we have done to date.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 April 2020 14:01
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Good Afternoon [redacted],

Thank you for your email.

For the Ministerial Leadership Group we are keen to limit the number of attendees to confirmed members only however, we do welcome an appropriate substitute if members are unable to attend.

In relation to your query regarding Gerry McCormac, can you confirm if this is a one off request for Gerry to attend the next meeting to aid the discussion on financial sustainability?

Please note, the meeting has now moved from 23 April to **1330-1500 on 30 April**.

Hope this is helpful and happy to provide anything further.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 15 April 2020 11:59
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

I'd like to ask a quick question about attendance of the Group. We have 3 principals attending along with myself. We would like to vary those individuals depending on the main themes of the agenda – we have different 'lead members' for different issues. I am assuming that is OK so long as we give you a heads up of who is representing US.

On a practical point for the next meeting I would like to invite our Vice Convener (and incoming Convener) Gerry McCormac to add to our attendees. I am conscious that the action points from last meeting point to us discussing financial impacts and Gerry is a prominent member of our leadership team now and will be our Convener from 1 August when the hardest impacts of the pandemic will start to kick in. Also, on a very practical point, Andrea Nolan has indicated that she will join the meeting late and I would value having Gerry there (assuming that he can make it – I haven't asked him until I get your feedback).

Meanwhile Sally and Nigel have been leading for us on admissions issues and so it would be very sensible to have them there – assuming that they can make it.

Does all that make sense / is acceptable?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 42

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 15 April 2020 11:59
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Ministerial Covid Group: attendance

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

I'd like to ask a quick question about attendance of the Group. We have 3 principals attending along with myself. We would like to vary those individuals depending on the main themes of the agenda – we have different 'lead members' for different issues. I am assuming that is OK so long as we give you a heads up of who is representing US.

On a practical point for the next meeting I would like to invite our Vice Convener (and incoming Convener) Gerry McCormac to add to our attendees. I am conscious that the action points from last meeting point to us discussing financial impacts and Gerry is a prominent member of our leadership team now and will be our Convener from 1 August when the hardest impacts of the pandemic will start to kick in. Also, on a very practical point, Andrea Nolan has indicated that she will join the meeting late and I would value having Gerry there (assuming that he can make it – I haven't asked him until I get your feedback).

Meanwhile Sally and Nigel have been leading for us on admissions issues and so it would be very sensible to have them there – assuming that they can make it.

Does all that make sense / is acceptable?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 43

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 21 May 2020 12:07

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

Great, thanks [redacted], sounds like a good plan.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Date: Thursday, 21 May 2020, 11:39 am

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

Thanks [redacted]

That's fantastic, I will get this out to members. If the colleagues cited aren't getting a response do nudge us - as you can imagine Universities are dealing with a lot of turmoil just now but I am sure that they would want to respond to this even if it is to explain that they cannot help.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 10:38:15 AM

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: RE: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

Hello [redacted],

Please see attached a list of contacts in NHS Scotland Health Boards.

In terms of need:

- [redacted] at NHS Shetland has asked if we know of any space in Aberdeen, in case they need to send patients to hospital in the city;
- [redacted] at NHS GGC has asked for anything and everything although demand seems to have tailed off; and
- [redacted] at NHS Highland has asked for details of anything available in the region as it covers such a wide area.

All other Boards have been pretty quiet and it doesn't feel like there is a great need for additional accommodation at this time. However, I imagine Boards will be planning for what to do should another peak occur later in the year.

[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 12 May 2020 14:40
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

No worries, [redacted],

I think we can certainly get a list of contacts, but need might be slightly harder to quantify.

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 12 May 2020 14:27
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Re: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

Thanks [redacted]

As discussed, probably best that Boards set out what they need and who to contact.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:25:01 PM
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

Hello [redacted],

I hope you are well.

Apologies for taking a considerable amount of time on getting back to you on this. The weeks have just disappeared.

We do now have a process for liaising with Health Boards on accommodation. The sense I am getting at the moment is that there is not the huge demand that we feared there might be for staff to stay away from home. However, Boards are still keen to know what is available to them.

Is it easier for me to provide you with my list of contacts, or for me to provide the Boards with a list of contacts from you?

Apologies again.

Happy to chat if that would be helpful.

[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 17 April 2020 13:33
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

[redacted],

Thank you for sight of this. I have copied to my colleague who is leading on accommodation matters. I agree that it would still be useful to get a list of contacts and also for us to give communicate the offer through the boards. We will put something together and get back to you.

Have a nice weekend when it comes,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 17 April 2020 12:34
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

Dear [redacted]

Please see my reply to Ms Freeman which I hope reflects our conversation. I had a few members come back to say that they have already been putting things in place with Trusts but I think its still worth us putting out a list of contacts and needs is that was doable.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 17 April 2020 12:28
To: 'scottish.ministers@gov.scot' <scottish.ministers@gov.scot>; 'CabSecHS@gov.scot' <CabSecHS@gov.scot>
Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; Susannah Lane <susannah@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; 'Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot' <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Subject: Response to Letter from Ms Freeman: university halls & NHS staff

Dear Ms Freeman

Please find attached a response to your letter of 8 April regarding the use of student living space to accommodate NHS staff.

Regards

[redacted]

Fol document 44

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 29 April 2020 09:00
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

Good morning [redacted],

As requested, please see the attached letter that was issued to medical schools involved in expediting graduation.

Many thanks,
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 24 April 2020 15:36
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

I've asked Cab Sec's office whether she's content to share so if they confirm I'll send it on!

Let me know if I can be of any help.

Thanks again,
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 24 April 2020 14:59
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

Hi [redacted],

No problem at all – glad I can be of some help!

If you're happy to share then I would be really interested in seeing the letter.

Do give me a shout if you need anything else.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 24 April 2020 14:56
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

Hi [redacted],

Thank you so much for making those changes – and please excuse my errors, too much going on at the moment!

I think that will be all that's needed to get the letter issued, thanks for helping out. Hope you're keeping well.

Best wishes,
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 24 April 2020 14:11
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

Hi [redacted],

Please find attached the document with a few corrections and additions (I've used track changes). I've also included Principals' Pas as well.

Additionally, there were a couple of changes made to the Deans/Heads of Medical Schools. This version has the most up to date information.

Hope this helps – do give me a shout if you need any more information!

Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 24 April 2020 13:00
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

That would be really useful Emma, thanks very much.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 24 April 2020 12:52

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

Dear [redacted],

Many thanks for your email - just to say I'm on a call right now but will reply with contact details etc within a couple of hours.

Hope this time frame suits?

Best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:47:53 PM

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: University Principles - Request for Contact Details

Good afternoon [redacted],

The Cabinet Secretary would like to write to the University Principles and Deans of Scottish Medical Schools thanking them for their efforts thus far. As you'll see from the attached document, I have most contact email addresses but still require the following:

Aberdeen – Professor George Boyne

Dundee – Professor David Maguire

Glasgow – Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli

Are these details that you have to hand and could possibly pass on? The Cab Sec is keen to issue the letter as soon as possible so any advice would be really appreciated.

Many thanks and happy to discuss,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 45

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 01 April 2020 19:55

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: Director of Health Workforce <Directorofhealthworkforce@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Health Workforce <DeputyDirectorofHealthWorkforce@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>

Subject: RESPONSE FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO UNIVERSITIES SCOTLAND LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 2020 - ON THE PLACING OF MEDICAL STUDENTS TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

[redacted]

Many thanks for your letter dated 26 March 2020, in your role as Universities Scotland's [redacted], (on behalf of all the Heads of the Medical Schools in Scotland) setting out a collective response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I attach above a response to your letter from [redacted] of Health Workforce; an open letter to all students from Catherine Calderwood, Chief Medical Officer and some initial guidance for nursing, midwifery and medical students. The intention is to publish a link to the guidance - and it will be further developed as things move forward.

I would be grateful if you, and all the medical school leads, could disseminate the open letter from the Chief Medical Officer to all students and also draw their attention to pages 3-8 of the Guidance (we will ensure you are forwarded the web-link when it has been established).

Many thanks – and best regards

[redacted]

Fol document 46

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 02 April 2020 17:14

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: Director of Health Workforce <Directorofhealthworkforce@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Health Workforce <DeputyDirectorofHealthWorkforce@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>; info@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Principal <principal@ed.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: RESPONSE FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO UNIVERSITIES SCOTLAND LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 2020 - ON THE PLACING OF MEDICAL STUDENTS TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Colleagues – apologies for yet another mail from me – but the guidance has now been put on our SG webpages – so I attach the link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19---medical-nursing-and-midwifery-student-support-guidance/>

Best regards

[redacted]

Fol document 47

By Email

Our Reference: **20-028r**

Friday 17 April 2020

Ms Jeane Freeman MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Scottish Government
Scottish.Ministers@gov.scot

Dear Ms Freeman,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April which asked universities to consider the use of student living spaces to offer flexible accommodation for NHS staff.

I am pleased to say that, building on their close day-to-day working relationship with Trusts across the country, a number of institutions have already put in place such arrangements, both for existing NHS staff and for the final year students who have come into the NHS workforce in advance of normal timescales.

However, since receiving your letter we have discussed with your officials how we might most effectively ensure that every Trust can link in with universities that might be able to offer accommodation. We have agreed that the next step will be for Trusts to set out their needs, including the specifications to ensure compliance with best practice in infection control in what is normally shared accommodation. We will then share this information with our members and invite further bilateral discussions.

More broadly, universities see tackling COVID-19 as a top priority and we're proud to support the NHS at this crucial time. Alongside providing key staff in the NHS institutions are providing vital medical equipment such as ventilators and diagnostic equipment. Our sector is also at the heart of the COVID-19 research response. For example, scientists at the University of Glasgow's Centre for Virus Research (CVR) are working in partnership with colleagues across the UK on a range of research areas related to the virus.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Universities Scotland

Fol document 48

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 09 April 2020 13:26
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: BEIS science minister

Roddy

As I understand it, if a funded project has a certain longevity it will very likely have been put on hold during lockdown and yet the HEI will be continuing to pay salary and possible other costs. So can UKRI make a proportionate extension to the cost of the project to address this?

[redacted]

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Sent: 09 April 2020 12:47
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: BEIS science minister

[redacted]

Can you clarify the question for the UK science/BEIS Minister Andrea mentioned on the call – “clarity on funded extensions for research projects from BEIS and UKRI”

His call is at 3pm

Thanks Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate
[redacted]

Fol document 49

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 14 April 2020 15:52
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Subject: Re: Covid19: UUK package of measures

Hi Roddy

Not that I am aware of.

[redacted]

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:49:28 PM
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Covid19: UUK package of measures

[redacted] are there any concerns from Scottish perspective if student number controls introduced in England?

Thanks Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 09 April 2020 14:09
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Karen Watt <kwatt@sfc.ac.uk> [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk
Cc: Professor Andrea Nolan <a.nolan@napier.ac.uk>; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Covid19: UUK package of measures

Dear Roddy, Karen and Lorna

In the course of the conversation with the DFM yesterday we committed to share the UUK document setting out to UK Government a package of measures sought to respond to the pandemic.

The document points to the UK-wide issues as well as the devolved. On the latter it notes briefly at the foot of page 5 the point raised by members yesterday regarding the particular challenge for the Scottish sector arising from cuts to T over many years, specifically:

“A significant additional consideration for Scotland and Northern Ireland is that home and EU teaching is substantially underfunded and is cross subsidised by income from non-EU students. Therefore, the support package for these universities will need to address the sustainable funding of

teaching, in order to protect home/EU students from being adversely affected by severely reduced international student income”.

Regards

[redacted]

Fol document 50

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 29 April 2020 13:43

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Further and Higher Education COVID 19 - Letter for Institutions - Covid 19 National Effort .doc

Hi [redacted]

Reviewing in haste in between a number of meetings today. On a quick review, I wonder if the following section might be amended from:

- Beyond the financial position, I am also working closely with the sectors on their planning for delivering teaching and learning in the coming academic year. It is imperative that current and potential learners in Scotland, and staff, have as clear as possible an understanding of how the year ahead is being planned for. The Ministerial Group will ensure that these plans are co-ordinated and aligned as appropriate, and we will ensure that there are clear and consistent communications to underpin these plans.

To

- Beyond the financial position, I am also working closely with the sectors on their planning for delivering teaching and learning in the coming academic year. It is imperative that current and potential learners in Scotland, and staff, have as clear as possible an understanding of how the year ahead is being planned for. The Ministerial Group will provide a route for ensuring a common awareness of the plans across our diverse institutions and support the communication of those plans to all with an interest in them.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 29 April 2020 13:23

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Further and Higher Education COVID 19 - Letter for Institutions - Covid 19 National Effort .doc

Hi Alastair / [redacted],

Apologies I know you are busy however your views on the previously attached letter would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 28 April 2020 15:42

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Subject: Further and Higher Education COVID 19 - Letter for Institutions - Covid 19 National Effort .doc

Good Afternoon [redacted]/ [redacted],

Hope you are well?

Mr Lochhead is looking to issue a letter to College and University Principals to provide an update on the National Effort in combatting the effects of Covid-19.

I have attached a draft letter for your information. Could you kindly review and advise if you are content or provide any comments by 12pm tomorrow?

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 51

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 01 May 2020 16:14
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Draft Ministerial statement on fair assessment

Hi Roddy

I responded to [redacted] on this today and got a o-o-o bounce. I will pick up with him next week but this is just to flag to yourself and to [redacted] that we would like to take a slightly different approach to the public statement on this issue.

As I said to [redacted] earlier in the week, we have been discussing common ground on a number of issues with NUS and we have another meeting with them in Monday. Our approach will be to place something in the public domain – either with NUS or as US alone – and hopefully the Minister will be able to welcome that. I think that there is ample scope to co-ordinate that with any statement that he wants to make re. colleges and for him to be able to welcome / comment on the university approach.

[redacted] – perhaps we can catch up early on Monday?

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 30 April 2020 18:09
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Draft Ministerial statement on fair assessment

Good evening colleagues

Many thanks for your engagement to date on 'no detriment' and fair assessment.

With apologies for the delay in getting this to you. I have attached an early draft of a joint statement from the Minister covering both college and university interests.

I have incorporated your feedback and attempted to use terminology that would speak to both audiences, and appreciate this can be difficult without losing necessary context or softening some messaging.

I would be grateful for your views on this and whether the terminology is appropriate to cover both sectors for your interests.

Happy to discuss if that is easier.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fol document 52

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Jeane Freeman MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Prof. Andrea Nolan OBE Convener
Universities Scotland

a.nolan@napier.ac.uk

1st May 2020

I hope you find this, and all of your colleagues, well and you are managing to keep safe during these uncertain times we find ourselves in.

Recent events in relation to Covid-19 have brought with them an increased demand on our workloads and this will be no different for Universities Scotland whilst collectively supporting our Universities.

I am especially aware of, and therefore wish to extend my sincere thanks for, the tremendous work and collaborative effort that has been put into responding to this pandemic by expediting the early graduation of final year medical students. This has allowed the students to volunteer their valuable skills and expertise to bolster the resilience of our NHS workforce as Interim Foundation (FiY1) doctors. We have seen a significant volume of applications, which NES has been working hard to process to allow them to be deployed safely and effectively within our NHS Boards.

In recognising these commendable efforts of Universities, I am happy to discuss with Universities Scotland or individual Universities if there have been any additional costs incurred in assisting our NHS in this or other ways.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

JEANE FREEMAN

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Sent: 04 May 2020 11:29

To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot

Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Responding to Cab Sec Health Letter

Dear Roddy

We received the attached from Cab Sec Health last week. It is extremely welcome.

It would be really useful to know who in Health we might liaise with so that the approach is in the scope that they have in mind as is as easily administrated as possible. We have been liaising with a number of different people over recent weeks on final year students into the workforce; kit and PPE; accommodation etc. It doesn't feel that any one of them is the person to speak to.

Could someone in HE find out who at a reasonably senior level we are best to speak to so that we respond to the Cab Sec letter in a way that works for Health colleagues?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 53

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 20 May 2020 16:35
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: Re: Chat re public health guidance

Thanks Roddy

Myself and [redacted] and we would want to bring in some sector expertise - probably 2 or 3 colleagues for whom this is a current planning task.

Regards
[redacted]

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:27:37 PM
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Chat re public health guidance

[redacted] that would seem sensible, am discussing with colleagues working on this tomorrow, who would be on call from US?

Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Sent: 20 May 2020 13:17
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: Chat re public health guidance

Hi Roddy

Just following up on our chat on Friday, when would be convenient to chat with you and colleagues about public health guidance?

I noted that the sector is working at a UK level to identify a set of principles with notes of some guidance and good practice examples and we thought that building from that foundation would be the most sensible approach.

I anticipate that the output of the UUK work will be in the public domain early next week so I wonder if a chat towards the end of next week might be helpful?

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 54

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 29 April 2020 10:52
To: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Cc: 'Nolan, Andrea' <A.Nolan@napier.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Joint UUK/MillionPlus proposal to DfE & DHSC - embargoed until 0730 29 April

Roddy

Briefly:

- It's interesting, but was written specifically for the English context and not as recommendations to SG
- There's been some discussion among members, who are concerned about organisations firing off ideas a bit randomly and think we need to get to a more rounded conversation between SG and the sector across the totality of how a support package can promote the common good.
- So I'd regard the Million+ paper as something that should go into that much larger melting pot.

Alastair

P.S. you were looking to organise a meeting with SFC and Principals to go over the development of the package of support at an appropriate stage in the first half of May – how's that going?

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot
Sent: 29 April 2020 10:14
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: Joint UUK/MillionPlus proposal to DfE & DHSC - embargoed until 0730 29 April

Alastair what is US view on this?

Thanks Roddy

UUK and MillionPlus agreed the attached joint proposal to government at lunchtime today, which went into Matt Hancock, Gavin Williamson and Michelle at around 3pm today (SpAds copied in). We will be issuing the press release below at around 0730 tomorrow morning, but have given 8am Playbook ([redacted]) and Wonkhe ([redacted]) the media release for their morning bulletins. Happy to have a chat about it whenever..

PRESS RELEASE

28 April 2020

EMBARGOED UNTIL 0730 29 APRIL 2020

Protect and support public service provision at universities to rebuild Britain

Universities UK and MillionPlus, the Association for Modern Universities, are today (29 April) outlining proposals for the government's consideration to protect and support key public service provision at universities. The proposal explicitly builds on Universities UK's stabilisation plan submitted to the government three weeks ago, which called for investment to support university finances in the crisis and offered to work with the government to take forward "targeted support to protect and sustain courses that meet the national need for key workers".

The Covid-19 crisis has thrown a spotlight on our vital key public service workers – particularly those in medicine, nursing, teaching, allied health professions, and social work. Such professions will be increasingly vital as the nation begins to heal in the months ahead.

Universities will be hit hard financially by the crisis, placing the vital provision of, among others, medical, social work and teacher training at risk. Without further action, training capacity may well not meet future needs.

Working with universities, the government could take a major stride towards mitigating against future capacity shortfalls with a simple three-pronged approach:

- Supporting students and graduates to become key workers in public services, by offering a maintenance grant of up to £10,000 for all students in training, removing any recruitment caps, and providing fee-loan forgiveness for those remaining in the relevant professions for at least five years.
- Strengthening and enhancing key public service HE capacity in universities by increasing the funding to the Office for Students to reflect the added costs while creating a new Public Services in Higher Education Capital Fund to enable universities to invest in simulation equipment, additional staff costs and other infrastructure.
- Retaining and developing key workers in public services, by increasing general staffing budgets and creating a new professional development programme focused on enhancing skills of current key workers in public services and the new NHS volunteer reserve.

Professor Julia Buckingham, President of Universities UK and Vice-Chancellor of Brunel University, said:

“Our universities and their students are vital assets to the UK. Our world-leading hubs of teaching and research have stepped up to the plate during the coronavirus crisis, supplying equipment, know-how and front-line staff to hospitals all over the country. It is critically important that universities have the resources to train the next generation of workers in these key areas so that we can meet future needs.”

Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, Chair of MillionPlus and a Universities UK Board member, said:

“Universities need this support to be reciprocated from the government to help meet what is certain to be increased demand for these key public servants, as we work together to rebuild Britain. The overall UUK stabilisation package is essential to this – these proposals build on that plan’s explicit call for targeted support to sustain courses essential for our future national needs. These proposals could go a long way to honouring the government’s election pledge to boost the NHS and help levelling up across the entire country, as, slowly but surely, Britain heals and a kind of normality returns.”

ENDS.

Fol document 55

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 28 April 2020 19:15
To: Director of Advanced Learning and Science
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy)
<Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; 'kwatt@sfc.ac.uk' <kwatt@sfc.ac.uk>
; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: FW: CORONAVIRUS: SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES AND THE UK GOVERNMENT

Colleagues as above – please see the letter US has just sent to Michelle Donelan about the need for both governments to work on a support package for Scottish higher education: I hope this is a useful catalyst for detailed engagement between the Scottish and UK Governments.

Very best wishes,

Alastair

From: Alastair Sim
Sent: 28 April 2020 19:05
To: 'Universities.ps@education.gov.uk' <Universities.ps@education.gov.uk>
Cc: [redaction]@education.gov.uk; 'minister.solloway@beis.gov.uk' <minister.solloway@beis.gov.uk>; 'Ben.johnson@beis.gov.uk' <Ben.johnson@beis.gov.uk>; 'Nolan, Andrea' <A.Nolan@napier.ac.uk>; 'DFMCSE@gov.scot' <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; 'MinisterFEHES@gov.scot' <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: CORONAVIRUS: SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES AND THE UK GOVERNMENT

Dear Ms Donelan,

Copy: as above

I attach a letter from Professor Andrea Nolan as Convener of Universities Scotland and Vice-President of UUK about the need for the Scottish and UK Governments to work together on specific support measures to support Scottish higher education, complementary to UUK's overall proposals.

Professor Nolan would welcome a discussion with you about this and may include other Principals who have been leading our work on response to this crisis: who in your office should Universities Scotland liaise with to set this up?

Many thanks for your response so far to this emergency, and very best wishes,

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]

alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Fol document 56

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 24 April 2020 19:04

To: Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy)

<Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>

Cc: Nolan, Andrea <A.Nolan@napier.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: UK Government support for support package

Roddy

Cc: as above

Hope you've had a good couple of days off and weekend by the time you read this.

We spoke on Wednesday evening about the need to press UK Government for meaningful assistance to Scottish higher education in a support package, and I made those points to Douglas Ross at Scotland Office on Thursday.

The issue was also discussed at UUK Board today. I didn't come away feeling confident that the UK Government's response to the UUK case was going to do much for Scotland.

How can US best help SG to make the case? I'd value a word on Monday.

Here's an outline of the sort of pitch we were thinking US might make direct to Michelle Donelan, copied to Amanda Solloway, and followed up with a meeting with US elected leadership. I attach the stakeholder version of our case, and key points I'd want to make in a covering letter sending that to her are:

- Scottish universities are a core part of the strength of the UK university sector, and will be an important part of the UK's post-pandemic recovery and success. They are also typically in less resilient financial condition than English institutions [illustrate].
- Both Scottish and UK Governments need be part of building a support package because:
 1. It will involve a blend of devolved and reserved measures; and
 2. Its scope goes beyond what can be afforded from devolved resources.
- Initial estimates from Scottish institutions were that we would face losses of £78m in academic year 2019/20, and a mid-range assumption of a loss of £435m of international fee income in 2020/21. These are very conservative estimates that are currently being refined in close discussion between the Scottish Funding Council and institutions. Even at this conservative level of estimate, the 2020/21 loss would equate to one-quarter of universities' staff paybill
- Institutions are using UK Government coronavirus finance/ job retention schemes and their own resources to meet the challenge as far as they can, but this will be far short of what's needed.
- We want UK and Scottish Govts to reach an agreed quantification of the challenge facing Scottish HE, the contribution to that needed from government, and the financial contribution from each government to that.

- We would like to be party to discussions about the balance between reserved and devolved policy instruments in meeting the challenge [insert our account of what's devolved/ reserved/ could be either].
- We're supportive of the UUK case for support, but it doesn't provide the full answer for Scotland – as is explicitly recognised in the UUK case. The different funding model for Scotland teaching, and its funding at only c90% of the cost of provision means that there will need to be a distinct package for Scotland, involving both governments, that includes:
 1. Action in line with the UUK case to support the strength, capacity and quality of the research base, through UK instruments including UKRI and through devolved funding mechanisms
 2. Support for teaching so that it's funded at cost: the relative underfunding of teaching has increased Scottish institutions' exposure to a crash in international students.
 3. [something paralleling UUK's transformation fund proposal/ access to that fund]
 4. Bespoke underwriting of losses of income where the elements above don't meet that to the extent that's needed to protect unis' contribution to the common good and national recovery.
- We recognise that it'll take some time to assemble this, but a statement from UK Govt now that work is in hand by both govts to build a balanced package of support for Scottish universities would give assurance ahead of critical governing body decisions about how to make cuts to adapt to severely reduced income in 2020/21.

Also, do you see any point in us making direct representations to Treasury?

We're keen to do what we can to help – we see a lack of the appropriate level of support from UK Govt as a critical risk to the sector in the current emergency.

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]

Fol document 57

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 08 April 2020 21:49
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; 'Karen Watt' <kwatt@sfc.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Andrea Nolan <a.nolan@napier.ac.uk>
Subject: Taking forward action from the DFM meeting (action: [redacted])

Roddy, Karen

Many thanks to both of you for the preparatory work for what I thought was a very positive discussion with the DFM this afternoon.

Roddy – we're already in touch about the public statement and [redacted] will get back to you in the morning with comments from Andrea.

It would be good to get a sense of what the project looks like from here on to (a) refine the projections of the financial challenges, and (b) develop the support package.

On (a) there's obviously already very good foundations of work-in-hand.

On (b) things are obviously at a more speculative stage, but it would be good to develop an early sense of how to take things forward so that more concrete proposals are developed. As part of that, it would be good to start working through the devolved/ reserved aspects of that – [redacted] I attach a message I sent [redacted] the other day about that, and tomorrow I hope to be able to share UUK's pitch to UK Government. We should among other things discuss how to involve UUK/ UK Government in the development of proposals.

[redacted]- could you find a time, preferably next week, when [redacted], [redacted] and I could 'meet' Karen and Roddy, and whoever they choose to include from their sides, to discuss this.

Thanks a lot,

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland
]

[redacted]

Fol document 58

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 07 April 2020 15:34

To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>

Subject: Dual government nature of support package

Roddy

As discussed, from something I just sent UUK:

The 'ask' for Scotland

Scottish higher education operates in a domain that straddles the boundary between devolved and reserved matters. The scale of the challenges goes beyond what can be afforded from devolved budgets. The different funding model for Scottish higher education means that we need a package that's in some ways different from England.

The devolved public funding of teaching in Scotland means that a component of that has to include funding to redress the unsustainability caused by teaching being funded at c10% below cost.

So I think the paper's core message for Scotland is that **we need UK Government and Scottish Government investment, and an ambitious and co-ordinated plan by the UK and Scottish Governments to put resilience and rebound measures in place for Scottish higher education.** These should lay the foundations for a quick recovery, and enable Scottish higher education to contribute fully to Scotland and the UK's post-pandemic success.

The UUK case should be clear that both reserved and devolved elements of a package are necessary for Scottish institutions, and that UK and Scottish Governments will need to reach an agreement about how they can each best contribute.

As you're aware, US has already made a pitch to the Scottish Government for support, which we will discuss with the Deputy First Minister tomorrow. The success of our case to SG depends on UUK's success in unlocking additional resources for higher education. We will be clear to SG that we expect them to work closely with UK Government to put together a co-ordinated package of support for Scottish higher education.

Not necessarily for the paper, but to demonstrate the need for both governments to work on the plan for Scottish HE, here's some illustration of the devolved/ reserved issues.

Areas where each government can have a role as part of the package for Scottish institutions are:

UK Government: the applicability to higher education of **UK-wide coronavirus schemes** e.g. job retention, business interruption, corporate finance facility.

UK Government: increased proportion of FEC through **competitively-won research contracts**.

For discussion between UK Government and Scottish Government: specific support for institutions' loss of income in 2019/20 and loss of international income in 2020/21 and beyond.

Principally devolved, but some potential for UK Government action: QR-equivalent (**Research Excellence Grant**): but Scottish institutions are also eligible for specific UK Government investments in the research infrastructure e.g. through UK-wide schemes such as RPIF and GCRF, and UKRI investments in the research infrastructure. Also knowledge exchange (University Innovation Fund, equivalent to HEIF) though additional UKRI investment to help universities to help businesses to rebound would also be helpful: so agreement on respective contributions is needed from each government.

Devolved and reserved elements: enabling **City and Region Deals** to continue to promote inclusive growth.

Devolved: **teaching funding**: but without additional resource from UK Government, Scottish Government are unlikely to be able to increase this to sustainable levels.

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]

Fol document 59

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 07 April 2020 12:52

To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

<MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: COVID-19 will not derail universities' progress on widening access

Richard, Roddy

For info – we're taking the opportunity to affirm that universities remain committed to widening access, in a way that endures through and beyond the current emergency.

Alastair

Fol document 60

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 April 2020 12:37
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted][@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk)
Subject: RE: DFM meeting

Roddy

Briefly:

- UUK are currently finalising their case to UK Government for a major package of assistance. I'll let you see that when I can – bits of it are still quite fluid. One of the points I'm making strongly to UUK is that there will be both devolved and reserved aspects to any package of support.
- UUK estimate UK-wide financial losses from loss of accommodation fees, catering and conferences in AY 2019/20 at c.£790m
- A 50% drop in UK international student fees would be c£3.5bn (NB unlike our figure this doesn't include projected losses of TNE income).

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 07 April 2020 11:28
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted][@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk)
Subject: RE: DFM meeting

Alastair Minister was asking is there a similar Universities UK ask of the UK Government? Are there comparable UK figures in terms of impact?

thanks

Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: Macdonald R (Roddy)
Sent: 07 April 2020 10:54
To: 'Alastair Sim' <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted][@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk)
Subject: RE: DFM meeting

Alastair perfect, will confirm dial in details later, SFC colleagues will also be involved Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 April 2020 10:46
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: DFM meeting

Roddy
We can field Andrea, Gerry McCormac, Nigel Seaton, Sally Mapstone and me for 2pm tomorrow, which is exactly what we'd want.
Are SG putting the logistics in place?
Thanks for getting this moving so quickly.
Alastair

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 April 2020 09:31
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: term 1 20/21

Thanks Roddy, let me check quickly and get back to you, please hold the time.

Thanks for getting this moving quickly.

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 9:27:38 AM
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: term 1 20/21

Alastair the DFM could do 2-3 tomorrow for a virtual meeting on the letter, is that doable from your side? Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 April 2020 09:13
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: term 1 20/21

Thanks Roddy

On EU students we're really just making the generic point that when and if the fees status changes we need to be able to keep the money in institutions for flexible use, rather than making any fresh comment about when that change in fees status should happen.

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 07 April 2020 09:03
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: term 1 20/21

Alastair

Thanks, on the letter we are sorting out some potential slots to offer you for discussion with DFM, possibly Thursday

In the letter can I just ask about the reference to EU Fees, is that meaning you are swinging more to not extending to 21/22 but keeping money in sector, we took from the call that most of the principals would still welcome 21/22 extension but some reassurance that a flexible approach would be there after that?

Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 April 2020 08:35
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: term 1 20/21

Roddy – very much still some way off, though we're connecting institutions to share their thinking about how to manage the start of next term. It's really hard to make decisions now when we don't know what course the outbreak is likely to take, so it's very much at the stage of thinking what to do if the pandemic follows different courses. And possibly not neat e.g. if there are multiple intake points throughout the academic year.

We'll keep you informed and no doubt the Minister will ask questions at his Covid group.

More existentially, any reaction in SG to the case we put to the FM at the end of last week? I'll give you a call on Tuesday.

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 06 April 2020 17:09
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: term 1 20/21

Alastair

I know there has been some speculation (including in the press) about the autumn term starting on line etc, the Minister was expressing the view to us that if this was the case there would need to be some co-ordination round it and he would be concerned if individual institutions started announcing this, still some way off obviously and lets hope for the best but is this something you have been thinking about and would it be done in a collective way if it had to happen?

Thanks Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

Fol document 61

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 03 April 2020 15:51
To: Director of Advanced Learning and Science
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; 'Karen Watt'
<kwatt@sfc.ac.uk>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot;
[redacted]@sfc.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: FW: COVID-19 Emergency and Higher Education

SG and SFC colleagues as above

Please see the letter that US has just sent to the DFM about the need for help for the higher education sector if we're to support Scotland's post-pandemic success.

Very best wishes, and very happy to discuss,

Alastair

From: Alastair Sim
Sent: 03 April 2020 15:40
To: 'DFMCSE@gov.scot' <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: 'firstminister@gov.scot' <firstminister@gov.scot>; 'CabSecFinance@gov.scot'
<CabSecFinance@gov.scot>; 'Nolan, Andrea' <A.Nolan@napier.ac.uk>;
'MinisterFEHES@gov.scot' <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>
Subject: COVID-19 Emergency and Higher Education

Dear Deputy First Minister,

Cc: as above

Please see the attached letter from Professor Andrea Nolan about challenges facing the higher education sector as a result of the pandemic, including a request for an urgent (virtual) meeting.

Very best wishes, and our thanks for the Scottish Government's work to rise to the challenges of this emergency,

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]
alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Fol document 62

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 01 April 2020 12:05
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: wages support for Universties

Thanks Roddy

From what I've seen so far, a big problem with this scheme is that it won't provide support for externally-funded researchers whose contracts come to a scheduled end during the emergency, and who aren't going to get any new research contract work until after the emergency. So a lot of talented postdocs, who are our talent pipeline for the future, are potentially going to find themselves unsupported.

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 01 April 2020 10:58
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted][@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:universities-scotland.ac.uk)
Subject: wages support for Universties

Alastair David

We have heard from UKG colleagues that they are working on some guidance to answer questions that are emerging on this, will let you know when we hear more

Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

Fol document 63

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 30 March 2020 20:51

To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: Coronavirus: US members' meeting 31 March - loss of income from top 10 non-EU countries

Roddy, [redacted]

We'll get info to you about aggregate financial impact of the outbreak on the sector later this week, but here's some granularity on international students that might help you.

Alastair

Fol document 64

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 30 March 2020 13:45
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Coronavirus issues - Universities Scotland nominees high level group

Hi [redacted], at member level could you please invite Andrea Nolan, Nigel Seaton, Sally Mapstone.

Within the limit SG have imposed, we'd have to drop [redacted], which I think is a real loss because of his connectivity to the COVID managers. It would be really good if you could bring him in as a special category: representative of COVID HE lead managers.

I'm interviewing this Thursday so could you invite [redacted] please. He and I will in future alternate depending on other commitments.

Thanks a lot,

Alastair

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 30 March 2020 07:38
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: Coronavirus issues - Universities Scotland nominees high level group

Morning Alastair

Thank you for the update.

It would help enormously if you could make it work with three reps for now, as I said on the phone, the group will evolve as the situation develops including membership so we may well be able to open this up further as the most significant issues crystallise. But I will leave it with you and if you can update me later today that would be much appreciated.

[redacted]

Fol document 65

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 May 2020 10:03
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: 12 May DFM meeting

Hi Roddy, we're really just wanting to take stock of progress in work by SG and UK Govt to put together a support package for HE. If DFM could discuss a bit more of what's intended in the '10 point plan' that would be helpful.

[redacted] – I'm expecting Andrea, Gerry, Nigel, Sally: are they all confirmed?

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 07 May 2020 09:16
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: 12 May DFM meeting

Alastair

This has come round fast could you confirm attendance and any particular agenda items

Thanks Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

Fol document 66

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 06 May 2020 09:00
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Announcement

Thanks Roddy.
Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 06 May 2020 08:24
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Announcement

Alastair DFM is announcing it at committee this morning at 10, will send on the final NR when I have it Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 05 May 2020 20:02
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Announcement

Thanks Roddy – much appreciated.
Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 05 May 2020 20:00
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Announcement

Alastair close, but here is MD letter for now

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 05 May 2020 19:53

To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>

Subject: Announcement

Hi Roddy, any update on finalisation and issue of the capital announcement?

Cheers,

Alastair

Alastair Sim

Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]

alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Fol document 67

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 04 May 2020 09:41

To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Re: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science - Principal Follow Up Meeting Request - 4th May 2020

Thanks Roddy I'll dial in.
Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 9:24:34 AM

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: FW: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science - Principal Follow Up Meeting Request - 4th May 2020

Alastair [redacted]

For info

Roddy

From: Principal <principal@st-andrews.ac.uk>

Sent: 04 May 2020 09:08

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: Master <master@st-andrews.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science - Principal Follow Up Meeting Request - 4th May 2020

Dear [redacted],

Many thanks for this. Due to a very belated clash with a meeting of Universities UK's working group on the current support package which has been called at the same time (following this weekend's announcement) I will have to miss today's meeting, but will be represented by my deputy, Professor [redacted] of the University of St Andrews, to whom any further information should also be sent.

All best wishes,

Sally Mapstone

Professor Sally Mapstone, FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
University of St Andrews,
KY16 9AJ.

T: [redacted]

E: principal@st-andrews.ac.uk

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 04 May 2020 07:37

Subject: RE: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science - Principal Follow Up Meeting Request - 4th May 2020

Importance: High

Good Morning,

Thank you for confirming your availability to represent your institution in today's conference call with the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science.

Apologies for the delay, please find attached the agenda for today's conference call.

If you need any further assistance, please let me know.

Kind Regards,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 23 April 2020 09:40

Subject: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science - Principal Follow Up Meeting Request - 4th May 2020

Importance: High

Dear Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for affording your time recently to meet with Richard Lochhead. These discussions are imperative to fully understanding the impact of this crisis, not only at a sector level, but also for individual institutions.

We are keen to continue regular communication on the issues facing the university sector. Therefore the Minister would like to collectively speak to all higher education principals to provide update on the ongoing work we are undertaking to support our universities and from the Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group taking place on 30th April.

Mr Lochhead has asked for this meeting to take place as a conference call on 4th May at 13:00 to 14:00. Therefore, can I ask you to confirm your availability or alternatively nominate a representative from your institution who will be able to attend in your place.

Please see the conference call details below for use on the day, if you could please dial in a couple of minutes ahead of the meeting to ensure the meeting commences on time:

Participants
Tel: [redacted]
Code: [redacted]

Kind Regards,
[redacted]@gov.scot

Fol document 68

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 03 May 2020 18:54

To: Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; kwatt@sfc.ac.uk;

[redacted]@sfc.ac.uk>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: FW: MEDIA RELEASE: Universities Scotland responds to UK Government support for universities

Colleagues as above

Here's US's response to the DfE announcement, emphasising the need for both governments now to work on a support package for Scottish HE. Rather late in the day, but it took some to-ing and fro-ing with elected leadership, who are like me very concerned about the UK announcement.

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]

alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Fol document 69

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 03 May 2020 15:44
To: 'Karen Watt' <kwatt@sfc.ac.uk>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted][@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk)
Subject: RE: DFE RELEASE EMBARGOED 0001 4 MAY:

I just spotted this nasty at the tail end of the DfE announcemet:

“The Government expects access to the business support schemes, reprofiling of public funding and student number controls should be sufficient to help stabilise most providers’ finances, and that should certainly be the first port of calls for providers. Should that not be sufficient, such that a higher education provider finds themselves at risk of closure, the Government will only intervene further where we find there is a case to do so, and only where it believes intervention is possible and appropriate, and as a last resort. In such instances, the DfE will be working with HMT and other Government departments to develop a restructuring regime, through which we will review providers’ circumstances and assess the need for restructuring. Where action is required, this will come with attached conditions. The Government will work with the Devolved Administrations on this approach.”

So as things stand, it sets a UK-wide expectation that there’s no more help unless a uni is about to collapse, which isn’t helpful.

Alastair

From: DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot
[<mailto:DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>]
Sent: 03 May 2020 15:04
To: alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot;
DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted][@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk); Karen Watt
Subject: RE: DFE RELEASE EMBARGOED 0001 4 MAY:

Thanks. I had a conversation with DfE this morning and they have just sent through the final version. We are working up a press release expressing willingness to work with the UKG but disappointment that this is English focused and we haven’t seen the level of support that’s needed. I will share the final version with you. It would be good to see what if anything US and \ or UUK plan to say.

Lorna

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 03 May 2020 14:59
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted][@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk); kwatt@sfc.ac.uk
Subject: Fwd: DFE RELEASE EMBARGOED 0001 4 MAY:

Lorna, Roddy

Cc: as above

You probably already have this: the delayed DFE announcements on the first elements of UK Government's response to the HE elements of the coronavirus emergency.

As expected, nothing directly in it for Scotland though there's references to further work with the devolved administrations, which is an improvement on what we expected in the middle of last week.

Scotland Office thought there would be nothing Barnettable from this announcement but I'll check with them about the fund to buy uni assets.

Have SG written to Treasury yet, and what's the current plan about publishing SFC's analysis of impact and/or the letter to Treasury?

Thanks

Alastair

Fol document 70

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 01 May 2020 14:48
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: DA support

Roddy

Just picking up on a handful of points from speaking to Scotland Office just now:

- When the SG letter to Treasury is issued, they say can you please make sure Secretary of State for Scotland is copied in. When Andrea and I spoke to the DFM earlier he emphasised the role the SofS could usefully play in influencing Treasury.
- HMG still expected to make an announcement on support for HE this afternoon (though time is wearing on). Probably no Barnett consequentials, but [redacted] at Scotland Office is checking with Treasury and you could usefully check that with him early next week.
- HMG announcement now expected to include some sort of task force involving the devolved funding bodies to develop further support.

Alastair

From: Alastair Sim
Sent: 01 May 2020 13:54
To: 'Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot' <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: RE: DA support

Thanks Roddy, I may get some more intel in a call with Scotland Office just now.

Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]
Sent: 01 May 2020 13:46
To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: DA support

Alastair should have mentioned earlier but we fed the line on wider support for DAs into the UKG, still not sure if they are saying anything today or not Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

Fol document 71

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 12 May 2020 12:22

To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; kwatt@sfc.ac.uk;

Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: DFM call

Roddy

Yes – in the meantime here's the briefest possible summary of how I'm interpreting early actions:

- DFM keen to avoid 'precipitate' decisions about redundancies/ restructuring, create a 'runway' to get through the immediate crisis towards a future that may well be different for the sector but that needs to be planned in a way that safeguards the sector's contribution to the economy.
- SG may have some more resource available from unspent capital and unused financial transactions.
- DFM would like SFC to discuss with each institution what bespoke blend of support from these sources might give further assurance, so he can make the case in SG to get them.
- UK Govt further support looking difficult, but keep trying. Research/ innovation: further help not beyond hope.
- UK Govt restructuring/ transformation fund - influence this to be more supportive of the sort of change that would actually support institutions to collaborate/ adapt in ways that support their contribution to the economy.

Roddy, Karen, I'll give you a call, see how you're interpreting outcomes.

Best,
Alastair

From: Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot [<mailto:Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>]

Sent: 12 May 2020 12:01

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; kwatt@sfc.ac.uk;

DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot

Subject: DFM call

Alastair Karen Lorna

It would be good to have call to discuss future collaborative approach. Will set something up

Roddy

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate

[redacted]

Fol document 72

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 19 May 2020 12:03
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Advanced Learning and Science
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot;
[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk
Subject: Mr Lochhead at Education & Skills Committee

Hi Roddy

Cc: as above

I just tried giving you a call – is there anything we should anticipate having to respond to from Mr Lochhead's session with the Education & Skills Committee tomorrow morning?

There's a couple of specific things on my mind:

- Will he be able to say any more about the 10-point plan SG has been developing to support higher education through this crisis, and the timing of announcement of this in full? You're as conscious as I am of the imminence of governing body decisions and the DFM's anxiety that governing bodies shouldn't make 'precipitate' decisions that reduce universities' ability to contribute to the recovery.
- We've talked before, as part of the support package, about flexibility for institutions to retain teaching funding even if they the highly unpredictable environment they're working in means that they can't hit target numbers. Jamie Hepburn gave an absolute assurance to colleges about this in response to a question from Iain Gray [S5W-28780]: '*The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) currently have no plans to financially penalise Colleges if they are unable to meet all of their outcome targets*'. Karen Watt was more circumspect about this in relation to universities at committee last week. It would be good if Mr Lochhead could give clear assurance on this point.

Thanks a lot,

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]
alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Fol document 73

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 April 2020 09:10

To: [redacted]@education.gov.uk>; [redacted]@universitiesuk.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@universitiesuk.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>;

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universitiesuk.ac.uk>;

[redacted]@uniswales.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;

[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Notice on students collecting their belongings

Thanks [redacted] and [redacted].

[redacted], just to say that [redacted] and I helpfully spoke yesterday about this.

We are grateful to [redacted] for liaising with us on this, and we are currently seeking approval of text adapted for the Scottish context, which we will send to Universities Scotland and other stakeholders once agreed.

Thanks again

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted] Higher Education Funding, Governance, and Student Support | Higher Education and Science Division | Scottish Government

Fol document 74

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 May 2020 19:02
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Universities Scotland Brief for Bill discussion

Thanks [redacted], helpful to see this.

I will give you a ring to update tomorrow.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 19 May 2020 11:43
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Universities Scotland Brief for Bill discussion

Hi [redacted]

Just a quick note to offer, in case you haven't seen it, the brief that we circulated to support consideration of the Bill.

I understand from a colleague following discussions that there was a positive engagement with Mr Simpson.

Regards
[redacted]

Fol document 75

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 15 May 2020 09:55

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: Simpson amendments

Hi [redacted]

We have now had sight of the amendments from Mr Simpson.

From our discussion last night should we assume that SG will not be supporting them?

Regards
[redacted]