

RELEASABLE INFORMATION FOR YOUR FOI

Under what authority did the First Minister set aside £500 million for the Bank?

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution announced in the budget (2018-19) a commitment to setting aside £340 million for initial capitalisation of a Scottish National Investment Bank between 2019-2021.

The Cabinet Secretary also announced the establishment of a new £150 million Building Scotland Fund – starting with investment of £70 million this year to boost house-building, commercial property and research and development.

The budget has been approved by parliament at stages 1, 2, and 3 of the budget bill.

How was Mr Higgins engaged, by who and what are the costs? Fees, expenses travel and entertainment.

Following publication of the Programme for Government on 5 September 2017, Mr Higgins was invited by the First Minister to lead work on developing an Implementation Plan for a Scottish National Investment Bank.

- Fees: Nil (Mr Higgins was not remunerated for his work on the Implementation Plan).
- Expenses: £ 143 (1 x hotel booking £107.00; 1 x Business Dinner. Cost £30 + VAT).
- Travel: £191.99 (1 x return flight: £24.79 Ryanair Flight Edinburgh to Dublin. £167.20 Aer Lingus return flight Dublin to Edinburgh).
- Entertainment: Nil.

What were the terms and scope of the engagement, deliverable?

A link to the Terms of Reference for this work is attached:

[Terms of Reference](#)

Were any Taxpayer resources or confidential Government documents provided for Mr. Higgins?

Throughout the development of the Implementation Plan, Benny Higgins was supported appropriately by Scottish Government officials within a secretariat role.

At no stage was Mr Higgins party to “confidential” documents outwith the security procedures of the Scottish Government.

Did the FM abuse the power of the office?

No.