

Cabinet Secretary attendance at the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee – 28 September 2017

Update on Impact/Implementation of Innovation & Investment Hubs

Key Lines

- The scale, scope and focus of the Innovation and Investment Hubs depends on the specific opportunities in a particular location.
- Innovation and Investment Hubs provide a platform for and a more joined up approach to existing and new activity by the Government, partners and businesses to increase exports and attract investment to Scotland.

[REDACTED]

Update

The Programme for Government states “Our overseas footprint continues to develop. Innovation and Investment Hubs are now operational in London and Dublin, with our Berlin Hub opening this year. We are developing our existing presence in Brussels into a Hub and we will open a new Hub in Paris to maximise opportunities for Scotland in France, our third largest export market.”

Dublin Hub

The Dublin Hub opened in January 2016 and became fully operational in October 2016. Based in the British Embassy, the Hub provides dedicated support to enhancing high-value economic, academic and innovation partnerships between Scotland and Ireland. Its focus is on developing and delivering Scottish/Irish projects, as well as delivering support to new bi-partite commercial and academic collaborations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

London Hub

Scotland House London was formally opened in April 2017 and became operational in May 2017. It operates as a collaborative project between the Scottish Government (SG), Scottish Enterprise (SE), Visit Scotland (VS) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) – the Partners. The overall aim is to create opportunities to progress Scotland’s international trade, develop investment and innovation agendas and enable Scottish business to take advantage of London’s status as a ‘Global Gateway’.

[REDACTED]

The office has two functions; a front of house function which will host networking and other events and provide meeting spaces and hot desks/office facilities for Scottish

businesses and organisations; and a back office which will provide work and meeting space for permanent staff from amongst the partners and visiting officials.

[REDACTED]

Brussels Hub

We are developing our existing presence in Brussels into a Hub. This work will build on the existing operation in Brussels of the Scottish Government EU Office and Scotland Europa. Over the past 25 years Scotland Europa has provided support to its members – including Scottish academic institutions – in accessing European funding opportunities and increasing the visibility and profile of Scottish organisations in Europe.

Work is about to get underway to co-locate both teams in our existing location in Scotland House (Brussels) to allow fuller integration of our current operation.

[REDACTED]

Berlin Hub

Announced on 15 Oct 2016 as part of the First Minister's four point plan, to boost Scotland's trade and exports, to create a permanent trade representation in Berlin adding to our investment hubs in Dublin, London and Brussels

The hub will provide a platform for access to trade, investment and innovation and raise Scotland's profile in Germany and promote strengthened relations.

[REDACTED]

Paris Hub

We have committed to establishing an Innovation and Investment hub in Paris in the current Programme for Government. The SG is in discussion with SDI about the practical arrangements for housing a hub and hope to launch a recruitment process shortly.

Hub Finances - 2016-17

[REDACTED]

2017-18 - A budget of £4 million is available in 2017-18 of which £2 million is for the staff and running costs of the Dublin and London hubs [REDACTED]

- For Dublin, total running and programme costs for 2017-18 are projected at £359,000 per annum.

[REDACTED]