

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA - BARBARA WOODWARD

Sunday 8 April 2018

Key message	Proactive engagement in China offers a wide range of opportunities for Scotland and our future prosperity, delivering the aims of Scotland's Economic Strategy.
What	A short meeting with the ambassador to discuss any political, social and economic developments in China and an opportunity for you to raise any specific issues with the programme.
Why	China is a priority country for Scotland's international engagement and developing strong relations with the Chinese Government is important.
Who	Barbara Woodward CMG OBE – British Ambassador to China
Where	British Embassy, Beijing
When	8 April, 16:30-17:00
Likely themes	Trade and investment, education, culture and political links
Media	N/a
Supporting officials	[REDACTED] SDI Executive Director, Asia-Pacific
Attached documents	Annex A: Suggested Discussion Points Annex B: Key Political Issues Annex C: Biography

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION POINTS

- Points to raise
 - **Thank the ambassador** for assistance in supporting the visit and the Scottish Affairs Office in Beijing
 - **Highlight** the themes of the visit – developing **political** links, increasing **trade and investment**, increasing **education** links and **cultural relations**
 - Barbara Woodward has a particular interest in **education** and **gender equality**
- Political engagement
 - FM met vice premier Liu Yandong on 5 December 2017 in Edinburgh as part of the Chinese Government's annual P2P dialogue with the UK
 - Keith Brown welcomed then Party Secretary of Guangdong, Hu Chunhua, to a reception at Edinburgh Castle in June 2017.
- Highlight recent trade and FDI successes
 - **Scottish exports to China** were worth **£2.2 billion in 2016**, a rise of 41.2% from 2015 – the fastest rate of growth amongst our main trading partners
 - **China is now a top 5 source** of inward **investment** to Scotland
 - Significant investment from **China's national oil companies** (CNOOC, Sinopec and Petro China) in the North Sea and our oil and gas infrastructure has led to an increase in Scottish engineering companies in China
 - New investment in Scotland's growing **Offshore Wind** sector (SDIC, China Three Gorges). FM opened SDIC Edinburgh offices in November 2016
 - **Scotch whisky** exports to China valued at **£61 million in 2017**
 - Exports of **Scottish salmon** to China worth **£68.7m in 2017**
 - **New investment** from leading Chinese technology companies, **Huawei** and **Tencent**.
 - Chinese travel company Ctrip invested £1.4 billion in technology company **Skyscanner** creating 200 new jobs in Edinburgh
- Higher Education links
 - In 2015-16 there were **8,650** students from China studying in Scotland
 - **18 Higher Education Institutions** have academic and **research links**
 - **12** of Scotland's **Universities** now have a presence **in China**
 - **5 Confucius Institutes** - the most per head in the world
- Cultural and science links
 - Two **pandas** at Edinburgh Zoo since 2011 (ten year deal)
 - **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh** houses 1,600 Chinese plant species – the biggest collection outside China and attracts 900,000 visitors each year
 - **MoU** between on arts collaboration signed in 2011 and renewed in July 2015
 - Edinburgh International Festival are planning 2 Chinese performances for 2019 festival and will sign an MOU with Shanghai Arts Festival for 'Rites of Spring' during this visit

KEY POLITICAL ISSUES

Key political issues

- The 1982 state constitution and political reforms aimed to check executive power and prevent autocratic leadership. However, the Party recently ratified constitutional amendments which **remove the existing two-term limit for President** and Vice-President, **allowing Xi Jinping to remain in power after 2022**. [REDACTED]

BIOGRAPHY**Barbara Woodward CMG OBE – British Ambassador To China**

Ms Barbara Janet Woodward CMG OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China in succession to Sir Sebastian Wood KCMG. She assumed post in January 2015.

- 2011-14 **FCO, Director General (Economic & Consular)**
- 2009-11 **UK Border Agency, International Director**
- 2003-09 **Beijing, Political Counsellor, later Minister and Deputy Head of Mission**
- 2001-03 **FCO, Deputy Head, Human Rights Policy Department**
- 1999-01 **FCO, Head, EU Enlargement Section**
- 1998-99 **FCO, Agenda 2000 Negotiating Team, EU Department**
- 1994-98 **Moscow, Second later First Secretary (Commercial/Political)**
- 1994 **Joined FCO**
- 1991 - **Cabinet Office European Fast Stream, seconded to FCO EU Directorate**
- 1993 **including on 1992 EU Presidency**

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

ROUNDTABLE WITH TIANJIN SCHOLARS

SUNDAY 8TH APRIL 2018

Key message	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scottish Government are committed to expanding and improving language learning. Language learning helps to develop skills for global mind-set and increases young people's ability to participate in a globalised world.
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtable discussion with Scottish young people on a scholarship to Tianjin, living and studying in China for one year.• Meet officials of Tianjin Education Commission who fund and coordinate the scholarships, and of Hanban who fund the Confucius Classroom Hub programme• Engage directly with the young people on their experiences of living and studying in China.• Discuss topics of student mobility, language learning and international collaboration.• Format of the event will be round table discussions led by past scholars.
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scottish Government value the work of CISS in promoting the learning about Chinese language and culture and their contribution to language learning policy and links to international policies.
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 Scholars (list attached as annex C)• Mr. LIU Xin, Deputy Director of Tianjin Municipal Education Commission• Mr. ZHANG Jianqin, Director of International exchange office, TMEC• Dr WANG Junyan, (Ms) Deputy Director of International exchange office, TMEC• Mr. YANG Xinchen, Director of Europe Division, Hanban• Mr. Qin Qilun, Senior officer of Europe Division, Hanban• Ms. Fhiona Mackay, Director of Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT) and Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS)• Ms. Fan Lin, Depute Director of CISS
Where	Ambassador's Residence
When	17:00 – 17:45 <u>Running order</u> 17:00 FM arrives 17:00 – 17:05 FM greeted by Fhiona MacKay, Fan Lin [REDACTED] 17:05 – 17:10 FM meets Tianjin Education Commission and Hanban officials 17:10 – 17:20 welcome and short presentations by Tianjin Scholars 17:20 – 17:35 short discussion sessions with scholars on topics of student mobility, language learning and international collaboration

	17:35 – 17:45 photo call 17:45 FM departs
Likely themes	Education and language learning
Media	N/A
Supporting officials	[REDACTED]
Attached Documents	Annex A: Summary Page Annex B: CISS background briefing Annex C: [REDACTED] Annex D: Biographies

SUMMARY PAGE

Purpose

- For FM to engage directly in discussion with scholars about the scholarship programme, their experiences and impact it has had, and what their future plans are.
- To reinforce the value and benefits of language learning, student mobility and international collaboration to our young people.
- Acknowledge the work of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS) and this unique arrangement.
- Restate commitment to key SG policies, in particular language learning.
- Promote Scotland's Year of Young People 2018 and the key message that it will celebrate young people (8-26) and give them a stronger voice on issues which affect their lives.

Key Messages

Language **learning helps to develop skills for global mind-set** and increases young people's ability to participate in a globalised world.

Scottish Government are committed to expanding and improving language learning and to date have **invested a total of £27.2m additional money in local authorities** to implement the 1+2 policy Language Learning policy.

Language learning supports raising attainment by teaching skills which are known to improve childhood development and boosting mother tongue literacy skills. It supports the equity agenda by building confidence, fostering interest in other cultures and encouraging tolerance and respect.

Mobility of young people is an important aspect of developing a global outlook, the Scottish Government is keen to encourage all young people to consider a mobility experience.

Scottish Government value the work of CISS in promoting the learning about Chinese language and culture and their contribution to language learning policy and links to international policies.

The **Scottish Government will provide £754,000 in grant funding** to the Confucius Institute for Scotland's schools **and £700,000 to Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT)** in 2018/19 (where CISS is co-located).

1+2 language policy and Chinese languages

A **2011 manifesto commitment**, restated in 2016, the 1+2 language learning policy gives all young people an entitlement to learn two languages in addition to their own, during their Broad General Education (P1 – S3)

A **first additional language (L2) will be taught from P1** and a **second additional language (L3) from P5**. For most children the first language (L1) will be English.

L2 is most likely to be a language which can be taken to National Qualification (NQ) level. **L3** can be from a wider variety of languages. Mandarin is most likely to be chosen as L3 particularly in the primary stage due to the complexity of the written language and the lack of qualified teachers.

The **Languages Working Group**, set up to take forward the manifesto commitment decided against setting a “hierarchy” of languages. This means that the decision on which languages to offer is for local authorities and schools to decide, taking account of their local context.

The Scottish Government also provide **annual funding of £195,000 to the British Council Scotland** for the management and promotion of the Language Assistant programme. This programme includes incoming Chinese Language Assistants who are placed in Scottish schools to assist with the learning of Chinese.

During the life of the previous China plan the number of entries into to SQA Chinese language qualifications has increased from 82 in 2009 and 371 in 2017. (Note: these figures include both local authority and independent school centres.)

Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS)

- Launched at University of Strathclyde in 2012 CISS, managed by Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT).
- In 2017, CISS were awarded **Model Institute** status by Hanban.
- In January 2016 Hanban renewed their agreement with CISS for a further 5 years.
- In 2014, CISS won the accolade of **Global Confucius Institute for the Year**.
- CISS have **increased the number of Secondary Confucius Classrooms** since 2012 to 22, covering two thirds of Scotland's local authorities.
- Established **17 Confucius Classrooms in Primary schools** (financed by Hanban)
- Increase in number of Hanban Exchange Teachers working in Hubs – from eight in 2011/12 to 47 Hanban teachers in 2017 (in addition to GTCS teachers)

- Established **four specialist hubs** – Scottish Schools Football Association (SSFA), Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS), Scottish Opera and RZSS Edinburgh Zoo.
- The Hub at Edinburgh Zoo is the **first specialist science Confucius Classroom Hub in the world**.
- Mandarin is now taught in **over 400 schools with over 34,500 learners**.
- **Over 500 pupils** have participated in the CISS summer immersion programme.

Confucius Classrooms

Learning Chinese languages is one part of learning about China, its history and its growing role in the modern world. This is important as it will help Scotland to strengthen its links with China.

Confucius Classrooms are a key part of preparing our young people for a fast changing world. Their education should prepare them for a world of opportunities and challenges.

Tianjin Scholars programme

Developed in 2014, CISS and Tianjin Municipal Education Commission (TMEC) have offered a scholarship programme which provides places for a number of Scottish students to study and live in China for one year. The **only one of its kind in Europe**, the programme offers this opportunity to young people who show a commitment to language learning, regardless of their level of Mandarin.

Applications are open to 6th year pupils in Confucius Classroom Hubs around Scotland. Jointly funded by TMEC and Scottish Government (via CISS grant funding) the **scholarship covers tuition fees, initial visa costs, accommodation and a monthly stipend for living allowances**.

Scholars come from a **variety of social circumstances**, CISS operates a fund to support scholars who come from more disadvantaged backgrounds, **ensuring equity** for those participating in the programme.

There are **currently 22 young people benefitting from the programme**, studying and living on campus at the Tianjin Foreign Studies University. **To date 88 Scottish young people have benefitted** from this opportunity. CISS are currently in discussion with TMEC with a view to expanding the programme in the near future.

The programme **includes mandatory accelerated Mandarin lessons and cultural electives** that enable them to explore Chinese arts. The scholars share their classes and accommodation with students from across the world using Mandarin as the common language

BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON SCOTLAND/CHINA SCHOOL LINKS and THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS (CISS)

- The **Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS)** was established in partnership with Tianjin Education Commission in 2012 with the aim of strengthening educational cooperation between China and Scotland; supporting and promoting the development of Chinese language education in schools; and increase mutual understanding among people in China and in Scotland. It is one of Scotland's five Confucius Institutes.
- Each Confucius Classroom Hub received **10,000 US Dollars** annually from Hanban.
- **Confucius Institute Headquarters, Hanban**, is a public institute affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education committed to the worldwide provision of Chinese language and cultural teaching through a network of Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classroom Hubs worldwide.
- The **Confucius Classroom Hub network in Scotland is unique** in that it is centrally managed and coordinated by CISS, and that it receives government funding.
- **Confucius Classrooms** hubs are based in local authority primary and secondary schools and serve both the school cluster and the local community. The hub concept promotes joint planning of cultural activities, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture.
- Annual **culture and language immersion trips** to China for young people and head teachers are arranged by CISS. These provide intensive tuition and establish and foster links.

Confucius Classroom Hubs and Academic Freedom

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BIOGRAPHIES

Liu Xin, Deputy Director General, Tianjin Municipal Education Commission



Work experience/employment history:

- Staff member and Vice Director, Office of Directors and personnel department, Tianjin Bureau of Education.
- Vice director and director, Personnel Department, Tianjin Education Commission.
- Vice director general, Tianjin Education Commission

Fhiona Mackay, Director of Scotland's National Centre for Languages and the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools



In her capacity as director of SCILT and CISS, Fhiona advises and informs Scottish Government language policy and supports its implementation in schools. She works with a wide range of national and international partners and is a well-known advocate of language learning. She also provides strategic leadership to all the Confucius classroom hubs in Scotland and works in close partnership with Hanban, Tianjin Education Commission and Scottish Government.

Fan Lin, Depute Director of CISS



As Depute Director of Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS), Fan is highly committed to the improvement of Chinese language teaching in Scottish education. In May 2010, Fan worked as the general manager of the Confucius Institute at Learning and Teaching Scotland and then moved to the University of Strathclyde when CISS was launched in 2012. She has worked with Scottish and Chinese governments, schools, local authorities, colleges and universities in Scotland.

Fan has established CISS's wide network of stakeholders in the UK and China, including the Chinese Embassy and Consulate, British Council and, most importantly, Hanban. She works with Chinese communities and businesses in Scotland, fostering close educational links for Scotland and China.

Previously Fan worked at Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) leading a team to design and develop the first National Qualification in Chinese languages in Scotland. She continues to act as Principal Assessor for Advanced Higher Chinese languages.

FM met Fhiona MacKay (then Fisher) and Fan Lin on her 2015 visit to Beijing, at a reception for the 136 pupils undertaking the annual China summer bridge programme at that time.