

Annex A

Below is the information that we hold of dates of meetings and phone calls between senior civil servants and the Deputy First Minister about the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill / Named Person within the scope of your request.

Date	Meeting Title	Attendees	Call / Meeting	Minutes
23/08/17	General Catch Up: Introductory meeting with Deputy First Minister (DFM)	DFM and Director for Children and Families	Meeting	No
5/10/17	DFM meeting Information Sharing Bill Team	Deputy Director (DD), DFM, Special Advisors and SG Officials	Meeting	No
29/11/1	Bill Catch Up Call with Officials	DD, DFM and SG Officials	Call	No
7/12/17	Information Sharing Bill	DD, Director for Children and Families and DFM	Call	No
10/01/18	Catch Up	DFM and Director for Children and Families	Meeting	No
7/02/18	Pre-meet call with Chair of the GIRFEC Practice Development Panel	DFM, DD, Special Advisors and Chair of the GIRFEC Practice Development Panel.	Call	No
04/04/18	Catch Up	DFM and Director for Children and Families	Meeting	No
13/02/018	GIRFEC Practice Development Panel	Panel Members, SG Officials, DFM and Joe Griffin.	Meeting	Yes (published online)
12/03/18	Call with officials re. Information Sharing Bill	DFM, Director for Children and Families, Special Advisors and SG Officials	Call	No
03/05/18	Meeting with Michael Chalmers	DFM and Director for Children and Families.	Meeting	No

Emails between Joe Griffin Deputy Director in the Directorate for Children and Families and the Deputy First Minister about the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill / Named Person.

Email Exchange 1

From: Griffin J (Joe)
Sent: 06 December 2017 16:54
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: Director for Children and Families
Subject: Named person
Importance: High

[redacted]

Michael and I think the best thing would be an initial chat on tactics with DFM, us two and SpAds (Colin and Kate). Could we do that between 10 and 11 tomorrow as you suggested? We probably wouldn't produce any paper for that, but take DFM's mind on e.g. what kind of advice he would like, and even whether he thinks a Cabinet paper for Tuesday might be appropriate. Let me know.

Thanks,

Joe

Joe Griffin
Deputy Director, Children and Families
Scottish Government

[redacted]



Email Exchange 2

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: 08 December 2017 13:33

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Cc: Minister for Childcare and Early Years; Director for Children and Families; GIRFEC & CYP Bill Team; [redacted] Higgins K (Kate)

Subject: GIRFEC National Implementation Steering Group (NISG): Meeting in Glasgow, 8 December

DFM,

I have just attended, with other SG colleagues, a meeting of the NISG. This is the group of senior stakeholders, chaired by Calum Campbell (NHS Lanarkshire) and John Fyfe (as you know, P&K Council), convened to steer the implementation of GIRFEC, and the named person service. Most of the key delivery organisations are represented, including social work, Police Scotland, NHS, Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, and the third sector ([redacted] and [redacted]). I thought you might find it helpful to have a brief read out.

[redacted under section 30(b)(i) of FOISA (free and frank provision of advice) applies to some of the information requested]

Joe

Joe Griffin
Deputy Director, Children and Families
Scottish Government

[redacted]



Email Exchange 3

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: 06 December 2017 20:24

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]

[redacted] Director for Children and Families; Minister for Parliamentary Business

Cc: Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted] First Minister FMQs; [redacted] ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

Subject: Re: IMMEDIATE - OUT OF HOURS REQUEST - FMQs Named Person

[redacted] can you send updated meeting request then? Ta.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2017 20:18

To: Griffin J (Joe); [redacted] Director for Children and Families; Minister for Parliamentary Business

Cc: Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]; First Minister FMQs; [redacted]; [redacted]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

Subject: Re: IMMEDIATE - OUT OF HOURS REQUEST - FMQs Named Person

Mr F was going to be joining the 10.30 call so I'm sure he'll want to be involved

[redacted] - can you confirm you've picked this up and can let him know?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2017 20:16

To: [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; Minister for Parliamentary Business

Cc: Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]; First Minister FMQs; [redacted]; [redacted]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

Subject: Re: IMMEDIATE - OUT OF HOURS REQUEST - FMQs Named Person

I agree. There is a limit to the answers we can give to [redacted]' questions without a steer from DFM. Should Mr Fitzpatrick also be involved?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 06 December 2017 20:14

To: Griffin J (Joe); [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; Minister for Parliamentary Business

Cc: Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]; First Minister FMQs; [redacted]; [redacted]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

Subject: Re: IMMEDIATE - OUT OF HOURS REQUEST - FMQs Named Person

Joe / [redacted], The call is set up for 10.30 on his return trip from a school visit. If this is too late, we could potentially switch to en route to school at around 8.45?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2017 20:09

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Parliamentary Business

Cc: Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]; First Minister FMQs; [redacted]; [redacted]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

Subject: Re: IMMEDIATE - OUT OF HOURS REQUEST - FMQs Named Person

OK. Cheers [redacted]. On it. [redacted] - can you let me know if you're online. Also, the meeting with DFM isn't until half 10 tomorrow morning, unless something has changed.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Email Exchange 4

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: 06 February 2018 18:25

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills[redacted]

Cc: Minister for Childcare and Early Years; Director for Children and Families; Higgins K (Kate); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: URGENT Named Person Information Sharing: Discussion between DFM and Ian Welsh, 7 February 2018

[redacted]

As a potential focus for tomorrow's discussion at 09h00 [redacted under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice]. There will be some key points in this that we can bring out in discussion.

Best wishes,

Joe

Joe Griffin
Deputy Director, Children and Families
Scottish Government

[redacted]



Email Exchange 5

From: Griffin J (Joe)
Sent: 07 December 2017 09:38
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: URGENT
Importance: High

As requested

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 December 2017 09:36
To: Griffin J (Joe); GIRFEC & CYP Bill Team
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT

Hi Joe

Attached below joint submission from children's charities to the call for evidence and the letter they sent to committee afterwards:

(links attached in letter above)

Thanks
[redacted]
Stakeholder Engagement & Policy Officer
Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill

Email Exchange 6

From: Griffin J (Joe)
Sent: 06 March 2018 10:06
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Letter from the Convener

Copying in [redacted], and yes

From: [redacted] ([redacted]) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 06 March 2018 10:01
To: [redacted]
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]; Griffin J (Joe); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Letter from the Convener

Hi [redacted],

I got [redacted]'s out of office. Grateful if you could confirm this has been picked up

Thanks for your help

[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary Depute to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: [redacted] ([redacted]) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 06 March 2018 09:59
To: [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: Griffin J (Joe); McAllister C (Colin); Higgins K (Kate); Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted] [redacted]; [redacted]; Minister for Parliamentary Business; GIRFEC & CYP Bill Team; DG Education, Communities & Justice
Subject: RE: Letter from the Convener
Importance: High

[redacted],

[redacted under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice] . He has asked to see a draft of this by **4pm today**. He has commented [redacted under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice]

Grateful if you could take this forward

Thanks for your help

[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary Depute to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted]

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From: [redacted] ([redacted]) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 26 February 2018 11:49

To: [redacted]

Cc: Griffin J (Joe); McAllister C (Colin); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Higgins K (Kate); Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: FW: Letter from the Convener

[redacted],

As discussed, DFM has commented that this [redacted under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice] DFM would like to see a draft by 4pm on Thurs.

Thanks for your help

[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary Depute to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted]

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Email Exchange 7

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: 17 January 2018 11:02

To: Higgins K (Kate); Communications DFM & Education; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Childcare and Early Years

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FW: GIRFEC: [redacted]

Importance: High

For info

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: 16 January 2018 14:45

To: Director for Children and Families

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: GIRFEC: [redacted]

Importance: High

Michael,

[redacted under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice]

Joe

Joe Griffin
Deputy Director, Children and Families
Scottish Government

[redacted]



Email Exchange 8

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 15 December 2017 11:38
To: Griffin J (Joe); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

Hi Joe,

Thank you for sending this up.

The DFM has decided that he [redacted under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice]

We just proceed with the work of the preparatory group.

Thanks

[redacted]

| Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | [redacted]: [redacted]

From: Griffin J (Joe)
Sent: 08 December 2017 16:02
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

[redacted],

A draft for DFM. [redacted under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice]

Thanks,

Joe

From: Griffin J (Joe)
Sent: 08 December 2017 13:08
To: [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]
Subject: Re: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

I've drafted something. Will be with you once my laptop synchronises in half an hour or so.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 8 December 2017 12:38
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Griffin J (Joe)
Cc: [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

[redacted],

Thanks for this. Is this ok to be drafted early next week?

[redacted]

From: [redacted] ([redacted]) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 08 December 2017 10:31
To: Griffin J (Joe)
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

Joe

DFM has requested that officials prepare a reply to this letter

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary Depute to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
[redacted]

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Email Exchange 9

From: Griffin J (Joe)
Sent: 08 December 2017 16:02
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

[redacted],

A draft for DFM. [redaction under Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice]

Thanks,

Joe

From: [redacted] ([redacted]) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 08 December 2017 10:31
To: Griffin J (Joe)
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

Joe

DFM has requested that officials prepare a reply to this letter

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary Depute to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted]

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Email Exchange 10

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: 14 November 2017 10:40

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]

Subject: RE: URGENT: Response required by 16:00 today - Letter from Education and Skills Committee - Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill

Importance: High

Thanks [redacted]. Just to confirm that we've got this, and although neither [redacted] nor [redacted] are around this week, we will get you a draft response by your 16h00 deadline. I'm copying in [redacted] and [redacted], to whom I am looking for action in the first instance. I know they are both at an important stakeholder meeting, so we'll do our best to work with that.

Joe

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 14 November 2017 10:35

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]; [redacted]; Griffin J (Joe); Director for Children and Families

Subject: URGENT: Response required by 16:00 today - Letter from Education and Skills Committee - Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill

Importance: High

[redacted]/ [redacted],

Please see attached letter received this morning, from the E&S Committee, regarding the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

DFM has asked for an urgent response to be drafted and a response to be **with us by 4pm today**, for his consideration.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Email Exchange 11

From: Griffin J (Joe)

Sent: 08 December 2017 15:17

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

I didn't copy you in for the purposes of clearing the draft. Others have seen it. You'll have final version v soon

From: [redacted] ([redacted]) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 08 December 2017 15:15
To: Griffin J (Joe); [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: [redacted]; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]; Higgins K (Kate); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted]
Subject: RE: Education and Skills Committee: Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

Thanks Joe, just to flag up we haven't received anything yet so it may be sitting in your outbox?

[redacted] | Private Secretary Depute to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
[redacted]

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Email Exchange 12

From: Griffin J (Joe)
Sent: 07 December 2017 09:07
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Director for Children and Families; McAllister C (Colin); Higgins K (Kate); Swinney J (John), MSP
<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot> (John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot); Minister for Parliamentary Business
Subject: RE: 08.45 CALL Information Sharing Bill

I take it DFM was cut off? Are you getting him back PO?

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

From: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 06 December 2017 18:31
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Griffin J (Joe); Director for Children and Families; McAllister C (Colin); Higgins K (Kate); Swinney J (John), MSP
<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot> (John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot); Minister for Parliamentary Business
Subject: 08.45 CALL Information Sharing Bill
When: 07 December 2017 08:45-09:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: PO to set up

Participant Dials: [redacted] and enters code: [redacted]

Annex C

Emails between Michael Chalmers, Director for Children and Families and the Deputy First Minister about the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill / Named Person.

Email Exchange 1

From: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 05 November 2017 20:47
To: Chalmers MJ (Michael) (DCAF)
Cc: Griffin J (Joe)
Subject: Re: Named person letter

Michael

Think it's fine to wait until the morning now as DFM hasn't chased. Earlier would be you'd though, just to give him the best chance of seeing it.

Thanks.

[redacted]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Chalmers MJ (Michael) (DCAF)
Sent: Sunday, 5 November 2017 20:44
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: Griffin J (Joe)
Subject: RE: Named person letter

[redacted] – I haven't been able to get hold of the team by text. I don't have access to the final version of the letter at the mo, but I think this will be probably quite a straightforward thing to answer first thing in the morning. So I'm reluctant to start phoning folk this evening unless DFM has asked for an answer this evening or is expecting one. Do you know if he is?

Michael

Michael Chalmers

Director for Children and Families
Scottish Government
[redacted]

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From: Chalmers MJ (Michael) (DCAF)
Sent: 05 November 2017 19:10
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: RE: Named person letter

Thanks [redacted] – I'll see if we can get a response today.

Michael

Michael Chalmers

Director for Children and Families
Scottish Government
[redacted]



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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 05 November 2017 18:28
To: Chalmers MJ (Michael) (DCAF)
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: Named person letter

Michael

Just forwarding you DFM's comments below for awareness as I copied in your Director box and not sure you see that at the weekend.

I've not heard back from [redacted] yet. It's probably not crucial that we have an answer today but, to be aware, DFM will be occupied tomorrow and will be unable to look at things quickly so an early answer would be helpful.

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Deputy PS/ Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
[redacted]

 Save (a bit of) a tree...please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to

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From: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 05 November 2017 13:41
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Griffin J (Joe); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills;
Director for Children and Families
Subject: Named person letter

[redacted]

DFM has said that he is comfortable with the content of the letter. His only question is in the last para of page 1 where it makes reference to “two elements of GIRFEC”. What are these two elements?

Grateful for Further advice

[redacted]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Emails between Paul Johnston, Director-General of Education, Communities & Justice and the Deputy First Minister about the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill / Named Person.

From: [redacted]on behalf of Johnston P (Paul)
Sent: 02 May 2018 10:01
To: DGEC&J Directors; Executive Team; First Minister; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Childcare and Early Years; [redacted]DCAF : Care, Protection and Justice; DCAF : Creating Positive Futures; DCAF : Improving Health and Wellbeing; DCAF : Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser; DCAF Business Management Unit; [redacted]McAllister C (Colin); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted] (DEAS); ET Support Division; DG Education, Communities & Justice
Subject: New Director for Early Learning and Childcare
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear colleagues,

As you will be aware, I recently announced the Executive Team's decision to create a new post of Director for Early Learning and Childcare, and a recruitment process to fill it. The new post recognises the transformational nature of the ELC programme and the many opportunities presented by successful delivery. It also reflects the complex and resource intensive delivery challenges that lie ahead.

That recruitment process has now concluded and I am very pleased to say that Joe Griffin, currently Deputy Director, Children and Families, is the successful candidate. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Joe on his appointment and in wishing him every success.

Given there will be a degree of continuity between Joe's old and new responsibilities, the new appointment is with immediate effect – although Joe will continue to oversee work on the Children and Young People Information Sharing Bill during [redacted]'s absence on annual leave from 7 May to 27 May inclusive.

I know that Joe will be sharing his plans for developing the role, and the implications for the current ELC teams in early course. In tandem, Michael Chalmers will shortly be confirming the implications for the rest of Joe's Creating Positive Futures Division.

My expectation in creating this new role and in strengthening the programme team that will be working with Joe is that we pave the way for effective delivery of a policy that will enable children and young people in Scotland to flourish - making a vital contribution to our focus on closing the attainment gap while also supporting inclusive economic growth.

I would like to thank Joe and all colleagues in the existing ELC team for all the exc[redacted]t work that has already been done, culminating in a welcome agreement with COSLA last week on funding. I look forward to seeing the work go from strength to strength.

Joe, Michael or I would be very happy to discuss any questions that you might have in light of the changes that we are putting in place.

Best wishes

Paul

Paul

Paul Johnston | Director General Education, Communities and Justice | Scottish Government | 1N-11, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]: [redacted]