

I know this is all covered in the regular rolling brief, but I wondered if you had a more condensed briefing on the stocks that we could share please? Mr Freeman has asked for this by 1500 on Tuesday, 31 October.

Happy to discuss further.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Private Secretary to Michael Russell, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe | [REDACTED] |[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Conservative Party Position on Brexit.

The Prime Minister accepts that negotiations have been tough, but believes the Government have made concrete progress on many important issues.

They remain committed to protecting the Belfast Agreement and the Common Travel Area and have stated explicitly that they will not accept any physical infrastructure at the UK/Irish border.

The PM is confident they have made significant progress on how they will look after European nationals living in the UK and British nationals living in the 27 Member States of the EU and has repeated her statement that she wants EU citizens who have made their lives in the UK that they we want them to stay in the UK and one of her first goals in the negotiations is to ensure that EU citizens can carry on living in the UK as before.

The PM wants the EU and UK to stay as partners who carry on working together for our mutual benefit – they want to work “hand in hand with the European Union, rather than as part of the European Union.”

The PM has stated that the UK will seek to secure a new, deep and special partnership with the European Union and this should span both a new economic relationship and a new relationship on security.

The PM has pointed to an implementation period of around two years to prepare and implement the new processes and new systems that will underpin any future partnership

The PM has reiterated that the UK Government would want to make an ongoing contribution to cover the UK’s fair share of the costs involved – however a figure for the final settlement has not been agreed as yet.

At the moment UK government, is struggling to pass the EU withdrawal bill that sets the legal framework for Brexit due to concerns among MPs about a lack of parliamentary scrutiny. The next stage of the bill will begin on November 14. Meanwhile, Conservative MPs seeking a “soft” Brexit have emphasised their case that the Brexit deal should be passed via statute — potentially giving MPs more leverage over negotiations. It remains unclear, however, what would happen if MPs refused to back any deal agreed between the UK and Brussels.

Labour Party position on Brexit.

Labour accepts the referendum result and a Labour government will put the national interest first.

Labour wants to prioritise jobs and living standards, build a close new relationship with the EU, protect workers' rights and environmental standards, provide certainty to EU nationals and give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.

They wish to end Theresa May's approach to Brexit, and seek to unite the country around a Brexit deal that works for every community in Britain.

Labour's position on Brexit was tweaked in mid-August, when the shadow Brexit secretary, Sir Keir Starmer, announced that the party now wanted to keep the UK in the single market and a customs union during a transition that could last for up to four years.

Labour would also accept free movement of people, payments into the EU budget and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice during the transition. This is a considerably "softer" version of Brexit than the one advocated by the government, but there are still divisions within the party about whether the UK should try to stay in the single market in the longer term.

Liberal Democrat Position on Brexit

Liberal Democrats believe that Britain is better off in the EU. They will fight against the Conservatives "disastrous" hard Brexit - their choice to make the UK a poorer place.

The Liberal Democrats acknowledge the result of the 2016 referendum, which gave the government a mandate to start negotiations to leave – but believe the final decision should be made by the British people, not by politicians.

DUP Position on Brexit

The DUP demanded in its manifest to Brexit demands of a "frictionless" border with Ireland, continued "free trade" and a "customs arrangement" with the EU, a "fair share for Northern Ireland" and that "support" for the country's farmers are respected by a Conservative government.

Their manifesto listed 30 different "priorities and objective" for Northern Ireland to see secured in negotiations with Brussels, but does not explicitly rule in or out continued membership of the Customs Union. It does however, call for the safeguarding of the rights of EU citizens in the UK.

Green Party Position on Brexit

The Green Party accepts the result of the referendum, but they reject the extreme Brexit pursued by the Government. They have a different vision for Britain's future.

The Green Party campaigned to Remain in the EU and they have pushed back on the Government's plans for an extreme Brexit, and have been campaigning for progressive social, economic and environmental outcomes across three priority areas – Environment and Climate, Tax and Freedom of Movement

The Green Party also call for a vote on the terms of the deal, as they believe that the EU referendum of 2016 should be seen as the start of a democratic process, not the end of it.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 31 October 2017 15:17

To: Minister for Social Security

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; [REDACTED]; Fuller S (Simon); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Burgess WG (George); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

[REDACTED]

With grateful thanks to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for drafting, please find attached some lines on WTO trade in services.
Kind regards, [REDACTED] and team

[REDACTED] | Trade Policy | Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay [REDACTED] 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU. [REDACTED] |
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 31 October 2017 14:32

To: Minister for Social Security

Cc: [REDACTED]; Fuller S (Simon); [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

[REDACTED]

Following our phone discussion, for Ms Freeman's appearance on Question Time on Thursday, please find attached briefs on:

- Scottish Economic Performance
- Labour Market
- Independence
- Austerity
- Key Actions to Grow the Economy

On the WTO question referenced in the email below, [REDACTED] (cc'd) is working on that and will send something up separately.

[REDACTED] _____
OCEA – Economic Analysis
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
Sent: 26 October 2017 13:43
To: Fuller S (Simon); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]: Burgess WG (George); McAllan M (Mary)
Cc: Gillespie G (Gary); Minister for Social Security
Subject: FW: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

Afternoon folks,

Ms Freeman is appearing on Question Time next Thursday.

Can you please provide her office the latest FMQ's and other updates we received on Scottish Economy. In particular she needs comparisons with the rest of the UK.

There was also a paper on how Scotland's Economy compares to the rest of the UK if you take London out of the picture. I think that it also has comparisons to the English regions.

The other document I thought that might be helpful was the comparison on tax rates which examines what services are provided for this. So although higher rate tax payers may pay a slightly more. When you look at the services they receive (free tuition fees, prescription charges etc then they are better off in Scotland.

World Trade Organization

The Minister understands that its rules do not cover service industries - 1) is that correct and 2) percentage of Scottish Economy that is service sector .

Can this be coordinated into a briefing for Ms Freeman by 1500 on Tuesday, 31 October and let me know who is leading on this.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Deputy Private Secretary to Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Tel: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Social Security
Sent: 26 October 2017 10:26
To: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
Cc: Maxwell S (Stewart) (Special Adviser); Campbell J (Jeanette); Minister for Social Security
Subject: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

[REDACTED] As discussed, Ms Freeman is appearing on BBC Question Time on Thursday, 2 November.

You kindly agreed to liaise with relevant colleagues and provide us with the following briefing:

Economy

Key Stats and facts on Scottish economy and where possible comparisons its UK.

World Trade Organization

The Minister understands that its rules do not cover service industries - 1) is that correct and 2) percentage of Scottish Economy that is service sector
Housing SG and U.K. -

Grateful to receive this by 1500 on Tuesday, 31 October.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

PS/Minister for Social Security

☎ [REDACTED]

☎ [REDACTED]

Please see the [Ministerial Preferences](#) which may be of assistance to you.

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WTO World Trade Organisation and trade in services (Brexit)

The WTO, through the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), does include services to some extent but it is currently less developed than trade in goods.

As part of the UK Government's preparations for Brexit it will need to establish its own Schedule of Commitments in relation to Services, which will initially be closely based on the existing European Union Schedules.

[REDACTED]

Services in the EU Single Market

- Trade of services is an area of significance to the UK and Scottish economies. It is therefore imperative that access to the EU Single Market is retained to enable cross-border competition in all aspects of the service market.
- The potential gain from the completion of the single market in services is estimated to be 2.4% of EU GDP. A 2.4% boost to Scottish GDP in 2016 would be equivalent to £3.6 billion.
- If the UK is not to be in the EU Single Market through membership of the EEA, it is unlikely that we will share in such additional benefits. Third countries are historically not been granted comprehensive access to the single market.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 October 2017 17:35
To: Minister for Social Security [REDACTED]
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; McVie A (Ann); [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

[REDACTED]

Please let me know if more detail required on the reports as there are, as you can imagine, a good number. [REDACTED].

Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] | Social Security Directorate | Policy Manager, Universal Credit - Scottish Choices | Scottish Government [REDACTED], Victoria Quay |
Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Social Security
Sent: 27 October 2017 16:59
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] McVie A (Ann); [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Minister for Social Security
Subject: RE: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

[REDACTED]– Thanks for pulling this together.

[REDACTED] – For the second part of the request the Minister is looking for anything that has been said in independent reports or by independent bodies or Westminster committees that have criticised UC and its implementation.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
PS/Minister for Social Security
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]


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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 October 2017 11:18
To: Minister for Social Security
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; McVie A (Ann); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

Hi [REDACTED]

Just to let you know that [REDACTED] will respond direct on the costings part. You said that you were going to seek more clarity on the second part of the request.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Team Leader, Welfare Grants and Reserved Benefits | Scottish Government | [REDACTED] Victoria Quay Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
 [REDACTED] EXT [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Social Security

Sent: 26 October 2017 10:34

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette); [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Minister for Social Security

Subject: Briefing Request from Ms Freeman

[REDACTED]

As discussed, Ms Freeman is appearing on BBC Question Time on Thursday, 2 November.

The Minister has asked for the following:

Universal Credit - Any information we have on the estimated cost of implementation and current cost plus anything anyone like an audit committee or some such, has said about UC and its implementation.

Grateful to receive this **by 1500 on Tuesday, 31 October.**

Thanks

[REDACTED]

PS/Minister for Social Security

☎ [REDACTED]

☎ [REDACTED]

Please see the [Ministerial Preferences](#) which may be of assistance to you.

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Independent Reports / Committess

1. [Universal Credit's right - but we must take stock.](#)

By The Joseph Rowntree Foundation. 6 Apr 2017.

The Conservative Party quoted the JRF in their amendment to the Government motion for the UC debate on 3 October. They were not actually quoting from a report, but rather an online article which goes onto make several recommendations for improvements to the UC system.

2. [Universal Credit. From disaster to recovery?](#)

By Institute for Government. 6 Sept 2016.

Report author Nicholas Timmins looks at the failure and potential recovery of Universal Credit, arguing that the reforms are in a much better state and something that is recognisable as Universal Credit may well emerge at the other end.

Following interviews with some of the key players, and using National Audit Office reports and parliamentary proceedings, Timmins tries to explain what went wrong and what then went better, and seeks to draw lessons from both periods from which other big government projects can learn.

3. [Universal Credit: Early Progress](#)

By National Audit Office. 5 Sep 2013.

4. [Universal Credit: progress update](#)

By National Audit Office. 26 Nov 2014.

5. Work and Pensions Committee

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/>

Link to the Work and Pensions Committee, chaired by Frank Field. Links to the various reports

6. [Universal Challenge – making a success of Universal Credit](#) -by Resolution Foundation May 2016

“This report sets out a three point plan for the then new Secretary of State. Argues that Stephen Crabb should restate and reclaim the role of UC in supporting more people into work and then boosting earnings, rather than being a source of savings for the Treasury to meet fiscal targets.”