

**From:** [Redacted] On Behalf Of Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy  
**Sent:** 04 February 2019 19:53  
**To:** [Redacted – Out of Scope]  
Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted – Out of Scope]  
**Subject:** RE: Scottish Taxes Policy Forum - note of meeting 31 Jan

[Redacted]

Ms Forbes is content with this readout.

Much appreciated

[Redacted]

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

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**From:** [Redacted – Out of Scope]  
**Sent:** 04 February 2019 16:07  
**To:** Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted – Out of Scope]  
**Subject:** Scottish Taxes Policy Forum - note of meeting 31 Jan

[Redacted]

Please find below a note of the key discussion points and actions from the meeting with the Scottish Taxes Policy Forum last week.

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### **Note of meeting with Scottish Taxes Policy Forum 31 Jan 2019**

Attendees: STPF - Jim Robertson, Charlotte Barbour, Joanne Walker, Chris Young

SG - Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy, [Redacted] , [Redacted]  
[Redacted] [Redacted]

Public Awareness of Tax key points raised:

- Results of STPF survey with 84% of respondents saying they'd like better information about how taxes are decided in Scotland. STPF noted that they would expect similar results in rUK and felt that in Scotland people were talking more about tax following devolution.
- Discussed the connection between spending and tax, picking up SG discussions with HMRC on the development of the Annual Tax Summary and communications plan
- In terms of 'who is the trusted messenger' and 'who is the key audience', STPF suggested a partnership between STPF and SG would be seen as a trusted messenger and targeting influencers to improve their understanding of tax would be key
- STPF noted interest in working with MSPs to help build their tax knowledge, one option they hope to develop is a one page fact sheet. We suggested they speak with SPICe to look at what information is currently available to MSPs and what are the knowledge gaps (for example what tax related information requests does SPICe receive from MSPs)
- Interest in looking at existing engagement with young people and how this could be developed / improved, for example through Young Scot or linked to school curriculum.

**Action – officials to meet with STPF to discuss opportunities for engaging with Scottish public on tax, including targeting of influencers and engagement with young people**

**Action – officials to meet with Ms Forbes in April / May to discuss emerging communication plan on Scottish income tax and wider tax interests**

Devolved taxes legislation key points raised:

- STPF welcomed the upcoming consultation on devolved taxes policy and legislation and are keen to work with SG officials to promote the consultation and participate in the consultation events.

**Action – officials to meet with ICAS and CIOT to discuss consultation and ways in which they can help to promote participation in it.**