

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 June 2020 18:07
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] **Subject:** RE: Scottish Government Publication - The Case for Extending the Brexit Transition Period

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your reply. 10.30 on Monday 22 June works fine for us.

No problem for the additional person. If you let me have the email addresses I will send them the webex connection details either via an outlook invitation or email if the outlook invitation doesn't work.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish Government Publication - The Case for Extending the Brexit Transition Period

Dear [REDACTED]

With apologies again for the delay, Mr Russell would be very happy to speak with Ms Martinez Alberola on Monday 22 June. His office has suggested a call at 10:30 CET – would that suit Ms Martinez Alberola's schedule?

WebEx is absolutely fine. It is likely that an official from the Scottish Government EU Office here in Brussels will also join the call – does that present you with any problems?

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED] | Policy Adviser | Scottish Government EU Office
Scotland House Brussels | Rond Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels | Twitter:
[@ScotlandHouseEU](#) | [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 June 2020 15:32
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government Publication - The Case for Extending the Brexit Transition Period

Dear [REDACTED]

With apologies for the delay, many thanks for getting back to me. We are delighted to hear that Ms Martinez Aberola is happy to set up a meeting with Mr Russell. We are currently liaising with Mr Russell's office about timing and will get back to you as soon as we hear back.

My colleague [REDACTED], in copy, should be able to provide you with an update as soon as possible.

Many thanks again,

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 June 2020 12:42

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Scottish Government Publication - The Case for Extending the Brexit Transition Period

Dear [REDACTED]

With reference to the email below sent from Mike Neilsen to Clara Martinez Alberola, I'm contacting you to set up a meeting between Ms Martinez Alberola and Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Europe.

Would Monday 22 June work for Mr Russell ? We could do either do the morning before 12.00 Brussels time. It would of course be a video conference – the Commission uses the Webex system. Would that work for you too ?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Task Force for relations with the United Kingdom

European Commission

Tel: [REDACTED]



https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership_en

From: "Mike.Neilson@gov.scot" <Mike.Neilson@gov.scot>
Date: June 10, 2020 at 3:10:15 PM GMT+2
To: MARTINEZ ALBEROLA Clara (UKTF)"
<Clara.Martinez-Alberola@ec.europa.eu>
Subject: Scottish Government Publication - The Case for Extending the Brexit Transition Period

Dear Ms Martinez-Alberola,

New Scottish Government publication – ‘Covid-19: the case for extending the Brexit transition period’

COVID-19 is at the centre of all our concerns, and will be for the foreseeable future. The Scottish Government believes that it is vital for Covid recovery that there is an extension to the Brexit transition period.

I am contacting you to let you know that the Scottish Government published a paper last week which sets out the case, in these unprecedented times, for extending the Brexit transition period. The publication can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/>

The paper argues for an extension to the current transitional arrangements - by the maximum period possible of two years – which would:

- allow the economy more time to recover from COVID-19 before the impacts of ending the Brexit transition period on businesses and citizens are felt. Companies will be in a much more fragile state and less able to absorb the impact of Brexit at the end of this year than in two years' time;
- enable governments, businesses and citizens - rightly focussed on COVID-19 at present, to prepare thoroughly for the new EU-UK relationship; and
- enable full scrutiny and implementation of the new trading arrangements and other forms of cooperation that may be agreed between the EU and the UK.

The paper also presents new analysis of the potential economic impacts in Scotland if an extension to the transition period is not agreed. It demonstrates that Scottish GDP could be up to 1.1% lower by 2022, with Scotland's manufacturing, agri-food and fisheries sectors particularly at risk. This

represents a cumulative loss of economic activity of between nearly £2bn and £3bn over those two years, exacerbating the significant economic damage caused by COVID-19. A proportionate impact would be likely for the UK economy, and there would also be an impact on the EU. This will clearly hamper recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

We recognise that the UK Government has consistently ruled out seeking an extension to the transition period. And we realise that the EU currently does not believe that this is likely to happen. However, the Scottish Government believes that an extension is crucial – and the only responsible course of action - in order to avoid a second major hit to the economy at a time when businesses, governments and citizens are focusing on recovering from COVID-19.

Time is running out. Under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement any extension must be agreed by the end of this month. After that date, it will not be possible to extend under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement – and no other plausible route to an extension has been put forward. The end of June deadline is therefore real.

The Scottish Government will continue to make the case for an extension until the last possible moment and we will continue to urge the UK Government to seek a maximum two-year extension, as provided for in the Withdrawal Agreement. We hope that the high level meeting envisaged for June can be a genuine stocktake of progress, including the implications of rejecting an extension.

Our Cabinet Secretary for Europe, Michael Russell, would be keen to discuss the issues set out in this paper and the prospects for the negotiations in more detail with you in the coming days. If you would be content to have this meeting set up, can I suggest our offices make the necessary arrangements. This will be via my assistant [REDACTED] in the first instance.

Kind regards,

Mike Neilson
EU Director, Brussels
Office: +32 2 282 83 52