

EMAIL 1

From: Hutchison D (David) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>

Sent: 18 December 2020 17:51

To: ZZZMinister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing 2018 to 2020 JF
<ZZZMinisterPHSW@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>

Subject: JF letter 1812

Importance: High

Mr FitzPatrick has asked that the attached letter be sent on his behalf to the First Minister.

I'd be grateful if this could be done immediately.

When you have a PDF version could you share it with me and make it available for comms.

Hopefully we can speak soon.

Davie

EMAIL 1 ATTACHMENT

Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing
Joe FitzPatrick MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Government

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

First Minister
(By Email)

18 December 2020

Dear Nicola,

It is with regret that I write to formally provide my letter of resignation, having discussed with you and agreed that I should leave government. It has been the privilege of my life to serve in government and work for the people of Scotland as a minister.

As we have discussed, the most heart-breaking and difficult problems I have faced as Public Health Minister is the harms and deaths caused by drug use.

I have worked for more funding for this area, to bring experts together, and to listen to families who have felt the burden and weight of grief from drug use. I want to thank them for their candour and the amazing efforts they make to try and make our country better and safer for all.

I believe in the work of the Drug Deaths Taskforce, and I believe that the activities of community projects across Scotland, many backed by this government, will help to reduce harm.

Clearly the damage of drug deaths has not materialised overnight, and the roots of the inequalities that drive so much of the harm have been with Scotland for generations.

Despite the ongoing efforts to mitigate and prevent this human devastation in 2018 we lost over 1,100 of our fellow Scots to drug deaths, in 2019 it was over 1,200, and I would anticipate when the final figures for 2020 are available that they will not be substantially lower than this.

As the minister responsible for this area I, ultimately, take my responsibility. It is clear that my presence as a minister will become a distraction, when we should be focused on – achieving the change we need to save lives.

Drug laws in the UK are outdated and are an active barrier to delivering a truly public health approach to the public health emergency of drug deaths. These punitive and obsolete laws are costing lives and inhibiting the actions we and others could take. These are not currently in our gift to change and I hope you will continue to fight for overdue change in this area, among others.

I look forward to continuing to support your efforts to lead Scotland through this difficult time. I also hope to continue to serve my community as an MSP in the years ahead, should I be fortunate enough to again be re-elected by the people of Dundee City West next year. I have worked with many true servants of our nation both within and outwith government across a range of topics and I want to thank them for the kind support they have given me in this role.

There is nothing I can express that will ease the loss that so many families have felt due to a death from drugs use. I can only say how sorry I am for their loss, and that hearing the experiences of the families and the recovery communities will never leave me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe FitzPatrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end of the name.

JOE FITZPATRICK

EMAIL 2

From: Hutchison D (David) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 December 2020 18:08
To: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: JF letter to First Minister
Importance: High

Here is the formal letter of resignation from Joe as PDF in case anyone needs it.

From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 18 December 2020 18:01
To: Hynd JS (James)
Cc: Hutchison D (David) ; Somers J (John) ; First Minister
Subject: FW: JF letter to First Minister
Importance: High

James

To see attached letter from Mr FitzPatrick to the First Minister.

The First Minister is aware.

Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Deputy Private Secretary
Private Office to the First Minister
5th Floor| St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [Redacted]



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From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing
Sent: 18 December 2020 17:57
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David)

[<David.Hutchison@gov.scot>](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)

Subject: JF letter to First Minister

Importance: High

PS/First Minister

Please see attached a letter sent on behalf of Mr FitzPatrick. I'd be grateful if this could be brought to the attention of the First Minister as soon as practically possible.

Kindest Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Private Secretary

Private Office of Mr. Joe FitzPatrick MSP, Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing

Room 1E.10 | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Redacted]

EMAIL 2 ATTACHMENT

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Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing

Joe FitzPatrick MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

First Minister

First

First Minister

(By Email)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Yours sincerely

JOE FITZPATRICK