

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr [redacted]  
[redacted]

Scottish Rugby Union

[\[redacted\]@sru.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@sru.org.uk)

10 December 2020

Dear [redacted],

I recognise that this has been an enormously challenging time for the sport sector and we appreciate the sacrifices made by everyone over the past months to help us tackle the virus. I understand the financial strain the pandemic has placed on rugby throughout Scotland by not being able to welcome spectators to the stadiums.

Therefore, I am delighted to inform you today that a financial support package for the sporting sector has been agreed and a total sum of up to £20.0m, which will comprise of both revenue funding and a loan arrangement, will be available to support rugby in Scotland. The press release on the emergency funding for sport announcement can be viewed at [link](#)

My officials in Active Scotland will be in contact with you directly to discuss the details further. I hope this funding will be welcomed to support rugby at all levels throughout Scotland.

[redacted]

**JOE FITZPATRICK**

T: 0300 244 4000  
E:  
scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Scottish Rugby Union

[\[redacted\]@sru.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@sru.org.uk)

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My officials in Active Scotland will be in contact with you directly to discuss the details further. I hope this funding will be welcomed to support rugby at all levels throughout Scotland.

[redacted]

**JOE FITZPATRICK**



Joe Fitzpatrick MSP  
Minister of Public Health & Sport  
Scottish Government  
St Andrews House  
Edinburgh

Scottish Rugby Union Limited  
BT Murrayfield  
Edinburgh EH12 5PJ

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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Dear Joe,

Thank you for your letter dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> September following the statement the FM made to Parliament on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

We are obviously very concerned by the pause to crowd numbers at matches. Given our need to efficiently plan, we would be very grateful if you would now confirm that crowds will not be permitted at either the home PRO14 matches to be played by Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors in October, nor the Scotland v Georgia men's international set for 23<sup>rd</sup> October at BT Murrayfield.

We would also appreciate further clarity on the likelihood of graduated crowds returning to the stadium in mid-November for Scotland's international games at BT Murrayfield. This clarity is essential in how we manage Scottish Rugby's relationship with our spectators, sponsor family and our clubs.

We appreciate that the government recognises the financial impact on rugby of these decisions. As we have discussed, the income from the international game drives all we can do for every level of rugby right across Scotland. So, no income from international matches directly hits community rugby clubs, as well as the rest of the game.

Therefore, I welcome your offer to discuss the financial consequences of the FM's statement on rugby. As you will know, [redacted] and I have arranged to meet the Finance Secretary on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, and we would welcome your participation in that meeting. We plan to furnish the Finance Secretary with an updated financial assessment prior to the meeting, that will build on our earlier discussions. I will ensure that your officials receive a copy of this work.

I look forward to further discussions with you and your officials and am copying this to the National Clinical Director Professor Jason Leitch.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted], Scottish Rugby



Registered in Scotland N° 132061



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[redacted]  
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EH12 5PJ

[\[redacted\]@sru.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@sru.org.uk)

26 August 2020

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the Edinburgh Rugby v Glasgow Warriors, Guinness PRO14 match at BT Murrayfield Stadium, on Friday 28 August 2020.

I am very grateful for the dedicated work by many who have worked with the Scottish Government and partners to ensure that this pilot event, the first professional rugby match in the UK to welcome spectators since the Covid-19 lockdown, can take place.

It is vitally important that we use this test to enhance our learning on ensuring safety for all at a sporting event, in order to further enhance spectator participation in rugby and wider sports, as we move forward.

I am sorry to say I cannot attend this event, however, I know that Scottish Government officials will attend, in order to provide feedback on the safety processes in place.

I hope the event goes well, and I look forward to receiving formal evaluation in due course.

**JOE FITZPATRICK**



Joe FitzPatrick MSP  
Dundee West constituency office  
37 Dock Street  
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Tuesday 22 December 2020

Dear Joe,

On behalf of Scottish Rugby, I wanted to thank you for all your endeavours and support during your tenure as Minister of Sport.

As you know, the last nine months have been the most demanding that most of us have had to endure and we are most grateful to you and your officials for your understanding and empathy of how the coronavirus pandemic has had such a devastating effect on Scottish Rugby.

We very much appreciate the financial rescue package that you confirmed earlier this month, without which, so many in Scottish Rugby – whether in the community game, our staff or at elite level – would be facing a bleak future.

In happier times, we first met you at the announcement of BBC ALBA's television coverage of the Scotland Women's team and I know you share our pride that Scottish Rugby continues to drive the vitally important inclusion agenda in Scotland.

Wishing you and yours all the very best for the festive season and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Scottish Rugby, BT Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ  
Email: [\[redacted@sru.org.uk\]](mailto:[redacted@sru.org.uk]); Tel: 0131 346 [redacted]; [redacted]



Registered in Scotland N° 132061





Mairi Gougeon MSP  
Minister for Sport and Public Health  
Scottish Government  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Scottish Rugby Union Limited  
BT Murrayfield  
Edinburgh EH12 5PJ

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Tuesday 22 December 2022

Dear Ms Gougeon,

On behalf of Scottish Rugby, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Sport and Public Health.

Scottish Rugby is the governing body of rugby union in Scotland with responsibility for the game at all levels: from the grassroots at clubs and schools, to the elite end of the game with our two professional sides, Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors, and our international teams.

The Scotland men's team are ranked seventh in the world; our women's team are ranked 11th, while, within your own constituency of Angus North and Mearns, clubs like Strathmore, Montrose and Brechin, are very much at the heart of their communities providing opportunities for all, men and women, boys and girls, to become involved in rugby. Two products of rugby in your community – the Fagerson brothers, Zander and Matt – are key players for both Glasgow Warriors and Scotland.

We believe it is vitally important that we work closely with Government to enhance physical activity and foster community spirit which is a fundamental part of club rugby in Scotland.

We have enjoyed constructive relationships with your predecessors in your new role – Shona Robison, Jamie Hepburn, Aileen Campbell and Joe Fitzpatrick – and would be delighted to meet with you at your earliest convenience in the New Year to give you a flavour of our work and the challenges we will undoubtedly face in 2021 and beyond as, we all hope, the country can take steps to recover from the debilitating pandemic that has wrought such devastation.

I look forward to hearing from you and in the meantime wish you and yours the compliments of the season.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted] | [redacted] | Scottish Rugby, BT Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ



Registered in Scotland N° 132061



Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
Scottish Government  
St Andrews House  
Edinburgh



Monday 29 June 2020

Scottish Rugby Union Limited  
BT Murrayfield  
Edinburgh EH12 5PJ

Dear First Minister,

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scottishrugby.org

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wanted to write to you in response to your letter dated Friday 19 June 2020 regarding Scottish Rugby's partnership with BT.

On behalf of Scottish Rugby, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and your ministerial colleagues for your ongoing support of us as a governing body and business organisation. Throughout this period, we have developed an excellent working relationship with many of your government officials, which has proved vital to our organisation.

Like all organisations, we have faced, and continue to face, acute financial challenges as a direct result of the current coronavirus pandemic. The assistance that your government has introduced, both directly and through sportscotland, has been invaluable to our continuing endurance throughout this difficult period.

As have our long-standing relationships with our partners who have continued to support our business, as we have theirs, throughout these challenging times. Particularly our relationship with our principal partner BT, which as you noted demonstrates the enduring relationship between sport and business in Scotland. It has also benefited rugby at all levels over the years and their continued support of Scottish Rugby is crucial for the resumption of our sport, from grassroots up to the elite game. Therefore, throughout this period we have remained committed to maintaining our strategic partnerships to ensure we are in a healthy position and ready to restart our sport as soon as practical.

The health of our organisation, as we both know, also has a significant impact on the Scottish economy and the mental wellbeing of the nation. This has certainly been an anxious time for all, and I am confident a resumption of rugby in Scotland, in a safe and responsible manner, will be instrumental in getting the Scottish economy and country as a whole back up and running again.

Thank you again for everything you and your colleagues have done and continue to do for Scottish Rugby. We stand by you and your government and I hope together we can strengthen Scotland again.

Best wishes,

[redacted]  
[redacted], Scottish Rugby



Registered in Scotland N° 132061





Kate Forbes MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
Scottish Government

Scottish Rugby Union Limited  
BT Murrayfield  
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Tuesday 03 November 2020

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Thank you for the meeting that you had with Scottish Rugby on 1st October where my colleagues and I explained the financial challenges our sport face due to the continuing impact of Covid-19.

We submitted a comprehensive financial dossier to you and your officials at that time and have subsequently ensured that Sportscotland have access to this information as requested by Active Scotland.

We understood your point on 1st October, that the Scottish Government were waiting for clarity from the UK Government's DCMS department over the shape and size of a sports fund aimed specifically at sporting governing bodies who are dependent on spectator income for the greatest proportion of their income.

However, the continuing lack of any information is making our financial planning extremely difficult. Specifically, we have a current and immediate need to address a position regarding our income streams, as outlined in our submissions to sportscotland and the Scottish Government.

We have made a clear and evidenced financial ask of the Scottish Government and we would be very grateful if you were in a position to indicate what progress is being made on the information we supplied.



Registered in Scotland N° 132061



As our team explained on 1st October, we are of course ready to answer any financial questions or provide any further information that the government might need.

I am copying this to your colleague the Sports Minister Joe Fitzpatrick MSP.

Yours Faithfully,

[redacted], [redacted] Scottish Rugby

**CC:**

Sports Minister Joe Fitzpatrick MSP

Andrew Healy, Finance Director, Scottish Rugby



Joe Fitzpatrick MSP  
Minister of Public Health & Sport  
Scottish Government  
St Andrews House  
Edinburgh

Scottish Rugby Union Limited  
BT Murrayfield  
Edinburgh EH12 5PJ

Tuesday 12 May 2020

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Meeting on Scottish Rugby financial scenarios, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Joe,

Thank you very much for providing the opportunity for myself and [redacted] to brief you and [redacted] on the emerging financial scenarios facing Scottish Rugby as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As we discussed we are working through a range of possibilities while remaining aligned to Scottish Government public health messaging and instructions. We are grateful for the time you allowed us to explain the position. We will furnish your office with further financial information given your kind offer to place this with officials in the Scottish Government Finance Department led by Finance Secretary Kate Forbes.

As I mentioned, Scottish Rugby had made representations to the UK Chancellor regarding the Job Retention Scheme and we are most grateful for the Scottish Government's push on that important matter. There is no doubt that the extension announced this week is welcome and financially helpful. Your government's role in making that case is much appreciated.

I attach a copy of the independent YouGov economic impact assessment for your information that again I spoke to at Friday's meeting. We are very conscious of what we can do to get the economy moving again once team sport is facilitated by government and we hope that the contents of this report are helpful to you on that point.

Could I finally thank you for your time and assistance and we will be very pleased to meet again on the financial situation that confronts Scottish Rugby given the sports importance to local and national well-being.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted], [redacted] Scottish Rugby



Registered in Scotland N° 132061

