

From: [redacted]**Sent:** 22 December 2020 22:42

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>; [redacted]News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot>; DL All Scottish Government Ministers <DLMPOPALLSGMIN@gov.scot>; Executive Team <DLPSECPET@gov.scot>; SGoRR Major Events <sgormajorevents@gov.scot> [redacted] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Hub Mailbox <TransportHubMailbox@gov.scot>; [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot> [redacted] First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture <CabSecEFWC@gov.scot> [redacted]

Subject: RE: Line to clear - closure of French Border - Four Nations Meeting With Grant Shapps

For awareness, DfT statement still not online but agreement being reported, along with FM comments.

I have now issued [Response to agreement to reopen French border - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/Response-to-agreement-to-reopen-French-border-gov.scot) (www.gov.scot)

Thank you all for your help
[redacted]

From: [redacted] > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

Sent: 22 December 2020 21:56

To: [redacted] News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot>; DL All Scottish Government Ministers <DLMPOPALLSGMIN@gov.scot>; Executive Team <DLPSECPET@gov.scot>; SGoRR Major Events <sgormajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Hub Mailbox <TransportHubMailbox@gov.scot>; [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot>; [redacted]; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture <CabSecEFWC@gov.scot> [redacted]

Subject: Line to clear - closure of French Border - Four Nations Meeting With Grant Shapps

Hi [redacted]

Mr Matheson is content with below lines and is asking when will this be issued?

Many thanks

[redacted]

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity – Michael Matheson
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]
Email: CabSecTIC@gov.scot

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 December 2020 21:40

To: [redacted]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot>; DL All Scottish Government Ministers <DLMPOPALLSGMIN@gov.scot>; Executive Team <DLPSECPET@gov.scot>; SGoRR Major Events <sgorrmajorevents@gov.scot> [redacted] Chief Executive Transport Scotland [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot> [redacted] [redacted] First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture <CabSecEFWC@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Line to clear - closure of French Border - Four Nations Meeting With Grant Shapps

Thanks, I have incorporated, please could the CS consider this version.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson, said:

“This has been an extremely worrying time for a number of our sectors who are heavily dependent on the Channel ports, especially at this time of year. It has provided an alarming insight into the likely disruption a No Deal Brexit or any additional trade barriers will bring, and I would again stress the need to extend the transition period while the country gets to grips with coronavirus (Covid-19).

“I spoke with the UK Transport Secretary earlier tonight and am pleased that he reported that significant progress had been made regarding arrangements to reopen the closure of the French border to UK freight and that the UK Government has agreed that a Lateral Flow Test - of similar quality to that being used by the NHS - will permit drivers and other essential travellers to travel to France within 72 hours of a clear test. Arrangements will be in place until 6 January, with a mutual review agreed for 31 December.

“The UK Government has informed us that they have a plan to deploy Lateral Flow Tests to drivers at locations in Kent where drivers are parked, and UK Ministers must now urgently prioritise those drivers with perishable goods, such as Scottish seafood and salmon. What has always been of concern is the impact on exporters, not least of Scotland’s premier food produce rightly in demand in Europe. This is their most critical time of year and the dismay caused by the uncertainty and length of delay has been avoidable and regrettable.

“Now we have clarity on the type of test required, the Scottish Government will work with the haulage industry and the NHS to explore how we can support drivers to take those tests in Scotland in the future, before beginning their journey.

“To reiterate, Scotland is currently well stocked with food and medical supplies. We remain in close communication with the NHS and with food retailers and there is no issue that causes concern for the immediate few days ahead. What has always been of concern is the impact on exporters, not least of perishable goods such as seafood. This is their most critical time of year and right now, and the dismay caused by the uncertainty and length of delay has been avoidable and regrettable.

“I have again raised the question of financial support for those hit by this action with the UK Government. We stand ready to help in any practical way we can as this situation develops and will keep all actions under active review.”

[redacted]

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