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- Any reports, analysis or advice laying out different options with regards to the purchase of these devices (for example, this might include a briefing prepared for ministers or senior civil servants highlighting issues like costs, functions etc.)
- Any communication between John Swinney (and his staff/special advisers) and officials regarding the purchase of these devices

Description	Date	Explanation of redactions	Clause
Enclosure 01 Email to Mr Swinney with submission	6 May 2020	Personal details redacted	Section 38(1)(b)
Enclosure 02 Excerpt from submission to Deputy First Minister	6 May 2020	Excerpt only as rest of submission is not in scope of request	
Enclosure 03 Email from Mr Swinney's office to official re submission	7 May 2020	Personal details redacted	Section 38(1)(b)

EXCERPT FROM ADVICE ON SUPPORTING DIGITAL INCLUSION AMONGST SCHOOL-AGED LEARNERS

1. Based on feedback from local authorities, Apple iPads and Chromebooks are the devices most useful to learners and are the devices most in use in schools across the country. Ideally, iPads would be supplied to younger learners, whereas Chromebooks, with the laptop style and keyboard, would be supplied to older learners. A mix of these device types is ideally required to meet the national demand.

2. Global demand for digital devices has resulted in significant pressure on international supply chains. Many components for devices are manufactured in the Far East and the pandemic is causing latency issues in terms of shipments from China to the UK.

3. In addition, UK Government (DfE) have placed a large order for devices (c.300k), with a further call-off contract placed by London Grid for Learning for c.1m devices which is adding increased strain.

4. These supply chain pressures mean that if we wish to take action to address digital exclusion for learners as a result of the Covid outbreak, there is a need to move at pace. It is not possible to receive delivery of devices in bulk in line with pre-Covid timescales. Our current information indicates that if we delay decisions on the purchase of devices beyond the immediate period, we run a significant risk of timescales for delivery pushing even further into the future. To secure significant numbers of devices in the earliest possible timeframes, a phased approach to delivery will be required, soaking up supply as it becomes available. XMA are the key supplier for the Connecting Scotland programme and we have been engaging closely with them to understand what devices are available when and at what cost.

5. In anticipation of demand, XMA pre-ordered chromebook devices in bulk, which are now in the supply chain and on their way to the UK. These devices have 11" screens and are a mixture of touch and non-touch screen. We would deem both to be acceptable devices for use in education. The table below shows the estimated delivery dates for bulk orders of these devices. XMA have noted that the closer the delivery date, the more accuracy they can provide. This is reflected in the table.

Availability						
Device	w/c 11 May	w/c 18 May	w/c 1 June	Week 3 June	July	Totals
Lenovo 11-inch touchscreen	1350		3500	4000	3500	12350

Lenovo 11-inch non-touch screen			7500	4000	3500	15000
HP 11-inch non-touch	1145	2250		740	740	4875
HP 11-inch non-touch					5000	5000
Totals	2495	2250	11000	8740	12740	37225

6. The table shows that c.25,000 Chromebooks will be available by mid-June, with a further c12,000 being available in July. XMA have also noted that a further 10,000 Lenovo devices could be available for July, should an order be placed.

7. Timescales for new orders are longer. Any subsequent order would need to include iPads and Chromebooks if we are to meet the demand but will lean heavily towards iPads, if we take up the option of bulk buying Chromebooks that are already available in the table above. XMA have indicated a delivery timescale of 8 weeks for 32GB iPads for up to 70,000 units and for new orders of Chromebooks of any size, 12-16 weeks.

8. We will continue to explore urgently whether there are other procurement routes open to us that could offer quicker timescales and/or better pricing.

Costs

Device	Price
Lenovo 11-inch touchscreen with 3yr warranty and device management license	£274
Lenovo 11-inch non-touch screen with 3yr warranty and device management license	£232
HP 11-inch non-touch 32GB with 3 yr warranty and device management license	£232
HP 11-inch 16GB with 3 yr warranty and device management license	£219
iPad 32GB WiFi with 4yr warranty	£264.07

9. If we are to proceed with a programme of activity to meet the needs of learners who are currently digitally excluded, the cost of the programme will depend on the availability of devices and of course the numbers ordered. The above unit costs are were provided by XMA this week.

10. The cost of an initial order of c.25k mixed spec Chromebooks as per the table above, excluding 4G would be c£6m.

11. If you agree the phased approach set out below, we will engage urgently with local authorities to understand the required split of iPads vs Chromebooks for a subsequent order. As an indication of what costs may be to meet the projected demand (an additional 35k devices), if we take 10k further mixed spec Chromebooks and 25k iPads, indicative costs would be c.£9m.

