

Meeting Date, request for meeting and associated documents	Time	Attendees	Purpose
4/02/2021 Recurring meeting request from SG to OECD	10.00 -11.00	[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst	This is a regular catch up meeting between SG CfE Review Team and OECD Review Team. The attendees do not change. This was set up as a recurring calendar appointment and as such there are no papers requesting the meeting nor are any papers or agendas issued in advance. See enclosure 1
5/02/2021 Meeting request from director of Learning to Scottish Government Officials Extract from Email : In confidence: OECD Report Synopsis 4 February 2021	16.30 - 17.00	[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official Graeme Logan, Director of Learning Scottish Government Malcolm Pentland, Scottish Government	To discuss engagement event and draft OECD findings See enclosure 2

<p>11/02/2021 Recurring meeting request from SG to OECD</p>	<p>10.00 - 11.00</p>	<p>[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst</p>	<p>This is a regular catch up meeting between SG CfE Review Team and OECD Review Team. The attendees do not change. This was set up as a recurring calendar appointment and as such there are no papers requesting the meeting nor are any papers or agendas issued in advance.</p> <p>See enclosure 3</p>
<p>15/02/2021 Meeting request from Director of Learning to Scottish Government Officials</p>	<p>08.30 - 09.00</p>	<p>[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official Graeme Logan, Scottish Government Malcolm Pentland, Scottish Government</p>	<p>To discuss media coverage, engagement event and draft findings.</p> <p>See enclosure 4</p>
<p>15/02/2021 Meeting request from Scottish Government Officials to OECD</p>	<p>10.30 -11.00</p>	<p>[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government G Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)],OECD Analyst [Redact (38)(1)(b)],OECD Analyst</p>	<p>To discuss media coverage.</p> <p>See enclosure 5</p>
<p>15/02/2021 Meeting request from Deputy First Minister to Scottish Government Officials E.mail FOR CLEARANCE: Media query -</p>	<p>11.00 - 11.45</p>	<p>[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official Graeme Logan, Director of Learning, Scottish Government Malcolm Pentland, Scottish Government John Swinney, Deputy First Minister Collin McAllister, Special Adviser</p>	<p>The Deputy First Minister requested this to discuss media coverage, engagement event and draft findings.</p> <p>See enclosure 6</p>

<p>immediate - Sunday Post - OECD review</p> <p>Extract from Email Draft Report and plans for Further Engagement 8 February 2021</p>			
<p>15/02/2021 Meeting request from Scottish Government Officials to OECD</p>	<p>14.00 -14.30</p>	<p>[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst</p>	<p>To discuss press lines.</p> <p>See enclosure 7</p>
<p>18/02/2021 Recurring meeting request from SG to OECD</p>	<p>10.00 - 11.00</p>	<p>[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst</p>	<p>This is a regular catch up meeting between SG CfE Review Team and OECD Review Team. The attendees do not change. This was set up as a recurring calendar appointment and as such there are no papers requesting the meeting nor are any papers or agendas issued in advance.</p> <p>See enclosure 8</p>
<p>11/03/2021 Meeting request to Scottish Practitioner Forum</p>		<p>Redact (38)(1)(b) Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Scottish Government Official [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst [Redact (38)(1)(b)], OECD Analyst [Redact 38(1)(b)], OECD Expert Panel</p>	<p>The Scottish Practitioner Forum (rescheduled from 15 February 2021)</p> <p>See enclosure 9</p>

<p>Agenda for Scottish Practitioner Forum on 11 March 2021</p>		<p>[Redact 38(1)(b)], OECD Expert Panel [Redact 38(1)(b)], OECD Expert Panel Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council Chair John Guidi, Mearns Castle High School, East Renfrewshire Graham Hutton Grove Academy Dundee Gerry Lyons, Head of Education Services, Glasgow City Council Roisin Gallacher, Youth, Family and Community Learning Service, Blantyre Tommy Lennox, National Improvement Framework Officer, Education Scotland John Rafferty, Assistant Principal, Glasgow Clyde College, Faculty of Health and Wellbeing Professor Mark Priestley, Stirling University Richard Bell, Dalbeattie High School, Dumfries & Galloway Martyn Ware, Scottish Qualifications Authority Andrew Harvey, Uddingston Grammar School, South Lanarkshire Council</p>	
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Enclosure 1
Meeting 4 February 2021

Recurring meeting request to OECD

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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Or call in (audio only)

[+44 131](#)

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

United Kingdom, Edinburgh

Phone Conference ID:

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

Enclosure 2

Meeting 5 February 2021

From: Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 February 2021 08:54

To: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

Cc: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: In confidence: OECD Report Synopsis

Hi

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

Many thanks for this. I would like a call with you, Malcolm and [Redact (38)(1)(b)] today please to discuss this further.

Grateful if my office can set this up.

Graeme.

From:

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 February 2021 19:20

To: Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

Cc:

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>

Subject: In confidence: OECD Report Synopsis

Malcolm/ Graeme,

I have written a summary of the OECD report for you, which gives: the overall focus of the report; the recommendations and main actions underneath these; and a selection of key quotes from the report (positive and negative). The summary is only 4 pages with the rest devoted to key quotes.

My plan is to build this summary into the advice for DFM, along with high level feedback from policy colleagues, ES and SQA and an overview on next steps (where I will cover the drafting process, the 2 March stakeholder event and the points we discussed on Monday about sharing draft recommendations).

It would be helpful to talk about this report, and I am planning to work all day tomorrow, so if you would have any time to discuss

please give me a call.

[Redact (30) (c)]

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

| National Co-ordinator: OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence | Learning Directorate | Tel: 0131 **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]** Mob: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**

Enclosure 3

Meeting 11 February

Recurring meeting request to OECD

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Or call in (audio only)

[+44 131](#) **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**

United Kingdom, Edinburgh

Phone Conference ID: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]****[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**

Enclosure 4

Meeting 15 February 08.30

Arranging as per **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]** request.

Regards,
[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]
Learning Directorate, Business Support Unit
Tel: 0131 **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**
The Scottish Government:**[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**- Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

Or call in (audio only)

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

United Kingdom, Edinburgh

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

Enclosure 5

Meeting 15 February 10.30

As per my earlier e-mail.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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[Redact (38)(1)(b)] [+44 131](#)

[Redact (38)(1)(b)] United Kingdom, Edinburgh [Redact (38)(1)(b)]

Enclosure 6

Meeting 15 February

Microsoft Teams meeting

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[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Or call in (audio only) [+44 131](#) [Redact (38)(1)(b)] United Kingdom, Edinburgh

[Redact (38)(1)(b)] [Redact (38)(1)(b)]

Good Morning,

As outlined in separate email.

The DFM would welcome an opportunity to discuss this at 11.

Thanks

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

From:

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 14 February 2021 14:53

To:

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; DG Education, Communities & Justice <DGECJ@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - immediate - Sunday Post - OECD review

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

The DFM will need comprehensive advice on this given we have Lib Dem Education business next week.

Can you provide details of how we address the issues raised by Mr Rennie and Ms Wishart.

I would be grateful for this by COP Monday.

Many thanks

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Tel:

0131 244 **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]** | Mob: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**

Email: DFMCSE@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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From:

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 February 2021 19:27

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Cc: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot**; ; **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot**; ; **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot**; ; **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot**; ; **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot**; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot**; Minister for Children and Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - immediate - Sunday Post - OECD review

PO/Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

SUNDAY POST – OECD REVIEW

The Sunday Post has asked whether the OECD findings in the interim report will be published prior to the election. The Lib Dems, EIS and Keir Bloomer have all commented.

The reporter also asked why Mr Swinney did not ask the OECD if the report could be published prior to the election and will he return to give further evidence to education committee if recalled?

I understand from **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**– who helped frame the draft SG response – that she sent a submission on Monday to DFM about the timing of the event.

Is Mr Swinney content with the proposed SG line outlined below? It is agreed with policy and FM spad.

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

SG duty comms

An SG spokesperson said:

“The OECD has been engaging virtually with stakeholders over the last few months and have met with a wide range of education bodies as well as undertaking virtual school visits.

“They will be holding an engagement event at the beginning of March, where they will share emerging messages with stakeholders, providing a further opportunity for key partners and practitioners in Scotland to inform the final report, which will be published in June 2021.”

Background

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has been commissioned to undertake an independent review of Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence to help us better understand how the curriculum is being designed and implemented in schools and to identify areas for improvement across the country.

Query

The Scottish Liberal Democrats have this morning provided the reporter with FoI responses from the SG which show that the interim OECD review of the Curriculum for Excellence was given to the Scottish Government last month. The FoI responses further show that the SG will meet on Monday to discuss and provide comments on the interim report before they are given another opportunity provide comments again in March.

The Lib Dems have called for the unedited interim report to be published prior to the election. The call has been backed by EIS leader Larry Flanagan and independent education consultant Keir Bloomer.

Lib Dem leader Willie Rennie: “Only this SNP Government could set up an independent review of Scottish education which schedules in months of ministerial editing and other jiggery pokery.

“It is scandalous that SNP ministers get to see the first findings from the OECD six months before anyone else. Conveniently, the rest of us only get sight of anything after the Holyrood elections.

“Who knows what that will look like given these new documents show ministers will already be scribbling notes on the OECD's first draft.

“We need an unedited, OECD interim report before the election, and one that doesn't have SNP ministers' fingerprints all over it.”

Scottish Liberal Democrat education spokesperson Beatrice Wishart: “John Swinney told me (at education committee on September 16) he would be happy to discuss the possibility of an interim report with the OECD. This investigation shows that not only did he do precisely nothing, it now turns out that a six-month period of drafts going back and forth is underway.

“The Scottish Government is trying to stitch this up. I will be asking colleagues on the education committee to recall John Swinney to discuss these revelations.”

Larry Flanagan: “We would be keen to see the report published as soon as possible because, before, during or after the election, there is going to have to be a big discussion about rebooting education in the context of recovery from the pandemic.

“We will be launching our manifesto next week around what we’d like to see underpinning that recovery. Some of the issues, for example the implications of the alternative assessment model for the senior qualifications, is one of the issues the OECD were looking at.”

Keir Bloomer: “If you commission an outside organisation to look at and report on the operation of one of your policies it should not be set up in a way which gives you an opportunity to comment on and alter what the report says. That is less than objective.”

In addition, Dr Bloomer, chair of the Education Committee of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, said this: “The gathering of evidence was largely stage managed by the Scottish Government, who put people in front of the OECD. Various organisations put in preliminary comments, including the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

“I was interviewed by OECD for an hour but when the Royal Society of Edinburgh put in written comments to OECD they did not accept them. We were simply told, initially by the Scottish Government on behalf of the OECD, which is slightly suspicious, that they were not in the business of receiving written submissions.

“It’s difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Scottish Government has stage managed this in a way that has prevented OECD actually finding out what opinion in Scotland, especially among the education community, actually is.”

Ends

Learning Directorate

From:

8 February 2021

To: PS/Deputy First Minister

**OECD INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE:
DRAFT REPORT AND PLANS FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT**

Purpose

1. To share the OECD's draft preliminary report "*The Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland: an implementation assessment*"; to update the Deputy First Minister on plans for engagement on the draft recommendations; and to seek his views on these.

Priority

2. **Urgent.** The OECD have shared a copy of their draft preliminary report in confidence and asked for detailed feedback on this by Friday 12 February 2021.

Background

3. The OECD have carried out two weeks of stakeholder engagement sessions, the first with National stakeholders from 28 September to 2 October 2020 and then with schools, learners and parents from 2 to 5 November 2020.

[REDACT (30) (c)]

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

National Co-ordinator: OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence

Learning Directorate

Mob:

[Redact (38)(1)(b)]

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Deputy First Minister First Minister	X				X X
DG Education, Communities and Justice Graeme Logan, Director of Learning Malcolm Pentland, Deputy Director Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic [Redact (38)(1)(b)] Learning Directorate Colin McAllister, SPAD					

[Redact (30) (c)]

Enclosure 7

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: [Redact (38)(1)(b)][Redact (38)(1)(b)]

From: [Redact (38)(1)(b)]@oecd.org>

Sent: 16 February 2021 21:06

To: [Redact (38)(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redact (38)(1)(b)]@oecd.org

Subject: confidential: follow up on report

Dear [Redact (38)(1)(b)]

[Redact (30) (c)]

Best wishes, **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**

[Redact (38)(1)(b)] Senior Education Policy Analyst

Enclosure 8

Recurring meeting request to OECD 18 February

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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[+44 131 \[Redact \(38\)\(1\)\(b\)\]](#) United Kingdom, Edinburgh

Phone Conference ID: **[Redact (38)(1)(b)]**

Enclosure 9

The Scottish Practitioner Forum

Dear all

This is the new date for the Scottish Practitioner Forum.

Apologies that we have had to reschedule this twice but thank you for your patience.

A Teams link is attached below and agenda and papers will follow nearer the date.

Kind regards

[Redact 38(1)(b)]

**OECD Independent Review of CfE
Scottish Practitioner Forum Meeting 6
11 March – 3- 4.30pm
By MS Teams**

Agenda

- 1. Note of the 17th December meeting**
 - Group to agree for accuracy
- 2. OECD draft findings**
 - Presentation by OECD and discussion
- 3. Stakeholder engagement seminar on 16th March 2021**
 - OECD overview on approach
- 4. AOB**
- 5. Date of next meeting**
 - TBC