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POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THE SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY

1. Colleagues will wish to be aware that I have agreed with the co-conveners of the Scottish Green Party to take forward non-binding discussions to explore potential models for cooperation and joint working. I will make reference to these discussions in my statement tomorrow to Parliament about the our priorities for the new Parliamentary session. This information should be held in strictest confidence until then.
2. As discussed at the first meeting of the new Cabinet last week, success in tackling the challenges facing Scotland will depend on the Government being open to ideas from others. There is also clearly a widespread desire to return to the founding principles of the Scottish Parliament in terms of encouraging greater cross-party engagement given that there is much common ground between different parties, not least in respect of COVID recovery and climate change.
3. The discussions at this stage are entirely exploratory and without prejudice. I will, of course, seek the prior collective agreement of Cabinet to any agreement that might be produced for consideration.
4. I look forward to discussing this further at Cabinet next week.

NS
25 May 2021