

1.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 May 2021 22:56

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services. In my local area, the final two services run by Glasgow Life are being closed, leaving the area without a library or any sports facilities. This is not the recovery from COVID anyone in the area wants.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,
[redacted]

2.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 May 2021 22:36

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours, [redacted]

[redacted]

3.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 May 2021 14:33

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

4.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 May 2021 01:56

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

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I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

5.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 May 2021 07:54

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

6.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 May 2021 14:33

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

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I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,
[redacted]

7.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 May 2021 14:33

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

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Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,
[redacted]

8.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 14 May 2021 16:03

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

9.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 14 May 2021 12:30

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

10.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 May 2021 20:30

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

11.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 May 2021 20:50

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: FAO Angus Robertson: Couper Library, Glasgow

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Many congratulations on your recent election and appointment.

I am writing to ask for your help in securing a re-opening date for Glasgow's Couper Library and Institute.

As you may be aware, the Couper is not on the list of Glasgow libraries scheduled for reopening. We have contacted Glasgow Life regarding this matter, and been advised that the library will not re-open unless additional funding is made available. I have attached the response we received from Dr Bridget McConnell, Chief Executive at Glasgow Life.

This well-loved facility is the only library within a short walking distance available in Cathcart, particularly for the elderly, those with mobility issues and people with young children. It provides access to computers for those without their own IT equipment, runs regular challenges and clubs for children and young people, supports several local book groups, hosts a writers' group and countless other community activities. It provides a free and accessible safe space for people to use: and, of course, makes it possible for our community to read as many books as we wish, without incurring expenditure.

Established in 1924, this B-listed building was funded by a bequest from local paper mill owner Robert Cooper, and has provided enjoyment and education for generations since.

Over 80 people recently took part in a read-in, arranged at short notice (and complying with social distancing guidelines) to demonstrate how much the Couper means to them. It is a vital part of our community.

Libraries are a fundamental part of any society. We cannot afford to lose our library.

We will be holding a read-in every Saturday from 11-12 until such time as a reopening date for the Couper is announced. We hope you will be able to help by contacting Glasgow Life to establish what additional funding is required and whether Scottish Government can provide this.

Many thanks for your attention.

[redacted]

Attachment to email subject: FAO Angus Robertson: Couper Library, Glasgow



Our ref: BMcC/AR/MLU120501

24 May 2021

[Redacted address line 1]
[Redacted address line 2]

Dear [Redacted name]

Thank you for your enquiry about a re-opening date for the Couper Library and Institute

While Couper Institute and Library are currently not scheduled for reopening until more funding becomes available, we are continuing to explore alternative options to support the reopening of more venues with Glasgow City Council. This includes the People Make Glasgow's Communities scheme launched by Glasgow City Council in March this year as an open call to action aimed at giving the users of local services and venues a greater role in shaping their future and empowering their community. We are working with the council to engage with those who express interest in any Glasgow Life venues through this scheme, including those venues outwith current reopening plans. Anyone wanting to register interest or find out more should visit: www.glasgow.gov.uk/communities.

It may also be helpful for you to understand how the global public health emergency caused by Covid-19 has affected Glasgow Life.

Every year, Glasgow Life attracts funding as a charity. In the pre-pandemic years this amounted to £77 million from Glasgow City Council alongside funding from donations, grant-giving bodies and trusts, including Creative Scotland and other vital supporters of culture and sport.

We have supplemented this funding with earned income from ticket sales for events, Glasgow Club memberships and venue hires, which enables us to provide the range and scale of services we take great pride in delivering for the people in the city. Last year we expected this additional income to be £38 million, and it stopped overnight when the pandemic forced us to close our venues on 18 March 2020.

Before the pandemic we operated as a £115 million charitable organisation, and overnight our income dropped by £38 million. This year Glasgow City Council has stepped in to support Glasgow Life by providing the security of a £100 million funding safety net, including £72.4 million as service fee.

Despite this being a drop of nearly 15% on our previous level of funding, this has allowed us to reopen more than 90 venues. All of these were agreed in advance with Glasgow City Council and all of this funding is going into operating them.

However, even with this support in place, our ability to earn income will remain severely restricted by the ongoing impact of the pandemic, where both public confidence and current social distancing means we cannot welcome as many people into venues, and large-scale public events have not yet been able to restart.



Commonwealth House, 38 Albion Street, Glasgow, Scotland, G1 1UH • tel: 0141 287 4350 • info@glasgowlife.org.uk • www.glasgowlife.org.uk
Directors: Sir Angus Grosart, Dr Bridget McConnell CBE (Chief Executive), Councillor David McDonald (Chair), Dilwaj Singh MBE, Ian MacRitchie, John McCormick, Lee McConnell, Professor John Brown CBE, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, Councillor Henry Scully, Councillor Michael Cullen, Councillor Frank McAwey, Councillor Eva Bolander, Mrs Siobhan Naim
Glasgow Life is the operating name of Culture and Sport Glasgow. Culture and Sport Glasgow is a limited company which is registered in Scotland with registration number SC313851 and has its Registered Office at Commonwealth House, 38 Albion Street, Glasgow G1 1UH. Culture and Sport Glasgow is a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity (no SC037846) with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.





Glasgow City Council passed a motion on 13 May 2021 resolving that all 171 Glasgow Life venues should re-open as soon as funding and Scottish Government guidance allows. Should more funding become available we will discuss future reopening plans with Glasgow City Council, local communities and stakeholders.

Glasgow's Life's ability to open more venues depends on more funding becoming available, as we cannot spend money that we do not have.

I hope that this provides you with more information about some of the challenges Glasgow Life is facing and reassures you of our commitment to working with Glasgow City Council to reopen more venues across the city when it becomes possible.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bridget McConnell CBE
Chief Executive

12.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 May 2021 17:54

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: One card library pass

Good evening,

Just read about this. I live in Dundee so wasn't involved in the pilot. Typical! Will this be taken forward across Scotland so that any library card can access materials from any library in Scotland? With lockdown and Covid I would have thought this was a priority?

Thanks

[redacted]

13.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 June 2021 21:23

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,
[redacted]

14.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 June 2021 21:03

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

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I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

15.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 June 2021 21:39

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

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I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

16.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 June 2021 18:09

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

17.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 June 2021 17:48

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

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I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,
[redacted]

18.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 June 2021 20:03

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

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Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

19.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 June 2021 21:04

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,
[redacted]

20.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 June 2021 08:18

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]



7/11/21

John Swinney
The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Swinney,

Impending closure of public libraries in Glasgow – serious consequences for closing the attainment gap

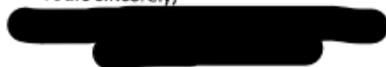
I have been very disturbed by Glasgow Life’s proposal to close Maryhill and Whiteinch libraries in Glasgow. Glasgow Life is a charity and an arm’s length offshoot of Glasgow City Council. Both these libraries serve deprived areas and for some schoolchildren they are the only places they can gain access to a computer to prepare and print out assignments for National 4 and 5, Highers and homework. They also provide a quiet space for children in these areas to work – something they do not have at home.

For the last 8 or so years I have worked for Glasgow City Council’s Interrupted Learners’ Service, and up until the first lockdown I worked with children either at their homes or in public libraries like Maryhill and Whiteinch. These children are some of the most vulnerable in the education system as many have been in care, are on the autistic spectrum or have mental health issues, while others have been bullied at school.

The aim, of course is always to try and get these children back to school. At present it is not possible to work with pupils in public libraries, but once the pandemic eases, interrupted learners and other school pupils will need access to public libraries, and so will teachers like myself. However for children living in Maryhill, Whiteinch and Yoker – all deprived areas – this option will not be open if the closures go ahead. As Glasgow Life is a charity, could the Scottish Government not directly fund these libraries or make a payment to Glasgow Life – which lost most of its revenue stream during the various lockdowns – in order to keep them open?

Glasgow City Council is not in a position to do so because it has £500 million to pay out to settle equal pay claims, plus is in a very difficult situation financially. I would urge you to take action to halt the closure of these public libraries so that vulnerable pupils in these areas do not end up falling even further behind in attainment than they already are.

Yours sincerely,



PS Congratulations on being re-elected as an MSP!



14th July 2021



Robertson House, 152 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4TB



Dear Glasgow City Councillors,

I am writing to you from the professional body for library workers in Scotland (www.cilips.org.uk) in relation to the recent press reports on workforce reduction in addition to the continual lack of clear plans to reopen key libraries. The confirmation that Glasgow Life is intending to reduce its workforce by 500 (around 20%) further highlights the urgent need for action to remedy this dire situation affecting Scotland's largest library service.

Over a decade of cuts to services have already left Glasgow Life with regular deficits, reduced budgets and a workforce supported by many short-term and insecure contracts and this latest announcement provides additional stress for an already under pressure workforce, even if the reductions will be found through non-compulsory means.

It also throws into further doubt the ability for library services, which remain closed in key areas including the city centre and large parts of both the south and west of the city, to reopen and serve the communities who desperately need them. Communities need access to books, resources, and computers as well as the cost-free social connection libraries provide to users, reducing social isolation and improving health and wellbeing. Libraries also need skilled, appropriately paid staff that have built relationships with users over years - based on trust, listening and mutual respect as this is what makes libraries a vital and safe space for communities. Many of these libraries have proven to be safe to open and this needs to happen sooner rather than later.

Whilst we accept that the pandemic has caused huge damage to income generation within Glasgow Life, we would strongly challenge the fact that libraries were ever put in a position to rely on the generation of income from other sources such as leisure. Libraries are a statutory service, and it is the Council's legal responsibility to provide library services that meet the needs of their communities, something that is clearly not happening based on the recent protests.

This situation needs to be remedied as soon as possible. If Glasgow Life cannot open all its libraries and protect its skilled and dedicated workforce, then the Council must find a way to ensure they meet their responsibilities as a Council. Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life and the Scottish Government must find a financial solution that ensures protection for jobs and that the services in Glasgow can continue to play the role of national significance that they do.

In many comparable cities across the UK, library services are recognised as being central to the cultural offer and are funded and prioritised accordingly. For Glasgow Libraries not to be treated the same way is hugely disappointing and will have a long-lasting impact on the city. Library workers and users are in desperate need of reassurance and support and should not be the subject of continued political stand offs.

Yours Faithfully,



CC: Glasgow Life CEO, Scot Gov Minister for Culture

CILIP in Scotland: A charity Registered in Scotland SC038532



Accredited
Until 2020



23.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 19 August 2021 16:08

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Fire Alarms

Hi,

I recently heard an ad on local radio saying leaflets were available from all local libraries detailing the new laws on smoke/fire alarms

However, my local library has informed me that they don't have any and have no knowledge of any soon to arrive

I would like to obtain a few to pass around family and friends

Can you help

[redacted]