

**FM Meeting with US Consul General
18 October 2021**

The First Minister held an introductory meeting to welcome US Consul General (CG) Jack Hillmeyer to Edinburgh. The meeting was positive and focused on the Consul General's impressions of Scotland, areas of interest and the importance of COP26.

COP26

FM reaffirmed our offer to support the US Delegation and programmes at COP. The CG welcomed the support received so far and confirmed they will continue to engage the US Embassy to share information on travelling delegations. The CG referenced there will be a US presence throughout COP and State delegations will mostly attend during the second week. The FM raised the Scottish Government's focus on calling subnational governments to action as co-chair of the Under 2 Coalition. Both agreed that non-state actors can carry influence and often set policies into action at regional levels that are later adopted by national governments.

CG's areas of interest

The Consul General [Redacted under free/frank exchange of views.] He expressed interest in the great work that Scotland is doing in the space sector and satellite links, alongside life sciences. FM welcomed this and encouraged him to visit these relevant sites in Scotland. The CG also outlined his first months in Scotland and his anticipation of seeing the Edinburgh Festivals expanded again in 2022, under a hopefully safer context.

Post-COP Priorities

The CG and FM discussed monitoring coronavirus through the upcoming winter period and the importance of learning lessons from the pandemic. Post-Covid, the Scottish Government will be taking forward our priorities as outlined in the Programme for Government, including the independence referendum, the timing of which, FM noted, will depend on the path Covid takes. The CG and FM also [Redacted under free/frank exchange of views.]

The meeting ended with the Consul General thanking the First Minister and her team for his warm welcome to Scotland and with both looking forward to a safe and successful COP26.

Comment: [Redacted under free/frank exchange of views.]

[Redacted: Name of Official below DD Level]

International Division