

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Sent:** 01 October 2021 13:08  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot  
**Cc:** Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline); First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: LINE TO CLEAR PLS: VACCINE CERTIFICATION APP

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)] .

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – Mr Yousaf is content.

Kind regards

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**  
**Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Humza Yousaf**  
**The Scottish Government**

1st Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 01 October 2021 13:08  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) ; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] gov.scot>; [redacted

38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; D[redacted 38(1)(b)] Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs [redacted 38(1)(b)] FMQs@gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: LINE TO CLEAR PLS: VACCINE CERTIFICATION APP

[redacted 38(1)(b)] and PO colleagues,

Apologies, but we're very keen to get these lines out ASAP

Would CabSec be able to clear please?

Best wishes,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 12:37

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) ; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackie C (Christopher) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>;

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: LINE TO CLEAR PLS: VACCINE CERTIFICATION APP

[redacted 38(1)(b)] and [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Given the DFM limited availability today would Mr Yousaf be able to clear this line./

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 12:30

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs [redacted 38(1)(b)] FMQs@gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackie C (Christopher) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** LINE TO CLEAR PLS: VACCINE CERTIFICATION APP

PO DFM,

*Cc-ing Mr Yousaf for awareness*

Various outlets are asking for an update on how many people have downloaded the certification app and on the issues which some people have been encountering in downloading it.

We're also being asked for comment on the Conservative news release below.

If DFM is content, we will issue these lines in response to both the requests for an update and to the Conservative release.

*SG spokesperson: "More than 70,000 downloaded the App yesterday. This huge demand did mean that some people experienced delays and we are sorry that happened.*

*"We have now increased the capacity of the NHS systems that sit behind the app – where most of the issues causing delays have occurred – in order to deal with demand and, as a result, we are seeing increasing numbers of people now able to access their records."*

#### *Background*

*Where delays are occurring these are generally not an issue with the app itself but due to unprecedented demand on the NHS system that the app links to for secure access to people's personal health information.*

*For people who continue to experience delays who need a vaccine certificate urgently, the online portal which provides an individual with a PDF version of their certificate is still accessible via NHS Inform.*

*In many cases, those who have previously requested a match to their health information will find that the app has updated itself after several hours with their information.*

Best wishes,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [redacted 38(1)(b)] 1 Newsdesk | Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](http://news.gov.scot) |  
Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mobile: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

## Vaccine passport delay must be ordered before weekend of chaos

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Friday, 1 October, 2021

FAO: all [redacted 38(1)(b)] s

Embargo: for immediate release

The SNP Government has just a few hours to delay the introduction of their vaccine passport scheme and prevent a weekend of chaos, the Scottish Conservatives have said.

Scottish Conservative Leader Douglas Ross said the SNP must immediately order an “indefinite delay” to their plan today after hundreds of people – at least - were unable to use the SNP vaccine passport app, which only launched 12 hours before the scheme began.

The Scottish Conservatives also called for Nicola Sturgeon to guarantee compensation to anyone who misses an event or any business who loses income solely because the SNP’s app does not work.

At First Minister’s Questions on Thursday, Douglas Ross said the scheme should be scrapped but if the SNP insisted on introducing it, a delay was essential. Nicola Sturgeon refused to back down.

On Wednesday, the Scottish Conservatives tried a last-ditch move to halt the scheme with a debate and vote in the Scottish Parliament. The SNP refused to accept any of the concerns of businesses or the opposition.

**Scottish Conservative Leader Douglas Ross said:** “The SNP Government has just a few hours to act quickly and prevent a weekend of chaos at venues across Scotland.

“Thousands of people will be at the football and going out to hospitality premises this weekend. At an incredibly challenging time, businesses will lose out if this app is still not working.

“This plan should really be scrapped altogether but, if the SNP insist on charging ahead, they must indefinitely delay the vaccine passport scheme until the most basic issues are ironed out.

“Nicola Sturgeon must go back to the drawing board. This is becoming an omnishambles – the SNP’s scheme is lurching from one issue to the next, all at the very last minute.

“Nobody should miss out because of SNP incompetence. The government must guarantee compensation to any person or business who loses out solely because the SNP can’t deliver a working app that’s been in development for months.

“The SNP must order an emergency stop to this policy now, before it hurts businesses and jobs. So far, they have arrogantly ploughed on regardless, against warning after warning from the opposition and business.

“Why won’t Nicola Sturgeon just accept she’s got this wrong?”

ENDS

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 11:52

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister [redacted]

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

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SG LD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] Rocks@gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; D[redacted 38(1)(b)] Health COVID19 < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMs [redacted 38(1)(b)] FMs@gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackie C (Christopher) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

On reflection, let's make the line as follows:

“More than 70,000 downloaded the App yesterday. This huge demand did mean that some people experienced delays and we are sorry that happened.

“We have now increased the capacity of the NHS systems that sit behind the app – where most of the issues causing delays have occurred – in order to deal with demand and, as a result, we are seeing increasing numbers of people now able to access their records.”

### Background

Where delays are occurring these are generally not an issue with the app itself but due to unprecedeted demand on the NHS system that the app links to for secure access to people's personal health information.

For people who continue to experience delays who need a vaccine certificate urgently, the online portal which provides an individual with a PDF version of their certificate is still accessible via NHS Inform.

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot).

**From:** McAllister C (Colin)

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 11:46

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; D[redacted 38(1)(b)] Health COVID19 < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) < [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs [redacted 38(1)(b)]>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackie C (Christopher) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Stuart Nicolson ([redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen - Scottish Government ([redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Adding colleagues

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 11:41

**To:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for

Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Thank you Colin.

That's very helpful.

We'll send this to DFM to clear.

But can I just get quick views please on a possible addition?

From our reading of the stats, the number of downloads represents something like an 88.4% success rate.

If that's the case, do we want to say that? Or would it be better not to?

Best wishes,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 11:34

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for

Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (DEAS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Changes to read:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 10:51

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

@gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; (DEAS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

I think we need to say what people who are experiencing difficulties with the app should do.

**Callum McCaig**

Special Adviser to the First Minister  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

*Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot) for information*

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 01 October 2021 10:43  
**To:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO

Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (DEAS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Apologies all for not including this.

Here is the Conservative news release.

## Vaccine passport delay must be ordered before weekend of chaos

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Friday, 1 October, 2021

FAO: all newsdesks

Embargo: for immediate release

The SNP Government has just a few hours to delay the introduction of their vaccine passport scheme and prevent a weekend of chaos, the Scottish Conservatives have said.

Scottish Conservative Leader Douglas Ross said the SNP must immediately order an “indefinite delay” to their plan today after hundreds of people – at least - were unable to use the SNP vaccine passport app, which only launched 12 hours before the scheme began.

The Scottish Conservatives also called for Nicola Sturgeon to guarantee compensation to anyone who misses an event or any business who loses income solely because the SNP’s app does not work.

At First Minister’s Questions on Thursday, Douglas Ross said the scheme should be scrapped but if the SNP insisted on introducing it, a delay was essential. Nicola Sturgeon refused to back down.

On Wednesday, the Scottish Conservatives tried a last-ditch move to halt the scheme with a debate and vote in the Scottish Parliament. The SNP refused to accept any of the concerns of businesses or the opposition.

**Scottish Conservative Leader Douglas Ross said:** “The SNP Government has just a few hours to act quickly and prevent a weekend of chaos at venues across Scotland.

“Thousands of people will be at the football and going out to hospitality premises this weekend. At an incredibly challenging time, businesses will lose out if this app is still not working.

“This plan should really be scrapped altogether but, if the SNP insist on charging ahead, they must indefinitely delay the vaccine passport scheme until the most basic issues are ironed out.

“Nicola Sturgeon must go back to the drawing board. This is becoming an omnishambles – the SNP’s scheme is lurching from one issue to the next, all at the very last minute.

“Nobody should miss out because of SNP incompetence. The government must guarantee compensation to any person or business who loses out solely because the SNP can’t deliver a working app that’s been in development for months.

“The SNP must order an emergency stop to this policy now, before it hurts businesses and jobs. So far, they have arrogantly ploughed on regardless, against warning after warning from the opposition and business.

“Why won’t Nicola Sturgeon just accept she’s got this wrong?”

ENDS

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 01 October 2021 10:40  
**To:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>;  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

## Colleagues,

Just to add.

There's a Conservative news release on this which media are asking us to comment on.

## SPADs: Grateful for views on handling?

Would you want to do a political line?

I think the SG line here would be words to the effect of:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Grateful for views please.

Best wishes

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 01 October 2021 10:03

**To:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (DEAS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Thanks Colin – it would be much better if we could say something positive on stats today

Colleagues: Meanwhile, we are now being asked by media for an update on the technical issues.

Grateful for an update on what we can say.on that please.

Best wishes

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Actually, no. DFM is keen that we look at stats we can issue today. There will need to be further discussion, so do not issue that line for now

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 09:21

**To:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (DEAS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Morning all,

Media will be ringing to ask us about stats.

Are we content with a holding line that says something like: "We'll announce initial download statistics early next week."

Best wishes,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [redacted 38(1)(b)] 1 Newsdesk | Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](http://news.gov.scot)  
I Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mobile: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Communications Health & Social Care  
**Sent:** 30 September 2021 09:47  
**To:** McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Lamb C (Caroline) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (DEAS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] (SOLS) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: IMMEDIATE: ICO & NHS Scotland Status App

Adding comms colleagues to the copylist.

Grateful if everyone could come back on this thread.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**COVID-19 Communications – Health and Social Care**

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Working from home - M:  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 06 October 2021 17:48

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** Livey D (David); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ;  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Pentland MK (Malcolm); [redacted  
38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Lines to clear: Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA - The Holyrood Mag

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)] , Cab Sec has cleared.

[redacted 38(1)(b)] (*he/him*)

**Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills**

T: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | M: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | E: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 06 October 2021 17:41

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** Livey D (David); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily);  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Pentland MK (Malcolm); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** Lines to clear: Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA - The Holyrood Mag

[redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Holyrood magazine have asked for a response to the below news release from the Scottish Conservatives who have called for Ministers to take control of the SQA.

Comms, Spads and officials have agreed the response below.

Is the Cab Sec content?

SG Spokesperson said:

"As stated by the Cabinet Secretary at Committee, it would be entirely inappropriate for a Minister to have direct control over the accreditation of qualifications.

"While in this period of change in our education system, the SQA retains our confidence and remains the qualifications and awarding body in 2022, and learners will not be impacted by plans for reform.

"The SQA will be replaced and a single specialist agency for curriculum and assessment will be considered. Professor Ken Muir has been appointed as an independent adviser to consider next steps and will report in early 2022.

"We expect all public bodies to comply with the requirements of the public sector equality duty and for SQA to fully address the EHRC's findings."

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

## Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA

**Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office**

**Wednesday, 6 October, 2021**

**FAO: all newsdesks**

**Embargo: for immediate release**

The Scottish Conservatives are demanding that the SNP take ministerial control of the beleaguered SQA.

Appearing at today's Education Committee, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Shirley-Anne Somerville admitted that there had been 'substandard practice' in the SQA.

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) reported that the SQA has failed to give due regard to reduce discrimination and promote equality in their policies.

The SQA has been dogged with a controversy of failures over the last two years, presiding over botched exam results, issues with algorithms and being declared not fit for purpose by the OECD report.

When challenged by Scottish Conservative Shadow Education Secretary Oliver Mundell, the cabinet secretary adamantly refused to step in and take control of the situation, claiming she had ‘full confidence in the SQA.’

**Scottish Conservative Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education Oliver Mundell MSP said:** “The SNP are trying to down-play that the SQA is not fit for purpose and a liability to Scotland’s education system.

“Shirley-Anne Somerville is in denial by refusing to step in and take direct ministerial control of a public body that is spiralling out of control.

“Instead the cabinet minister gives her full confidence to the SQA. Teaching staff and pupils who have been let down will not share that confidence.

“Equality implications are not an added extra. They are a legal requirement and describing this breach as ‘substandard practice’ is a massive understatement.

“This situation is untenable and urgent action needs to be taken to prevent more students and pupils feeling the rough edge of an inadequate SQA.

“The Scottish Conservatives demand the SNP take responsibility for this catalogue of catastrophes by assuming ministerial control of the SQA.”

## Notes

Please see below partial transcripts of Shirley-Anne Somerville at the from Education Committee 06/10/21

Ross Greer: What conversations have you had with the SQA since you became aware of the EHRC enforcement actions and what action are you taking to ensure that the public sector of quality duty is being met by the agencies that are accountable to you?

Shirley-Anne Somerville: Clearly, there has been a sub-standard practise in years gone by. That has been recognised and those historic policies are now being looked at and actioned.

Oliver Mundell: Over the past two years there has been chaos, the OECD has identified that the organisation is not fit for purpose. We now know that there have been discriminatory policies. You and the First Minister have given Parliament your reassurance that the SQA had your full backing – do you regret that?

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The OECD has not said that the SQA is not fit for purpose. I think we need to be very, very careful about putting words into the mouths of the OECD. I don’t think that is a position that is comfortable for anyone within parliament. What the OECD have pointed to is that we have to look at a different type of organisation in place through curriculum and assessment that is exactly the recommendation I have looked at and that I have acted on. In the meantime while the work carries on through the Ken Muir Report into what will replace the SQA and any reform for Education Scotland, both Education Scotland and the SQA have a very important role to do, I think it

is exceptionally important that the SQA carries on that work to ensure we have credible and fair exams and assessments system next year. I have full confidence that they will continue to do that, and I have full confidence in the SQA.

ENDS

**From:** Livey D (David)

**Sent:** 06 October 2021 17:33

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Pentland MK (Malcolm); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media Query -Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA - The Holyrood Mag

Thanks.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 06 October 2021 17:20

**To:** Livey D (David); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily)  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Pentland MK (Malcolm); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media Query -Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA - The Holyrood Mag

Thanks David,

Slight tweak to your line – are you happy?

SG Spokesperson said:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Livey D (David)

**Sent:** 06 October 2021 17:10

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Pentland MK (Malcolm); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media Query -Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA - The Holyrood Mag

A suggested addition.

SG Spokesperson said:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 06 October 2021 16:49

**To:** Livey D (David); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Pentland MK (Malcolm); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media Query -Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA - The Holyrood Mag

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

**Spads** – Holyrood magazine have asked for a response to the below news release from the Scottish Conservatives who have called for Ministers to take control of the SQA.

Are you happy with the response below?

SG Spokesperson said:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

## Scottish Conservatives demands ministerial control of SQA

**Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office**

**Wednesday, 6 October, 2021**

**FAO: all newsdesks**

**Embargo: for immediate release**

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**Scottish Conservative Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education Oliver Mundell MSP said:** “The SNP are trying to down-play that the SQA is not fit for purpose and a liability to Scotland’s education system.

“Shirley-Anne Sommerville is in denial by refusing to step in and take direct ministerial control of a public body that is spiralling out of control.

“Instead the cabinet minister gives her full confidence to the SQA. Teaching staff and pupils who have been let down will not share that confidence.

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“This situation is untenable and urgent action needs to be taken to prevent more students and pupils feeling the rough edge of an inadequate SQA.

“The Scottish Conservatives demand the SNP take responsibility for this catalogue of catastrophes by assuming ministerial control of the SQA.”

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Ross Greer: What conversations have you had with the SQA since you became aware of the EHRC enforcement actions and what action are you taking to ensure that the public sector of quality duty is being met by the agencies that are accountable to you?

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ENDS

**From:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 10 October 2021 15:51  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid 19 - Certification Hub <covid19-certificationhub@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McPhee D (David) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - LINE FOR DFM CLEARANCE // Media query - multiple outlets - claims of "Vaccine certif queues" @ SCovISR game

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)],

The DFM is content to clear the line.

Thanks  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Date:** Sunday, 10 Oct 2021, 3:24 pm  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Covid 19 - Certification Hub <covid19-certificationhub@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

@gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Digital Health Covid Hub <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McPhee D (David) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>;

**Subject:** URGENT - LINE FOR DFM CLEARANCE // Media query - multiple outlets - claims of "Vaccine certif queues" @ SCovISR game

**PO / DFM,**

CC: POs for Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport for awareness...

Good afternoon,

Multiple outlets have asked us about queueing at the Scotland Israel game last night, and claims that people missed the start of the match due to delays caused by the vaccine certification scheme. Most are papers and so need our line over the course of the afternoon, however GB News is planning on running the story from 1600 so rapid clearance would be most helpful in getting the line to them.

The Conservatives have also put out a news release on the scheme which is included below the line agreed with policy colleagues.

We have since confirmed with the SFA that the queues and delays were not at all caused by the certification scheme and were in fact due to crowds of hundreds of fans arriving only 15 minutes before kick-off despite being advised in advance to arrive early. SFA has a statement and background info that confirms this (attached).

Comms, officials and SpAds have discussed and propose the below SG line issues – grateful for DFM's clearance to issue the line?

**A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

"COVID certification is a proportionate way of encouraging people to get vaccinated, and also of helping large events and night-time hospitality to keep operating during what will potentially be a very difficult winter.

"We have allowed a grace period for the first two weeks of the scheme in relation to enforcement, while businesses and users become accustomed to

the new rules. During this period we expect businesses to implement and test their approach to certification - and to prepare their compliance plans - so that they are fully prepared by 18 October, and so we welcome the SFA spot checking vaccine certificates as part of testing the scheme.

“It is important to remember the app isn’t the only means of providing proof. People can also present evidence of their vaccine status via the downloadable PDF or a paper copy accessible from NHS Inform – well over three quarters of a million of these have already been issued.

“Thousands of people have been able to set up their App successfully, however no-one should be turned away from a late night venue, or large scale event if they don’t have their proof of vaccination, given enforcement doesn’t begin until 18 October.”

### **Background**

Advice for businesses on using certification can be found on the Covid Check website NHS Scotland Covid Check

Certification advice for the public is on NHS Inform

### **CONSERVATIVE RELEASE**

Please find a comment from us following many Scotland fans being unable to get into Hampden last night, until well after kick-off. Vaccine passport spot checks were in operation, ahead of enforcement of the scheme on October 18.

**Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said:** “This dry-run shows how shambolic the SNP’s vaccine passport scheme is going to be when it fully comes into force.

“Thousands of Scotland fans were locked out of Hampden despite only spot checks being in place.

“That is going to lead to chaotic scenes next week at large events if this botched scheme isn’t scrapped.

“The SNP have left venues and businesses to fend for themselves. There has been no public information campaign. Scotland has been saddled with the most anti-business vaccine passport scheme in Europe, yet Nicola Sturgeon still can’t accept she’s got this wrong.

“It is typical of the SNP’s arrogance to plough on regardless. The scenes involving the Tartan Army should surely show the SNP Government that the vaccine passport scheme is going to be bad for jobs and bad for businesses.

“At the very least the SNP must delay this scheme being enforced as of next week.”

**Notes:** Footage is here:

<https://twitter.com/RadioClydeNews/status/1446873923191246848?s=20>

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[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
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**Senior Media Manager: FM, DFM & COVID Recovery**  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
| m: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | e: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Follow [@ScotGov](#) on twitter

\*

This inbox is not always monitored during the evening, over weekends or on public holidays  
Out of hours press queries: 0300 244 4000 |

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 12 October 2021 08:37  
**To:** First Minister  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Subject:** RE: FINAL Ops Note - Launch of Barclays Glasgow Campus - 12 October 2021

FMPO – please see SG lines below on issues running which FM may wish to see ahead of media interviews today.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **Commons committees' report on pandemic lessons learned to date**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We will consider the findings of this report carefully as we continue to respond to the impact of the pandemic in Scotland.”

### **Nurses to vote on action in pay dispute with Scottish government**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“NHS Scotland nurses are the best paid in the UK, and the pay deal, which has been agreed by the majority of unions and NHS staff, is the biggest pay rise in 20 years and the best in the entire UK. WE recognise the tremendous service our nurses have given during the pandemic, which is one of the reasons we provided a £500 bonus to them at the turn of the year that was in addition to their increased pay.

“The pay increase in Scotland was 4% backdated to December 2020, while in England and Wales the increase was 3% and was not backdated to December

“The Health Secretary Humza Yousaf met with representatives from the RCN earlier this month and we continue to engage in constructive discussions.”

### **Masks in schools**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The government’s decision to ease school mitigations is informed by the views of a number of stakeholders. This includes the expert advice and agreement of the Covid Education Recovery Group, which is made up of representatives drawn from across the education sector. In reaching a decision, it is vital that their views are considered.

“The Cabinet Secretary will consider this advice and intends to make an announcement with further updates on school safety mitigations, as soon as possible – as already set out by the First Minister.”

### **Minimum Unit Pricing has limited effect on crime**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“All potential aspects of the impact of minimum unit pricing are being kept under regular review by Public Health Scotland. We’ve already seen that it has led to a reduction in the volume of alcohol sales. This latest report gives new insights and will be followed by further studies, including on the impact on the usage of health services.

“We continue to keep the level of the MUP under review, and will consider all relevant emerging evidence, including the impact of the pandemic on the economy, people’s incomes and alcohol affordability.

“We are committed to ensuring we have an effective level of minimum unit price in place so we can reduce alcohol-related harms.”

### **Winter pressures on healthcare staff and patient safety concerns from Unison**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The pandemic has been the most significant challenge the NHS has ever faced in its 73-year history. We know that the pandemic is not over, and that COVID-19 and other pressures will continue to impact the NHS for some time.

“NHS staffing has increased under this government to record high levels. We are committed to going further. We recognise the additional pressure NHS staff are facing as they work tirelessly to respond to the pandemic while continuing to provide vital treatment and safe patient care and we are working proactively with boards to manage pressures and take rapid action to support increased capacity, including expedited recruitment, flexible deployment of existing staffing and supporting mutual aid across the system.

“Our record winter funding package of more than £300 million in hospital and community care will help support all our NHS staff to deliver care to people across Scotland this winter. This includes an additional package of support of £4 million for staff wellbeing focusing on people’s physical and emotional needs.”

## **COP26 Police pressures**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“In order to deliver a safe, successful COP26 in Glasgow this November we are working closely with the UK Government and a range of partners including Police Scotland.

“Planning for COP26 is an operational matter for the Chief Constable and the recent HMICS report offered a high degree of assurance around Police Scotland’s ability to balance business as usual policing with delivering a safe and secure COP26.

“Around 10,000 officers will be deployed each day during the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, one of the largest policing operations undertaken in Britain. Officers will be drafted from all divisions across Scotland, supported by a substantial number of colleagues from other UK police services.”

## **Ambulance waiting times**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Covid-19 pandemic has been the biggest shock the NHS has suffered in its 73-year existence and has heaped pressure on our ambulance service and wider NHS.

“The Health Secretary recently set out £20 million of additional funding to help increase ambulance service capacity and improve response times and staff wellbeing.

“The ambulance service is also carrying out a national review of demand and capacity which will help to ensure they are working as efficiently as possible and have resources in place to meet both current and projected future demand.

“We are committed to supporting this work and recently announced a further £20 million in funding for the review. As part of this review, the service will see new ambulances introduced and almost 300 additional staff in place throughout the country. This will reduce the requirement for on-call working in some of our more rural communities.”

## **Wind farm rulings ignore local feelings**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Representations submitted to Scottish Ministers are taken very seriously and we have measures in place throughout the planning and consenting process to ensure that local communities and their views are taken into account when decisions are

made. We also encourage early and meaningful engagement by developers with any communities who would be affected by wind farm development proposals.

“With public backing for wind energy at a record high across Scotland, and amid a global climate emergency that requires decarbonisation of our economy, we strongly support the development of renewables while providing appropriate protections for our local communities, landscapes and natural heritage.

“We need bold action to tackle the climate emergency. Onshore wind is one of the most cost-effective forms of large-scale electricity generation and met the equivalent of nearly 60% Scotland’s gross electricity consumption in 2020.”

### **Conservatives’ call for whole life sentences**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“For those that commit the most heinous crimes, it is already the case that Scots law allows the criminal courts to keep offenders in custody for the rest of their life. These exceptional powers have been in place for use by Scotland’s most senior judges in the High Court since the early 2000’s and the Scottish Government fully supports courts having these powers. The use of such powers is appropriately for the independent court to determine on a case by case basis.

“Within the context of these extensive powers being available to the court, the Scottish Government is willing to consider further any specific proposals in this area.”

### **Background**

Scots law provides that a punishment part of a life sentence ‘can extend beyond the rest of a person’s life’. This allows for a punishment part to be set that means a person spends the whole of the rest of their life in custody. Scottish courts have used such powers – for example, Angus Sinclair, the ‘World’s End’ murderer, received a punishment part that meant he could not be considered for release until he was 106 years old.

### **'Women' term omitted from Scots' smear test call**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We are confident that the variety of work taking place as part of this campaign to encourage women to attend for screening will reach those eligible and ultimately save more lives.

“This campaign has been developed to help all those eligible for a smear test to feel less anxious, and provide information and advice to reassure them and help make their appointment easier.”

## **Private landlords leaving sector**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Ensuring everyone can have a warm, safe, affordable home that meets their needs is a Scottish Government priority and we will invest £3.5 billion in housing in this Parliamentary term.

“We recognise the important role of private landlords in Scotland’s housing mix and we regularly engage with their representatives. We will continue to do so as we progress work to deliver a new deal for tenants.

“Our aim is to ensure quality, affordability and fairness for everyone who rents a home, and we will continue to carefully examine any potential consequences of our proposals. Our commitments to introduce new rights for tenants and action on high rents represent significant change and we will ensure full consultation is undertaken to enable the right solutions to be developed.”

### **Background**

While the recently agreed co-operation agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party sets out a commitment to introducing nationwide rent control and restrictions on winter evictions, no decisions have been taken on any one particular model.

The Scottish Government has delivered more than 103,000 affordable homes since 2007, increasing housing supply in communities across the country, with a target to deliver a further 110,000 affordable homes by 2032.

## **Labour market statistics: June to August 2021**

Commenting on the latest publication of ONS labour market statistics, Employment Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“For June-August 2021, Scotland’s employment rate estimate increased over the quarter to 74.3% and the unemployment rate estimate remained the same over the quarter at 4.4%.

“Separate HMRC early estimates, also published this morning, show 15,000 more payrolled employees in September than August 2021, however this is 12,000 fewer payrolled employees compared with February 2020, which reflects our gradual ongoing economic recovery from the pandemic.

"The Scottish Government will continue to do all we can to support employees and employers and we are carefully monitoring any impact on employment resulting from the withdrawal of the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme.

"In 2021/22 we will invest more than £1 billion to create jobs and ensure people have the skills needed to meet the economic opportunities of the future.

The current shortages and challenges we are seeing in some sectors cannot be resolved through the Scottish Government's budget alone and the UK Government needs to take action on immigration policy, over which we have no control.

"Where we can intervene we will, for example by funding a marketing campaign to boost recruitment in the hospitality industry and investing up to £836,000 to create up to 1,800 additional college training places in adult social care through the National Transition Training Fund.

"Our 10 year National Strategy for Economic Transformation will set out our green economic recovery and how we will support good, green jobs, businesses and industries for the future. By working together we will seize Scotland's potential and deliver a greater, greener, fairer and sustainable economy."

## **Background**

Labour market trends: October 2021 - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))

An extra £70 million for the Young Person's Guarantee is supporting local partnership activity, continuing the roll-out of Developing the Young Workforce school coordinators, delivering 5,000 more college courses, providing third sector and volunteering opportunities and establishing a graduate internship scheme.

This is part of an additional £125 million included in the Scottish Budget, also covering the National Transition Training Fund and wider skills and employability all-age support. It complements more than £27 million this financial year for Fair Start Scotland, providing employability support to those in greatest need.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

**Sent:** 20 October 2021 22:31

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery  
**Cc:** First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Minister for Children & Young People; Minister for Social Security and Local Government; Lord Advocate; Solicitor General; Minister for Parliamentary Business; Macniven R (Ruaraidh); McKay D (Denise); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Director for Children and Families; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director); Hynd JS (James); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Campbell E (Elisabeth); Director for Equality, Inclusion and

Human Rights; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McGill M (Max); DG Education & Justice; DG Communities; DG Strategy and External Affairs; Permanent Secretary; Communications Education & Skills; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Higgins K (Kate); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Sheppard L (Lesley); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; SGLD UNCRC Implementation; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; SGLD Head of Local Government & Economy Division; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McGill M (Max); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McCaig C (Callum); Livey D (David); Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Leaver E (Ellen); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - UNCRC Bill - PA

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

DFM has approved the lines.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery, John Swinney MSP

Tel: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 20 October 2021 18:16

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

**Cc:** First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Minister for Children & Young People; Minister for Social Security and Local Government; Lord Advocate; Solicitor General; Minister for Parliamentary Business; Macniven R (Ruaraidh); McKay D (Denise); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Director for Children and Families; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director); Hynd JS (James); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Campbell E (Elisabeth); Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McGill M (Max); DG Education & Justice; DG Communities; DG Strategy and External Affairs; Permanent Secretary; Communications Education & Skills; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Higgins K (Kate); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Sheppard L (Lesley); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; SGLD UNCRC Implementation; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; SGLD Head of Local Government & Economy Division; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McGill M

(Max); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McCaig C (Callum); Livey D (David); Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Leaver E (Ellen); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - UNCRC Bill - PA

**PO/Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery**

The Scottish Conservatives and the Lib Dems are calling for SG to urgently pass amended UNCRC legislation following the Supreme Court judgment. It follows Alister Jack's statement today saying the UKG 'stands ready to engage constructively with the Scottish Government to ensure relevant issues that may arise are addressed at the earliest possible stage'. PA has asked for an SG response. Grateful for clearance on the following lines.

Many thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We remain committed to the incorporation into law of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to the maximum extent possible as soon as practicable. Whilst the judgment means that the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill cannot receive Royal Assent in its current form, the majority of work in relation to implementation of the UNCRC can and is continuing.

"The Supreme Court judgment means that we are constitutionally prohibited from enacting legislation that the Scottish Parliament unanimously decided was necessary to enshrine and fully protect the rights of our children. We are urgently and carefully considering the implications of the judgment and the Deputy First Minister will update Parliament in due course."

**QUERY – PA**

**Scottish Conservative Shadow Constitution Secretary Donald Cameron MSP, said:** "This legislation now needs to be passed as quickly as possible. The onus is on the SNP to lay out a firm timescale to bring this bill back to the Scottish Parliament urgently.

"The SNP shamefully used children's rights to play political games and ramp up their grievance machine. That appalling approach has delayed a bill on children's rights being passed that every party in Holyrood supported.

"The SNP have still failed to apologise for their actions. They must do so immediately and guarantee they will engage fully with the UK Government to ensure the necessary changes will be made to pass this crucial bill."

**Scottish Liberal Democrats**  
**Contact: [redacted 38(1)(b)]**  
**Embargo: Immediate**

## **Children's rights bill must be fast tracked to Scottish Parliament**

Responding to the UK Government's statement on the children's rights bill, Scottish Liberal Democrat leader and ex-convenor of the Children's Services coalition Alex Cole-Hamilton said:

"Now that it is clear what changes must be made to this bill, I want to see it back in front of the Scottish Parliament at the next available opportunity.

"This bill is an opportunity to offer new hope to the young people of Scotland. It is utterly shameful that Nicola Sturgeon and co chose to hijack it as an opportunity to stir up grudge and grievance.

"Scotland would be a better place for young people if the nationalist government focused on improving education and tackling the climate emergency, not picking legal battles in order to stir up trouble."

The statement can be found here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-10-20/hcws336>

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Senior Media Manager  
Communications Education & Skills  
Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](http://news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 20 October 2021 17:48  
**To:** Higgins K (Kate); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Barekat A (Afson) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Sheppard L (Lesley); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; SGLD UNCRC Implementation; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] SGLD Head of Local Government & Economy Division; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] McGill M (Max); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McCaig C (Callum); Livey D (David); Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Leaver E (Ellen); McAllister C (Colin); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Desk; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR URGENT VIEWS: Media query - UNCRC Bill - PA

Thanks all.

Apologies, Colin, Emily, I missed you off the copylist. If no further comments, I'll get to DFM to clear.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We remain committed to the incorporation into law of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to the maximum extent possible as soon as practicable. Whilst the judgment means that the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill cannot receive Royal Assent in its current form, the majority of work in relation to implementation of the UNCRC can and is continuing.

"The Supreme Court judgment means that we are constitutionally prohibited from enacting legislation that the Scottish Parliament unanimously decided was necessary to enshrine and fully protect the rights of our children. We are urgently and carefully considering the implications of the judgment and the Deputy First Minister will update Parliament in due course."

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](http://news.gov.scot)

**From:** Higgins K (Kate)

**Sent:** 20 October 2021 17:29

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] Barekat A (Afson) ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Sheppard L (Lesley) ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; SGLD UNCRC Implementation; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] SGLD Head of Local Government & Economy Division; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] McGill M (Max); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; McCaig C (Callum); Livey D (David); Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Leaver E (Ellen); McAllister C (Colin);

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR URGENT VIEWS: Media query - UNCRC Bill - PA

I'd tweak this line a little:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Kate Higgins  
Special Advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Affairs, Islands and Transport  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Please continue to follow the public health guidance on coronavirus at  
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot).

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 12 October 2021 13:41  
**To:** Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** SPAD VIEW: Media query - P&J - Ambulance turnaround times FOI

Hi spads

We have been approached by the P&J to ask about the attached FOI on ambulance turnaround times.

We have lines from yesterday, which have been slightly updated by policy colleagues, grateful for views please.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Covid-19 pandemic has been the biggest shock the NHS has suffered in its 73-year existence and has heaped pressure on our ambulance service and wider NHS. **The Scottish Ambulance Service are working closely with Health Boards to reduce turnaround times at hospitals.**

“The Health Secretary recently set out £20 million of additional funding to help increase ambulance service capacity, improve response times and staff wellbeing.

“The ambulance service is also carrying out a national review of demand and capacity which will help to ensure they are working as efficiently as possible and have resources in place to meet both current and projected future demand.

“We are committed to supporting this work and recently announced a further £20 million in funding for the review. As part of this review, the service will see new ambulances introduced and almost 300 additional staff in place throughout the country. This will reduce the requirement for on-call working in some of our more rural communities.”

## Query

We are working on a piece about increasing turnaround times for ambulances at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin and the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

Attached is the data we got back from an FOI request, which dates back to 2014.

Some of the relevant points -

**In 2014, of 21,410 trips to ARI, the average turnaround time was 19 minutes and 40 seconds.**

**That has steadily increased every year since then, reaching 26:27 by 2018 and soaring to 34:38 for the 14,260 trips between this January and the end of July.**

**The number of times an ambulance was stuck outside ARI for more than an hour went from 136 in 2014 to 420 in 2019.**

**The pandemic made matters much worse, with it happening 1,686 times in 2020 and 2,828 times in the first seven months of this year.**

**The number of ambulances waiting more than two hours went from seven in 2014 to 637 in 2021 so far.**

**Meanwhile 104 have had to wait more than three hours this year and a dozen have had to idle for more than four hours.**

**Figures show that a number between zero and five had to wait more than five hours.**

**The longest turnaround time recorded in 2014 was four hours. In 2021, the longest wait was just over 23-and-a-half hours.**

**At Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, the average turnaround time went up from 15:40 in 2014 to 24:34 this year.**

**At the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, ambulance waiting times went up from an average of 14:41 in 2014 to 21:16 this year.**

**There were seven occasions when ambulances had to wait more than an hour before dropping off their young patients in 2021.**

We have had comment back from Deputy Leader of Scottish Labour, Jackie Baillie, and Scottish Conservatives leader Douglas Ross. Copied below.

Ross –

“Ambulance services across the north east have been underfunded for far too long by the SNP. Ministers cannot continue to hide behind Covid for their failure over a number of years to support overwhelmed ambulance staff.

“These figures lay bare how the pandemic has completely exacerbated this crisis in our ambulance service. Funding from Humza Yousaf is too little and has come too late and more and more patients are suffering as a result.

“Humza Yousaf and Nicola Sturgeon failed to accept this crisis as it unfolded in front of them. I would hope the situation will now be improving due to the support from our British Armed Forces, but the SNP Health Secretary must maximise their use.

“Every effort must be made to avoid these turnaround times completely spiralling out of control.”

Baillie –

“These appalling figures lay bare the chaos that has engulfed ambulance services in Aberdeen and across Scotland.

“Ambulance turnaround times are quite literally a matter of life and death for some people.

“The pandemic has pushed things to crisis point but these problems have been building for years.

“The SNP failed to get their house in order before the pandemic – and now we are paying the price.

“They must act now to save lives.”

Could we please have a response to the above by 5pm today from the Scottish Government’s perspective on the work ongoing to tackle the problem and explaining why more wasn’t done before things got so bad this summer?

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Media Manager | Scottish Government

M: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Please note: my non-work day is a Monday**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2021 17:35  
**To:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCallum R (Richard) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAd views - media query - Climate Plan for the NHS - The Herald

Thanks Ross. I'll reissue the lines now.

**From:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2021 17:31  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCallum R (Richard) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAd views - media query - Climate Plan for the NHS - The Herald

ok

Thanks

Ross

*Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot) for information.*

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2021 16:34  
**To:** Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Net

Zero & Rural Affairs <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCallum R (Richard) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** For SpAd views - media query - Climate Plan for the NHS - The Herald

Hi SpAds,

Grateful for your views on us reissuing these previously cleared lines in response to claims SG hasn't delivered a Climate Plan for the NHS, and that Scotland is lagging behind in its drive to net zero.

Policy are content.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We are working with NHS National Services Scotland on an NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy which will set out plans to accelerate the decarbonisation of the health service. It is intended to publish this in draft form for consultation this year.

"We are confident that NHS Scotland will meet its target of becoming a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions service by 2045 at the latest. Depending on wider progress with decarbonisation of electricity and gas networks, the target may be achieved earlier.

"The Scottish Government is committed to all public buildings using renewable heat by 2038, and we will invest at least £200 million between 2021-2026 in public sector energy efficiency and decarbonisation. Immediate priorities for the NHS include using this funding to cut its emissions from heat and electricity, removing petrol and diesel cars from its fleet by 2025 and cutting its emissions of medical gases which contribute to climate change and thinning the ozone layer."

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**COVID-19 Communications – Health and Social Care**

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Working from home - M:](#)  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2021 13:24  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>;  
**Subject:** RE: BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Please see A&E lines below and I have included A&E officials in case anything further is needed. Thanks

**The Scottish Government Spokesperson said:**

“The COVID pandemic has inevitably affected A&E attendance and the pressure is being felt across the UK. Scotland’s core A&E departments have continue to outperform those in the rest of the UK for more than six years.

“Our NHS staff have faced unprecedeted pressures over recent weeks as they work tirelessly and consistently to respond to the pandemic whilst continuing to provide vital treatment and optimal patient care. As part of the NHS Recovery Plan we have committed £27 million towards the Redesign of Urgent Care to ensure people receive the right care, at the right place.

“To minimise pressures as much as possible this winter, we’ve recently announced £300 million of measures to help increase NHS and social care capacity in our hospitals and reduce delayed discharges.

“In the meantime we will continue to work closely with those sites facing the greatest challenges to ensure rapid recovery plans are in place and are in contact daily.”

ENDS

**Also, below are the opposition lines regarding waiting times for reference.**

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **BAILLIE: HEALTH SECRETARY MUST ‘WAKE UP’ TO ONGOING A&E CATASTROPHE**

#### **IMMEDIATE**

The Health Secretary must ‘wake up’ to the A&E crisis unfolding on his watch, Scottish Labour has said today.

Statistics published today have shown that only 71.3% of people at A&E were seen within 4 hours in the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> October, the same record low percentage as the last week of September.

Of this percentage, some 1,871 spent more than 8 hours in A & E and 612 people waited longer than 12 hours.

Worryingly only 41% of patients were seen within 4 hours in NHS Forth Valley – the worst performance on record for any health board.

**Scottish Labour deputy leader and health spokesperson Jackie Baillie said:**

“Week after week we are presented with the cold, hard fact that A&E services are being overwhelmed.

“We have been calling on the government to act for months, but instead they have dragged their heels and failed to support staff.

“With the army being called in to support several health boards, the Health Secretary cannot continue to pretend everything is rosy.

“Thousands of Scots are waiting several hours in pain for treatment. And health boards, like Forth Valley, are recording the worst statistics on record.

“Things have to change now, or else we face a winter of chaos.”

**ENDS**

**Scottish Conservative Shadow Health Secretary Dr Sandesh Gulhane MSP, said:** “Our A&E departments are in complete crisis and have been for far too long on Humza Yousaf’s watch. More and more health boards are having to call on support from our UK Armed Forces due to his continued inaction.

“The support from the British Army is hugely welcome. However, Humza Yousaf seems more interested in getting photo ops rather than urgently outlining how he will maximise that support at every turn to support overwhelmed staff. His flimsy NHS Recovery pamphlet simply isn’t cutting it.

“Almost 50,000 patients have waited more than four hours in A&E since he published it. The number of patients waiting over half a day to be seen in A&E has hit an all-time high.

“Humza Yousaf’s lack of leadership is having a devastating impact on frontline staff and patients urgently seeking treatment. If he doesn’t get a grip now, he will potentially preside over the worst winter ever in our NHS.”

## **Health Secretary must make A&E crisis a personal priority**

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton has today called on the Health Secretary to make fixing the NHS workforce crisis a “personal priority”.

A&E waiting times remain at record breaking levels, with the number of people being seen within the four-hour target time remaining at 71.3%, the same as last week.

The number of people this represents increased slightly, with 7,264 people waiting more than four hours, 1,871 people waiting more than eight hours and 612 people waiting more than twelve.

Commenting, Alex Cole-Hamilton said:

“Patients are in pain and are waiting too long. Staff are overstretched and under resourced. Those facts are now hallmarks of life in Scotland’s 14 years with the SNP in government.

“This crisis has escalated to levels that would have been unimaginable just months ago. These waiting times are not sustainable, and staff cannot and should not be expected to work through another six months of this.

“The pressure, stress and anxiety are off the scale, because people are not receiving the timely treatment they should be able to expect. In the worst cases, the under resourcing may well lead to unnecessary deaths. That’s why we need to see an independent review.

“Fixing this workforce crisis should be a personal priority for the Health Secretary. NHS staff deserve nothing less.”

ENDS

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:05

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)],

Cab Sec is content but the only time he has free in the diary today is 3:10 – 3:30pm.

He is happy to carry out the interview over Zoom.

Please let me know if this is acceptable.

Kind regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] - Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Humza Yousaf | Scottish Government | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
Tel: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | Email : [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 11:49

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Cab Sec, PO

Good morning,

We've been approached by [redacted 38(1)(b)] to ask if Mr Yousaf would be available today for an interview. Comms and spads would recommend an accept if Cab Sec is available. [redacted 38(1)(b)] wishes to talk about vaccine certification and A&E waiting times please.

Grateful if you could let me know if Cab Sec is available and timings please.

### **Bid in full**

We are keen to speak with the Health Secretary about latest A & E waiting times and also about vaccine passports.

I can do this via Zoom or Skype – whatever works best for the Health Sec. And I was hoping to do this just as soon as possible.

Many thanks

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Media Manager | Scottish Government

M: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Please note: my non-work day is a Monday**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Community Safety  
**Sent:** 19 October 2021 17:23  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Community Safety <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Dalrymple C (Catriona) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Justice <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Justice <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @sps.pnn.gov.uk>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @sps.pnn.gov.uk>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @sps.pnn.gov.uk; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs Policy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE: Ambulance calls to prisons re drugs - Various media

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Ms Regan has considered and is content to clear.

Many thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] - Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans - Keith Brown  
Scottish Government | St Andrews's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | Mob: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | Email: [redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's preferences can be found [here](#).

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other 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 recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2021 16:55  
**To:** Minister for Community Safety <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Dalrymple C (Catriona) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Justice <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Justice <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @sps.pnn.gov.uk>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @sps.pnn.gov.uk>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] @sps.pnn.gov.uk; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs Policy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FOR MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE: Ambulance calls to prisons re drugs - Various media

**Ms Regan's PO for clearance:**

**Ms Constance's PO for awareness:**

**(Also copied to Mr Brown and Mr Yousaf's PO for awareness):**

I'd be hugely grateful of Ms Regan's consideration of the following media line agreed by SPAD, comms and policy colleagues in response to media requests we have received from a number of media outlets.

They are responding to a Scottish Conservative news release on the number of ambulance calls made to prisons in relation to cases of overdosing or poisoning. It sets out how they have risen more than 150 per cent in the last five years.

The full release from the Scottish Conservatives copied further down this email and the FOI it is based on attached.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The use of illegal drugs in prisons cannot be tolerated and the prison service have a range of comprehensive range of robust security measures are in place to prevent the introduction of contraband entering our prisons.

"Rapiscan machines, which detect substances that may have been concealed in items of mail and personal property, are used in every prison in Scotland and contingency plans are also in place should any machine break.

"SPS continue to seek innovative technological solutions in order to detect, deter and reduce the availability of contraband entering our prisons to ensure the safety of staff and those within its care."

## **Background**

The possibility of photocopying general mail across the prison estate to prevent illicit drugs entering the estate is currently being explored by the prison service and they are assessing the full impact of this proposal, including legal implications.

Justice Secretary Keith Brown recently responded to Russell Findlay MSP on the issue and also provided a written update to the Criminal Justice Committee's Convenor and HM Chief Inspector of Prisons.

## **CONSERVATIVE RELEASE**

### **Embargo: 00.01, Wednesday, 20 October 2021**

The number of ambulance calls made to prisons in Scotland in relation to cases of overdosing or poisoning has risen by more than 150 per cent in the last five years, the Scottish Conservatives have revealed.

A Freedom of Information request from the party shows that 80 calls were made during the pandemic in 2020-21. This was a sharp rise on the 30 calls that were made in 2016-17, a rise of 167%.

Ambulances were called 13 times at HMP Barlinnie, while 12 calls were made at HMP Glenochil. A further eight calls were made at prisons in Kilmarnock and Low Moss.

Shadow Community Safety Minister Russell Findlay says the figures should be a wake-up call for SNP Ministers and called on them to take measures to urgently stop drugs getting into prisons.

Scottish Conservative Shadow Community Safety Minister Russell Findlay MSP, said: "Scotland's prison drugs crisis is adding to the immense pressure on hard working staff and our already overstretched ambulance crews.

"This shocking rise of over 150 per cent for prison ambulance call outs over five years confirms the warnings from prison officers.

"I have spoken with prison officers who are at breaking point. Many of these calls outs will be for suspected drugs overdoses.

"These figures should be a wake-up call for the SNP justice secretary, health secretary and drugs minister. Our ambulance service cannot cope with calls increasing at this rate.

"SNP Ministers have repeatedly ignored my calls to tackle the main source of prison drug smuggling - which is substances being soaked into items of mail.

"They could stop this immediately but instead come up with a vague commitment to look into it.

"That is a dereliction of duty and puts prison staff and ambulance crews under increased pressure. It also reduces the chances of prisoners to get clean and rehabilitate."

Notes: The response from the Scottish Ambulance Service is attached.

The Scottish Ambulance Service provided figures that were represented as [5 to avoid identifying any of those involved in these incidents. Where this figure was given, there has been an approximation taken by rounding up the median of [5, which is 3.

Thanks so much, [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications Justice & Constitution, External Affairs and Culture / Scottish Government  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] Mobile: [redacted 38(1)(b)] Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] @ScotGovJustice

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Sent:** 21 October 2021 15:57  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McPhee D

(David) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: TO CLEAR: P&J - comments on vaccine certs (business)

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Mr Yousaf has tweaked the comments below:

**PS/ Economy Secretary**

*cc Deputy First Minister, Health Secretary, Minister for Business for awareness*

We've been approached by the P&J to respond to comments from business and opposition regarding updates to the vaccine certification Apps. Health comms colleagues have issued a response regarding the deinstall/install questions but I'd be grateful for Ms Forbes' clearance regarding the comments on business engagement.

I've discussed with policy colleagues and SpAds and have drafted a response using the standard vaccine certification lines that were cleared and issued yesterday as a starter and then added a line about business engagement. We cannot provide a figure for the amount of businesses that have updated yet as they have not been published.

The P&J have asked for a response by 5pm, I'd be grateful for confirmation Ms Forbes is content with the below lines to respond to the comments relating to businesses by 4.45pm, if possible.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"COVID-19 certification is a proportionate way of encouraging people to get vaccinated, and also of helping large events and night-time hospitality to keep operating during what will potentially be a very difficult winter. The scheme has been operating well at late night venues and large scale events such as recent football matches.

"This means many businesses will not have to close and can continue to trade whilst making necessary adjustments to ensure their premises are as safe as possible for staff and customers.

"Officials and Ministers have engaged regularly with the sector to discuss implementation of the scheme. This is in addition to a range of proactive communications through relevant sectoral organisations and bodies. Most businesses that are required to update the NHS Covid Check App have done so already and further sectoral engagement is ongoing today to ensure we reach as many businesses as possible."

**Background**

## Update to vaccine certification Apps

[redacted] | Senior Media Manager | Economy Communications

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

The Scottish Government confirmed this week that it is updating the Covid status app which allows people to access venues and premises from today.

I believe this is available from noon today but that users can continue using the current one for the next week.

Guidance issued by NHS Scotland via the Scottish Government's website says the simplest way to ensure users have the latest version of the app is to delete it and reinstall. **Given the problems users had in the first place downloading the app, does the government anticipate problems/confusion from this?**

Tony Cochrane, a nightclub owner with venues in Aberdeen and Dundee, has said it is a "complete farce" and that he only found out about the update because someone he knows saw it on the venue – he said nobody contacted them directly.

**Does the government intend to contact venues proactively to inform them around the changes over the next week? Will this not result in problems with the operation of the scheme if some businesses are not yet aware of the update?**

In addition, the Liberal Democrats said the following:

"Businesses should not have to be monitoring the government's website for 2am updates to find out what is expected of them. It's no way to run a business and a ridiculous way to run a country.

"Covid ID cards have been a prime example of government overreach. What's worst is they won't keep anyone safe because it's so easy for people to cheat the system.

"The government should be ploughing resources into the things we know do help to stop the spread: vaccines and a robust contact tracing system."

Scottish Labour's Health and Covid Recovery spokesperson Jackie Baillie said: "Just days after the SNP's botched vaccine passport came fully into force, they are already scrambling to change it.

"It will not come as a surprise to anyone that the app is riddled with flaws, after the SNP forced the scheme through with virtually no consultation.

"These updates will only add to the chaos that customers and businesses are already facing.

"An update won't fix this shambolic system. The SNP must accept the scheme has failed and scrap it for good."

**Scottish Conservative Shadow Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery, Murdo Fraser said:** “This is just more confusion and incompetence from the SNP and their shambolic vaccine passport scheme.

“The SNP Government promised that their vaccine passport app would be ready by the end of September. The app was broken on launch, and night time businesses described scenes of chaos and confusion in the first weekend of the scheme.

“These new updates are guaranteed to cause further confusion and frustration for users and businesses, this weekend.

“The fact that the SNP are still trying to get this app right, weeks after their vaccine passport requirements were launched, is unacceptable and, frankly, embarrassing.”

Related but slightly separate, the Tories have issued a release which warns that hospitality staff could lose up to £200 a week if their premises are forced to close early due to the SNP's vaccine passport regulations.

Where venues are unable to enforce vaccine passport checks, they must close by midnight or face prosecution under the new regulations. This could leave many hospitality workers missing out on up to three hours of wages each night – Stephen Montgomery of the Scottish Hospitality Group claims. **Is it possible to have the government's response to this please?**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 21 October 2021 15:48

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Cameron J (Jonathan) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; McPhee D (David) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** TO CLEAR: P&J - comments on vaccine certs (business)

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Thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**[redacted | Senior Media Manager | Economy Communications**  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

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"An update won't fix this shambolic system. The SNP must accept the scheme has failed and scrap it for good."

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"The SNP Government promised that their vaccine passport app would be ready by the end of September. The app was broken on launch, and night time businesses described scenes of chaos and confusion in the first weekend of the scheme.

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[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 October 2021 16:21  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: media query - Ayrshire Post - SHARON DOWEY MSP WORRIED BY SOUTH AYRSHIRE'S DROP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY

Fine thanks.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 October 2021 16:16  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; News Desk <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: media query - Ayrshire Post - SHARON DOWEY MSP WORRIED BY SOUTH AYRSHIRE'S DROP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY

Thanks a million [redacted 38(1)(b)],

**Stuart** are you content for the below lines to be re-issue on SpAds' clearance?

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Covid pandemic has had a negative impact on life expectancy statistics for many parts of Scotland and the rest of the UK."

"Increasing healthy life expectancy and reducing health inequalities in South Ayrshire and across Scotland, is a top priority for this Government. But our efforts are undermined by UK Government policies, such as the recent £20 a week cut to Universal Credit, which entrench inequality and push more people into poverty.

"Our actions to improve public health, including publishing a Women's Health Plan as well as action to address issues such as smoking, unhealthy diet and obesity, physical inactivity and alcohol misuse – all of which will support people to live longer healthier lives."

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)] <[redacted 38(1)(b)]>  
Date: Tue, 26 Oct 2021 at 16:43  
Subject: SHARON DOWEY MSP WORRIED BY SOUTH AYRSHIRE'S DROP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY  
To:

## SHARON DOWEY MSP WORRIED BY SOUTH AYRSHIRE'S DROP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY

FAO: All news desks

Embargo: For immediate release

Tuesday 26 October 2021

A recent publication by the National Records of Scotland has revealed that South Ayrshire is experiencing some of the biggest decreases in life expectancy across Scotland.

This is based on the most recent figures covering the period for 2018-2020.

Male life expectancy has decreased from 77.28 in 2018-19 to 76.65, while female life expectancy has dropped from 81.64 to 81.14 over the same period.

**Commenting, Scottish Conservative and Unionist MSP Sharon Dowey said:**

"It's really worrying that South Ayrshire has experienced such a significant drop in life expectancy since 2017-2019. With life expectancy dropping by over half a year for men, the Scottish Government must do more to tackle the root problem of this decrease.

"The SNP Government need to put health at the top of their agenda. It's clear that the SNP are turning a blind-eye to the health of Scottish people, with ambulance and A&E waiting times at an all-time high. This new data on life expectancy adds to the SNPs poor record on health, confirming it is simply not a priority of this government.

"Work needs to be done here, considering that Scotland now has the lowest life expectancy at birth across all UK countries."

ENDS\

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/life-expectancy/life-expectancy-in-scotland/2018-2020>

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/life-expectancy/life-expectancy-in-scotland/2018-2020/data-tables>

Kind regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**[redacted 38(1)(b)] | Parliamentary Assistant**

Office of Sharon Dowey MSP

South Scotland Region

T: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  [facebook.com/SharonDoweyMSP](https://facebook.com/SharonDoweyMSP)  @SharonDowey\_

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**Kind regards,**  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] ,  
**Senior Reporter,**  
**Ayrshire Post**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 26 October 2021 16:05  
**To:** Dobson L (Leanne) McFarlane J (John)  
**Cc:**[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted[redacted 38(1)(b)]] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** SpAd view - Just Transition deal - P&J

Hi Leanne, John

We've received a query from the P&J on the Conservatives' criticism of the "long wait" for the £500m Just Transition deal.

They also suggest the Greens and SNP "disagree on the best path to net zero." Full query below. Seems to be on the back of this PQ: [Written question and answer: S6W-03300 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

We've agreed the following lines with policy officials – grateful for SpAd views.

Many thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

#### QUERY

The Scottish Conservatives have criticised the "long wait" for any detail on the £500 million Just Transition deal.

In a written response to north-east MSP Liam Kerr, Richard Lochhead said a draft energy strategy and just transition plan would be published in spring 2022 despite announcing the initiative in August.

Mr Kerr said: "It's become clear the SNP-Green coalition are maybe not so committed to this as they make out to be and were chasing a headline when they announced the fund which lacked any sort of substance.

"No forward planning had taken place which is why we are now having to wait five months after Cop26 to see where the money will go.

"This long wait for any detail shows the different tracks that the SNP-Green coalition are on in trying to achieve net zero.

“The UK Government immediately announced its key commitments when it revealed the £16 billion North Sea Transition Deal.

“It is crucial there’s a fair transition for the oil and gas industry to safeguard jobs and ensure Scotland is able to meet present and future energy demands.

“This is why the industry shouldn’t have to wait seven months to find out the detail that it wants to see.”

I have the response from Mr Lochhead but wanted to check if the Scottish Government wished to respond to Mr Kerr’s additional remarks that the SNP and Greens disagree on the best path to net zero.

If so – I’d require a comment by 5pm tonight, please.