

ANNEX B – Email correspondence

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 July 2022 11:14
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando)
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: TO ISSUE - NR/TWEET - drug-death stats

Thanks both,

NR - [Drugs deaths situation remains 'unacceptable' - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

TWEET - <https://twitter.com/scotgovhealth/status/1552581169203625985>

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Media Manager
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 July 2022 11:12
To: Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: TO ISSUE - NR/TWEET - drug-death stats

NRS news release page: Small decrease in drug death figures | National Records of Scotland
(nrscotland.gov.uk)

Publication page: Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2021 | National Records of Scotland
(nrscotland.gov.uk)

[redacted 38(1)(b)]
[redacted 38(1)(b)] | Health and Social Care Analysis | Directorate for Population
Health | Scottish Government
Working days: Monday – Thursday

From: Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando)
Sent: 28 July 2022 11:11
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: TO ISSUE - NR/TWEET - drug-death stats

I think colleagues have responded on teams, but [redacted 38(1)(b)] will have it if you're still looking.

Thanks

O

Head of Drugs Policy | Scottish Government | [redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 July 2022 10:10
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: Q&A Briefings NRS 2021 DRD stats

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Find the briefings attached. [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] |Drug Deaths Team |Drugs Policy Divison| Directorate for Population Health | Scottish Government | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 July 2022 09:49
To: Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando)
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: TO ISSUE - NR/TWEET - drug-death stats

Hi Orlando,

Who will have the link for the drugs stats? We need it for the NR

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

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 July 2022 09:31
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: TO ISSUE - NR/TWEET - drug-death stats

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

Thanks for all your help with this.

[redacted 38(1)(b)] grateful if you could issue NR – [redacted 38(1)(b)] could you issue tweet once [redacted 38(1)(b)] confirms it's been sent please?

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – could you also send copy of release to [redacted 38(1)(b)] Programme Editor, Channel 4 News

And

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Grateful if you could collate any more bids [redacted 38(1)(b)] and give us a shout

Thanks again

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Thursday 28 July

09:30 NRS news release and drug death statistics published –

09:32 **SG release to issue and tweet to issue NB. Ms Constance likes to retweet the SG tweet with her own message as soon as possible after the stats are announced)**

11:00 -13:00 Visit to River Garden – meeting stakeholder, service users then media bids

15:00-16:00 Private visit/the Beacons Cambuslang
(no media – The Beacons would like to post photos to their social media)

16.30-17.30 BBC Studios Glasgow – Drivetime

Thanks **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** – we'll issue revised NR and tweet on Thu am

**CLEARED
FINAL NR**

Drugs deaths situation remains 'unacceptable'

Official statistics for 2021 show decrease of 1%.

While welcoming an end to seven annual increases in drugs deaths, Drugs Policy Minister Angela Constance made clear the situation remains “unacceptable”, and work will continue at pace to address the emergency.

The latest National Records of Scotland statistics show 1,330 people lost their lives in 2021 - a decrease of 1% and Ms Constance says it is clear there remains much work to do to save lives.

A national mission was announced in January 2021 to tackle rising death deaths in Scotland with additional funding of £250 million over the course of this Parliament.

The first year of the national mission has seen the introduction of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards, the expansion of residential rehabilitation provision, the setting of a new treatment target, increased funding to community and grass-roots organisations and the laying of ground work for innovation such as Safer Drug Consumption Facilities.

Ms Constance said:

“Scotland suffers a terrible toll from drug deaths, leaving families grieving and in pain and my heart goes out to all those affected by the death of a loved one through drugs.

“These latest statistics provide yet more heart-breaking reading, and the situation remains unacceptable. While there is so much more work to do, every life saved means one less family grieving and I am determined we can use this halt in the upward trend of recent years as a platform for real change.

“My focus now is on taking action and delivering new investment to improve services and get more people into the treatment which works for them. Residential rehabilitation is one of a range of treatment options available and today I am visiting River Garden Auchincruive to speak to residents and staff about the services provided. Later I will be meeting some families affected by a loved one’s drug use and asking what more we can do to help.

“I am concerned about the rise in deaths among women and will look to expand on current steps we are taking including the provision of two Mother and Child Residential Recovery Houses which will enable women to receive support while staying with their children.

“Despite regional differences, we are focused on a national mission and I’ll continue to use all the powers at my disposal, including holding local leaders to account in implementing the MAT standards, to drive improvements across Scotland.

“We are already implementing many of the recommendations from The Drug Deaths Taskforce, which issued its final recommendations last week, and I will report back on further actions to Parliament.

“In the first year of the National Mission we built the foundations for change. Now, with the backing of £250 million over the course of this Parliament, we will deliver on those foundations and our new Oversight Group will provide scrutiny, challenge and expert advice on the National Mission as we continue our efforts to improve and save lives.”

River Garden Operations Manager Mikael Heddelin said:

“We offer a very different approach to recovery which allows residents to leave behind their addictions.

“Importantly that comes from communal support of peers and meaningful and qualitative work via our on-site social enterprises. We provide training, help develop competence in a range of areas and facilitate reintegration back into society.

“Peer support and lived experience are key elements in the recovery journey at River Garden. Our ethos and culture allows our residents to recover without stigma and the local community play a huge part in what we do.”

River Garden resident Paul said:

“I grew up in care and began using drugs at the age of 12. Throughout my life I tried various rehabs, none of them worked.

“At the age of 47 I joined River Garden. I have been here almost two years and I have purpose and self-worth. I’m happy and healthy and I feel good about myself.

“River Garden has been totally transformational for me. I really enjoy the work and the camaraderie. I have made many friends amongst the volunteers, the visitors and the contactors who work at River Garden.”

BACKGROUND

[Link to NRS stats]

TWEET

Drugs Policy Minister Angela Constance has welcomed an end to 7 annual increases in drug deaths but says the situation remains “unacceptable” and work continues to address the crisis.

National Records of Scotland figures show 1,330 people died in 2021, a fall of 1%.

More here [link to SG release]

INFOGRAPHIC (attached)

“These latest statistics provide yet more heart-breaking reading, and the situation remains unacceptable however I am determined to use this halt in the upward trend of recent years as a platform for real change.

My focus now is on taking action and delivering new investment to improve services and get more people into the treatment which works for them.”

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

Sent: 28 July 2022 09:38

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

Subject: FW: QUOTES FOR CLIP

could send to wato?

But BBC will interview Minister by 12.30 so could take that

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)] on behalf of Minister for Drugs Policy
Sent: 28 Jul 2022 09:13
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: Minister for Drugs Policy
Subject: RE: QUOTES FOR CLIP



New Recording
16.m4a

Good morning [redacted 38(1)(b)],

Please see attached recorded clip from Ms Constance.

Kind regards,

**[redacted 38(1)(b)] – Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs Policy –
Angela Constance**

Scottish Government | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Email: MinisterDP@gov.scot

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 July 2022 00:56
To: Minister for Drugs Policy
Subject: QUOTES FOR CLIP

Sharing separately to cover embargo [redacted 38(1)(b)]

QUOTES FOR CLIP

Ms Constance said:

“Scotland suffers a terrible toll from drug deaths, leaving families grieving and in pain and my heart goes out to all those affected by the death of a loved one through drugs.

“These latest statistics provide yet more heart-breaking reading, and the situation remains unacceptable. While there is so much more work to do, every life saved means one less family grieving and I am determined we can use this halt in the upward trend of recent years as a platform for real change.

“My focus now is on taking action and delivering new investment to improve services and get more people into the treatment which works for them. Residential rehabilitation is one of a range of treatment options available and today I am visiting River Garden Auchincruive to speak to residents and staff about the services provided. Later I will be meeting some families affected by a loved one’s drug use and asking what more we can do to help.

“I am concerned about the rise in deaths among women and will look to expand on current steps we are taking including the provision of two Mother and Child

The Minister is leaving home for Ayr at 0930 - so prerecord or clip possible - whatever can be arranged between 0900 and 0930.

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

[redacted 38(1)(b)] - Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs Policy – Angela Constance

Scottish Government | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 1469 | Mob**[redacted 38(1)(b)]** | Email: MinisterDP@gov.scot

From: **[redacted 38(1)(b)]**
Sent: 27 July 2022 20:42
To: Minister for Drugs Policy **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)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross)
Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEWS - BIDS - AC - drug-related death NRS figures

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

Please see bids for Ms Constance for tomorrow and list of media attending visit.

There are two radio bids for morning/lunchtime and one for Channel 4 later in the day.

Spads are keen to try and accommodate these if possible.

As Minister is aware, as well as media interviews at River Garden, we've also arranged Drivetime which is pencilled in for 17.05 tomorrow.

Would the Minister be able to undertake pre-recorded interviews for radio before travelling to Ayr, or perhaps record clip we could share?

Channel 4 also looking speak to minister via Facetime/Zoom later in the day. Unless Minister is able to undertake before departure from either of the visits (11.00-13.00 and 15.00-16.00) it may be an option from home later, after the BBC visit (16.30-17.30).

Grateful to know if Minister is content to accept bids or offer clip (for radio)

List of confirmed media for visit below for awareness.

Thanks
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

BID – AC - BBC Radio Scotland Lunchtime Live 1.15

I'm working with BBC Radio Scotland's Lunchtime Live programme this week and I was wondering if it would be possible to speak to Angela Constance live on the programme around 1.15pm tomorrow.

We'd be looking for her reaction to the drugs death figures published tomorrow morning and also to the protest by FAVOR Scotland, which is being held at 1pm at the Scottish Parliament.

We'll be interviewing [redacted 38(1)(b)] just after 1pm, so Ms Constance would be able to hear what she says to be able to respond to it. She wouldn't have to interact with [redacted 38(1)(b)] though – the two interviews would be completely separate. [redacted 38(1)(b)]

BID – AC - WATO - pre recorded after 0930 to 1230 or live between 1300 and 1345

Please may we speak to Angela Constance, Drugs Minister tomorrow about the figures that are released at 0930? It's for the World at One, [redacted 38(1)(b)] and will be 1-1. We could do remote, ISDN or a studio interview, anytime pre recorded after 0930 to 1230 or live between 1300 and 1345, [redacted 38(1)(b)]

BID – AC - CH4 – PM PRE-REC / [redacted 38(1)(b)]

We'd be keen to talk to Angela Constance tomorrow on the report into drugs deaths. As I mentioned, our Scotland team are off this week so it would be a down-the-line interview with our presenter [redacted 38(1)(b)] in the studio. Any time in the afternoon for a pre-record is fine, as is zoom or the like. Let me know what might be possible and if you could send me a copy of the release when it is out that would be great.

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Programme Editor, Channel 4 News

RIVER GARDEN VISIT

11:00 Minister arrives, followed by tour of the grounds during which she will meet staff and residents

12.15 – 13.00 MEDIA INTERVIEWS

GLOBAL RADIO - [redacted 38(1)(b)]

PA - [redacted 38(1)(b)] (on camera)

5 NEWS - [redacted 38(1)(b)] and [redacted 38(1)(b)]
(Please can we have an early interview slot?)

STV - [redacted 38(1)(b)] (covering ITV)

SKY NEWS - [redacted 38(1)(b)] Scotland News Editor
[redacted 38(1)(b)] and [redacted 38(1)(b)]

BBC (outlets including 9) – [redacted 38(1)(b)]/ [redacted 38(1)(b)]

PRINT
HERALD - [redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 27 July 2022 20:09
To: Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross)
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)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) **Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW - BIDS - AC - drug-related death NRS figures

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Slight change of plan as BBC have now confirmed for lunchtime and will take care of Nine then, so can drop that from afternoon.

We'll offer earlier slots but possibly clip as Minister travelling for 10.55 arrival in Ayr – will put to PO now.

Thanks
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Senior Media Manager
Health Communications
Scottish Government
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) **Sent:** 27 July 2022 19:58
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) **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)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) **Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW - BIDS - AC - drug-related death NRS figures

I'd suggest we offer the Radio bids clips or pre-recs in the morning as she's travelling to meet families at the times they have requested.

For Ch4 I think we should find a time for a pre rec around when she's in Glasgow for BBC bids.

In general I'd rather we offered to accommodate rather than just went with straight declines.

D

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 27 July 2022 17:06
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: FW: For awareness- THE NATIONAL: Drugs deaths stats release

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] – thanks for your help with this tomorrow – sure this will go as part of mainlist, but just for awareness

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Senior Media Manager
Health Communications
Scottish Government
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 27 July 2022 16:43
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: For awareness- THE NATIONAL: Drugs deaths stats release

Hey,

Not sure if we are keeping a list of journos who want to be sent release tomorrow, I assured [redacted 38(1)(b)] the release was being issued to everyone and would also be available on the Scot Gov website but he was keen he sent through an email too- just to make sure- so for awareness.

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

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 27 July 2022 12:16
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: THE NATIONAL: Drugs deaths

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Thanks for taking my call. Just a wee email to make sure that I am on the mailing list for drug death stats release tomorrow.

Best
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]
The National
[redacted 38(1)(b)]
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 26 July 2022 14:53

Minister
Cc as above

Following discussion of the National Mission Plan at the Oversight group meeting on 30th June we have made minor amendments to address some of their feedback.

The attached version has amended sections. **[redacted30(b)(i)]**

I also attach a first draft of the designed version – which is still to be updated with the new amendments – to give you sight of what the final presentation will look like.

Any further feedback welcome. We are still on track to publish w/b 8th August.

Kind regards

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

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

[redacted 38(1)(b)]
Drugs Strategy Unit

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Minister for Drugs Policy

Sent: 26 July 2022 08:11

To: **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; Minister for Drugs Policy **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; Heijmer-

Mason O (Orlando) **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)]** ;

[redacted 38(1)(b)] ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser)

First Minister Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care **[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE PLEASE - SG NEWS RELEASE AND TWEET-OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: NRS - Drug related deaths in Scotland 2021

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

Ms Constance is content with the amendments below.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs Policy – Angela Constance

Scottish Government | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Email: MinisterDP@gov.scot

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

Sent: 25 July 2022 18:19

To: Minister for Drugs Policy **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ;Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando)

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)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ;
[redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) First Minister Minister
for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social
Care **[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE PLEASE - SG NEWS RELEASE AND TWEET-
OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: NRS - Drug related deaths in Scotland 2021

Amended below re **[redacted 38(1)(b)]**– noting visit which is referenced is tbc for
now.

Will check with policy colleagues on any additions on areas highlighted at today's
meeting and come back.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

AMENDED NR

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

TWEET

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

INFOGRAPHIC

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager
Health Communications
Scottish Government

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** **On Behalf Of** Minister for Drugs Policy

Sent: 25 July 2022 11:46

To: **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) **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)] ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** ; Hutchison D
(David) (Special Adviser) First Minister Minister for Public Health, Women's Health &
Sport Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care **[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE PLEASE - SG NEWS RELEASE AND TWEET-
OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: NRS - Drug related deaths in Scotland 2021

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – On the News Release, Ms Constance's initial response is
largely content but the Minister is not content with the line **[redacted 30(b)(i)]**
Grateful for a revised version for consideration this evening please, also taking into
account any reflections from our earlier meeting today.

Orlando – As mentioned during our meeting this morning, the Minister would like a
private meeting with families this Thursday afternoon. The Minister would welcome
feedback on that (which was also following a meeting with officials and Spads on first

From: Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) **Sent:** 22 July 2022 13:42
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE - SG NEWS RELEASE - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: NRS - Drug related deaths in Scotland 2021

Ok

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 22 July 2022 13:40
To: Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) **Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE - SG NEWS RELEASE - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: NRS - Drug related deaths in Scotland 2021

Good afternoon Davie,
Grateful for clearance of this release ahead of next week's stats. I am keen to get it to the Minister today before I go on annual leave if possible.
There is a visit to River Garden in the morning at which the Minister will take bids and a calling notice on Tuesday.
Thank you very much.
redacted]

[redacted 30(b)(i)]
[

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 22 July 2022 10:43
To: Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: FOR POLICY RESPONSE PLEASE - SG NEWS RELEASE - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: NRS - Drug related deaths in Scotland 2021

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – this looks very good.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

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

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 21 July 2022 15:16
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: DRAFT DRD RELEASE

Hi both
Have just drafted the following – before I put it round – any thoughts?
Thanks so much
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Health & Communities**
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
[redacted 38(1)(b)]
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 14 July 2022 13:00
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: River Garden Update - Ministerial Visit 28th July

Wow! Thanks for the quotes [redacted 38(1)(b)]! Really quick – much appreciated.
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 14 July 2022 12:58
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Subject: River Garden Update - Ministerial Visit 28th July

Hi All

I attach a copy of the research paper produced by Glasgow University late last year. This study details the initial development of River Garden, in particular the theory informed transfer and adaptation of mechanisms to suit the Scottish context. River Garden is one of the first (semi-permeable) residential drug recovery communities based on Social Enterprise that has been developed this way in Scotland. The site is also open to visitors and this goes a long way to remove stigma.

In terms of the other updates supplied in December we still feel very strongly that they cover what River Garden is and its Scottish context. What works in Italy, America and Sweden is that all have their own individual context that fit their culture and the needs of their residents.

Quotes requested for the News Release are also detailed below

Mikael Heddelin, Operations Manager of River Garden said,

“We offer a very different approach to recovery which allows residents to leave behind their addictions. Importantly that comes from communal support of peers and meaningful and qualitative work via our on-site social enterprises. We provide training, help develop competence in a range of areas and facilitate reintegration back into society. Peer support and lived experience are key elements in the recovery journey at River Garden. Our ethos and culture allows our residents to recover without stigma and the local community play a huge part in what we do.”

Paul a resident at RGA said,

“I grew up in care and began using drugs at the age of 12. Throughout my life I tried various rehabs, none of them worked. At the age of 47 I joined River Garden. I have been here almost two years and I have purpose and self worth. I’m happy and healthy and I feel good about myself. River Garden has been totally transformational for me. I really enjoy the work and the camaraderie. I have made many friends amongst the volunteers, the visitors and the contactors who work at river garden. ”

Hope that helps clarify however please let us know if you require anything else.

As a trustee I am a volunteer and not on site every day however you can get me on **[redacted 38(1)(b)]** if you need anything further. We are a small team of committed and willing people, who want all of our residents to succeed with their recovery journey. It is a privilege to be part of that work.

Thank you

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 14 July 2022 11:18

To: **[redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: MINISTERIAL VISIT - 28 JULY 2022

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

In addition to [redacted 38(1)(b)] ask below, could you please supply some answers to the following questions which the media may raise in relation to the River Garden programme?

* Potential for criticism of longer programme length – is there evidence that residents being in place at River Garden for up to 3 years is beneficial for their recovery/community?

* We have some existing lines supplied by yourselves in December regarding the media linkage of the model to controversy surrounding the San Patrigano recovery community in Italy. Can I please check if you have any updates to make to these?:

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[redacted 30(b)(i)]
[redacted 30(b)(i)]
[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Many thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

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[redacted 38(1)(b)]
Trustee
she/her
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 13 July 2022 09:10
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]
Subject: MINISTERIAL VISIT - 28 JULY 2022

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

My colleague [redacted 38(1)(b)] passed on your details.

With regard to the above visit by Angela Constance, I wonder if you would be good enough to provide a quote from the manager or clinical director at River Garden talking about the benefits of residential rehabilitation and one from a service user

talking about the ways in which it has helped them. These would be for use in our news release on the day.

Please would it be possible to get these by COP Wednesday next week?

Thank you so much.

Kind regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | Health & Communities

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]