

Emails exchanged between the Scottish government and Universities Scotland

Email trail 1

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 28 June 2022 15:24
To: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Subject: Constitution and Education

Hi [redacted - s38]

Just following up on our chat a couple of weeks ago, do you have a timescale for when the education paper re. independence might be published? I realise things might be somewhat fluid at this point but is there a feeling that it will be soon / this year/ early 2023?

Regards
David

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Email trail 2

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 17 August 2022 16:49
To: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s28]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: Constitution issue: research

Hi [redacted - s38]

Might I ask / suggest something, following on from our discussion.

[redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

[redacted - 29(1)(a)]

Happy to discuss / offer background data.

Regards
David

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Email trail 3

From: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 October 2022 17:07

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>

Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>

Cc: Susannah Lane <susannah@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; Kirsty Conlon <kirsty@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Constitution and universities: follow-up to Cab Sec meeting

Alastair

As I've made clear to David in my emails today (and previously), we have been looking at the issues you set out below.

Thanks

[redacted - s38]

From: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 25 October 2022 17:03

To: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>;
Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>

Cc: <[redacted - s38]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>;
<[redacted - s38]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>;
<[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Constitution and universities: follow-up to Cab Sec meeting

[redacted - s38]

Just to amplify David's point, [redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

Best,

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted - s38]
alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 25 October 2022 16:49

To: [redacted - s38]@gov.scot; Helen.Webster@gov.scot

Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted - s38]@gov.scot; [redacted - s38]@gov.scot

Thanks [redacted - s38]

[redacted - s29(1)(a)]

[redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

Regards
David

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From: [redacted - s38]@gov.scot <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 October 2022 14:27

To: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; Helen.Webster@gov.scot

Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@universities-

scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted - s38]@gov.scot; [redacted - s38]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Constitution and universities: follow-up to Cab Sec meeting

Hi David

Sorry to miss the call last week, but I was on leave. I hear it went well.

[redacted - s29(1)(a)]

Hope that helps.

Cheers

[redacted - s38]

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 25 October 2022 13:47

To: <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; <[redacted - s38]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: Constitution and universities: follow-up to Cab Sec meeting

Dear Helen and [redacted - s38]

I am just emailing to follow-up on the short meeting between the Cab Sec and Sally Mapstone last week.

Forgive me if I am directing this incorrectly. [redacted - s38], I know that you have been leading on this work in ALS and Helen, I noted your attendance at the Cab Sec meeting last week.

I think that the questions that Sally raised, and for which it would be very useful to have clear answers in any future SG papers, were the ones noted to [redacted - s38] and [redacted - s38] over recent weeks via email. I would be very happy to meet and chat them through if of help.

It might be helpful to set those out again:
[redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

Regards
David

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Email trail 4

From: [redacted - s38] <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 October 2022 12:32
To: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Can I pick your brains on a couple of things?

Thanks David . That's helpful.

[redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

We'll have another look to make sure it's sufficiently covered and clear.

Cheers

[redacted - s38]

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 12 October 2022 12:24
To: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Cc: <[redacted - s23]@gov.scot>; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Can I pick your brains on a couple of things?

Thanks [redacted - s38],

That's good news [redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

Regards

David

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From: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 October 2022 12:16
To: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted - s38]@gov.scot; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Can I pick your brains on a couple of things?

Thanks David

[redacted - s29(1)(a)]

Cheers

[redacted - s38]

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 12 October 2022 11:30

To: <[redacted - s38]gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted - s38]@gov.scot; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Can I pick your brains on a couple of things?

That's really helpful [redacted - s38], thanks so much.

When I chatted with [redacted - s38] on a couple of occasions, [redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

Regards
David

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From: <[redacted - s38]gov.scot>

Sent: 12 October 2022 11:23

To: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted - s38]@gov.scot; <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Can I pick your brains on a couple of things?

Hi David

Yes, all well with me thanks. Hope you are well too.

[redacted - out of scope of original request]

I haven't seen the final draft of the Economy prospectus, but the most recent versions I have seen include a short section on the value added of our universities. I expect it will be in the final version too.

[redacted - s29(1)(a)] We will be in touch in the next few weeks to arrange a chat about it.

Hope that helps.

Cheers

[redacted - s38]

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 12 October 2022 09:37
To: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Subject: Can I pick your brains on a couple of things?

Hi [redacted - s38]

I hope all is well with you?

Could I pick your brains on a couple of things, if its easier to chat on phone / Teams I would be very happy to do that.

[redacted - out of scope of original request]

On constitution issues which I think you and others are now working on, [redacted - s38] Will there be a reference to HEIs in the economy paper to be published next week? It would be good to know if so. [redacted - s38]

Regards
David

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Hello [redacted - s38], thanks for your message about re-initiation of work on possible constitutional change.

US will, as in 2014, be taking a neutral stance on matters of democratic choice, while working to inform the proponents of different constitutional options about the policies needed to support higher education's success.

We haven't resumed detailed work on this yet, but in the meantime our work before the 2014 referendum may be informative (attached). It's publicly available on our website here: [ConstitutionPaper2012final-2.pdf \(universities-scotland.ac.uk\)](#). We'd want to review it in the light of the different circumstances that now prevail (not just Brexit but the absence of an Edinburgh Agreement with its promise of a reasonably civilised divorce in the event of a vote for separation), but it's a start in identifying the range of issues that need to be considered.

Of course the issues will have been changed by Brexit [redacted - s30(b)(ii)]

Is that enough to go on for now or do you still want a meeting? Mid-Wednesday looks like a possibility.

Best,

Alastair

Email trail 5

From: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 June 2022 10:54

To: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted - s38]@gov.scot

Subject: Building a New Scotland - updated prospectus for independence

Dear Alastair and David,

I trust this email finds you well. [redacted - s38] and I are leading the work across the Education and Skills portfolio on the updated prospectus for independence. The prospectus is designed to give people the information they need to make an informed choice over their future and to stimulate debate.

A number of papers covering the opportunities of independence will be published over the coming months as part of the *Building a New Scotland* series of prospectuses..

I note the constitution was an item listed on the agenda for yesterday Principals' meeting. However, SG colleagues in attendance let me know this was not discussed. [redacted - s38] and I are keen to engage with you on the prospectus series to understand the key areas you believe should be covered.

To this end I wonder if you have availability over the next few days – Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday next week would be good – for a short call, certainly no longer than 30 minutes, to capture some of your views/thoughts?

Many thanks,

[redacted – s38]

[redacted – s38]

Head of Advanced Learning and Science Covid Recovery
The Scottish Government
Higher Education and Science Division

*I'm working from home and my usual hours are 8.30am-4.30pm.
I can be contacted on [redacted] or via Microsoft Teams*

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Email trail 6

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 19 July 2022 16:32
To: <[redacted – s38]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: covid leads and CRG

Would early next week work for you to catch up on the prospectus David?
Many thanks,

[redacted – s38]

[redacted – s38] | Head of Advanced Learning and Science Covid Recovery

*I'm working from home and my usual hours are 8.30am-4.30pm.
I can be contacted on [redacted – s38] or via Microsoft Teams*

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 19 July 2022 16:32
To: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: covid leads and CRG

Thanks [redacted - s38]

A catch up would be helpful, thanks. [redacted - out of scope of original request]

D

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From: <[redacted - s38]@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 July 2022 16:24
To: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: covid leads and CRG

[redacted - out of scope of original request]

happy to arrange a catch up on that if helpful?

Many thanks,

[redacted - s38]

[redacted - s38] | Head of Advanced Learning and Science Covid Recovery

I'm working from home and my usual hours are 8.30am-4.30pm.

I can be contacted on [redacted - s38] or via Microsoft Teams