

Fol document 1

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

Sent: 06 October 2022 11:21

To: Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights
<MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Bill: Universities Scotland

Dear Mr Harvie,

Please find attached a letter seeking some clarifications for the university sector about implementation aspects of this legislation.

Many thanks for your attention to this,

Alastair

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

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

By Email

Our Reference: **22 – 027**

Thursday 06 October 2022

Patrick Harvie MSP
Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights
The Scottish Government

(MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot)

Dear Mr Harvie,

Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Bill

Universities recognise the severity of the cost-of-living crisis facing many people across society, including students and university staff. We recognise why the Scottish Government has chosen to legislate, and universities are also working hard to protect students and staff from the worst impacts of the current crisis.

Our concern for student and staff wellbeing means that there are points we want to be assured about as the legislation is implemented and as its impact is monitored.

We would welcome clear assurances from the Scottish Government on the following points.

Impact on supply of private rented accommodation. Many students and staff are dependent on the availability of private rented accommodation, and the restricted supply of this accommodation has been widely reported as an increased problem for students at the beginning of this academic year. The Scottish Government has chosen to make university funding dependent on universities attracting increased numbers of international students to Scotland, which will create further demand for private rented accommodation. The 3-monthly monitoring of the Bill's impact must include monitoring of changes in the supply of private rented accommodation, and the measures in the legislation must be revised or discontinued if there is evidence of a decline in availability of private rented accommodation. Can Scottish Government assure us that this monitoring will be put in place, and that they will act on its outcome?

Continued:

Continues:

Impact on supply of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation. Universities are absorbing increased costs of providing accommodation to students in 2022/23, but looking beyond that a continued rent freeze, in an environment where inflation is increasing the costs of operating student accommodation, would make it extremely difficult to cover the costs of operating this accommodation, with a possible loss of availability for students and employment for staff. We are also concerned that private sector PBSA providers are already showing an increased reluctance to proceed with developments, and we are concerned that the prospect of a prolonged rent freeze will further inhibit the development of new PBSA provision, compounding the overall pressures on the availability of suitable accommodation for students. The 3-monthly monitoring of the Bill's impact should include monitoring of whether projects for new PBSA are going ahead, and whether there is any planned reduction of existing PBSA availability. Will Scottish Government put this in place?

Eviction of students from Purpose-Built Student Accommodation. Universities need to have the power to remove students from accommodation where they pose a risk (violent or sexual) to other students, or are otherwise acting anti-socially. This issue is particularly acute in the highly communal model of living in university halls and PBSA. Your officials have offered helpful clarification that that universities and other PBSA operators can evict students in these circumstances, without there having to be a criminal conviction against the affected student. It would be useful to have this affirmed in your response to this letter.

End of rental agreement in Purpose-Built Student Accommodation. Universities and other PBSA providers need students to leave at the end of their rental contracts. This is important so that accommodation can be made available for the next cohort of students who need it. It is also intrinsic to universities' business model – universities are dependent on conference and hospitality income in the vacations as a key cross-subsidy to publicly under-funded teaching and research. Can Scottish Government assure us that the legislation will not prevent PBSA providers from requiring students to leave at the end of their accommodation contracts?

Many thanks for your attention to these questions. Universities will greatly value your assurance on these points.

I am copying this letter to Ms Somerville and Mr Hepburn.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Sim
Director, Universities Scotland

cc. Ms Shirley Anne Somerville MSP

cc. Jamie Hepburn MSP

Fol document 2

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2022 17:18
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: SG Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events - 11th & 12th October

I'll make sure our team knows as well.

Have a good weekend if I don't speak to you/email you before – it certainly feels like we've earned it!

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 06 October 2022 17:15
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SG Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events - 11th & 12th October

No problem. I've also asked [redacted] to add me to her distribution list. [redacted] gets inundated with emails and sometimes unable to pass things on.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2022 17:12
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: SG Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events - 11th & 12th October

Thanks [redacted], hopefully that will do the trick.

I will ask that we keep an eye on participation at the events themselves to see that we get fair representation.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 06 October 2022 17:09
To: Abertay Support Mailbox <SMGSupport@abertay.ac.uk>; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk>; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk>; [redacted]@strath.ac.uk>; [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@hw.ac.uk>; [redacted]@strath.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@qmu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@abertay.ac.uk>; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gsa.ac.uk>; [redacted]@stir.ac.uk>; [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gsa.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk>; [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk>;

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk>; OU PA Mailbox <Scotland-Directorate-PA@open.ac.uk>; Pamela Gillies <Pamela.Gillies@gcu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@open.ac.uk>; [redacted]@napier.ac.uk>; [redacted]@rcs.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: SG Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events - 11th & 12th October

Dear all,

US has been made aware of two SG events next week as part of their engagement in the development of a MH and Wellbeing strategy.

- Tuesday 11 October at Glasgow Clyde College (09:30-12:00 staff session, 13:30-16:00 student session)
- Wednesday 12 October at Dundee University Students Association (13:00-16:00 – both staff and student sessions)

Please see below for more details and registration links if you would like to attend. Although the events are described at ‘further education’ events, we have been assured that universities are included in the target participation.

If you have any queries about the events, please contact [redacted] ([redacted]@gov.scot)

Best wishes,
[redacted]

Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy - Further Education & Student Engagement Event

The Scottish Government is developing a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The new strategy will allow us to look ahead to make sure we are doing the right things to meet the mental health needs of people over the coming years. It will set out a clear vision for future population mental health, wellbeing and care, and our priorities to help us get there.

The Scottish Government are eager to hear from students, further education providers and those who support students on what needs to be included in the new Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Event 1

Tuesday 11th October

Glasgow Clyde College - Cardonald Campus, 690 Mosspark Drive, Glasgow, G52 3AY

Staff Session

The morning session will take place from 09.30-12.00 and is for anyone working in further education or who provides student support.

To register for the morning session, please use the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-wellbeing-strategy-further-education-engagement-event-tickets-428639320747>

Student Session

The afternoon session will take place from 13.30-16.00 and is for students in further education (colleges and Universities)

To register for the afternoon session, please use the link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-wellbeing-strategy-further-education-engagement-event-tickets-428646241447>

Event 2

Wednesday 12th October – 13:00-16:00

Dundee University Student's Association - Air Bar, Level 4, Airlie Place, Dundee, DD1 4HP

Both staff and student sessions are planned.

To register for this event, please use the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-wellbeing-strategy-further-education-engagement-event-tickets-431556425887>

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 October 2022 14:27

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Smashing, thank you [redacted].

I appreciate you sending this on, and I believe that there is the capacity to evict students where they pose a risk to others within the terms of the Bill.

I will make sure I am fully briefed by those who are closer to the detail.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 04 October 2022 14:20

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Thanks [redacted] – to be honest, we may have missed it in the period when most of the policy team went off with Covid.

Pivoting to accommodation... I said that I'd share the (very) short) brief we shared with MSPs for info. May be useful ahead of Thursday's accommodation meeting.

[redacted]

Universities have acted in the student interest. Rates for university-owned halls of residence are already fixed for 2022/23, including bills, and will not be adjusted in-year in light of rising cost pressures. Universities are absorbing this in 2022/23 to shield students. This applies until summer of 2023.

- **Duration of a freeze.** However, if a rent freeze were extended beyond six months (six months [October to March] was the indicative time period as in the First Minister's unveiling the Programme for Scotland) preventing a revaluation of prices for academic year 2023/24, this could make university-run accommodation – which unlike wider private rental includes a wide range of services and staffed support - financially unviable, put jobs at risk and further reduce supply.

- **Careful of unintended consequences.** The current shortage of student accommodation in the private rental market is, at least in part, due to private landlords opting not to let to students. This is

an unintended consequence of legislative measures aimed at protecting tenants' rights but has created market shifts, reducing availability and driving up costs. Care needs to be given, particularly given the rapid pace intended for the passage of this Bill, that this situation is not exacerbated. Anecdotally, we are aware that PBSA providers are reluctant to enter the market in regions, despite securing planning permissions.

- **Evictions.** We understand the desire to protect tenants against evictions. However, the legislation must retain universities' power to remove students from accommodation where they pose a risk (violent or sexual) to other students. This issue is particularly acute in the highly communal model of living that is university halls an PBSA.
- Additionally, where the end period of a university-managed contract for student accommodation is reached (usually a nine-month contract), the university must be able to ask the students to depart on the terms agreed. Losing this contractual power would prevent universities from honouring contracts with the next annual intake of first-year students. It would also harm the revenue-generating activity from conferences and events over the summer, which is vital to address the under-funding of university teaching and research budgets.
- **A longer-term strategy.** Universities Scotland and institutions are working with the Scottish Government on a strategy for student accommodation, which will address some of the longer-term challenges not directly linked to rising energy costs and high inflation. That is the means to address more systemic issues with student accommodation. Not this emergency Bill with its highly limited opportunity for scrutiny.

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 October 2022 14:10

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Thanks [redacted].

I may have got the wrong end of the stick, but I understood at the time that the University student association was promoting it across universities.

I'll get an update on the event, and make sure you are brought into any planning etc.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 04 October 2022 14:06

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Thanks [redacted]. The Dundee meeting wasn't on our radar, please can your colleagues ensure its flagged to US if it is rescheduled.

Cheers,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 October 2022 14:04

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Hi [redacted]

There was an event planned at Dundee university, and that was cancelled because of the period of official mourning.

I will chase with colleagues and see if it has been re-scheduled.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 04 October 2022 14:02

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Hi [redacted],

We've received the invite/info about the event below. Just wanted to quickly check if there will be a HE equivalent?

GCU are sending some of their MH team to the morning session on the 11th.

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 04 October 2022 13:45

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

L,

I take it you got this too? Seems to be FE focused only. Do you know if they are doing a parallel exercise for HE (or is that our Roundtable?)

S

[redacted]

(she/her)

Head of Public Affairs

Universities Scotland

M: [redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 October 2022 09:37

To: [redacted]@glasgowclyde.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@sparqs.ac.uk;

[redacted]@scottishstudentsport.com; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@nus-scotland.org.uk; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk;

[redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk; [redacted]@sparqs.ac.uk; [redacted]@cdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk;

[redacted]@stir.ac.uk; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk;

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@glasgowclyde.ac.uk;

[redacted]@ayrshire.ac.uk; [redacted]@dusa.co.uk; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk;
[redacted]@strath.ac.uk; [redacted]@nus-scotland.org.uk; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk;
[redacted]@gcu.ac.uk

Subject: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Good morning,

Could you please share the email below with your networks/contacts. This is to advertise the Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Student Engagement events which will take place on Tuesday 11th October in Glasgow.

Regards,
[redacted]

Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy - Further Education & Student Engagement Event

The Scottish Government is developing a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The new strategy will allow us to look ahead to make sure we are doing the right things to meet the mental health needs of people over the coming years. It will set out a clear vision for future population mental health, wellbeing and care, and our priorities to help us get there.

The Scottish Government are eager to hear from students, further education providers and those who support students on what needs to be included in the new Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

We are grateful to Glasgow Clyde College who will host 2 half-day “in-person” events on Tuesday 11th October.

The events will take place at Glasgow Clyde College - Cardonald Campus 690 Mossspark Drive Glasgow G52 3AY

Staff Session

The morning session will take place from 09.30-12.00 and is for anyone working in further education or who provides student support.

To register for the morning session, please use the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-wellbeing-strategy-further-education-engagement-event-tickets-428639320747>

Student Session

The afternoon session will take place from 13.30-16.00 and is for students in further education (colleges and Universities)

To register for the afternoon session, please use the link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-wellbeing-strategy-further-education-engagement-event-tickets-428646241447>

[redacted] | Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Stakeholder Engagement Lead | Mental Health Division | Scottish Government |
Mobile: [redacted] | email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Fol document 3

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 03 October 2022 11:36

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: US: Connected Scotland Post - grant claim & KPI report (April - Sept 2022)

Dear [redacted], apologies for the slight delay, but please find attached a short paragraph of achievements against the set table of objectives included in the grant agreement and the grant claim form covering the period from April to September this year.

Any questions, please get in touch.

Best,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Senior Policy Officer (International)

Universities Scotland

Tel: [redacted]

Twitter: [redacted]

Please note: US staff are all working from home for the foreseeable future and can best be reached by e-mail and mob

[Attachment 1] CLAIM FORM CS POST 2022-23

[Exemption applied: Section 33 (1)(b) exemption: Commercial interests and the economy: Disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person.]

This is the Schedule referred to in the foregoing Offer of Grant dated 6 July 2022

SCHEDULE 2

GRANT CLAIM FORM

Organisation: UNIVERSITIES SCOTLAND

Bank details: _____ **Universities UK** _____ Sort

Code: [redacted] ___ Account Number: [redacted]

_____ [redacted] _____

Programme Name: CONNECTED SCOTLAND RESOURCE POST

Total agreed grant for 2022-23: £[redacted]

Latest forecast of expenditure of grant for 2022-2023: £[redacted]

Amount of Grant claimed to date: £[redacted]

Claim for the date period from ___[redacted]_____ to ___[redacted]

We hereby claim £[redacted]_____ in respect of the above period in accordance with the terms and conditions of the offer of Grant dated 6 July 2022 and the Schedules attached thereto.

Completed by: [redacted]

Position: Senior Policy Officer

Contact Details: [redacted]

Date: 30 September 2022

Items of Expenditure

Please list in the table below all discrete items of expenditure relevant to the above period and the type of documentary evidence that has or will substantiate each amount.

A Item	B Amount (£)	C Paid Invoice [Y/N]	D Other (please specify, e.g. certificate of payment in kind)
Salary costs	[redacted]	N	[redacted]
Staff related	[redacted]	N	[redacted]
Rent	[redacted]	N	[redacted]
IT equipment	[redacted]		N
Website development	[redacted]	Y	attached
TOTAL*		[redacted]	

[Attachment 2] CS post – KPI report – Sept 2022

[Exemption applied: Section 29: Formulation of Scottish Administration policy (Section 29 (1)(a) - Information is exempt under section 29(1)(a) if it relates to the formulation or development of government policy). This would address some of the sections/actions from the KPI report that mention the policy development task.]

CS officer report of achievements: April – September 2022

High level objectives	Milestones	Outcomes for 2022/23	Update Sept 2022
[redacted]	[redacted]	• [redacted]	• [redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

[Attachment 3] Two Fifths-Design_Invoice_1508

[Exemption applied: Section 33 (1)(b) exemption: Commercial interests and the economy: Disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person.]

TwoFifths Design

9 Townsend Crescent
KIRKCALDY
Fife KY1 1DN

hello@twofifthsdesign.com
 www.twofifthsdesign.com
 01592644754
 VAT: [redacted]

[redacted]
 Universities Scotland
 20 Potterrow
 Edinburgh
 EH8 9BL

INVOICE [redacted]

31 August 2022

Payment: 30 Days

Payment due by [redacted]

Quantity	Details	Unit Price (£)	VAT	Net Subtotal (£)
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
0:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
15:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
4:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
6:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:30 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:00 Hour	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
4:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:00 Hour	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
4:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
0:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
0:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
4:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:00 Hour	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:00 Hour	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2:00 Hours	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:00 Hour	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1:00 Hour	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
			Net total	[redacted]
			VAT	[redacted]
			GBP Total	[redacted]

Payment Details

Royal Bank of Scotland
Bank/Sort Code: [redacted]
Account Number: [redacted]
Payment Reference: [redacted]

Other Information

Company Registration Number: [redacted]
Contract/PO: [redacted]

**TwoFifths will bill [redacted] costs on completion of the project. All Invoices payable within 30 Days.
All amends over and above the allocated time above will be charged at our hourly rate of [redacted].**

From: [redacted]

Sent: 03 October 2022 12:19

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

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

Subject: RE: Connected Scotland Post - grant claim & KPI report (April - Sept 2022)

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for sending your email below.

I note that you provided us with the KPI report for the CS post up to September 2022 and that you have also provided us with the completed claim form for the CS post up to 30 September 2022 too, with the website development invoice included for awareness.

Please note that we will process the CS post claim form and make payment in due course. In addition to this, we will review the KPI report and follow-up if we have any questions.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] | International Higher Education | Advanced Learning and Science Directorate |
Scottish Government

Tel: [redacted]

Fol document 4

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Date: Wednesday, 05 Oct 2022 at 12:09 pm

To: [redacted]@glasgowclyde.ac.uk, [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk>, [redacted]@sparqs.ac.uk>, [redacted]@scottishstudentsport.com, [redacted]@gov.scot>, [redacted]@gov.scot>, [redacted]@gov.scot>, [redacted]@nus-scotland.org.uk, [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>, [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>, [redacted]@sparqs.ac.uk, [redacted]@cdn.ac.uk, [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk, [redacted]@stir.ac.uk, [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk, [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk, [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk, [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk, [redacted]@glasgowclyde.ac.uk>, [redacted]@ayrshire.ac.uk>, [redacted]@dusa.co.uk>, [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk>, [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk, [redacted]@strath.ac.uk>, [redacted]@nus-scotland.org.uk>, [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk>, [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk>, [redacted]@dusa.co.uk>, [redacted]@dusa.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Further Education & Student Engagement Events

Good afternoon,

Could you please share the email below with your networks/contacts. This is to advertise the Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Student Engagement events which will take place on Wednesday 12th October in Dundee from 13.00 -16.00.

Regards,

[redacted]

Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy - Further Education & Student Engagement Event

The Scottish Government is developing a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The new strategy will allow us to look ahead to make sure we are doing the right things to meet the mental health needs of people over the coming years. It will set out a clear vision for future population mental health, wellbeing and care, and our priorities to help us get there.

The Scottish Government are eager to hear from students, further education providers and those who support students on what needs to be included in the new Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

We are grateful to Dundee University Student's Association who will host a half-day "in-person" events on Wednesday 12th October from 13.00 – 16.00.

The events will take place at

Dundee University Students' Association
Air Bar, Level 4
Airlie Place
Dundee
DD1 4HP

To register for this event, please use the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-wellbeing-strategy-further-education-engagement-event-tickets-431556425887>

[redacted] | Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Stakeholder Engagement Lead | Mental Health
Division | Scottish Government |

Mobile: [redacted] | email: [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

Fol document 5

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 October 2022 17:21

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Subject: UKRAINIAN STUDENTS: SHORT COURSES

Importance: High

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

Apologies for contacting you again but I wonder if you would be able to point me in the right direction. The Minister is asking about whether universities offer any short courses or learning opportunities to displaced Ukrainians, for example language skills, and what costs are associated with such courses. Would you be able to send this request out to universities or alternatively provide me with the right contact in each university. I'd be grateful for a response from universities by 17 October.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Senior Policy Officer: Higher Education Governance and Quality

Scottish Government | DALs: Higher Education and Science Division | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

Fol document 6

From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 October 2022 15:57

To: [redacted] @sparqs.ac.uk'; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk'; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk'; [redacted] @hw.ac.uk'; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk'; [redacted] @universities-scotland.ac.uk'; [redacted] @emilytest.co.uk'; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk'; [redacted]@DUNDEE.AC.UK'; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk'; [redacted]@cubo.ac.uk'; [redacted]@unitestudents.com'; [redacted]@unitestudents.com'; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk'; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk'; [redacted]@exseed.ed.ac.uk'; [redacted]@unison.co.uk'; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk'; [redacted]@ucu.org.uk'; [redacted]@nus-scotland.org.uk'; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk'; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk'; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk'; [redacted]@wcs.ac.uk'; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk'

Cc: [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Agenda: Student Accommodation Group - 6 October 2022

Dear colleagues,

Please see below the agenda for this week's meeting of the Student Accommodation Group, and attached the minutes of the last meeting.

Agenda – Student Accommodation Group - 6 October 2022

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Updates from Scottish Government
 - PBSA Review
 - Cost of Living Bill
 - Covid-19
4. Updates from Accommodation Providers
5. AOB
6. Date of next meeting

As ever, any questions, concerns or agenda items to add please let me know.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Equalities and Student Wellbeing
Advanced Learning and Science Directorate
Scottish Government

Fol document 7

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 October 2022 15:12

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: Horizon Europe and Alternatives Discussion

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for letting us know your availability. I am on leave the w/c 24th Oct but we could maybe meet on the Friday (21st) after you have had your meeting if that works? I understand if it is an afternoon meeting this might not be possible and happy to try be flexible and see if others could pick up a meeting during my leave if the following week works out best.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 07 October 2022 12:13

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Horizon Europe and Alternatives Discussion

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for getting in touch, very happy to have a meeting w/c 17th. Looking at diaries it's hard to match up for me and [redacted] that week but I'm currently free that Thursday/Friday. Alternatively I could look into the following week.

Things are moving very fast and we just held another meeting last night, a meeting is also scheduled on the 21st so it might be helpful to meet after this date.

Happy to take your advice on this and when best to chat.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Senior Policy Officer (Research, Innovation & Health)

Universities Scotland

[redacted]

Working pattern: Tuesday – Friday

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 October 2022 09:10

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Horizon Europe and Alternatives Discussion

Morning [redacted] and [redacted],

Hope you are both well.

As you are aware, the UK's association to Horizon Europe is still ongoing and there are planned contingencies on implementing an alternative if formal association to the programme does not occur.

In light of this, [redacted] and I are hoping to gather Universities Scotland's viewpoint, or the sector's feedback (if any have been provided to yourselves), regarding this. Given that the alternative may be implemented, it would be great if you can advise us on Universities Scotland's perspective of the alternative programme and what we can do to influence the programme to support the Scottish HE sector. This will ensure that the alternative takes into consideration the needs of Scottish HEIs, in the scenario of non-association to Horizon Europe and there is a need to implement this programme. Information on the alternative can be found here: Supporting UK R&D and collaborative research beyond European programmes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

We were hoping to put the meeting in for some time in week commencing 17th October. If you can let me know what date/ time best suits you, I can put a meeting in the diaries.

Any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
International Higher Education

International Higher Education | Higher Education and Science Division | Directorate for Advanced Learning and Science | Scottish Government | 7th Floor | Atlantic Quay | Glasgow | G2 8LU | Mob: [redacted] | Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Fol document 8

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 October 2022 12:00
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Research Funding

Hi [redacted]

All well here but time is flying, the final countdown!

Very happy to arrange a meeting, that week will be my final week of work and my mat leave cover (should be) in post/able to join a meeting, I'll also include [redacted] my Manager just in case. Could I offer the following times/dates:

- 9-10am Tues 25th
- 1-2pm
- 4-5pm
- 9 – 10.30am Weds 26th
- Anytime Frid 28th

Hopefully one of those times will work for your side.

Thanks again,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Senior Policy Officer (Research, Innovation & Health)

Universities Scotland

[redacted]

Working pattern: Tuesday – Friday

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2022 16:40
To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Research Funding

Hi [redacted],

I hope you are doing well. It can't be long until you finish up - fingers crossed it is not too busy tying up loose ends!

I wondered if you might have some time available towards the end of the month for a catch up. We were hoping to pick up discussion on research funding following on from Stephen, Roddy and Alastair's meeting earlier in the week.

Please let me know if you have any availability w/b 24/10.

Thanks and hope to catch up soon.

[redacted]

Fol document 9

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 07 October 2022 09:42

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; Purpose and Principles <Purposeandprinciples@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE - WORKING DRAFT PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES (action: [redacted])

We've got a split decision here, with some opting for a 1:30 – 3 pm meeting or a 2 – 3:30 pm meeting. Can you accommodate both of these?

From: [redacted]

Sent: 07 October 2022 08:48

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; Purposeandprinciples@gov.scot

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE - WORKING DRAFT PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES (action: [redacted])

Let me check with the PAs involved and get back to you.

Cheers,

[redacted]

07 October 2022

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 07 October 2022 08:45

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; Purposeandprinciples@gov.scot

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE - WORKING DRAFT PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES (action: [redacted])

Hi [redacted],

Is there any way we could extend this meeting by half an hour ? An hour might be tight in terms of getting through everything. If not, we can start the process and agree to follow up with anything we don't get through via correspondence.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] (she/her)

I am currently working from home and will usually be available between 0800-1600 via Microsoft Teams and email.

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

Sent: 03 October 2022 15:07

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; pa-principal@st-andrews.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk>; EA-Principal QMU <ea-principal@gmu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE - WORKING DRAFT PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES (action: [redacted])

Importance: High

Hi [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted],

PA COLLEAGUES AND [redacted] – to avoid confusion, this is the *same meeting* that between us, we have been calling **SG Purpose & Principles for tertiary education and research: proposed workshop.**

Having canvassed PA colleagues for dates and times in October as requested, I can suggest the following two dates that suit the majority of suggested participants.

Thursday 27 October 14:00 – 15:00 p.m.

Friday 28 October 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

I hope that at least one of them will suit SG participants. When you advise which you would prefer, please let me know SG attendees so that I am able to provide a Teams link to everyone.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and thanks in anticipation,

Best wishes,

[redacted]

03 October 2022

Fol document 10

5 October: "Alastair, sorry to get you so late. I'm a special adviser in the first minister's office and looking for an urgent word on the emergency legislation just now. [redacted]"

5 October: "[redacted], sorry to get you so late. I'm a special adviser in the first minister's office and looking for an urgent word on the emergency legislation just now. [redacted]"

Incoming:

7 October: "Hi [redacted]. Apologies for the late reply. I've been off. I know my Director responded to other senior SG colleagues on this on wed evening. [redacted]"

Fol document 11

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 October 2022 15:08

To: [redacted]@stir.ac.uk; [redacted]@CLDStandardsCouncil.org.uk>; SAAS Chief Executive <saasce@gov.scot>; [redacted]@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [redacted]@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk; alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; principal@st-andrews.ac.uk; PGrice@qmu.ac.uk; [redacted]@youthlinkscotland.org; [redacted]@learninglinkscotland.org.uk; [redacted]@scdc.org.uk; [redacted]@ucu.org.uk; [redacted]@unitetheunion.org; [redacted]@eis.org.uk; [redacted]@eis.org.uk; [redacted]@unison.co.uk; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk; [redacted]@sds.co.uk; [redacted]@qaa.ac.uk; [redacted]@phs.scot; [redacted]@phs.scot; [redacted]@phs.scot; [redacted]@dundeecity.gov.uk; [redacted]@qaa.ac.uk; [redacted]@nus-scotland.org.uk; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk; [redacted]@UCU.ORG.UK; [redacted]@unison.co.uk; [redacted]@unison.co.uk; [redacted]@sfc.ac.uk; [redacted]@phs.scot; [redacted]@sqa.org.uk; [redacted]@qaa.ac.uk; [redacted]@sparqs.ac.uk; [redacted]@unitestudents.com; [redacted]@ayrshire.ac.uk; [redacted]@nus-scotland.org.uk; [redacted]@abertay.ac.uk; [redacted]@cdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@sqa.org.uk; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk; [redacted]@sqa.org.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@wcs.ac.uk; [redacted]@edinburghcollege.ac.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Workshop - Playbook discussion

Hi all

As mentioned at the CRG meeting on Tuesday 4th October, we are arranging a stakeholder workshop to discuss the Covid Response 'Playbook'.

In terms of a **Calendar hold** - we plan to host this event on 26th October (pm). I will confirm exact timings via a Teams meet request in due course.

Very grateful if you could provide nominations for the workshop. **To note:** we propose a maximum of 2 participants from each of the main sector groupings - universities, colleges, CLD, NUS and Trade Unions. If CRG members from other bodies wish to be part of these groups, then do please let us know.

Very grateful for your nominations by 14th October.

Kind regards,

[redacted] – **Advanced Learning and Science** - [redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 October 2022 15:32

To: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

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

Subject: RE: CRG etc

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for this.

Yes, we'll be in touch about the Playbook discussion (hopefully in the next couple of weeks).

As I mentioned on the call, we think most of the issues arising from the pandemic can be picked-up in either existing or anticipated forums linked to things like NSET and Reform work. As a Directorate Management Team we are also looking at stakeholder engagement more generally, with a key question being about whether we are getting it quite right at the moment. Your helpful recollection of the HE Advisory Forum will certainly provide food for thought on what our approach should look like 😊.

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 04 October 2022 13:54
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: CRG etc

Hi [redacted]

Just picking up on a couple of things re. this morning's meeting.

Let us know when you want to convene a discussion on the "playbook".

Also, I noted the idea of continuing to gather the community of the CRG to discuss other issues, with the Minister in the Chair.

It may be that there isn't anyone in ALS with a 'corporate memory' of the 'HE Advisory Forum' that Mr Russell created in 2013, arising from the Von Prondzynski report recommendation for an 'Advisory Forum'. That recommendation itself was disputed within Von Prondzynski's review group. The Forum that was created proved to have very limited utility and was stood down. And of course, that was 'just' covering the university sector.

If you are thinking about enhancing stakeholder engagement we would be pleased to share experience and views. Personally speaking, and on the basis of the 'HE Advisory Forum' experience, I think a replication of the CRG would not be the way to go.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 October 2022 10:34
To: [redacted]@UCU.ORG.UK>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: CRG Tuesday 6 September minutes, papers and presentations

Good morning [redacted]

Thanks for highlighting this. We'll make sure the minute is amended.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Scottish Government - Advanced Learning and Science - Covid Response

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

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

Fol document 12

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 07 October 2022 11:11

To: [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Access to Free Period Products

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

My team has recently taken over policy responsibility for access to free period products and it'd be helpful if we could have sight of the statements that colleges and unis are required to publish under section 6(7) of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.

When my colleague, [redacted] wrote to you in September last year regarding the Responsible Bodies Guidance (email attached for info), we included an 'ask' of colleges and unis to send us a copy of their statement on how they'll exercise their functions under the legislation. We didn't receive many replies and we'd now like to follow this up.

Before we do anything, I wanted to check the best way of going about this? Should any request go out through you or are you content for us to go directly to the relevant delivery leads?

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fairer Scotland Team Leader, Financial Wellbeing Unit, Tackling Child Poverty and Financial Wellbeing Division
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Leith.