

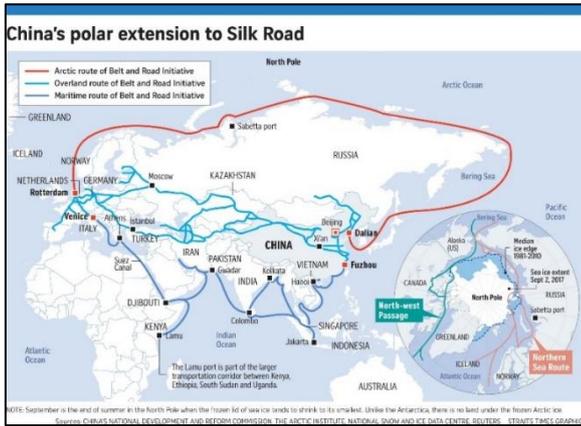
Meeting with Mr Gao Feng, Chinese Special Envoy for Arctic Affair

Friday, 14 October, 14:00-14:40

Points for discussion	[redacted – s.32(1)(a) International relations]
Why	Former Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop had a bilateral meeting with Mr Gao Feng at the 2018 Arctic Circle Assembly. [redacted – s.30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice] [redacted – s.32(1)(a) International relations]
Who	<p>Gao Feng – Special Representative for Arctic Affairs, People’s Republic of China</p>  <p>Gao Feng began his career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. In 1996, he was appointed the Legal Counsel to the Permanent Mission of China to the UN in New York. In 2000, he returned to the Foreign Ministry in Beijing and was appointed Deputy Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law. He was Head/Deputy Head of the Chinese delegation to all the climate change negotiations from 2000 to 2005. In 2013, he was appointed Special Representative for Climate Change Negotiations of the Foreign Ministry of China, and involved in the negotiations, adoption, signing and entry into force of the Paris Agreement. In 2016, he was appointed Special Representative for Arctic Affairs (part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).</p>
Media	[redacted – s.30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice]
Attached documents	Annex A – Core brief Annex B – Scotland-China key links

[redacted – s.32(1)(a) International relations]

China and the Arctic



China published its Arctic strategy in 2018, [redacted – s.32(1)(a) International relations]

Trade and shipping routes

- China is a valuable trade partner for Scotland (total value of exports in 2019 – £685m)
- In August, the first direct container service connecting China and Scotland arrived in Greenock. This will increase accessibility of trade between Scotland

and China.

[redacted – s.32(1)(a) International relations]

Higher education

- In AY 2020/21, there were 68,180 enrolments from students living in non-UK domicile at Scottish HEIs. **18,555 of these enrolments were from China.**

Exports

- Total value of exports in 2019 – £685m and 14th largest export market (excluding oil and gas)
- Value of exports to China in 2019 included Salmon (£59m), Whisky (£89m), Textiles (£5.3m) and Oil (£3.9bn)

[redacted – s.33(1)(b) Commercial interests]

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Tourism

- In 2019 China was Scotland's fastest growing international inbound travel market with 172,000 visits to Scotland from China – valued at £142 million
- In 2019 there were 146,000 Holiday and Visiting Friends and Relatives visits to Scotland from China – valued at £88 million (latest tourism figures available)