

Fol document 1

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 October 2022 17:13

To: Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Supporting Cab Sec on stakeholder calls following Economy prospectus publication - Tuesday 18/10

Importance: High

Hi Helen,

Sorry for hijacking your Tuesday morning after being out of office for a few days.

I'm not sure if [redacted] has warned you separately but you've been selected to provide DD support to the Cab Sec for two short 10-15 minute calls tomorrow. The calls are to SFC and US for the Cab Sec to introduce the latest Constitutional Futures paper "*Building a New Scotland: A stronger economy with independence*".

I sent up a briefing today (attached) and there are also a Pre-brief and Briefing on the prospectus in calendars for Tuesday morning, which I've forwarded on to you.

[redacted] will be attending the briefings tomorrow and the calls with SFC and US tomorrow, and will be on hand to support Cab Sec on anything related to the [redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)] but thought I'd flag to you in a separate email since it's your first day back.

[redacted] is back from leave tomorrow so feel free to contact either of us if there are any issues!

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Manager | Covid Response and Constitution Unit | Directorate for Advanced Learning & Science | Scottish Government

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 October 2022 16:42

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Lively D (David); [redacted]; [redacted]; Director of Fiscal Policy and Constitution;
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: Pre-brief

When: 18 October 2022 08:45-09:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Putting in a short pre-meeting ahead of meeting with Ms Somerville at 9, in case helpful.

As I mentioned in my earlier email, I won't be able to join this one, due to A/L, but others in the team will be there.

I'm also adding [redacted]/ [redacted] (and [redacted] in CFD) for awareness and joining if they wish, since Ms Somerville is going to be speaking to SFC and Universities Scotland later in the day (I'd invite them to expand invite to anyone else who needs to see it).

[redacted]

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 October 2022 16:24

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; MSP Shirley-Anne; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Livey D (David)

Subject: FW: Briefing on Economy Prospectus Paper

When: 18 October 2022 09:00-09:45 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams

FYI and joining if you would find it helpful to do so.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Sent: 14 October 2022 13:46

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; MSP Shirley-Anne; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Livey D (David)

Subject: Briefing on Economy Prospectus Paper

When: 18 October 2022 09:00-09:45 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 October 2022 09:38

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; MSP Shirley-Anne; Webster H (Helen); [redacted]

Subject: Call with Scottish Funding Council - Economy Prospectus paper

When: 18 October 2022 11:30-11:45 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Teams

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 October 2022 08:31

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; MSP Shirley-Anne; Webster H (Helen); [redacted]

Subject: Call with Universities Scotland - Economy Prospectus paper

When: 18 October 2022 12:00-12:15 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Teams

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**CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS
MEETING WITH Colleges Scotland, Universities Scotland and Scottish Funding Council following publication of “A stronger economy with independence” prospectus**

What	<i>Short telephone meeting with key stakeholders following the publication of the “A stronger economy with independence” prospectus</i>
When	<i>Tuesday 18 October – Student Funding Council [Chief Executive, Karen Watt & Chair Mike Cantley] – 11.30am, Universities Scotland [Director, Alastair Sim & Chair (St Andrews Principal)] – 12.00pm, Colleges Scotland [Chief Executive Shona Struthers & Chair, Waiyin Hatton] - TBC</i>
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SFC Teams meeting link, passcode – [redacted]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Or call in [redacted]</i> ○ <i>Phone Conference ID: [redacted]</i> • <i>US Teams meeting link, passcode [redacted]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Or call in [redacted]</i> ○ <i>Phone Conference ID: [redacted]</i> • <i>CS Teams meeting not set up by PO at time briefing sent up</i>
Who	<i>Universities Scotland – Alastair Sim, Director and Sally Mapstone (Chair and St Andrews Principal), Colleges Scotland – Chief Executive Shona Struthers & Chair, Waiyin Hatton, Scottish Funding Council, Chief Executive, Karen Watt & Chair Mike Cantley</i>
Why	<i>Short telephone calls to key stakeholders following the publication of the “A stronger economy with independence” prospectus.</i>
Key messages	<p><i>A stronger economy with independence: Key points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This is the third paper in the Building a New Scotland series It sets out proposals for the economy of an independent Scotland.</i> • <i>The paper says that the SG plans to use the full powers of independence to build an inclusive, fair, wellbeing economy that works for everyone in Scotland.</i> • <i>The paper sets out the SG view that the UK economy is not working for Scotland – it is delivering low productivity, stagnant wages, high inequality and high poverty rates.</i> • <i>It suggests that the current UK Government is making major economic challenges – like inflation and the cost-of-living crisis – worse. Instability and uncertainty are increasing, and financial markets are questioning the UK Government’s economic competence.</i> • <i>The paper explains that Scotland’s economy has huge potential - we have the skilled people, the dynamic businesses, and the natural resources to be just as successful as comparable independent European countries.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders will be involved in the post-publication transition planning process to ensure their views help shape policy decisions which will benefit the people of Scotland.
Official support	Helen Webster, Deputy Director, ALS Reform Division and [redacted], Constitution and Covid Inquiries Team Leader.
Agenda	Short, informal telephone call so no agenda has been prepared.
Main objective	To introduce the Economy prospectus and manage any concerns raised by stakeholders relating to the [redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)].

ANNEX A

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A stronger economy with independence: Key proposals:

Currency, fiscal responsibility and institutions

- The paper outlines the proposal that an independent Scotland should use the pound sterling until the time is right to introduce a Scottish pound.
- Fiscal rules would be put in place, informed by international best practice, targeting economic stability and success.
- New institutions would be set up to make sure that an independent Scotland would have strong public finances which would be responsibly managed. After the introduction of the Scottish pound, a new Scottish Central Bank's role would expand to manage the new currency.

Building a New Scotland Fund

- This government would set up a Building a New Scotland Fund to invest up to £20 billion in infrastructure over the first decade of independence. The Fund would reinvest oil and gas revenues, alongside other windfall income, in the Scottish economy.
- The Fund would invest, for example, in projects to tackle climate change, help the economy grow in a fairer way, and build affordable housing.

EU membership

- In the paper the government proposes that Scotland should apply to re-join the EU. This would restore the right of Scottish citizens to move freely with the EU. Under an arrangement called the Common Travel Area (CTA), people in Scotland would also be able to move freely within the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.
- It is explained that the benefits of EU membership would be felt by business, especially exporters. They would be able to access the European Single

Market which by population is seven times the size of the UK. As a member state, Scotland would benefit from the EU's existing trade deals and its ability to negotiate new trade deals on beneficial terms.

Greener economy

- Rising energy costs, being driven by the price of gas, have shown the need to move to renewable, lower-priced energy. The paper sets out proposals to support for flexible, green energy generation. By creating more renewable energy in Scotland, there would be less reliance on high-cost gas and security of supply would be increased.
- This government would also seek to implement reforms to the electricity market to ensure the long-term affordability of electricity – and ensure energy self-reliance in green electricity. The aim would be to export increasing amounts of renewable energy, maximise the economic opportunities this represents, and drive progress towards Net Zero by supporting the security of supply needs and the decarbonisation ambitions - both of Scotland and our neighbouring nations.
- This government would also work to provide a greener, more efficient way of heating homes. The reforms would include making it more affordable to switch from gas boilers to a heat pumps, creating an opportunity to reduce heating costs for Scotland's homes.

Immigration

- The paper sets a proposed new approach to help ensure that businesses can access the skills and people they need; and to meet the needs of parts of Scotland most at risk of depopulation.

Fairer work

- The paper outlines a new approach to work would be a key part of building both a dynamic economy and a just society. This government proposes a single rate for the national minimum wage—one that better reflects the cost of living—with no lower rates for younger workers. There would be improved access to flexible working, workplace rights would be strengthened, and unfair labour laws would be reversed as a first step to better industrial relations.

Building a New Scotland

- The first paper in the series 'Independence in the modern world. Wealthier, happier, fairer: why not Scotland' was published on 14 June and presents evidence of the stronger economic and social performance, relative to the UK, of 10 independent countries across Europe that are comparable to Scotland.
- The second paper in the series 'Renewing Democracy through Independence' was published on 14 July. It describes Scotland's position within the Union, the nature of the UK parliamentary system and sets out the democratic case

for independence and why the Scottish Government believes that decisions about Scotland should be made here rather than at Westminster.

- Under independence the power to decide Scotland’s future would rest with the people who live in Scotland. It would give Scotland’s democratically elected Scottish Parliament and government the powers to act in the face of crisis and build a better future.
- The Building a New Scotland series is designed to give people the information they need to make an informed choice over their future and to inform debate over what that future should be. It will set out our proposals for how we could create a wealthier, happier, and fairer Scotland as an independent country.
- Future publications in the Building a New Scotland series will cover the full benefits of re-joining the EU, and will set out detailed proposals on energy and other key issues such as social security, pensions, and using the powers of independence to make the fastest possible just transition to Net Zero.
- The paper is available to read now in both HTML and PDF formats at www.gov.scot/newscotland. This is also where you will find additional materials such as a summary version and an explainer video. The summary version in various languages and alternative formats will be made available as soon as possible

ANNEX B

Key issues raised to officials on [redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]

ITEM 1	[redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]
Issue/ background	[redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]
Key message(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]
Suggested question(s)	
Contact point	[redacted]

ITEM 2	Student funding in an independent Scotland
Issue/ background	[redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]
Key message(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]
Suggested question(s)	
Contact point	[redacted]

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From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 October 2022 14:27
To: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>
Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@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 - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Hope that helps.

Cheers

[redacted]

From: David Lott <david@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Sent: 25 October 2022 13:47
To: Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>
Subject: Constitution and universities: follow-up to Cab Sec meeting

Dear Helen and [redacted]

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], 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] and [redacted] over recent weeks via email. I would be very happy to meet and chat them through if of help.

[redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Regards
David

Fol document 8

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 October 2022 14:38

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training

<MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice

<dgej@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen)

<Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Pooley

L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy)

<Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Readout - Ms Somerville calls with stakeholders on economy paper

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills,

Please see below a brief note of your calls with stakeholders on Tuesday, 18th October to discuss the publication of Building a New Scotland: A stronger economy with independence. Officials will take forward the actions on innovation and research and we will continue to engage with SFC, US and CS as part of our work on the [redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)].

Happy to discuss any of this, if helpful.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] (he/him)

Constitution and Covid Inquiries Team Leader

Advanced Learning & Science Directorate | The Scottish Government

Scottish Funding Council – Mike Cantlay (Chair), Karen Watt (Chief Executive):

[redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Universities Scotland – Sally Mapstone (Convener, Principal, St Andrews University), David Lott (Deputy Director)

[redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Colleges Scotland were unable to attend. We have since reached out to CS and offered an official-level update.

Fol document 9

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 September 2022 11:10

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; MSP Shirley-Anne; Director of Learning

Subject: Introduction Call With Secretary of State for Education Kit Matlhouse

When: 26 September 2022 14:05-14:15 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Teams