Annex A – Email correspondence 3 April 2023

From: <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>
Sent: 03 April 2023 16:59
To: <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Gormley N (Nuala) <Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Elsby M (Matthew) <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; Dornan B (Brian) <Brian.Dornan@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinanceandEconomy@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b Barugh J (Jennie) <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Black E (Elise) <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; McAllister JM (Jackie) <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; MacDougall J (Jamie) <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Gillespie G (Gary) <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>
Subject: RE: For views - media query - alternative GERS and Oil and Gas Prices/Public Finances - PA

Thanks <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>,

Have added the highlighted text below regarding GERS publication.

<redacted Section 38(1)(b)>

From: <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>
Sent: 03 April 2023 16:40
To: <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Gormley N (Nuala) <Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Elsby M (Matthew) <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; Dornan B (Brian) <Brian.Dornan@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinanceandEconomy@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b Barugh J (Jennie) <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Black E (Elise) <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; McAllister JM (Jackie) <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; MacDougall J (Jamie) <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Gillespie G (Gary) <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>; <redacted Section 38(1)(b)>
Subject: RE: For views - media query - alternative GERS and Oil and Gas Prices/Public Finances - PA

Colleagues,

The BBC has also approached us on the IFS report and we can share the lines developed with Alasdair, if cleared, with them. But they have also asked two further questions on GERS – see below.

We were recently asked something similar by The National and the previous DFM cleared the below lines on 7 March which we could use for background.

I'd be grateful for any further update to them though in the next **half hour** if possible please – particularly any further information on the continued publication of GERS (I have added the line in red, it was not previously cleared).

BACKGROUND

The GERS publication explicitly states that it shows Scotland's position under the current constitutional set-up and not as an independent nation, where spending choices would clearly be different.

The Scottish Government has already outlined how Scotland can be a stronger economy with independence in the Building a New Scotland series – as well as evidence showing how the UK lags behind comparable independent countries across a number of economic and social indicators.

GERS is a National Statistics publication, and decisions regarding its publication are made in consultation with users, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

QUERY

> I'm more interested in an answer to two simpler questions: following discussion of Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) during the SNP leadership contest, do the new First Minister and the new Finance Secretary intend to continue publishing it this year and into the future? And is there going to be a publication – additional or as an alternative – about the prospective public finances of an independent Scotland?

Many thanks,
<redacted Section 38(1)(b)>