

Item 1

From: [Redacted] **Sent:** 29 April 2022 12:44
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Invitation - Policy Session

On behalf of Andrew Wilson, thank you for this invitation. Andrew will be delighted to attend.

[Redacted]
Executive Assistant
+**[Redacted]** • @cstreetpartners
www.charlottestreetpartners.com
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We are following the latest [Scottish Government guidance](#) and our colleagues continue to work from home for the time being. Where meetings in person need to take place, please note that we will observe the restrictions in place at the time. This may result in some members of your Charlotte Street Partners team being unable to attend in person. However, where this is the case, we will use video or audio conferencing technology to dial in to meetings.

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From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Andrew Wilson
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: Invitation - Policy Session

Dear Andrew Wilson,

On behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture this is an invitation for you to attend a focused policy discussion about currency to test in detail the propositions in this area which are to be addressed in the updated prospectus for independence.

Your participation in this session is requested to provide background and views on currency to Ministers, alongside a small group of our internal senior policy officials and other external experts.

The session is proposed to take place on May 9th at 14:00 in Bute House. I would be grateful if you could confirm your availability to attend. Arrangements for reimbursement of travel or subsistence expenses can be made as required. Should you have any questions please contact **[Redacted]**

Best wishes,

[Redacted]
Assistant Private Secretary to Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Ministerial Private Office
St Andrews House
Edinburgh

cabsecCEAC@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

Item 2

From: Andrew Wilson
Sent: Friday, May 6, 2022 8:46 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Currency discussion with Ministers - 9 May

Understood thank you

Andrew Wilson
Founding Partner
Charlotte Street Partners
www.charlottestpartners.co.uk
@cstreetpartners

T: [Redacted]

On 5 May 2022, at 17:42, [Redacted] wrote:

Good evening,

Grateful for confirmation that you have received my email of 4 May and have picked up that the session is no longer going ahead on 9 May.

Many thanks and apologies once again for the shifting dates.

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Constitutional Futures Division
Constitution and Cabinet Directorate
The Scottish Government
2W, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 04 May 2022 15:37
To: Andrew Wilson
Subject: Currency discussion with Ministers - 9 May

Good afternoon,

As you will be aware, you have been invited to attend a session with Ministers at 2pm on Monday, 9 May. Due to unexpected demands on the First Minister's time, we are now required to reschedule the session for a later date. Please accept our apologies for this.

We are hoping to reschedule the session for 2-4pm on Monday, 23 May. As before, the location is Bute House.

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether this alternative date is suitable at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Constitutional Futures Division
Constitution and Cabinet Directorate
The Scottish Government
2W, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Item 3

From: **[Redacted] On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 3:49 PM

To: Andrew Wilson

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

Subject: Invitation to policy discussion

Dear Andrew Wilson,

On behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture this is an invitation for you to attend a focused policy discussion about fiscal policy to test in detail the propositions in this area which are to be addressed in the updated prospectus for independence.

Your participation in this session is requested to provide background and views on fiscal framework to Ministers, alongside a small group of our internal senior policy officials and other external experts.

The session is proposed to take place on 30th May at 13:00 in Bute House. I would be grateful if you could confirm your availability to attend. Arrangements for reimbursement of travel or subsistence expenses can be made as required. Should you have any questions please contact **[Redacted]**

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Assistant Private Secretary to Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution,
External Affairs and Culture
Ministerial Private Office
St Andrews House
Edinburgh

cabsecCEAC@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

Item 4

From: Brian Dornan [Redacted]

Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 4:07 PM

To: zzzFirst Minister 2021 to 2023 <zzzfirstminister@gov.scot>; zzzDeputy FM and CabSec for Covid Recovery 2021-2023 <zzzDFMCSCR@gov.scot>; zzzCabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2021 to 2023 <zzzCabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; zzzCabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy 2021 to 2023 <zzzCabSecFE@gov.scot>; zzzzMinister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine 2022 to 2023 <zzzzMinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Ewan Crawford [Redacted]; Colin McAllister [Redacted]; Director of Fiscal Policy and Constitution [Redacted]; Matthew Elsbey [Redacted]; Gary Gillespie [Redacted]; David Rogers [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: OFFSEN - Prospectus Policy Session: currency and fiscal framework

PS/ First Minister

PS/ Deputy First Minister

PS/ Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

PS/ Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy

PS/ Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with Special Responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Copy: as above

Please find attached briefing material for Monday's Prospectus Policy Session on currency and the fiscal framework.

Hard copies of this material will be available in Bute House on Monday and will be collected in at the end of the session. I would be grateful if colleagues did not retain or share these papers more widely as record management will be handled by CFD.

Many thanks,

Brian

Brian Dornan | Deputy Director Constitutional Futures | Directorate for Constitution and Cabinet | Scottish Government

Mob: [Redacted]



Item 4, attachment 1

This document is prepared for the purpose of formulating and developing government policy, and contains expressions of views and proposed policy positions and statements that are intended to inform deliberation.

BRIEFING NOTE - CURRENCY

Purpose of the policy development session:

- Offer expert advice and input to support Ministers' consideration of policy propositions;
- Present Ministers with the core propositions on each key area;
- Enable testing of the propositions;
- Identify actions for further development of the policy positions.

This section of the session considers issues around currency. The second part of the session will cover fiscal sustainability issues **[Redacted]**

The summary notes below have been prepared to guide the currency discussion. More detail can be provided in the discussion at the meeting.

Context:

[Redacted]

In 2014, the proposition was to retain Sterling in a formal currency union with the UK. The UK Government asserted at the time that it would not enter into such an arrangement, though the point was not of course tested in an actual negotiation.

The Sustainable Growth Commission report from 2018 recommended continued use of Sterling before moving to a new independent Scottish currency, once a set of tests had been met.

The SG policy position is continued use of Sterling on independence, but with a commitment to establish a separate Scottish currency as soon as practicable.

The SNP policy position is set out in more detail as follows:

Among small successful independent countries there is no single approach to currency. Conference also notes the pound sterling is a shared currency across the UK and is available for Scotland to use, just as Ireland did for an extended period. However, conference believes it should be the policy of an SNP government in an independent Scotland to establish an independent currency, and agrees that the process and precise timetable for doing so should be subject to robust governance and guided by the six tests recommended by the SGC. During the period of transition to independence, work should begin on the establishment of an independent Scottish Central Bank with a Scottish Financial Authority, and the other steps required to support the establishment of a new currency. Until a new currency can be safely and securely established in the interests of the whole economy the currency of an independent Scotland should continue to be the pound sterling, ensuring continuity and stability for the Scottish people. Conference considers that an SNP Government should take the steps necessary to enable the Scottish Parliament to authorise the preparation of a Scottish currency as soon as practicable after a vote for independence with the aim that the currency be ready for introduction as soon as practicable after independence day.

[Redacted]

Item 4, attachment 2

Fiscal Policy –Prospectus Session
30 May 2022
DRAFT

This document is prepared for the purpose of formulating and developing government policy, and contains expressions of views and proposed policy positions and statements that are intended to inform deliberation.

[Redacted]

Item 4, attachment 3

Monetary Policy –Prospectus Session
Office of the Chief Economic Adviser
23 May 2022

This document is prepared for the purpose of formulating and developing government policy, and contains expressions of views and proposed policy positions and statements that are intended to inform deliberation.

2014

- Continued use of Sterling in a Formal Currency Union with the rest of the UK. Recommended by the Fiscal Commission Working Group in 2013.

2018 Sustainable Growth Commission

- Continued use of the pound in a Informal Currency Union with the rest of the UK (also known as Sterlingisation) with a move to an independent Scottish currency at such a time as considered appropriate for the Scottish economy.

[Redacted]

Item 5 (Please note attachments being referred to can be found at [Building a New Scotland: A stronger economy with independence - summary - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultations-papers-and-guidance/building-a-new-scotland-a-stronger-economy-with-independence-summary/))

From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of Brian Dornan
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 12:12 PM
To: Andrew Wilson

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Building a New Scotland - A stronger economy with independence

Dear Andrew,

The third paper in the Independence Prospectus Series (*A stronger economy with independence*) has been launched today by the First Minister. The full paper and a summary are attached to this email, for your interests.

If you would like any further information, don't hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards

Brian Dornan

Brian Dornan | Deputy Director Constitutional Futures | Directorate for Constitution and Cabinet | Scottish Government

Mob: [Redacted]



Item 6

From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of Constitutional Futures

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:29 AM

To: Andrew Wilson

Subject: Freedom of Information request

Good morning,

I am writing to advise you that the Scottish Government has received a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for a list of names of any external individuals or organisations that members of staff working within the Constitutional Futures Division have met with since March 2021.

You have an interest in the information which has been requested because you have attended a meeting which included staff within the Constitutional Futures Division.

Therefore, I am writing to advise you that your name will be included in the list within the response to the FOISA request. We expect this to be issued in the coming days.

I should also explain that we can withhold information only if an exemption under FOISA applies to that information and, where applicable, the public interest in disclosure is not outweighed by the public interest in upholding the exemption. You can find detailed information about FOISA on our website at: <https://www.gov.scot/about/contact-information/how-to-request-information/> or on the Scottish Information Commissioner's website at: <https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/>.

Kind regards

[Redacted]
Constitutional Futures Division
Directorate for Constitution
The Scottish Government
2W, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Section 29(1)(a) – Formulation or Development of Government Policy

An exemption under Section 29(1)(a) of FOISA (Formulation or Development of Government Policy) applies to some of the information requested because it relates to the formulation of the Scottish Government's policy on future fiscal policy for an independent Scotland.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the discussions on future fiscal policy for an independent Scotland will be disclosed in the near future, when it may undermine or constrain the Government's view on that policy while it is still under discussion and development.

Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice

An exemption under section 30(b)(i) of FOISA (free and frank provision of advice) applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank provision of advice.

This exemption recognises the need to have a private space within which to provide free and frank advice to Ministers before the Scottish Government reaches a settled public view. Disclosing the content of free and frank advice will substantially inhibit the provision of such advice in the future.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing a private space within which Scottish Government staff can provide full and frank advice to Ministers until the Government as a whole can adopt a policy that is sound and likely to be effective. This private thinking space is essential to enable all options to be properly considered, based on the best available advice, so that good policy decisions can be taken. Premature disclosure is likely to undermine the full and frank discussion of issues between Ministers and officials, which in turn will undermine the quality of the policy making process, which would not be in the public interest.

Section 30(c) (Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs)

The reason why this exemption applies is because releasing draft plans for and content of Scottish Government publications, which do not reflect final decisions taken, would result in inaccurate information on the Scottish Government's proposals for an independent Scotland

being published, thereby undermining the Scottish Government's ability to effectively and accurately engage and communicate with the public.

This in turn would be likely to impair the Government's ability to take forward its work on policy development for an independent Scotland. This would constitute substantial prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs in terms of the exemption.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in enabling the Scottish Government to effectively and accurately engage and communicate with the public on its proposals for an independent Scotland without the risk of these proposals being prejudiced by inaccurate information, which doesn't reflect final decisions taken, being released while the Scottish Government's work was still under development on a matter of significant political relevance and controversy.

Section 38(i)(b) - Personal Information

An exemption under section s.38(1)(b) of FOISA (Personal Information) applies to a small amount of the information you have requested because it is the personal data of a third party, i.e. names and contact details of individuals (including civil servants below SCS), and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.