

| ENGAGEMENT REPORT | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Minister | Neil Gray MSP, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with Special Responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine |
| Type of engagement | MS Teams Meeting |
| Date | 6 October 2022 |
| Who | Anum Qaisar, MP |
| Key Points | <p>SG Support for Pakistan Flood Relief Anum began by explaining her strong historical links with Pakistan and the Scottish Pakistani community. She commented the diaspora community felt South Asian countries didn't necessarily get the support from SG they deserved. Why for example did Ukraine get £4M of SG funding and Pakistan only £0.5M? Minister Gray began by highlighting the ongoing SG funding for women and girls' scholarships in Pakistan which Anum asked for more details of. (ACTION: [redacted] to forward details via MPO). He went on to explain although Ukraine remained in the media, it was equally important we remembered other global crises such as the devastating floods in Pakistan. The £4M for Ukraine had been donated from across the wider SG budget whereas £0.5M for Pakistan had been split between the HEF and Climate Justice budgets only. SG was in a very different and difficult economic situation now as compared to February 2022 as it faced an £1.7B deficit due primarily to inflationary pressures.</p> <p>Humanitarian Visas for Pakistan Anum asked if it were possible for Scottish Pakistanis to invite flood affected relatives to Scotland under a special visa regime. Minister Gray invited Anum to send him any representations she had received on this subject which he would pursue with UKG.</p> <p>Bellshill Mosque Visit Coming from the same constituency as Minister Gray, Anum opined many Scottish Pakistanis from Airdrie & Shotts worshipped at Bellshill Mosque which she invited him to visit on a Friday afternoon. Minister Gray was very happy to do so and asked Anum to take this forward with the Mosque as she also worshipped there.</p> |
| Comments | Very informal meeting between colleagues. |
| Attending Officials | [redacted] |
| Copy List | Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development Scott Wightman John Primrose Ewan Crawford INTER: International Development [redacted] (for potential follow up with UKG on a special visa regime for flood affected people in Pakistan) |