Note of meeting with Carol Grigor, American Philanthropist
Friday 7 October 2022, 16:00 – 17:00, SAH

Attendees
Carol Grigor, American Philanthropist
Angus Robertson, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
[Redacted under Section 38 of FOISA]

- A friendly discussion on Edinburgh and how important it is to both Mr Roberson and Mrs Grigor. AR gave a short overview of why he asked to meet – important to meet those who provide their knowledge, expertise and charitable donations to the world of culture. AR would like to gain a better understanding of what we do well in culture and what we could do better.
- Both reflected that the Festivals are important to Edinburgh and Scotland as a whole but that there were difficult times coming up where hard decisions would need to be made. Short discussion on the Scottish budget and how Scotland cannot borrow and must deal with a fixed budget.
- [Redacted under Section 33 (1)(b) of FOISA]
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- CG commented that it is important to her to that education in music can be undertaken while acknowledging the costs involved in this. AR commented that at present, music tuition is available in Scottish schools citing Broughton High School as an example of a school which specialises in this type of tuition.
- AR reflected on meeting with Nicola Benedetti from EIF during this year's festival, CG was happy with the appointment and thought that Ms Benedetti will bring a new dimension to EIF, noting that it will take a few years for her to put her own stamp on the festival as performances are booked at least a couple of years in advance, but excited at the prospect of what may be coming.
- Brief conversation on the liquidation of CMI. CG asked if SG had any insight in to this, AR commented that our officials were speaking with all parties to get a better picture of the current situation and what may have led to this outcome and how assistance can be provided going forward.
- At the end of the meeting, AR mentioned the mainstreaming of culture through Education, Health and Justice. CG thought this was an interesting idea which, in the case of justice, may reduce custodial sentences.
- AR and CG agreed it would be good to meet again in the future to discuss ideas.