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EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR), Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting with Heike Raab (HR) State Secretary at the Rhineland-Palatinate (RLP) Representation in Berlin, in advance of joint St Andrew's Day Reception
Date	2 December 2022
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR welcomed AR to the RLP representation and AR spoke warmly of his family connections to Germany and to RLP in particular; • AR thanked HR for the opportunity to co-host a St Andrew's Day Reception with RLP; HR welcomed the initiative and was looking forward to the event; • Positive work under the Joint Statement of Intent between Scotland and RLP on Education, Culture, Higher Education and Research, signed in March 2021 was discussed. Both welcomed the opportunities this offered for cooperation and exchange for young people in light of the negative effects of Brexit on academic mobility and student exchange, which both regretted; • AR highlighted the warm welcome received by Scottish Government Minister Mr Hepburn to Rhineland-Palatinate in April 2022, [redacted – s.32 International relations]; • HR highlighted the fact that both RLP and Scotland have partnership agreements with Rwanda as an example of similar interests and priorities between RLP and Scotland.
Attending official	[redacted], Head of Germany Hub [redacted], Depute Head of Germany Hub

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR), Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting with the British Ambassador to Germany, Jill Gallard
Date	5 December 2022
Key points	<p>Following introductions during which HMA emphasized how, coming from Northern Ireland and having studied in Edinburgh, she was a friend of Scotland and understood devolved politics, the conversation turned to green hydrogen.</p> <p>AR outlined Scotland's capacity to produce green hydrogen for export; the strength of interest and demand from the many German delegations visiting Scotland; and the urgent need to move from strategic discussion to practical engagement. Whilst many areas of hydrogen production are devolved, he was keen to work together with UKG on the practical ramp up of the sector and matters such as certification and pipelines. Recognising potential variations in approach, he explained that Scotland should have less need for blue hydrogen and no need for pink (derived from nuclear energy). It was important for Germany and the UK that Scotland was in a position offer green hydrogen. He therefore hoped that HMA would help ensure that the UK reflected all UK policies in its engagement with Germany, recognising the export of green Scottish hydrogen as part of the UK offering. Scotland was ahead many of Germany's other potential partners in green hydrogen development, Scottish and rUK priorities were complementary and could operate in parallel, and this was a critical juncture for constructive engagement as Germany had spent this year lining up its future import partners.</p> <p>AR advised that the two main areas of interface with UK powers were regulation and pipelines (transportation of gas). On regulation, he hoped that the UK would agree with German and European standards; Germany wanted the green hydrogen that the UK had to offer, and it served nobody's interests to have any lowering of standards. On pipelines, plans were in development for the North Sea region, and it was important for Scotland to be directly connected without any delays or slowing of pace. Citing recent engagement, AR highlighted the interconnections and potential for pipelines between the northern Scandinavian countries, the shift away from the Baltic, and Scotland's unique position between the northern Scandinavian alliance, Ireland, and the northern European mainland. He appealed for any support to maintain the pace with colleagues at the Laender and federal level. [redacted – s.28 UK relations]</p> <p>On education, AR advised that Scotland faced significant issues concerning language learning and the processes and costs for language assistants. [redacted – s.28 UK relations]</p>

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	Mr Robertson explained that, for him, culture went beyond concerts and events and the creative industries, and it was important to consider how UK education interfaced with Germany. He was aware that the Cultural Commission was being updated. Given that education and culture are devolved, he requested that the SG be included in all matters relating to education where the DfE was involved. Jill outlined current attempts to update the 1959 agreement, starting with small steps, and that her officials would be in contact with the Scotland Hub.
Actions	[redacted – s.28 UK relations] CabSec Private Office to request a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills on language learning.
[redacted]	[redacted – out of scope]
Attending official	[redacted], Head of Germany Hub [redacted], Private Office

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR), Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting at German Foreign Ministry with: Marcus Hicken , Federal Foreign Ministry Commissioner for Foreign Energy Policy, Climate and Security; Dr Holger Klitzing , Head of Energy Transition and Hydrogen Diplomacy, Foreign Energy Policy and Decarbonisation Division; [redacted], Head of UK team; [redacted], UK, Norway and other non-EU European countries
Date	5 December 2022
Key points	<p>Following introductions, Mr Robertson outlined his wish to build an understanding in Germany of the substantial scale of Scotland's potential green hydrogen offering. He outlined the scale of the ScotWind leasing round, with its capacity to produce green hydrogen for export, and explained that Scotland would neither produce 'pink' hydrogen from nuclear energy nor plan to export blue. He placed Scotland's export ambitions within the context of positive UK relations, noting that these offered a green trade opportunity for the whole of the UK, particularly in light of German interests in import. He noted Scotland's close cooperation on hydrogen with various Bundesländer and the many German delegations that had visited Scotland. All were keen to see green hydrogen transported from Scotland to Germany and onwards. He noted that hydrogen would probably be most effectively transported via pipeline in the mid-to-long-term and that Scotland's advantageous location could help provide access to a green energy network stretching from Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Isles in the far north to Norway and via Scotland to the northern European mainland, taking in Ireland as well. He reiterated that Scotland wanted to be helpful, especially in light of challenges in Ukraine.</p> <p>MH confirmed that Germany's most pressing topic was energy and that everything must be understood against the backdrop of current events. Germany would speed up its shift to renewables and exit from fossil energy rather than seek to replace Russian gas with gas from elsewhere. It had just passed its largest legislative package in decades, and green hydrogen would play a key role in its energy future. He saw great potential from engaging with Scottish players and noted that Germany was keen to receive hydrogen produced in Europe. He also explained that many of the support instruments for non-EU countries lay with the BMWK [redacted – s.32 International relations]</p> <p>Citing the high levels of international discussion and number of MOUs being signed, AR emphasised the need for speedy practical progress. This was a new sector, akin to Norway in the mid-1960s. There was a lot of private sector interest; his colleagues understood Germany's priorities; and he was keen for federal ministries to understand that</p>

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	<p>Scotland was already engaged, wished to take forward hydrogen at pace and wanted to work together as appropriate.</p> <p>[redacted – s.32 International relations]. Germany planned to make €2bn available via H2Global to scale international production and markets. AR noted how hydrogen would be important not only for business but also geopolitically and for climate reasons. HK cited that Germany’s hydrogen diplomacy offices as signals of Germany’s seriousness internationally.</p> <p>In response to questions, AR noted that the relatively short distance from Scotland should reduce costs from Scotland long-term. Hicken explained that Germany was ensuring that its new LNG terminals would be hydrogen ready in order to avoid lock-in for fossil fuel technologies. Germany was waiting for the Delegated Act from Brussels to confirm hydrogen standards and in the meantime would use H2Global to send price signals. AR appreciated the need for common standards across Europe and anticipated that the UK would also wish to set high standards. Responding on the importance of Just Transition and accessible employment, he agreed that all parts of the country must benefit from the energy transition. He noted the need for a just transition that provided new employment opportunities away from oil and gas in the northeast of Scotland in particular. Asked about the UK’s capacity to transfer energy from north to south, he noted that the transmission lines were there. Scotland produced about a quarter of the UK’s renewable electricity and was already an energy exporter. At the same time, he was keen those areas with the greatest resources should not pay the highest transmission charges. CC noted the possibility of laying interconnectors from the north to the south of the UK via sea.</p> <p>Asked about other key issues for Scotland, AR highlighted sustainability and the importance of a smooth system for educational exchange residence permits and visas, and of retaining educational partnerships with Scotland’s priority European neighbours.</p>
(Out of scope)	(Out of scope)
Attending official	<p>[redacted], Head of Germany Hub [redacted], First Secretary, Global Issues (Climate and Energy), British Embassy [redacted], Private Office</p>

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EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR), Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting with members of the Economic Advisory Group to the CDU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [redacted], Head of Division Industry, Energy, Environment and Climate • [redacted], Head of Division Foreign Trade • [redacted], Policy Advisor Energy and Natural Resources
Date	5 December 2022
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR set out Scotland’s vast potential to supply green hydrogen to Germany and Europe and contribute to Europe’s future energy security. Whilst early plans include the transportation of liquid hydrogen or LOHC, long-term, a pipeline would be required to transport the amounts that Germany requires. • [redacted] set out Germany’s position following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which meant that alternatives were required for the “gas bridge” that had previously been Germany’s long-term energy transition plan. The three pillars of Germany’s accelerated net zero transition roadmap away from gas were now: a) increased energy efficiency of buildings; b) nuclear for a brief transition period; c) CCS in combination with coal-fired power; d) accelerated transition to renewable energy. Germany’s transition to renewables needed a rapid expansion of the electricity grid, [redacted – s.32 International relations]. However, Germany would still need to import renewable electricity and hydrogen in future. • AR emphasized Scotland’s interest in being a partner of Germany in this process and highlighted Scotland’s cooperation agreements on Hydrogen e.g. with Hamburg, Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg. • [redacted] asked about the effect of Brexit and the dispute over the NIP on foreign trade and investment with Scotland. AR outlined examples of negative impacts. • [redacted] suggested that Scotland’s strong energy and data sectors meant that there may be opportunities for “near-shoring” for German businesses, who are increasingly moving towards this business model. • [redacted – s.32 International relations]
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials to send information on Scotland’s data sector to CDU Economic Group • [redacted – s.32 International relations]
(Out of scope)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Out of scope)
Attending official	[redacted], Head of Germany Hub [redacted], Depute Head of Germany Hub [redacted], Assistant Private Secretary

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EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR), Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting with Dr. Manuela Beck (MB), Director of the Goethe Institute (GI)
Date	5 December 2022
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB welcomed AR to Germany and spoke warmly of Scotland, [redacted – s.32 International relations]. • AR thanked MB for the field trip to Berlin that the Goethe Institute had recently arranged for language policy makers from Scotland, Wales, England and Ireland. MB was enthusiastic about the discussions the group had had on supporting modern language learning. • AR highlighted the difficulties now faced by European students wishing to spend time in the UK as language assistants due to UK visa regulations, and the important role these assistants play in bringing the language and culture of another country alive to school pupils and providing motivation for modern language learning. • MB observed that there was a growing decline in interest in German language learning among UK nationals, evidenced by a decline in language course registrations. • MB observed that the focus on passing exams in the UK also appeared to have led to increased reticence to take modern languages at school, for fear that it would be difficult to get good grades. • MB highlighted that the GI could offer support to German language teachers or teacher training students in Scotland, [redacted – s.32 International relations], either in Germany or Scotland, or through bespoke online courses • MB further suggested the possibility of linking up students from Scotland who had spent time in Germany as language assistants into an alumni network, and asked whether there was data available on the number of students from Scotland spending time in Germany as language assistants. • MB further highlighted that the GI offered internships for young people from overseas – the GI would be delighted to open this up to more interns from Scotland and the UK • AR thanked MB for these suggestions, which he would take away for consideration and discussion with ministerial colleagues.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials to consider possibilities for working with the GI to support German language learning in Scotland.
(Out of scope)	(Out of scope)
Attending official	<p>[redacted], Head of Germany Hub [redacted], Depute Head of Germany Hub [redacted], Assistant Private Secretary</p>