

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 08 March 2022 15:38

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Cc:** Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** BID - Woman's Hour - Gender recognition - Date flexible

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Woman's Hour have now put in a firm bid to speak to Ms Robison about the gender recognition bill. They would like to speak to her live on the programme this week if possible.

Please can you let me know if the Cab Sec would still be happy to appear on Woman's Hour and if there is a day that would suit this week – perhaps Friday? Appreciate this might be difficult around other commitments – I can explore options with them for next week if that would be better.

Woman's Hour covered the SG's reform plans on Wednesday last week and had an interview with BBC's Lorna Gordon – a read out is provided below. They haven't followed up since the publication of the Bill and the Cab Sec's statement.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

#### Woman's Hour – 2 March 2022

- Presenter asked what to expect
- Lorna outlined what bill expected to contain based on what was in draft bill – but said need to check if this is for sure in final bill; said designed to make it easier; SG say need it cos of intrusion and demeaning process and to bringing into line with other countries.
- Presenter asked why it took so long
- Lorna outlined consultations and said SG conceded polarisation of debate so had second consultation. That showed polarisation of debate and split between those in favour and those opposed.
- Asked if wider population concerned or interested and Lorna said no other issues dominating and that showed in BBC Scotland survey – which showed sympathy but that people not that sure unless very certain of views, therefore not punching through those very interested in debate. this was social media debate where polarisation takes place.
- Presented asked about survey on young people survey and that was outlined as being much more in favour support and clear age divide. also said women were in favour.
- Presenter asked why statement and if that was usual. Lorna said not usual but not unheard of – and was SG putting out defence ahead of it partic in light of media reports. Mentioned media saying 10 SNP MSPs didn't support.
- Correspondent said likely to pass through Parl as SNP Greens and LD in favour

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Social Justice, Housing & Local Government | Scottish Government  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] |

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 10 March 2022 16:29  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs News Desk  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted  
38(1)(b)] McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) McCaig C (Callum) Corbett GN (Gavin) McAllister C  
(Colin) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Great, thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)] . I'll issue now.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
**Sent:** 10 March 2022 16:26  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs News Desk  
Wilson LJ [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) McCaig C (Callum)  
Corbett GN (Gavin) McAllister C (Colin) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

I can confirm that cab sec is content to clear.

Many thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and  
Transport – Michael Matheson  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel:  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [redacted 38(1)(b)] | Email: [CabSecNetZET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNetZET@gov.scot)

Michael Matheson - Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 10 March 2022 16:15  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [redacted  
38(1)(b)] News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
McCaig C (Callum) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] McAllister C (Colin) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: For Clearance - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sorry to press – and appreciate the Cabinet Secretary is in the chamber at the moment – but I'm mindful of the journalist's deadline and would be grateful for final clearance as close as we could get to 1700, please.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 12:00

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk Wilson LJ (Linsey) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Stewart E (Emma) (Energy) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Bradley S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Berge K (Kersti) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Huyton H (Harry) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McCaig C (Callum) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Corbett GN (Gavin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McAllister C (Colin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: For Clearance - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Thanks, [redacted 38(1)(b)] . And with apologies – now including the relevant line Mr Matheson has referenced.

Grateful to know if the Cab Sec is content with this addition.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 11:37

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wilson LJ (Linsey) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Stewart E (Emma) (Energy) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Bradley S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Berge K (Kersti) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Huyton H (Harry) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McCaig C (Callum) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Corbett GN (Gavin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McAllister C (Colin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Nicolson S (Stuart) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: For Clearance - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

[redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Thanks for this.

Mr Matheson has asked for the lines to be redrafted to include the fact CCC have also called for a compatibility check.

Regards

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 10:55

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wilson LJ (Linsey) [redacted 38(1)(b)] E (Emma) (Energy) [redacted 38(1)(b)] S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Berge K (Kersti) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Huyton H (Harry) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McCaig C (Callum) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Corbett GN (Gavin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McAllister C (Colin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** For Clearance - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Morning [redacted 38(1)(b)] , PO

We've had the below query from The Herald, who are planning a story on suggestions from a "senior Green" that any "u turn" on our current position on hydrocarbon extraction could risk the SG/SGP agreement.

Comms and SpAds have agreed to re-issue the following existing line in response. Grateful to know if the Cabinet Secretary is content with this approach.

**A Scottish Government Spokesperson said:**

"The Scottish Government's position is clear, that unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is not consistent with our climate obligations and we call again on the UK Government, who have the power to act in this instance, to urgently re-assess all approved oil licenses where drilling has not yet commenced against our climate commitments.

**"Our position has been supported by the UK and Scottish Government's statutory advisers on climate change, the Committee on Climate Change, who agreed that any effective and credible checkpoint must extend beyond new licensing rounds to also cover those fields that have already been consented but are not yet in production – such as Cambo.**

"We are carefully studying the UK Government's climate compatibility proposals for new fields, launched last year, in line with our own wider energy analysis work, which we are undertaking to better understand Scotland's energy requirements as we transition to net zero, ensuring an approach that supports and protects our energy security and our highly skilled workforce whilst meeting our climate obligations."

“We are already investing in the sector’s net zero transformation. In addition to our expanded, £75 million Energy Transition Fund and £100 million Green Jobs Fund, our £500 million Just Transition Fund – which we have called on the UK Government multiple times to match - will support the north east and Moray become one of Scotland’s centres of excellence for the transition to a net zero economy, with our investment supporting transformation across the region.”

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 09 March 2022 16:14

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** SNP Greens

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

I am working on a story about the SNP Greens deal.

The FM has been urged by some in her party to change tack and support increased NS oil and gas production as a result of the war in Ukraine and new concerns over energy security – particular to some EU countries with heavy dependence on Russian gas.

However, I have spoken to a senior Green (not named in the story) who said if the FM were to U turn on opposition to increased domestic production, this could risk the co-operation deal and put at risk her majority government.

Could I get a comment on this please. My deadline is 5pm on Thursday.

Many thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

The Herald

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thu 10/03/2022 10:29

**To:** Huyton H (Harry) McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) McCaig C (Callum) Corbett GN (Gavin) McAllister C (Colin) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SpAd View - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Thanks, both. I'll run past Cab Sec.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Huyton H (Harry)

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 10:07

**To:** McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McCaig C (Callum) Corbett GN (Gavin) McAllister C (Colin) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)  
**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs News Desk  
Wilson LJ [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: SpAd View - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Same, thanks.

**From:** McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser)  
**Sent:** 10 March 2022 09:48  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] McCaig C (Callum) Corbett GN (Gavin) Huyton H (Harry) McAllister C (Colin) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)  
**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs News Desk  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: SpAd View - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Seems like a standard line so content from my part.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 10 March 2022 09:45  
**To:** McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) McCaig C (Callum) Corbett GN (Gavin) Huyton H (Harry) McAllister C (Colin)  
**Cc:** Hogg A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs News Desk  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** SpAd View - Media Query - SGP agreement on oil and gas - The Herald

Morning SpAds,

We've had the below query from The Herald, who are planning a story on suggestions from a "senior Green" that any "u turn" on our current position on hydrocarbon extraction could risk the SG/SGP agreement.

Our current lines as follows, which I believe cover the query from a Comms/Policy perspective, but grateful for SpAd views on any amends/additions you feel might be made specifically relating to the agreement aspect.

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Thanks  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 11 March 2022 12:17  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care  
**Subject:** For allocation- Alex Rowley comments- Dunfermline Press

Hey [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

One for allocation.

Thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [Media Manager](#) | [Scottish Government](#)  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 11 March 2022 12:10  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Alex Rowley comments

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Just a response to the following press release please.

Mid Scotland & Fife MSP Alex Rowley blamed unequal treatment of social care workers for labour shortages in the social care industry in a debate in the Scottish Parliament.

The debate comes after Mr Rowley gained cross-party support for his motion “Longstanding Underpayment of Social Care Staff” which states that “poor pay and unequal terms and conditions” were “the underlying cause of recruitment and retention issues in the care sector.”

Mr Rowley said the practice of tendering social care contracts means many privately hired social care workers are only paid while in a client’s home and not for travelling between clients, unlike their publically hired counterparts.

The Labour MSP expressed his disappointment in the SNP and Scottish Greens for failing to sign the motion, which he said demonstrated the Scottish Government’s “stick your head in the sand and hope it fixes itself approach” to the growing crisis in social care across Scotland.

Despite this disappointment, Mr Rowley insisted he was not blaming any particular party for the situation, stating the privatisation of social care and tendering practices to drive down costs “has in the past been practised by all political parties when in power.”

***Commenting, Mr Rowley said:***

“I am disappointed to again be in a position where I'm receiving answers to questions I haven't asked and crucial aspects of this debate are being ignored.

“The Scottish Government is keen to reduce this debate to two things - the increase in the rate of pay for social care workers and the future introduction of a National Care Service.

“While an increase in the rate of pay for social care workers is welcome, the rate offered does not begin to recognise the complexities and challenges of care work and means little if those workers can expect to lose out on pay for up to 50% of their working hours.

“The Auditor General made clear last week, the crisis in social care cannot wait until the introduction of the National Care Service to solve the problems of today.

“I have no idea how the Government expects to roll out a National Care Service if the care workers have rightly left an industry with some of the worst terms and conditions for employees in Scotland.

“This is why it is essential that the Scottish Government acts now to ensure all social care staff are employed on equal terms and conditions where they can expect to be compensated fully for the hours that they work and to ensure that compensation is worthy of the difficult work involved in at-home care.”

Thanks for your help,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Reporter  
Dunfermline Press

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Sent: 11 March 2022 14:05  
To: First Minister McAllister C (Colin) Sunderland RE (Rachel)  
Cc: Website (gov.scot) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Crawford E (Ewan) Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Wightman S (Scott)



[redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government DG Communities DG Strategy and External Affairs Johnston P (Paul) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: Immediate Ukraine - letter to the PM

Good afternoon FMPO, [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

For awareness, comms has prepared the below news release in collaboration with SpAds and officials based on the letter. SpAds have agreed it can go on their clearance once the letter has issued – will we have confirmation that it has been received by No.10?

Also ensuring Website colleagues are copied who will upload the final letter to the website. They have requested the final text in word doc format to enable this. From my reading it doesn't appear FM made any changes to the draft that went up last night, but grateful for confirmation.

## Call for immediate action to resettle Ukraine refugees

**First Minister urges Prime Minister to act with humanity and compassion.**

A lack of clarity from the UK Government around settlement programmes and complex visa processes are delaying Scotland from welcoming refugees from Ukraine, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said.

In a letter to the Prime Minister co-signed by the leaders of Scottish Labour, the Scottish Liberal Democrats and the Scottish Greens, the First Minister urged the UK Government to waive visa requirements for Ukrainian nationals seeking refuge in the UK, and for a comprehensive and funded settlement programme and package of support to be established.

The Scottish Government is working with local authorities and the Scottish Refugee Council to ensure Scotland can welcome Ukrainian refugees with the support they need as soon as they are able to come here.

The First Minister said:

“As we witness the worst humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II, and with more than two million Ukrainians now having fled since the Russian invasion began, the UK must take action and respond fully, with humanity and compassion.

“It is neither reasonable nor morally acceptable to expect people fleeing war to go through complex bureaucratic processes in order to reach safety within

the UK. We must provide sanctuary first and treat people with respect and humanity.

“Scotland stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and deeply wishes to provide them with practical support, aid and refuge. We are ready to provide that to people in need right now.

“More than a week after it was announced on 1 March, we urge you to set out the details of the humanitarian sponsorship pathway, including when it will open and confirmation that the UK Government will provide the flexibility and the financial support needed to allow us in Scotland and communities across the UK to contribute.”

The letter in full. (hyperlinked to: [www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-refugee-resettlement-letter-to-prime-minister](http://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-refugee-resettlement-letter-to-prime-minister))

**Background:**

Minister for Refugees from Ukraine appointed - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))

First Minister: Waive visas for Ukrainians - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)) – 1 March 2022.

**TWEET – FROM @SCOTGOVFM / SCOTGOV**

First Minister @NicolaSturgeon has urged the Prime Minister to act with humanity and compassion to speed up the process of welcoming Ukrainian refugees to Scotland, in a letter to the Prime Minister co-signed by leaders of other political parties.

LINKTONEWSRELEASE

**QUOTE GRAPHIC**

“As we witness the worst humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II, and with more than two million Ukrainians now having fled since the Russian invasion began, the UK must take action and respond fully, with humanity and compassion.”

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

Many thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery  
Scottish Government

\*

[Please contact me on Microsoft Teams in the first instance](#)

\*

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

**Sent:** 11 March 2022 14:23

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] McAllister C (Colin) Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Sunderland RE (Rachel) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Crawford E (Ewan) Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wightman S (Scott[redacted 38(1)(b)]) Cameron DA

(Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs Ramos C (Cameron) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Think it should be “is” in top line, as tweaked below – no other comments from me.  
Thanks

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 March 2022 13:52

**To:** McAllister C (Colin) Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser); Sunderland RE (Rachel) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Crawford E (Ewan) Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Thanks Colin – just cc'ing other comms colleagues for awareness of the NR – will await further comments.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery

Scottish Government

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[Please contact me on Microsoft Teams in the first instance](#)

\*

**From:** McAllister C (Colin)

**Sent:** 11 March 2022 13:49

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Sunderland RE (Rachel) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Crawford E (Ewan) Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) Quigg V (Vanessa) Social Media [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

I am ok with this but await comments from Spad colleagues (if any).

Ta

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 March 2022 13:40

**To:** McAllister C (Colin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Sunderland RE (Rachel) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Crawford E (Ewan) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government [redacted 38(1)(b)] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Updating our news release with details of signatories as we now have the final letter from FMPO. This is identical to the draft agreed on this chain last night with the exception of the addition in body paragraph two in blue text and the addition of the link – quotes and content have been checked against the signed letter.

**Website colleagues** – can you confirm when the letter has been uploaded and the link is live?

**SpAds** – can this issue on SpAd clearance once the letter is live or should FM clear?

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**TWEET – FROM @SCOTGOVFM / SCOTGOV**

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**QUOTE GRAPHIC**

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Many thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | [FM, DFM and COVID Recovery](#)

Scottish Government

\*

Please contact me on [Microsoft Teams](#) in the first instance

\*

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** McAllister C (Colin)

**Sent:** 11 March 2022 13:00

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Sunderland RE (Rachel) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Crawford E (Ewan) Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media <[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local

Government Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Adding colleagues

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot).

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 20:18

**To:** Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) McAllister C (Colin) Sunderland RE (Rachel) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Crawford E (Ewan) Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) Paterson M (Matt) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice,

Housing & Local Government

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Evening colleagues,

Just copying to duty comms officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] to pick up from here – so grateful if any responses could come to this full chain. I will ensure [redacted 38(1)(b)] and web colleagues are also on the chain with FMPO and the letter.

Given the time, might it be best for the comms products to issue marking the letter tomorrow morning, should FM come back any later this evening?

Many thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Senior Media Manager | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery  
Scottish Government

\*

[Please contact me on Microsoft Teams in the first instance](#)

\*

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 18:11

**To:** Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McAllister C (Colin) Sunderland RE (Rachel) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Crawford E (Ewan) Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) Paterson M (Matt) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Thanks both, just sharing slight tweaks to the intro of news release following discussion with comms' news release review group, this keeps close to 1628 draft of letter that went to FM – as below, I will hold for further feedback once we have the final letter.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery  
Scottish Government

\*

[Please contact me on Microsoft Teams in the first instance](#)\*

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 17:28

**To:** Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Sunderland RE (Rachel) McAllister C (Colin) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Crawford E (Ewan) Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) Paterson M (Matt) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Resending with slightly expanded copy list.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 17:24

**Subject:** RE: NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

Thanks Jeanette – popping latest draft news release and Tweet here for reference while we await FM’s comments on the letter. This has been drafted in line with the version that went to FM at 1628 this afternoon.

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**TWEET – FROM @SCOTGOVFM / SCOTGOV**

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**QUOTE GRAPHIC**

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Senior Media Manager | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery  
Scottish Government  
\*  
[Please contact me on Microsoft Teams in the first instance](#)  
\*  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 10 March 2022 16:32  
**To:** Sunderland RE (Rachel) McAllister C (Colin) Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Crawford E (Ewan)  
**Cc:** Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Website (gov.scot) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE FOR POLICY / SPAD VIEWS // URGENT - RE: Letter to PM

*All – removing private offices for consideration of the below, and for completeness bringing chains together.*

Here is a first draft news release for consideration alongside the letter.  
Website colleagues – assuming the letter will go on the website? Is there an advance link to where it will appear that I could include in news release draft? (I have left space)  
SpAds – let me know if any other co-signers and whether we should offer space for quotes.

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**TWEET – FROM @SCOTGOVFM / SCOTGOV**

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

**QUOTE GRAPHIC**

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

Many thanks,



[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery  
Scottish Government

\*

[Please contact me on Microsoft Teams in the first instance](#)

\*

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 10 March 2022 15:55

**To:** Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Sunderland RE (Rachel) Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Crawford E (Ewan) McAllister C (Colin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Social Media Website (gov.scot)

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture First

Minister Wightman S (Scott) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McAllister C (Colin) Cameron DA (Donald)

(Constitution and UKR) Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Baird J (Jim) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Letter to PM

Thanks for copying comms Rachel, responding on chain with Ken's addition to keep discussions together on this.

SpAds, assuming intention would be to top and tail the letter into a short, sharp news release? If so, do we know who (in addition to Mr Sarwar) will be signing alongside FM?

If so I will get started on that and accompanying social for @ScotGov / @ScotGovFM now (copying [redacted 38(1)(b)] for social content hub).

Website colleagues – assuming the letter will go on the website? Is there an advance link to where it will appear that I could include in news release draft?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery  
Scottish Government

\*

[Please contact me on Microsoft Teams in the first instance](#)

\*

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 14:50

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Press Transport Scotland [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Finance & Economy [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk < Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs Communications Constitution & Culture [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: for allocation - Ukraine refugee scheme/cruise ship pollution - Sunday National

I'll get the Ukraine query

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 14:26



**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Press Transport Scotland [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Finance & Economy [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** News Desk Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs Communications Constitution & Culture [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: for allocation - Ukraine refugee scheme/cruise ship pollution - Sunday National

I'll pick this up.

Expect it will be a very generic reply about shipping emissions.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)**

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

**e:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 14:02

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Press Transport Scotland [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Finance & Economy [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs Communications Constitution & Culture [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: for allocation - Ukraine refugee scheme/cruise ship pollution - Sunday National

Thanks again, [redacted 38(1)(b)] . I think the cruise ship pollution point is one for SG under wider net zero & sustainable tourism considerations.

Grateful if whoever is taking forward could copy

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

For TS Marine and Decarbonisation policy interests.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 13:55

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Press Transport Scotland [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Finance & Economy [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs Communications Constitution & Culture [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: for allocation - Ukraine refugee scheme/cruise ship pollution - Sunday National

Copying [redacted 38(1)(b)] as well as Economy and TS colleagues as the cruise ship pollution one is going to have various policy demands and responsibilities I think.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 13:51

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs Communications Constitution & Culture [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Subject:** for allocation - Ukraine refugee scheme/cruise ship pollution - Sunday National

Two for allocation thanks

Ukraine refugee scheme/arrangements and cruise ship pollution

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Newsdesk

M: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 12:59

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** sunday national

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

As I mentioned I have two things I need comment on the first more pressing than the other and that is the Ukraine home for refugees scheme the UK Gov has launched which apparently is unnecessarily complicated and puts the onus on charities and those volunteering to try and find someone to help. Then there seems to be a lot of bureaucracy to plough through.

I would really like to speak to someone going through the process so if anyone there knows of anyone that would talk to me that would be great.

Also I need some sort of comment from Scot Gov about the whole thing.

Second things is cruise ships as although they appear to give a boost to the economy they are also terribly polluting. I could do with a comment on that too. The Scottish greens have told me that if Scotland was independent they would be able to regulate things more effectively but is the Scot Gov doing anything at the moment to monitor pollution and try to scale it back?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 15:28

**To:** Communications Education & Skills Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training Minister for Children & Young People News Desk

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Ms Somerville would like to take out the first para, then she is content for it to go

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | T: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
| M: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot | The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House,  
Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Communications Education & Skills

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 14:56

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Communications Education & Skills Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training Minister for Children & Young People News  
Desk

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

### **PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

The Aberdeen Evening Express has emailed for an SG response to comments made by North East Green MSP Maggie Chapman. She says that £188k+ of local school dinner debt should be written off.

Is Ms Somerville content with the below lines that have been agreed with policy colleagues and FM spad?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

An SG spokesperson said:

[redacted 30(b)(i)]

“We fund local authorities to provide free school meals to pupils in primaries one to five and in state-funded special schools, saving families an average of £400 per year. We will go further, expanding free school meals to primary six and seven pupils and piloting universal provision in secondary schools. Targeted support will continue for eligible families during school holidays throughout the school year.

“Councils have the power to make discretionary offers of free school meals to families, where they are experiencing financial hardship due to exceptional circumstances, who do not meet the regular eligibility criteria.”

### **ABERDEEN EVENING EXPRESS - QUERY**

I am looking for a statement from the Scottish Government about calls from Maggie Chapman MSP to write off debts owed by families due to school dinners.

The Green Party member believes that in light of the expected spiralling cost of living and energy prices councils should forget the debt owed.

Her press release is below.

The figures can be found here -

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dRT\\_bjtOi48QuB0jQK6U8Kw2o3bSaxiVKE1sW87Kj4k/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dRT_bjtOi48QuB0jQK6U8Kw2o3bSaxiVKE1sW87Kj4k/edit#gid=0)

## **SCOTTISH GREENS- NEWS RELEASE**

### **North East Green MSP says £188k+ of local school dinner debt should be written off.**

Scottish Green Spokesperson for Justice, Equality, Human Rights and Economy Maggie Chapman MSP calls for local authorities in North East Scotland to write off school meal debt in light of current Cost of Living and Fuel Poverty Crises.

£188,181.68 school meal debt in the North East Region should be written off by relevant local authorities, Maggie Chapman, MSP for North East Scotland and Scottish Green Spokesperson for Justice, Equality, Human Rights and Economy has said.

A Freedom of Information Request submitted by the Scottish Greens has found that children and families in Aberdeen City alone owe £114,690.34, with the national figure totalling over £968k.

In other local authorities in North East Scotland, including Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee City, and Moray, families owe a combined total of £73,491.34. This is despite all P1-5 pupils in Scotland now being entitled to a free school meal.

#### **Commenting Ms Chapman said:**

“Children can’t get a good education if they’re hungry at school. I believe that most local authorities rightly ensure every pupil has a meal at lunchtime, even if they don’t have the money to cover it, but these figures make it clear that debts are being chased from families who simply cannot pay.

“With the cost of living crisis putting huge pressure on family finances, it is absolutely essential that local authorities write off all outstanding school meal debt. Pursuing the debt is causing stress and embarrassment for pupils and their families as well as the school staff who I know are deeply uncomfortable asking pupils for money they know the family does not have.

“I’m proud that as a result of the cooperation agreement between the Greens and SNP, the Scottish Government is rolling out free school meals to all primary school children, as well as taking other measures to help family budgets such as free bus travel for under 22s.” Adding, “Writing off this debt would be an excellent way for local authorities in the North East to also help families with the financial burdens they face, rather than add to them.”

**ENDS**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Communications Education & Skills  
**Sent:** 24 March 2022 13:52  
**To:** Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Communications Education & Skills  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

[redacted 38(1)(b)] - if you are content too, I'll get it to Cab Sec for sign off.  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Date:** Thu 24/03/2022 13:11  
**To:** Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Communications Education & Skills  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

David – added top sentence from recently issued SG statement. Minor tweaks to rest of line.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Livey D (David)  
**Sent:** 24 March 2022 12:57  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Communications Education & Skills  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

Can the highlighted line be replaced with something on what the SG is doing to support folk in the face of cost of living rises?

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Date:** Thu 24/03/2022 12:48  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Livey D (David)  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Communications Education & Skills  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

Hello David/ [redacted 38(1)(b)] – are you content with the below draft lines?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 24 March 2022 11:56  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Livey D (David) <[David.Livey@gov.scot](mailto:David.Livey@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Communications Education & Skills  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Cropped line for consideration.

David – grateful for your views too.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

An SG spokesperson said:

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 11:27

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Communications Education & Skills Livey D (David)

**Subject:** Media query - immediate - School Meal Debt - Aberdeen Evening Express

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

To see media query below, is this one for education to deal with or is it local government finance? North East Green MSP says £188k+ of local school dinner debt should be written off.

If it's for our aside of the house, grateful for a draft line at your earliest convenience.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 11:13

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** RE: School Meal Debt

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – I'll take for the moment and check with schools officials that it's for Edu to respond.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 11:08

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** FW: School Meal Debt

Morning [redacted 38(1)(b)] , would this sit with you? I appreciate it could be included in child poverty work.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 11:07

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Subject:** School Meal Debt

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

I am looking for a statement from the Scottish Government about calls from Maggie Chapman MSP to write off debts owed by families due to school dinners.

The Green Party member believes that in light of the expected spiralling cost of living and energy prices councils should forget the debt owed.

Her press release is below.

The figures can be found here -

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dRT\\_bjtOi48QuB0jQK6U8Kw2o3bSaxiVke1sW87Kj4k/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dRT_bjtOi48QuB0jQK6U8Kw2o3bSaxiVke1sW87Kj4k/edit#gid=0)

My deadline for this is 5pm today.

Anything you can send my way before then would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Reporter

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Press & Journal/Evening Express

Local Media Release

Scottish Greens

Wednesday 23 March 2022

**North East Green MSP says £188k+ of local school dinner debt should be written off.**

**Scottish Green Spokesperson for Justice, Equality, Human Rights and Economy Maggie Chapman MSP calls for local authorities in North East Scotland to write off school meal debt in light of current Cost of Living and Fuel Poverty Crises.**

£188,181.68 school meal debt in the North East Region should be written off by relevant local authorities, Maggie Chapman, MSP for North East Scotland and Scottish Green Spokesperson for Justice, Equality, Human Rights and Economy has said.

A Freedom of Information Request submitted by the Scottish Greens has found that children and families in Aberdeen City alone owe £114,690.34, with the national figure totalling over £968k.

In other local authorities in North East Scotland, including Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee City, and Moray, families owe a combined total of £73,491.34. This is despite all P1-5 pupils in Scotland now being entitled to a free school meal.

**Commenting Ms Chapman said:**

“Children can’t get a good education if they’re hungry at school. I believe that most local authorities rightly ensure every pupil has a meal at lunchtime, even if they don’t have the money to cover it, but these figures make it clear that debts are being chased from families who simply cannot pay.

“With the cost of living crisis putting huge pressure on family finances, it is absolutely essential that local authorities write off all outstanding school meal debt. Pursuing the debt is causing stress and embarrassment for pupils and their families as well as the school staff who I know are deeply uncomfortable asking pupils for money they know the family does not have.

“I’m proud that as a result of the cooperation agreement between the Greens and SNP, the Scottish Government is rolling out free school meals to all primary school children, as well as taking other measures to help family budgets such as free bus travel for under 22s.” Adding, “Writing off this debt would be an excellent way for local authorities in the North East to also help families with the financial burdens they face, rather than add to them.”

ENDS

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 18:26

**To:** Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Mackintosh E (Emily) Haynes B (Ben) Communications Finance & Economy

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Haynes RJ (Robin) Leaver E (Ellen) Smith M (Moira) Pickard N (Neil)

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Council tax / Citizens assembly

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)] I'll issue now.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 17:57

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Mackintosh E (Emily) Haynes B (Ben) Communications Finance & Economy

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Haynes RJ (Robin) Leaver E (Ellen)

Smith M (Moira) Pickard N (Neil)

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Council tax / Citizens assembly

[redacted 38(1)(b)]



Mr Arthur is content.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | Private Secretary to Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth – Tom Arthur  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Mob: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | Tel: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | Email: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 16:11

**To:** Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Mackintosh E (Emily) Haynes B (Ben) Communications Finance & Economy

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Haynes RJ (Robin) Leaver E (Ellen)

Smith M (Moira) Pickard N (Neil)

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Council tax / Citizens assembly

### **PO/Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth**

CC: PO/Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

PO/Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Economy

PO/Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work

Please see the below media query from the Sunday Times re. a commitment to set up a Citizens Assembly on council tax.

The below lines have been agreed by comms, policy and SpAds.

Grateful for Mr Arthur's clearance please.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **DRAFT LINES**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We are establishing a working group with representation from the Scottish Green Party, and engaging with COSLA, to oversee the development of effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, including Council Tax.

"This work will culminate in a citizens' assembly, we will set out timescales for the delivery and completion of this work within the current parliamentary session, expecting that the process will require a minimum of 18 months to establish, recruit, deliver and report."

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 25 March 2022 11:35  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Fwd: COUNCIL TAX

Hi,

Can you help me with this for something I am writing for Sunday.

Within the SNP manifesto for last year's elections, there was a commitment to set up a citizens assembly to examine the council tax.

Has the citizen's assembly been asked to do this?

Is there a remit and timetable?

Does the citizen's assembly secretariat still exist - their email does not appear to be taking mail?

Best regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Sunday Times  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

To: Minister for Parliamentary Business [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Sent: Mon 28/03/2022 08:51  
Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)], [redacted 38(1)(b)], McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser), Communications Justice [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)], Barugh J (Jennie) Bird L (Lisa) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Pollock LA (Linda) Cook C (Colin) Corbett GN (Gavin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Director for Local Government and Housing [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Subject: RE: MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE PLEASE: - draft news release - Open Government Action Plan

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Extremely grateful, we will issue the comms shortly.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Communications Justice & Constitution, External Affairs and Culture / Scottish Government**  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] **Mobile:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Desk:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **@ScotGovJustice**

**From:** Minister for Parliamentary Business [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 27 March 2022 13:38  
**To:** Jackson C (Craig) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)], [redacted 38(1)(b)], McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

, Communications Justice [redacted 38(1)(b)] , [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ;[redacted 38(1)(b)] , Barugh J (Jennie) Bird L (Lisa) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] (Louise) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Pollock LA (Linda) Cook C (Colin) Corbett GN (Gavin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Director for Local Government and Housing [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE PLEASE: - draft news release - Open Government Action Plan

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)] . Mr Adam had cleared.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]** (she/her)  
Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business

M: [redacted 38(1)(b)] E: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

*Sent from Blackberry*

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Sent: Fri 25/03/2022 16:54  
To: Minister for Parliamentary Business [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Cc: [redacted], [redacted 38(1)(b)] , McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] , Communications Justice [redacted 38(1)(b)] , [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ;[redacted 38(1)(b)] , Barugh J (Jennie) Bird L (Lisa) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] (Louise) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Pollock LA (Linda) Cook C (Colin) Corbett GN (Gavin) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Director for Local Government and Housing [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE PLEASE: - draft news release - Open Government Action Plan

**Mr Adam, PO**

I would be extremely grateful for consideration and clearance of the following suggested comms (news release and social media) on the Open Government Action Plan. The comms have been agreed with SPAD, policy and comms colleagues. Extremely grateful for Mr Adam's view of the handling. (Mr Harvie copied for awareness).

### **Open Government Action Plan published**

Public to participate in decisions on health and climate change.

Openness, transparency and citizen participation are at the heart of a new National Action Plan to strengthen co-operation between government and wider society.

Scotland's Open Government Action Plan 2021-25, published today, has been drawn up with Scotland's Open Government Network - a coalition of citizens and civil society organisations.

It will focus on involving people in decisions on making data open and accessible across key areas of government and understanding how public finances work.

It will also allow people to participate in decision making on tackling the climate emergency and improving health and social care.

A key first step in this Action Plan is the publication of the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group report.

It was set up to respond to the need for new infrastructure and processes to make sure people can routinely be involved in government decisions and to set up new Citizens' Assemblies.

The Working Group recommendations include identifying how participatory processes have impact, independence and accountability; and providing guidance on how to design and run Citizens' Assemblies.

Minister for Parliamentary Business and Co-Chair of the Open Government Steering Group, George Adam said:

"This Action Plan sets out our most ambitious commitments yet to create an open, transparent and accountable government, strengthening public trust in our institutions, producing better public services and a better quality of life for everyone.

"I am confident the commitments in the plan will continue to drive improvement to ensure decision-making is open and accessible to the people of Scotland and that we enable meaningful public scrutiny.

"Tackling the climate emergency and improving health and social care are huge challenges faced by government and I believe that working in partnership with wider society and the people of Scotland will help improve these vital programmes of work.

"I also welcome the publication of the IPDD Working Group report, which will help us deliver on this Action Plan and other commitments we have made to putting people at heart of everything we do. We will now carefully consider its recommendations before publishing our response in due course."

Civil society Co-Chair of the Open Government Steering Group, and member of OGP International Steering Committee, Lucy McTernan said:

"Accountability and trust in our government has never been more important, as we see it undermined around the world. I am delighted the Scottish Government and COSLA officials, civil society partners and people across Scotland have contributed to the development of this plan.

"Retaining this spirit of collaboration and partnership working throughout the delivery of the plan will be crucial to its success and we look forward to developing these relationships over the next four years."

Willie Sullivan, Senior Director of Electoral Reform Society Scotland, said:

"Scotland is already pioneering important ways to give people more of a say in the decisions that affect them, such as through citizens' assemblies.

“We are part of a small group of countries leading the way in exploring how to move beyond the creaking democratic institutions of the 20th century and how to break through into a new era of revitalised and invigorated democracy.

“This report sets out the plan to lay strong foundations for the future of Scotland’s democracy; for the old to give birth to and nurture the new.”

## **Background**

The Scottish Government’s Open Government Action Plan 2021-25 and the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group report are both published today (Fri).

The IPDD Working Group was set up to respond to the need for new infrastructure and processes to make sure people can routinely be involved in government decisions and to set up new Citizens’ Assemblies.

The Scottish Government is part of the international Open Government Partnership - set up in 2011 to ensure members of the public understand decisions that affect them and can influence those decisions.

The Open Government Partnership includes 78 countries and 76 local governments representing more than two billion people along with thousands of civil society organisations.

The current National Action Plan is the third published by the Scottish Government since it joined the partnership in 2016.

The Action Plan commits to involving the public in key decisions, ensuring information is published in an accessible way and promoting financial transparency.

An independent reporter will be appointed to monitor progress and report back on whether the plan has been delivered by network members and other public organisations.

## **Social media**

### **1. Open Government Action Plan:**

Minister for Parliamentary Business George Adam has welcomed publication of Scotland’s Open Government Action Plan 2021-25.

It will build trust in government and allow the public to participate in decisions on health and climate change.

For more – [link to news release above](#)

“This Action Plan sets out our most ambitious commitments yet to create an open, transparent and accountable government, strengthening public trust in our institutions, producing better public services and a better quality of life for everyone.”

### **2. IPDD working group report:**

Minister for Parliamentary Business George Adam has welcomed publication of the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group report:

“Building on manifesto commitments, and with the agreement of the Scottish Green Party, the Programme for Government sets out the Government’s commitment to participative democracy, including the Citizens’ Assembly model. The IPDD Working Group has considered the real and practical actions that can help us deliver on our commitments. We welcome the Working Group’s report and its recommendations, and will now carefully consider those before publishing our response in due course.”

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Communications Justice & Constitution, External Affairs and Culture / Scottish Government**

[redacted 38(1)(b)] **Mobile:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Desk:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **@ScotGovJustice**