

**DRAFT RESPONSE TO FOI REQUEST – 202200328720**

**REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION**

An exemption applies

An exemption(s) under section(s) s.38(1) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested. This exemption applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party, i.e. names and contact details, 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. At several points in the Annex, names and other personal data have been marked as redacted.

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.

An exemption applies, subject to the public interest test

Exemptions under sections 28, 29 and section 30 of FOISA apply to some of the information you have requested.

These exemptions are subject to the ‘public interest test’. 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 exemptions. 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, including encouraging the provision of free and frank advice from officials and a similarly free exchange of views between Scottish Ministers and members of the Scottish Green Party Parliamentary Group for the purposes of deliberation and development of policies such as the Scottish Budget. Additionally, the release of some of the information could prejudice substantially relations with the United Kingdom Government.

To release this briefing material would be likely to inhibit substantially the free and frank exchanges between Scottish Ministers and Scottish Green Party Parliamentary Group required during the Budget process. This would undermine arrangements designed to allow the Scottish Government and the Green Group to seek to achieve maximum cooperation and collaboration on the broadest range of the Government’s responsibilities, as set out in the Bute House Agreement.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reference</b>
27/10/2022	17:30	Scottish Green Party, Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – EBR, Budget, Investment Zones	Video Conference	A41566409
26/10/2022	13:15	Ross Greer MSP and Gillian Mackay MSP	Scottish Parliament	Political meeting
19/10/2022	14:30	Ross Greer MSP, Emergency Budget Review	St Andrews House	A41389487
12/10/2022	18:30	Scottish Green Party Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – Budget, Investment Zones	Video Conference	A40974311
27/09/2022	14:30	Ross Greer MSP, Budget	Scottish Parliament	
06/09/2022	17:30	Ross Greer MSP, Budget	Scottish Parliament	Political meeting
30/08/2022	18:00	Ross Greer MSP – Public Finances & Overall Finances	St Andrew's House	Briefing
03/08/2022	11:00	Ross Greer MSP – Budget	St Andrew's House	A41568903
03/08/2022	10:00	Ross Greer MSP and Mags Hall, Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – Stocktake of progress against BHA commitments	St Andrew's House	A40949533,
29/06/2022	19:00	Scottish Green Party, Programme for Government	Scottish Parliament	
20/06/2022	17:30	Ross Greer MSP, Cost of Living Crisis	Video Conference	
26/05/2022	17:30	Scottish Green Party, Programme for Government	Scottish Parliament	
12/05/2022	17:30	Scottish Green Party, Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – Spending Review	Scottish Parliament	A41530513
10/05/2022	17:45	Ross Greer MSP, Bute House Agreement	Video Conference	
28/04/2022	17:30	Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – Bute House Agreement, PFG, Forward Programme	Video Conference	A41530270
16/03/2022	09:00	Scottish Green Party, Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – Child Poverty Delivery Action Plan, Forward Programme	Video Conference	A41530486
02/03/2022	15:00	Scottish Green Party, Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – Bute House Agreement, Forward Programme, Green Minister attendance at Cabinet	Video Conference	A37017887
15/02/2022	16:30	Ross Greer MSP, Bute House Agreement	Video Conference	
09/02/2022	17:30	Ross Greer MSP and Gillian Mackay MSP, Covid-19 Strategic Framework Update	Video Conference	

03/02/2022	17:30	Scottish Green Party, Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – Bute House Agreement, Rail, Forward Programme of policies/announcements	Video Conference	A41530213
20/01/2022		Scottish Green Party, Fortnightly Liaison Group meeting – National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Forward Programme, Performance & Monitoring of BHA commitments	Video Conference	A36310423
16/01/2022	19:00	DFM/Scottish Greens Covid Measures Update	Video Conference	
05/01/2022	12:00	Ross Greer MSP and Gillian Mackay MSP, Covid-19	Video Conference	

A41566409

File Note

## BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT

### FORTNIGHTLY LIAISON MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY GROUP THURSDAY 27 OCTO

**Present:**

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery  
Minister for Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and  
Tenants' Rights  
Maggie Chapman MSP  
Ross Greer MSP  
James Hynd, Director for Cabinet  
[redacted]  
Callum McCaig, Special Adviser

[redacted], PS

The meeting covered EBR, Budget and Investment Zones.

**EBR.** [redacted, formulation of policy, section 29].

**Budget.** [redacted section 29(1)(a) formulation of policy].

**Investment Zones.** [redacted, formulation of policy section 29]

Cabinet

**A41389487** – 19 October

Thanks Nuala, DFM has approved the note. As per the [new process](#), can you please save this in ERDM and send me the file location link to allow me to update our records?

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] (*she/her*)  
Private Secretary/DFM  
[redacted]

**From:** Gormley N (Nuala) <[Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot](mailto:Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 November 2022 13:51  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Dobson L (Leanne) <[Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot](mailto:Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot)>; Hynd JS (James) <[James.Hynd@gov.scot](mailto:James.Hynd@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; King L (Lorraine) <[Lorraine.King@gov.scot](mailto:Lorraine.King@gov.scot)>; Director of Tax and Revenues <[directoroftaxandrevenues@gov.scot](mailto:directoroftaxandrevenues@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** DFM and Greens meeting 19/10 - read out and actions

Private Office

With apologies for this being late, please find below a note of the meeting DFM had with Green Group on 19/10. This has been agreed by SG attendees, and subject to DFM's clearance, can now be shared with Ross Greer as a proposed record of the meeting. I would be grateful if you would keep me sighted as the note progresses, and should Mr Greer respond with any revisions.

Thanks

Nuala

DFM/Private Office

A brief note of the meeting on 19 October with the Green Group was taken, and recently agreed from attendees, including Special Advisors in attendance

Attendance:

- Deputy First Minister
- Ross Greer, MSP, Green Group
- Andrew Scott, Director of Tax
- Lorraine King, Head of Tax Division
- Nuala Gormley, Head of Public Spending Division
- Leanne Dobson, Special Advisor
- Gavin Corbett, Green Special Advisor

General note:

1. Discussion covered the EBR, Tax Discussion paper and plans for engagement with the Green Group up to the Scottish Budget 2023-24.
2. DFM discussed the content, position and timing of the EBR, and associated publications:
  - [redacted, s29 formulation of policy]
  - Equality assessment of EBR
  - Analytical paper
  - Expert Economists commentary

[paragraph 3 - redacted, section 29(1)(a) formulation of policy]

4. DFM discussed planned engagement with UKG over the next week
5. Discussion of the timeline for SFC forecasts.

Action: Agreed that this group should re-convene soon after the UKG 31 October announcements. PO to set up

Action: Agreed that BPS Budget team would follow up with PO to engage further on plan for Green engagement between EBR and the Scottish Budget

**Dr Nuala Gormley**

Deputy Director, Public Spending  
Budget and Public Spending Directorate  
Scottish Government

M: [redacted]



I am working from home and am emailing at a time that suits me. Please be assured that I do not expect responses outwith your own working pattern.

## **19 October 2022 – Emails relating to briefing**

**From:** Gormley N (Nuala) <Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 October 2022 20:20

**To:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; McLaren D (Douglas)

<Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot>; Director of Tax and Revenues

<directoroftaxandrevenues@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Deputy Director Infrastructure

and Investment <DeputyDirectorInfrastructureAndInvestment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted];

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: DFM/Scottish Greens meeting on 23/24 budget/EBR - Responses by 11am 18 October

[redacted]

This is shaping up well

[redacted]

I have attached the briefing pack for contributions [here](#).

Thanks all

Nuala

**Nuala Gormley | Public Spending | Scottish Government**

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 17 October 2022 12:39

**To:** [redacted]; Gormley N (Nuala) <[Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot](mailto:Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; [redacted]; McLaren D

(Douglas) <[Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot](mailto:Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot)>; Director of Tax and Revenues

<[directoroftaxandrevenues@gov.scot](mailto:directoroftaxandrevenues@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Deputy Director Infrastructure

and Investment <[DeputyDirectorInfrastructureAndInvestment@gov.scot](mailto:DeputyDirectorInfrastructureAndInvestment@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; [redacted];

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

**Subject:** DFM/Scottish Greens meeting on 23/24 budget/EBR - Responses by 11am 18 October

Hi all,

We are coordinating a briefing pack for DFM's meeting with the Scottish Greens this week focusing on the EBR and 23-24 Scottish Budget.

I have attached the briefing pack for contributions [here](#).

[redacted]

I think I have included all relevant colleagues in the copy list, but please do cc in anyone I have missed.

If you could please provide background info on the relevant area and some key talking points for DFM to cover in the meeting.

Apologies for the short turnaround time on this but if you could please provide contributions by **1100 tomorrow 18 October**.

If you have any questions on this, please get in touch with me.

Thanks

[redacted]



**19 October 2022 – Briefing pack**

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

<b>What</b>	Greens Liaison Group Meeting
<b>When</b>	Wednesday 19 October 11:00 – 12:00
<b>Where</b>	St Andrews House
<b>Who</b>	Ross Greer MSP
<b>Where did this engagement originate from?</b>	The meeting will continue the regular engagement with the Scottish Greens. It is anticipated that you will offer an update on the Emergency Budget Review, the early preparations for the 2023-24 Scottish Budget and a reminder of the funding challenges and difficult decisions ahead.
<b>Official support</b>	Jamie MacDougall
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<p><u>1. 23-24 Budget Planning .....<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b></u></p> <p><u>2. Emergency Budget Review (EBR) – including high level equality assessment and parallel publications ..... 11</u></p> <p>[redacted, s29 formulation of policy, s30 free and frank exchange of views]</p> <p><u>4. High Level Equality and Fairer Scotland Assessment ..... 12</u></p> <p><u>5. Capital .....<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b></u></p> <p>[redacted, s29 formulation of policy, s30 free and frank exchange of views]</p> <p>[redacted, s29 formulation of policy, s30 free and frank exchange of views]</p> <p><u>8. Climate change assessment of the Budget and improvements..... 13</u></p> <p>[redacted, s29 formulation of policy, s30 free and frank exchange of views]</p>

## OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

### Background

Following previous engagement with the Scottish Greens, you requested that a series of further meetings be arranged with an initial one to discuss the Emergency Budget Review. This will also be an opportunity to offer early messages on the 2023-24 Scottish Budget.

This is the first of these weekly meetings to discuss issues relating to the budget with the Scottish Greens.

You will be meeting with Ross Greer MSP, who is currently the Scottish Greens spokesperson for Culture, Education and External Affairs.

### Meeting Objectives

- To share updates on the Emergency Budget Review and its conclusions which will be presented to the Scottish Parliament next week.
- To offer an update on the ongoing budget planning work for the 2023-24 Scottish Budget and an early alert to the significant challenges ahead.

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Items for Discussion

**1. 2023-24 Scottish Budget Planning**

Background

- You jointly agreed with the Finance & Public Administration Committee (FPAC) that the 2023-24 Scottish Budget will be published on 15 December 2022.
- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

**2. Emergency Budget Review (EBR) – including high level equality assessment and parallel publications**

Background

- With the publication of the Programme for Government you announced that the Scottish Government would undertake an Emergency Budget Review.
- You confirmed the outcome of the review should be published in the week commencing 24 October and this work is expected to inform the 2023-24 Scottish Budget.
- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

**3. [redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**

- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

## OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

### LBTT (Land and Building Transactions Tax)

#### Background

- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

### **4. High Level Equality and Fairer Scotland Assessment**

#### Background

- The Scottish Government has produced and published an Equality Budget Statement since 2010, and an Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement (EFSBS) alongside the Budget for the past 3 years.
- The EFSBS shows how Scottish Government spending promotes equality in relation to protected characteristics in line with the Equality Act and to socio-economic disadvantage in line with the Fairer Scotland Duty.
- This statement responds in part to our legal duties to assess the equality and Fairer Scotland impacts of our tax and spending decisions.
- The EFSBS has also recently been expanded to potentially include future considerations around human rights and SG is committed to continuing to work with stakeholders to identify further improvements in this space.
- Earlier this year we published the Resource Spending Review (and Capital Spending Review update) and an accompanying Equality and Fairer Scotland Statement on 31 May 2022. This statement advised that further detail would follow in individual policy Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) and in this year's annual Scottish Budget EFSBS publication.
- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

### **5. Capital**

#### Background

- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

**6. [redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**

Background

- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

**Background information**

- [redacted – effective conduct of public affairs, s30]

**7. [redact, s29 formulation of policy, s28 prejudicial to relations]**

Background

- [redacted – relations within the United Kingdom, s28]

**8. Climate change assessment of the Budget and improvements**

Background

- [redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

**9. [redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**

Background

[redacted – formulation of policy, s29]

## **12 October 2022 - Emails relating to meeting between DFM and Greens on Budget.**

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

**Sent:** 14 October 2022 07:57

**To:** [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Gormley N (Nuala) <Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot>; MacDougall J (Jamie) <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: DFM/Greens Liaison Group meeting - 12 October - Follow up actions

**This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team [in line with SG records management policy.](#)**

[redacted],

DFM is content with the below read out.

Thanks

[redacted]

**[redacted]** | Finance and Economy Team Leader | Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted] | Mob: [redacted] |  
Email: [DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)

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**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 13 October 2022 17:18

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Gormley N (Nuala) <[Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot](mailto:Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot)>; MacDougall J (Jamie) <[Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot](mailto:Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot)>; Hynd JS (James) <[James.Hynd@gov.scot](mailto:James.Hynd@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** DFM/Greens Liaison Group meeting - 12 October - Follow up actions

[redacted],

Just to follow up on DFM's meeting with the Greens yesterday:

I spoke with Nuala Gormley earlier on this – she'll be following up with colleagues leading on EBR and budget. In the meantime are you able to set up the first of EBR/Budget focused meetings between DFM and the Greens for next week, involving Nuala and Jamie?

I noted during the call that DFMPO would commission Budget officials on the Budget timeline with proposed discussions so I haven't actioned this.

[out of scope]

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]

Head of Cabinet Performance and Outreach

Cabinet Secretariat

Email: [redacted] | Mobile: [redacted]

Please copy e-mails which concern Cabinet business to the [Cabinet Secretariat Inbox](#)

A40974311 – 12 October

**File Note**

## **BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT**

### **FORTNIGHTLY LIAISON MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY GROUP WEDNESDAY MS TEAMS**

**Present:**

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery

Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Ross Greer MSP

James Hynd, Director for Cabinet

Callum McCaig, Special Adviser

[redacted], PS

Slater

The meeting discussed Budget timescales and issues, and the approach to Investment Zones.

**Budget timescales and issues.** [redacted, section 29(1)(a) formulation of policy]

**[redact, s29 formulation of policy].** [redacted, section 29(1)(a) formulation of policy]

Cabinet



30 August

## **30 August 2022 – Emails**

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 29 August 2022 16:52

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

**Cc:** McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; McLaren D (Douglas) <Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot>; Gormley N (Nuala) <Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot>; [redacted] Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Public finance meeting

[redacted],

With apologies for the delay – please find attached the briefing for the DFM and Ross Greer meeting tomorrow at 17:00.

Andrew Watson (Director of Budget and Public Spending) will be the official support for the meeting, instead of [redacted] on Pay and another official on public spending.

I'm happy to answer any questions, and provide additional briefing if required.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Pay Strategy Lead | Budget, Pay and Pensions Division | Budget & Public Spending Directorate | DG Scottish Exchequer | 3-C North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 25 August 2022 19:26

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; McLaren D (Douglas) <Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot>; Gormley N (Nuala) <Nuala.Gormley@gov.scot>

**Cc:** McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Corbett GN (Gavin) <Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot>;

[redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Public finance meeting

Good evening [redacted],

To confirm that [redacted] will be leading on the briefing being prepared and I note the deadline of 4pm Monday 29 August. I will provide official support on pay. Public spending officials will confirm who will provide official support on public finance .

Many thanks, [redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Pay, Severance and Pensions Fiscal Policy | Budget, Pay and Pensions Division | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh | Mob : [redacted] Email: [redacted]

My working week is [redacted]

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

**Sent:** 25 August 2022 11:03

**To:** Director of Budget and Public Spending <[Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot)>;

McLaren D (Douglas) <[Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot](mailto:Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot)>; [redacted]

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>; McCaig C (Callum) <[Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot)>; Dobson L (Leanne) <[Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot](mailto:Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>; Matheson C (Catriona) <[Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot](mailto:Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot)>; Huyton H (Harry) <[Harry.Huyton@gov.scot](mailto:Harry.Huyton@gov.scot)>; Corbett GN (Gavin) <[Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot](mailto:Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Public finance meeting

Good morning,

DFM will meet with Ross Greer MSP on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 17:00 – 18:00 to discuss public sector pay and the overall financial picture. Grateful if officials can advise on who briefing being prepared for this meeting and official support at the meeting. Note this is in person and due to take place at St Andrews House.

Many thanks,

**[redacted]** Assistant Private Secretary (Diary) to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E: [DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)



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**From:** Greer R (Ross), MSP <[Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Sent:** 25 August 2022 09:43

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Huyton H (Harry) <[Harry.Huyton@gov.scot](mailto:Harry.Huyton@gov.scot)>; McCaig C (Callum) <[Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot)>;

Corbett GN (Gavin) <[Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot](mailto:Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: Public finance meeting

That's ideal for me, thanks.

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**From:** [redacted] on behalf of [DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot) <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 August 2022, 09:33  
**To:** Greer R (Ross), MSP <[Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot)>  
**Cc:** [Harry.Huyton@gov.scot](mailto:Harry.Huyton@gov.scot) <[Harry.Huyton@gov.scot](mailto:Harry.Huyton@gov.scot)>; [Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot) <[Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot)>; [Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot](mailto:Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot) <[Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot](mailto:Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public finance meeting

Hi Mr Greer,

Thank you for letting us know.

DFM would be available on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 17:00 – 18:00** and would be grateful for an in person discussion.

Many thanks,

**[redacted]** Assistant Private Secretary (Diary) to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E: [DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)



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**From:** Greer R (Ross), MSP <[Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot)>  
**Sent:** 23 August 2022 18:15  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Huyton H (Harry) <[Harry.Huyton@gov.scot](mailto:Harry.Huyton@gov.scot)>; McCaig C (Callum) <[Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot)>; Corbett GN (Gavin) <[Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot](mailto:Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public finance meeting

[redacted],

Thanks for the quick response. I'm afraid I have [redacted] on Thursday. Could you let me know some other potential options?

Ross

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** [DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)

**Sent:** 23 August 2022 11:26

**To:** Greer R (Ross), MSP <[Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Cc:** [Harry.Huyton@gov.scot](mailto:Harry.Huyton@gov.scot); [Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot); [Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot](mailto:Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Public finance meeting

Good morning Mr Greer,

DFM is happy to get another meeting in the diary for this discussion.

Does this Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 14:15 – 15:00 possibly work? The Deputy First Minister will be in St Andrews House so would be able to host this in person, if possible.

Many thanks,

**[redacted]**

Assistant Private Secretary (Diary) to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E: [DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)



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**From:** Greer R (Ross), MSP <[Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Sent:** 22 August 2022 17:20

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

<[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Huyton H (Harry) <[Harry.Huyton@gov.scot](mailto:Harry.Huyton@gov.scot)>; McCaig C (Callum) <[Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot)>; Corbett GN (Gavin) <[Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot](mailto:Gavin.Corbett@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Public finance meeting

Hello,

Could we get another meeting in the diary on the [redacted, s29 formulation of policy]

Thanks, Ross

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## 30 August 2022 – Briefing

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

### **MINISTERIAL BRIEFING: DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND ROSS GREER MSP**

<b>Meeting title</b>	<b>MEETING WITH DFM AND ROSS GREER MSP</b>
<b>Meeting timings</b>	17:00 – 18:00, Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August, DFM Office, 5th Floor, St Andrews House
<b>Meeting attendees</b>	<b>Ross Greer MSP</b> , Green Party
<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	1. Public Sector Pay and the overall financial outlook
<b>Background information on Agenda items</b>	<b>Meeting Overview</b>  <b>Agenda</b> <b>Public Sector Pay (Annex A – C)</b> <b>Annex A:</b> XSG Pay Negotiations  <b>Annex B:</b> 2022-23 Pay Policy  <b>Annex C:</b> 35 hour and 4 day working week  <b>Financial outlook (Annex D – F)</b> <b>Annex D:</b> 2022-23 Financial Position <b>Annex E:</b> Resource Spending Review <b>Annex F:</b> Emergency Budget Review and 2023-24 Scottish Budget
<b>Official support:</b>	<b>Andrew Watson</b> (Director of Budget and Public Spending)

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**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

**MEETING OVERVIEW**

Ross Greer MSP (Green Party) requested a meeting with the Deputy First Minister in his role as Cabinet Secretary for Finance to **[redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**

[redacted]

Similarly, with regard to public finances officials expect Mr Greer to want to understand the 2022-23 position, the Emergency Budget Review and broader views on the 2023-24.

**[redacted]**

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**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

**ANNEX A – E**

[redacted]

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**ANNEX F – EMERGENCY BUDGET REVIEW AND 2023-24 SCOTTISH BUDGET**

**[redacted]**

**[redacted]**

**[redacted]**

Handling instructions: Please do not forward this meeting request, agenda or papers without permission from the Pay Policy Team.

**A41568903** – 3 August

Hi [redacted, s38]

One action arising from a discussion today with DFM and Ross Greer is to please build into our Budget 2023-24 timetable a handful of key points at which it would make sense for them to discuss the budget.

Ideally, DFM's office would schedule some dates in advance – with the understanding that there could be some movements given uncertainties around eg UK Budget.

[redacted, s29]

Beyond UK Budget, time will be short but I'd think a couple of meetings might be helpful in that window, as final decisions are taken.

Please could you consider this on return and while Dougie and I are off.

Thanks

Andrew

## **A40949533**

### File Note **BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY , S**

Present:

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery

James Hynd, Director for Cabinet

Shirley Rogers, Director of Performance, Delivery and Resilience

Callum McCaig, Special Adviser

[redacted], PS/DFM

Ross Greer MSP

Mags Hall, Head of Strategy and Campaigns, Scottish Green Party

#### **he review of Local Government Finance**Update:

- **[redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**
- **[redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**
- **[redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**
- [redacted, s30]
- [redacted, s30]

#### Update:

Special Advisers met over the summer **[redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**formulation of policy  
formulation of policy

**[redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**

Other points that arose:

**[redacted, s29 formulation of policy]**James HyndDirector for Cabinet 2022

**A41530513**

File Note

**BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT  
FORTNIGHTLY MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH  
GREEN PARTY GROUP  
THURSDAY 12 MAY 2022, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**

Present:

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery  
Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity  
Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights  
Maggie Chapman MSP  
Ross Greer MSP  
James Hynd, Director for Cabinet  
Harry Huyton, Special Adviser  
Callum McCaig, Special Adviser  
[redacted], PS/DFM

The meeting discussed the latest position with regard to the Resource and Capital Spending Reviews. **[redacted, s29 formulation of policy, s30 free and frank exchange of views]**

The Deputy First Minister noted all that had been said as providing very helpful clarity about the Green's key priorities for the spending review process and undertook to reflect on these further as the process moved towards its final stages. The Green Group will continue to have engagement with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, her officials and Portfolio Ministers. The Special Adviser team would also continue to be fully engaged in the process.

James Hynd  
Director for Cabinet

13 May 2022

A41530270

File Note

**BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT  
FORTNIGHTLY MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH  
GREEN PARTY GROUP  
THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2022, MS TEAMS**

Present:

The meeting reflected on the Cabinet meeting on 19 April, which was attended by Mr Harvie and Ms Slater as co-leaders of the Scottish Greens. The supporting Cabinet paper had set out the successes achieved so far from joint working and looked ahead to future developments. The high degree of trust and goodwill that had been quickly established between the two parties was the cornerstone for that success. The ongoing support from the civil service was also acknowledged as too was the contribution from Harry Huyton and Gavin Corbett within the special adviser team. It would be important to ensure that Green Party MSPs were not overloaded in terms of responding to request from the SG.

Looking ahead to the next joint Cabinet meeting, scheduled for August, DFM noted that its focus would be on the next PfG. He said that he was keen for there to be a meeting in June with the SGP Group to discuss emerging themes. Mr Greer said that it would also be helpful for the Group to be given a general briefing on the PfG process and timetable. **Action: Tim Ellis to arrange.**

The meeting looked at the draft of the Forward Look paper that had been circulated. This was welcomed as providing the level of information that Green colleagues required. It was noted that the dates of the events, especially those further away, would be liable to move. It was agreed that the paper and its subsequent iterations would be held on a confidential basis within the SGP Parliamentary Group. Any comments from SGP colleagues wishing further information on specific entries would be routed through James Hynd. Mr Greer asked that future iterations of the paper include a column showing the relevant portfolio area. **Action James Hynd.**

The meeting considered the draft protocol for the management of Government, Scottish Green and non-Government amendments to Bills. This had been discussed in advance with Green colleagues and the overall approach set out in the paper was approved, subject to the following points:

It would be helpful to spell out what the reference to 'early scoping consultation' at bullet 1 of paragraph 14 meant in practice;

James Hynd  
Director for Cabinet

4 May 2022

A41530486

File Note

**BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT  
FORTNIGHTLY MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH  
GREEN PARTY GROUP  
WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022, MS TEAMS**

Present:

DFM noted that preparations were in hand for the Cabinet meeting on 19 April, which would be joined by Mr Harvie and Ms Slater as co-leaders of the Scottish greens. Cabinet would consider a paper prepared jointly by the co-leaders and the DFM.

Mr Greer noted that there were some outstanding areas for discussion between Maggie Chapman and Ms Robison regarding the Child Poverty Delivery Action Plan. They were due to meet later that day for further discussions. As a general point, it was noted that further consideration should be given to how the input from the Green Party is recorded in advice going to Cabinet. **Action: James Hynd**

James Hynd noted that work was in hand to develop a forward programme of significant SG policies and announcements. This would be reviewed to ensure that it included planned consultations. **Action: James Hynd**

James Hynd  
Director for Cabinet

30 March 2022

A37017887

File Note

**BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT  
FORTNIGHTLY MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH  
GREEN PARTY GROUP  
WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022, MS TEAMS**

Present:

DFM noted that, as agreed at the previous meeting, he had written to all Ministers emphasising the commitments in the Bute House Agreement for early and effective engagement with the wider SGP.

James Hynd noted that work was in hand to develop a forward programme of significant SG policies and announcements. This would be reviewed to ensure that it included planned consultations. **Action: James Hynd**

It was confirmed that arrangements are being taken forward for the co-leaders to attend Cabinet on 19 April. The Finance Secretary has also written to Mr Greer with a proposed approach for engaging the SGP in the Resource Spending Review.

James Hynd  
Director for Cabinet

3 March 2022

A41530213

File Note

**BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT  
FORTNIGHTLY MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH  
GREEN PARTY GROUP  
THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2022, MS TEAMS**

Present:

Mr Greer noted that there appeared to be some unevenness across portfolios in the levels of engagement with the wider SGP. It was agreed that it would be helpful to draw together some guidance to assist Ministers and their officials. **Action: James Hynd to draft a guidance note for discussion with Harry Huyton in the first instance.**

The Green Group would welcome a political discussion on policies related to rail. **Action: Callum McCaig.**

The meeting of this group should review a forward programme of significant SG policies announcements and developments. **Action: James Hynd to circulate.**

Ms Slater noted with gratitude the warm support she has received from other Ministers with regard to the inaccurate accounts about her attendance at COP26.

James Hynd  
Director for Cabinet

10 February 2022



A36310423

File Note

**BUTE HOUSE AGREEMENT  
FORTNIGHTLY MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND SCOTTISH  
GREEN PARTY GROUP  
THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2022, MS TEAMS**

Present:

It was noted that Green colleagues wished to continue to have input to the development of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation before it comes for Cabinet consideration. **Action: Special Advisers to meet the following day to discuss. James Hynd to review the timetabling of the Cabinet paper to reflect the ongoing discussions.**

It was agreed that it would be helpful for future meetings of this group to review a programme setting out plans for the development of significant SG policies for six months ahead. **Action: James Hynd to put in hand the development of a forward look.**

Mr Greer would provide feedback in the following days to SG officials about the plans for the performance monitoring and reporting of the commitments in the Bute House Agreement. **Action: Mr Greer.**

James Hynd  
Director for Cabinet

28 January 2022