

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 26 September 2022 12:00

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I'll go back to the journalist and add that we have no update to our lines.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 26 September 2022 11:49

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Nothing to add to those lines issued last week to the same questions.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 26 September 2022 11:44

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Officials,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] has come back with the same set of questions he asked last week, to which the below lines were issued.

Is there anything else we'd like to add to our lines at all?

Thanks

LINES ISSUED

Business Minister Ivan McKee said:

“The appointment of auditors is a matter for GFG Alliance as a private business.

“The Lochaber smelter is performing well and GFG has increased direct employment at the site since our intervention in 2016. The 200 direct jobs in Fort William and the valuable supply chain that relies on the smelter underlines just how important our intervention was.

“There has been no call on the Lochaber Guarantee and all fee payments due to the Scottish Government are up to date.”

FOLLOW UP QUERY

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Me again, once again on Lochaber. A nice Monday morning treat.

Alvance has published the statement of reasons for the auditor's resignation. It's the same set of reasons as it was for Dalzell.

Same set of questions for you guys as at the end of the week.

- 1) When did the Scottish Government become aware of the resignation of the auditors?
- 2) What assurances have been provided by GFG Alliance that their accounts are accurate?
- 3) Do the Scottish Government believe they have seen more information than the auditors on key information such as the ongoing Serious Fraud Office investigation, inter-company business, and the ability to continue trading for the next 12 months, to be happy?
- 4) What does the Scottish Government believe the risk is of the GFG Alliance going bust and the Scottish Government gaining ownership of the assets at Lochaber?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 23 September 2022 14:48

To: McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Spad views/clearance: Media query: GFG Auditors - Sunday Mail

Thanks Callum.

I'll reissue on Spad clearance now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: McCaig C (Callum)>

Sent: 23 September 2022 14:45

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Spad views/clearance: Media query: GFG Auditors - Sunday Mail

Happy thanks

Callum McCaig

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Please note 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 for information

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 23 September 2022 14:38

To: McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: Spad views/clearance: Media query: GFG Auditors - Sunday Mail

Hi Spads,

We have received a media query from the Sunday Mail on GFG Auditors. Appended below.

We issued the below response yesterday and are looking to reissue.

Grateful for Spad views and if content to reissue on Spad clearance.

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Business Minister Ivan McKee said:

“The appointment of auditors is a matter for GFG Alliance as a private business.

“The Lochaber smelter is performing well and GFG has increased direct employment at the site since our intervention in 2016. The 200 direct jobs in Fort William and the valuable supply chain that relies on the smelter underlines just how important our intervention was.

“There has been no call on the Lochaber Guarantee and all fee payments due to the Scottish Government are up to date.”

Media query

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@dailyrecord.co.uk\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@dailyrecord.co.uk\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@dailyrecord.co.uk)

Sent: 23 September 2022 13:02

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: sunday mail stories

The auditor of Sanjeev Gupta’s GFG Alliance have resigned after claiming financial information was blocked. The firm own a Highland smelter and the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel mills and was given a government support package, but is being investigated by the serious fraud office and it has now emerged auditors King & King have quit claiming it was unable to complete long overdue work.

Can you comment on potential for Scottish government financial guarantees given to the company to be at risk.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 23 September 2022 13:46

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@transport.gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@transport.gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@transport.gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Education & Skills; Communications Health & Social Care; Communications Finance & Economy; Press Transport Scotland; News Desk

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERIES FOR ALLOCATION

We’ll get the two below [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

[redacted (s38(1)(b))], [redacted (s38(1)(b))], [redacted (s38(1)(b))]: Can you take a look please. GFG is a straight reissue.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 23 September 2022 13:13

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@transport.gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@transport.gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@transport.gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Education & Skills; Communications Health & Social Care; Communications Finance & Economy; Press Transport Scotland; News Desk

Subject: MEDIA QUERIES FOR ALLOCATION

Hi all

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] at the Sunday Mail has sent in a load of queries. Grateful if you could confirm pick up for your desks.

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: 0131 244 2718; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@dailyrecord.co.uk\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@dailyrecord.co.uk\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@dailyrecord.co.uk)>

Sent: 23 September 2022 13:02

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: sunday mail stories

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

4/

The auditor of Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance have resigned after claiming financial information was blocked.

The firm own a Highland smelter and the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel mills and was given a government support package, but is being investigated by the serious fraud office and it has now emerged auditors King & King have quit claiming it was unable to complete long overdue work.

Can you comment on potential for Scottish government financial guarantees given to the company to be at risk.

--

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sunday Mail

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@sundaymail.co.uk\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@sundaymail.co.uk\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@sundaymail.co.uk)

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 22 September 2022 17:51

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - GFG - Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))], I will issue these lines just now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 22 September 2022 17:49

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - GFG - Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Mr McKee is content to clear.

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Private Secretary

Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

The Scottish Government

Edinburgh

Email: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 September 2022 16:14

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - GFG - Scotsman

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

Please see the below questions from [redacted (s38(1)(b))] at the Scotsman in relation to GFG/Lochaber/resignation of King & King.

Comms, officials and SpAds have discussed and have agreed the below lines, which are a reissue of existing lines with the red line highlighted new.

Grateful for Mr McKee's clearance please. [REDACTED]

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

SUGGESTED LINES

Business Minister Ivan McKee said:

“The appointment of auditors is a matter for GFG Alliance as a private business.

“The Lochaber smelter is performing well and GFG has increased direct employment at the site since our intervention in 2016. **The 200 direct jobs in Fort William and the valuable supply chain that relies on the smelter underlines** just how important our intervention was.

“There has been no call on the Lochaber Guarantee and all fee payments due to the Scottish Government are up to date.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@nationalworld.com\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@nationalworld.com\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@nationalworld.com)>

Sent: 22 September 2022 13:57

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: GFG Alliance at Lochaber

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for answers to the following questions following the resignation of King & King as auditors of Alvalde British Aluminium (i.e. the Lochaber smelter).

- 1) When did the Scottish Government become aware of the resignation of the auditors?
- 2) What assurances have been provided by GFG Alliance that their accounts are accurate?
- 3) Do the Scottish Government believe they have seen more information on key information such as the ongoing Serious Fraud Office investigation, inter-company business, and the ability to continue trading for the next 12 months, to be happy?
- 4) What does the Scottish Government believe the risk is of the GFG Alliance going bust and the Scottish Government gaining ownership of the assets at Lochaber?

Also a separate quote from the Lib Dems you may want to tackle as well which is below.

Deadline is ASAP.

Best wishes,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Willie Rennie said:

"It's starting to look as if the Scottish Government have been duped.

"A day after Ivan McKee said that the Scottish Government had seen everything it needed to see, the auditors have resigned saying they don't have the information they need to give the business a clean bill of health.

"Workers at the smelter will be worried for what these resignations and the Serious Fraud Office investigation could mean for jobs.

"The Scottish Government needs to be taking a close interest in what is going on and assessing whether Sanjeev Gupta is still a viable owner for this business.

"Millions of pounds, skilled jobs and the credibility of the Scottish Government's industrial strategy are at stake."

--
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Parliament Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: McCaig C (Callum)
Sent: 22 September 2022 16:10
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)
Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - GFG - Scotsman

Yes thanks

Callum McCaig
Special Adviser to the First Minister
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Please note 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 for information

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)
Sent: 22 September 2022 16:06
To: Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); McCaig C (Callum)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)
Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - GFG - Scotsman

Thanks Cat,

Callum – are you content with the below?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Matheson C (Catriona)

Sent: 22 September 2022 15:57

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); McCaig C (Callum)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - GFG - Scotsman

This looks ok to me but copying Callum who has been looking after GFG

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 22 September 2022 15:50

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: SpAd view: Media query - GFG - Scotsman

SpAds,

Please see the below questions from [redacted (s38(1)(b))] at the Scotsman in relation to GFG/Lochaber/resignation of King & King.

Comms and officials have discussed and have agreed the below lines, which are a reissue of existing lines with the red line highlighted new.

Grateful for a SpAd view please. [REDACTED]

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

SUGGESTED LINES

Business Minister Ivan McKee said:

“The appointment of auditors is a matter for GFG Alliance as a private business.

“The Lochaber smelter is performing well and GFG has increased direct employment at the site since our intervention in 2016. **The 200 direct jobs in Fort William and the valuable supply chain that relies on the smelter underlines** just how important our intervention was.

“There has been no call on the Lochaber Guarantee and all fee payments due to the Scottish Government are up to date.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Sent: 22 September 2022 15:41

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))], I'll send on the lines as below to SpAds for their views.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Sent: 22 September 2022 15:33

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kindest regards

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Sent: 22 September 2022 15:15

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted

(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

These same lines issued to the same journalist earlier in the week [REDACTED]

Grateful for any further views by 15:45 – I'll send the below to SpAds by then if no further comments.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 September 2022 15:06

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I think the proposed lines is enough

Kindest regards

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 September 2022 14:57

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Appreciated Dermot,

[REDACTED]

Can we comment on the SFO investigation? And is there anything we'd want to say about assurances from GFG?

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 22 September 2022 14:34

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Might to worth highlighting the jobs with more detail. I've made a suggestion below.

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 September 2022 14:21

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber - The Scotsman

Afternoon,

Please see media query below from the Scotsman with regards to Lochaber and the resignation of King & King. [redacted (s38(1)(b))] has put a couple of questions below. I'd be grateful for policy advice in drafting a response.

Attaching lines that were issued earlier in the week on King & King as a starter for ten. Grateful for suggested lines on the journalists questions please by **15:45**.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

PREVIOUS LINES

Business Minister Ivan McKee said:

“The appointment of auditors is a matter for GFG Alliance as a private business.

“The Lochaber smelter is performing well and GFG has increased direct employment at the site since our intervention in 2016. The 200 direct jobs in Fort William and the valuable supply chain that relies on the smelter underlines just how important our intervention was.

“There has been no call on the Lochaber Guarantee and all fee payments due to the Scottish Government are up to date.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@nationalworld.com\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@nationalworld.com\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@nationalworld.com)>

Sent: 22 September 2022 13:57

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: GFG Alliance at Lochaber

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for answers to the following questions following the resignation of King & King as auditors of Alvalde British Aluminium (i.e. the Lochaber smelter).

- 1) When did the Scottish Government become aware of the resignation of the auditors?
- 2) What assurances have been provided by GFG Alliance that their accounts are accurate?
- 3) Do the Scottish Government believe they have seen more information on key information such as the ongoing Serious Fraud Office investigation, inter-company business, and the ability to continue trading for the next 12 months, to be happy?
- 4) What does the Scottish Government believe the risk is of the GFG Alliance going bust and the Scottish Government gaining ownership of the assets at Lochaber?

Also a separate quote from the Lib Dems you may want to tackle as well which is below.

Deadline is ASAP.

Best wishes,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Willie Rennie said:

"It's starting to look as if the Scottish Government have been duped.

"A day after Ivan McKee said that the Scottish Government had seen everything it needed to see, the auditors have resigned saying they don't have the information they need to give the business a clean bill of health.

"Workers at the smelter will be worried for what these resignations and the Serious Fraud Office investigation could mean for jobs.

"The Scottish Government needs to be taking a close interest in what is going on and assessing whether Sanjeev Gupta is still a viable owner for this business.

"Millions of pounds, skilled jobs and the credibility of the Scottish Government's industrial strategy are at stake."

--
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Parliament Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 21 September 2022 20:13
To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

Much appreciated [redacted (s38(1)(b))], I will issue just now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
Sent: 21 September 2022 20:12
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Apologies for the delay – Mr McKee has noted and is content for the lines to re-issue, thank you.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]- Private Secretary to the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity - Lorna Slater MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | Mob: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | Email: MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 19:49

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Sorry to chase – has Mr McKee had a chance to consider the below response?

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 18:40

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

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

CC: PO/Deputy First Minister

PA have asked us for our response to the below Lib Dem news release with regards to GFG and a recent FOI that has just issued, Mr McKee spoke to this in Parliament today.

Comms, officials and SpAds have discussed and have agreed to reissue the below lines – is Mr McKee content with the below?

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

LINE TO REISSUE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government acted at pace in 2016 to support a transaction involving Tata Steel and Liberty House to ensure steel communities in Scotland had a future.

“This saved the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel works, rescued more than 100 jobs and retained steel plate production in Scotland.

“The Scottish Government’s indemnity to Tata Steel, arising from its ownership of Longs Steel UK, covered certain future liabilities arising from the sites that might pass to the company. These included any share of environmental remediation costs, although many factors would need to happen before such a scenario came to fruition.

“If the wider group fails to exist and the site is going to be repurposed to a different use then some of those liabilities, for environmental remediation, may then crystallise to the operators of the site currently and to any previous operator of the site.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 21 September 2022 18:38

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

Ok thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 September 2022 18:36

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

SpAds,

Sorry to chase - grateful for views on the amended line below.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

SUGGESTED LINE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government acted at pace in 2016 to support a transaction involving Tata Steel and Liberty House to ensure steel communities in Scotland had a future.

“This saved the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel works, rescued more than 100 jobs and retained steel plate production in Scotland.

“The Scottish Government’s indemnity to Tata Steel, arising from its ownership of Longs Steel UK, covered certain future liabilities arising from the sites that might pass to the company. These included any share of environmental remediation costs, although many factors would need to happen before such a scenario came to fruition.

“If the wider group fails to exist and the site is going to be repurposed to a different use then some of those liabilities, for environmental remediation, may then crystallise to the operators of the site currently and to any previous operator of the site.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 21 September 2022 18:12

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

Spads

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Strategic Commercial Assets Division

Scottish Government

During Covid-19 available only on e-mail, MSTeams or mobile [redacted (s38(1)(b))] |

Please copy in the Team mailbox if responding to an RRU email, this ensures we keep a corporate record where appropriate.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:54

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: SpAd view: Media query - Lib Dem NR - GFG

SpAds,

PA have asked us for our response to the below Lib Dem news release with regards to GFG and a recent FOI that has just issued, Mr McKee spoke to this in Parliament today.

Comms and officials have discussed and have agreed to reissue the below lines – are SpAds content?

Given the sensitivity around this I will send to Mr McKee for clearance.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



[redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:48

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)> [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth);

[redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)
Subject: RE: POLICY INPUT REQUIRED: Media query - GFG - PA

Thanks both,

Unless any further comments by 17:50 – I will send the below to SpAds.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:44

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: POLICY INPUT REQUIRED: Media query - GFG - PA

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

In respect of the Historic Transaction, I have had no involvement and would not be able to add any detail in that respect. Unless others on the copy list are able to advise, [redacted (s38(1)(b))]'s suggestion seems reasonable.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:37

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: POLICY INPUT REQUIRED: Media query - GFG - PA

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I am content from a Liberty Steel contingency perspective which is led by SCAD.

[REDACTED]

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:23

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: POLICY INPUT REQUIRED: Media query - GFG - PA

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Attaching previously issued lines below that focus on TATA and Liberty – is there anything to add to the below?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

PREVIOUS LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government acted at pace in 2016 to support a transaction involving Tata Steel and Liberty House to ensure steel communities in Scotland had a future.

“This saved the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel works, rescued more than 100 jobs and retained steel plate production in Scotland.

“Were any future environmental liabilities to exist in respect of the Lanarkshire steel plants, the responsibility and associated costs would lie with the site owner or developer of the land.”

Background

The Scottish Government’s indemnity to Tata Steel UK, arising from its ownership of Longs Steel UK, covered future liabilities arising from the sites that might pass to the company. This included any share of environmental remediation costs, although many factors would need to happen before such a scenario came to fruition.

Liberty House and its parent company provided a continuing and unlimited indemnity to hold the Scottish Government harmless from all historic and future liabilities.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:19

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: POLICY INPUT REQUIRED: Media query - GFG - PA

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. Just noting that the Lib Dems release is focussed almost fully on the TATA deal but our proposed lines are weighted more to Lochaber. Perhaps the lines might focus more / completely on TATA in response.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:12

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: POLICY INPUT REQUIRED: Media query - GFG - PA

Apologies, also including a line on TATA Steel and Liberty House.

Grateful if officials could review the below liens please and get back to me so I can progress the below to SpAds.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 21 September 2022 17:03

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: POLICY INPUT REQUIRED: Media query - GFG - PA

Importance: High

Officials,

Please see the below Lib Dem news release with regards to GFG, and a new FOI. Mr McKee was asked about this in Parliament this afternoon.

PA have asked for our response to the below news release. I am attaching previous lines below. Grateful if officials could review/amend please by 17:30.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

PREVIOUS LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Minister acted at pace in 2016 to support a transaction involving Tata Steel and Liberty House to ensure steel communities in Scotland had a future. This saved the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel works, rescued more than 100 jobs and retained steel plate production in Scotland.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 21 September 2022 16:55

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL:- FOI shows First Minister was warned about “very significant” risks before Gupta deal

Some lines and officials I found in PRgloo

Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

SG spokesperson said:

The Scottish Government acted at pace in 2016 to support a transaction involving Tata Steel and Liberty House to ensure steel communities in Scotland had a future.

“This saved the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel works, rescued more than 100 jobs and retained steel plate production in Scotland.”

"Were any future environmental liabilities to exist in respect of the Lanarkshire steel plants, the responsibility and associated costs would lie with the site owner or developer of the land."

Background

The Scottish Government's indemnity to Tata Steel UK, arising from its ownership of Longs Steel UK, covered future liabilities arising from the sites that might pass to the company. This included any share of environmental remediation costs, although many factors would need to happen before such a scenario came to fruition.

Liberty House and its parent company provided a continuing and unlimited indemnity to hold the Scottish Government harmless from all historic and future liabilities.

NEWS RELEASE

Shifty SNP hiding legal responsibility for steelworks clean up

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today branded Scottish Government ministers "shifty" after they yet again refused to clarify why the Scottish Government briefly took ownership of the Dalzell steelworks

In 2016, the Scottish Government facilitated the sale of Dalzell Steelworks in Motherwell, buying it off Tata Steel before almost immediately selling it on to current owners, Liberty Steel.

Under pressure from Mr Rennie to explain why it was necessary for the government to take ownership of the site, Business minister Ivan McKee claimed: "Tata Steel, Liberty House and the Scottish Government – were all aligned in agreeing a transaction that secured the earliest realisation of the commercial and wider economic benefits of the deal, and the selected structure was the best available means to deliver this" but refused to offer any explanation as to what benefits there were to Tata Steel and Liberty House of such an unusual arrangement.

The structure of the deal has prompted speculation that Scottish Government ministers promised to protect Tata from future costs of Dalzell, including the liability for environmental clean-up costs.

The parliamentary questions come on the heels of emails released under freedom of information legislation to the Scottish Liberal Democrats in which officials emphasised the need to clarify the situation as soon as possible because otherwise they will "compound the difficulties caused by rushed advice and decision in 2016."

Commenting, Willie Rennie said:

"We have known for some time that the Scottish Government was briefly the legal owners of the Dalzell steel works but shifty SNP ministers are still unable to give a straight answer about why this was necessary.

"If ministers have promised to protect Tata from the costs of cleaning up the Dalzell site then taxpayers could be on the hook for tens of millions of pounds.

"If this is not the case, then you would think ministers would be biting my arm off to tell me.

"Fundamentally the problem here is an untrustworthy SNP government which prefers to operate in the shadows than tell the truth about the deals they sign with taxpayers' money.

"Sooner or later these dealings are going to be dragged into the light. The choice for the SNP is whether this process is swift and transparent or slow and painful.

"Ministers should come to parliament and spell out just what benefits there were to all parties involved from the Scottish Government taking on ownership of the steelworks."

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 21 September 2022 16:52

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: FW: EXTERNAL:- FOI shows First Minister was warned about "very significant" risks before Gupta deal

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Sorry to pass this on but can you pick this one up.

Thanks.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@pa.media>

Sent: 21 September 2022 16:51

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: EXTERNAL:- FOI shows First Minister was warned about "very significant" risks before Gupta deal

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Here's the press release from the Lib Dems - thanks!

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Media Team - Scottish Liberal Democrats

Sent: 21 September 2022 16:01

To: Scottish PA

Subject: EXTERNAL:- FOI shows First Minister was warned about "very significant" risks before Gupta deal

Scottish Liberal Democrats
Contact: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Embargo: Immediate

FOI shows First Minister was warned about “very significant” risks before Gupta deal

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie MSP has spoken in parliament today, labelling the SNP Government as “reckless” after a freedom of information (FOI) request showed ministers were warned by a top official that their 2016 steel deal with businessman Sanjeev Gupta risked “very significant political, financial, state aid and legal issues”.

Mr Rennie raised the issues in the chamber of the Scottish Parliament in a debate on inward investment and trade.

The Gupta Family Group Alliance (GFG) is currently under investigation by the UK’s Serious Fraud Office, with its auditors quitting last week claiming they were unable to complete long overdue accounts.

The new documents, published on the Scottish Government website, show the advice given by Director of Economic Development to ministers including Nicola Sturgeon and John Swinney before the back-to-back deal.

They reveal:

- The official told the First Minister that the specific deal carried “very significant political, financial, state aid and legal issues.”
- SNP ministers were warned about due diligence amid “less and poorer quality information than would have wished to see” about Liberty, that their state aid position was “untested” and that they did not have a business case “that sets out a rationale for our intervention”.
- The First Minister was told before signing in 2016 that the terms of the “untested”, “novel” deal “carries significant state aid and financial risk”, yet Ivan McKee told Parliament in 2021 that “it was not our intention to sign up to a contract clause which may not comply with state aid requirements”.
- Ministers were warned that the government could become liable for the environmental clean-up costs at the steelworks in the “small theoretical risk” of

Liberty ever being liquidated, but the First Minister was told it could just “sit there unrestored for years” if necessary.

- TATA were reticent to sell the steelworks to Liberty directly because they did not know enough about Liberty or its business plan, and were already in discussions with another potential buyer.
- The price of TATA changing its mind about doing that deal with Greybull, who were said to be “now more positive” about reopening the sites, was for the Scottish Government to agree to the indemnity that meant taking on TATA’s “past and future” liabilities.
- The First Minister, John Swinney, Fergus Ewing and the Lord Advocate were all personally asked to make a decision on the deal.

Mr Rennie said:

“The Scottish Government have been reckless, leaving the taxpayer on the hook for millions and throwing the interests of workers to the wind.

“When I raised this with Ivan McKee today, he laughed and tried to silence my concerns. He dismissed those workers, he ignored those taxpayers and ran with an SNP spin machine that refuses to take responsibility for its carelessness.

“We now know that the government was warned about the major ramifications of the deal, from environmental clean-up costs to the uncertainty around state aid compliance. We now know that the government was warned that they did not have a clear rationale for intervening. Despite all of this the First Minister decided to go ahead.

“It smacks of a government which is willing to throw taxpayers and workers under the bus in negotiations with big business.

“Between the resignations, the Serious Fraud Office investigation and the unaudited accounts, you would expect the Scottish Government to be taking a close interest in what is going on.

“That is why I am calling for an urgent parliamentary statement on this specific issue so that the SNP Government can give clear answers about what they signed up to and the consequences. Millions of pounds, skilled jobs and the credibility of the Scottish Government’s industrial strategy are at stake.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

The full FOI can be found [here](#)

Please add media@scotlibdems.org.uk to your safe senders list to make sure you don't miss out on our press releases.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 20 September 2022 17:17
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: For allocation - Media Query - Dalzell Steel

Thanks both, will flag to officials – draft response is about to go to SpADs for their views.

Ta,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 20 September 2022 17:16
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Subject: RE: For allocation - Media Query - Dalzell Steel

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))], indeed it is, we're already working on it.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]: I'll add this email to the google doc.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 20 September 2022 17:14
To: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Subject: For allocation - Media Query - Dalzell Steel

Hi Finance team,

Just fielded the below query from the Daily Mail. Is this one for you?

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@dailymail.co.uk\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@dailymail.co.uk\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@dailymail.co.uk)>
Sent: 20 September 2022 17:09
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Subject: Comment

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I am a reporter for the Scottish Daily Mail.

The Financial Times have reported that King & King, auditors for the Dalzell Steel plant in Motherwell, quit after Sanjeev Gupta would not accept disclaimers stating that they were unable to complete audits due to insufficient information.

Are the Scottish Government in a position to comment, and confirm whether they are looking into the matter?

A swift response would be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 20 September 2022 20:02

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For Ministerial clearance - media queries - GFG Alliance auditors - Scotsman/Daily Mail

Many thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Communications: News (Net Zero & Energy)

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 20 September 2022 19:32

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For Ministerial clearance - media queries - GFG Alliance auditors - Scotsman/Daily Mail

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Mr McKee is content to clear these lines.

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise – Ivan McKee
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 20 September 2022 17:49

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

(s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>

Subject: For Ministerial clearance - media queries - GFG Alliance auditors - Scotsman/Daily Mail

Good evening PO,

Please see below queries we've had from The Scotsman and Daily Mail on the resignation of GFG Alliance's auditors. [This Financial Times piece appeared](#) a few hours ago.

SpADs, comms and policy and comms have agreed the following response (removing the background for the Daily Mail query). I'd be grateful if you could confirm if Mr McKee is content to clear, please?

Suggested response:

Business Minister Ivan McKee said: "The appointment of auditors is a matter for GFG Alliance as a private business.

"Liberty Steel's Dalzell site continues to operate and produce steel. The Lochaber smelter is performing well and supporting jobs in Fort William, underlining just how important our intervention was.

"There has been no call on the Lochaber Guarantee and all fee payments due to the Scottish Government are up to date."

Background

The £7m loan is a matter for Scottish Enterprise.

Scotsman query:

As discussed, looking for a Scottish Government line on the latest info around the resignation of King & King as auditors of (among others) Liberty Steel Dalzell. The accounts for Lochaber Smelter were also unaudited, seemingly.

The reasons given for the resignation of the auditors is a lack of "sufficient information and evidence in connection with" the ongoing Serious Fraud Office investigation, the company's ability to fund its future operations, and recoverability of related party balances. (Info in the pdf on Companies House: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/10071517/filing-history>)

The Scottish Government still has £7m tied up with Dalzell through Scottish Enterprise, and obviously there are concerns that this could also impact the Lochaber Smelter deal.

A few questions...

- 1) Is the Scottish Government still confident that its dealings with GFG Alliance/Liberty Steel remain positive in terms of value for taxpayer money?
- 2) How would the government respond to concerns around Dalzell and potentially Lochaber's ongoing ability to remain open which is raised by King & King?

Deadline is ASAP - will go to Scottish Enterprise as well.

Daily Mail query:

The Financial Times have reported that King & King, auditors for the Dalzell Steel plant in Motherwell, quit after Sanjeev Gupta would not accept disclaimers stating that they were unable to complete audits due to insufficient information.

Are the Scottish Government in a position to comment, and confirm whether they are looking into the matter?

A swift response would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 20 September 2022 17:40

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For SpAD views - media queries - GFG Alliance auditors - Scotsman/Daily Mail

Thanks Stuart, I'll send this for clearance now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 20 September 2022 17:38

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For SpAD views - media queries - GFG Alliance auditors - Scotsman/Daily Mail

Ok thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 20 September 2022 17:23

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: For SpAD views - media queries - GFG Alliance auditors - Scotsman/Daily Mail

Good evening SpADs,

Please see below queries we've had from The Scotsman and Daily Mail on the resignation of GFG Alliance's auditors. [This Financial Times piece appeared](#) a few hours ago.

Policy and comms suggest the following response (removing the background for the Daily Mail query), I'd be grateful for your views.

Suggested response:

Business Minister Ivan McKee said: "The appointment of auditors is a matter for GFG Alliance as a private business.

"Liberty Steel's Dalzell site continues to operate and produce steel. The Lochaber smelter is performing well and supporting jobs in Fort William, underlining just how important our intervention was.

"There has been no call on the Lochaber Guarantee and all fee payments due to the Scottish Government are up to date."

Background

The £7m loan is a matter for Scottish Enterprise.

Scotsman query:

As discussed, looking for a Scottish Government line on the latest info around the resignation of King & King as auditors of (among others) Liberty Steel Dalzell. The accounts for Lochaber Smelter were also unaudited, seemingly.

The reasons given for the resignation of the auditors is a lack of "sufficient information and evidence in connection with" the ongoing Serious Fraud Office investigation, the company's ability to fund its future operations, and recoverability of related party balances. (Info in the pdf on Companies House: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/10071517/filing-history>)

The Scottish Government still has £7m tied up with Dalzell through Scottish Enterprise, and obviously there are concerns that this could also impact the Lochaber Smelter deal.

A few questions...

- 1) Is the Scottish Government still confident that its dealings with GFG Alliance/Liberty Steel remain positive in terms of value for taxpayer money?
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Deadline is ASAP - will go to Scottish Enterprise as well.

Daily Mail query:

The Financial Times have reported that King & King, auditors for the Dalzell Steel plant in Motherwell, quit after Sanjeev Gupta would not accept disclaimers stating that they were unable to complete audits due to insufficient information.

Are the Scottish Government in a position to comment, and confirm whether they are looking into the matter?

A swift response would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 20 September 2022 17:19

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

Colleagues, for awareness we have now been approached by the Daily Mail on this too. I will get the draft lines to SpADs now for their views and copy you in.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 September 2022 16:52

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))] – I wouldn't advise keeping in the second para, the rest works for me though, clean version below.

If no further feedback I'll **send to SpADs at 5.15pm.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 September 2022 16:52

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

Yeah, was just going back recommending removal of the second para, thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 September 2022 16:50

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

How about:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 20 September 2022 16:38

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Bringing in RRU colleagues also.

Considering the Lochaber elements please see the below lines as a starter noting there may be some crossover:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 20 September 2022 16:16

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. (s38(1)(b)) has also highlighted that we issued a short response last week on this which I missed, apologies.

I've slightly expanded last week's response with additional paras from a media response on 16 Aug – does this suit?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Sent: 20 September 2022 15:35
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Subject: RE: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

We issued this line last week.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

“The appointment of auditors is a matter for Liberty Steel.”

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Sent: 20 September 2022 15:28
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Subject: For policy input - media query - GFG Alliance auditors - The Scotsman

Colleagues,

Please see below queries we've had from The Scotsman on the resignation of GFG Alliance's auditors. [This Financial Times piece appeared](#) a few hours ago.

I'd be grateful for a steer on points you'd like to include in a suggested response so I can draft some lines.

Query:

As discussed, looking for a Scottish Government line on the latest info around the resignation of King & King as auditors of (among others) Liberty Steel Dalzell. The accounts for Lochaber Smelter were also unaudited, seemingly.

The reasons given for the resignation of the auditors is a lack of "sufficient information and evidence in connection with" the ongoing Serious Fraud Office investigation, the company's ability to fund its future operations, and recoverability of related party balances. (Info in the pdf on Companies House: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/10071517/filing-history>)

The Scottish Government still has £7m tied up with Dalzell through Scottish Enterprise, and obviously there are concerns that this could also impact the Lochaber Smelter deal.

A few questions...

- 1) Is the Scottish Government still confident that its dealings with GFG Alliance/Liberty Steel remain positive in terms of value for taxpayer money?
- 2) How would the government respond to concerns around Dalzell and potentially Lochaber's ongoing ability to remain open which is raised by King & King?

Deadline is ASAP - will go to Scottish Enterprise as well.

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 15 September 2022 12:52

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: Media query - Liberty Stell Dalzell - Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

I will check this with SpAds then issue.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 15 September 2022 12:41

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: Media query - Liberty Stell Dalzell - Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))] we have discussed from a policy perspective and are content with what you have suggested.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | Strategic Assets – Investment and Assurance Unit |

Strategic Commercial Assets Division | Directorate for Economic Development | Scottish Government | [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 15 September 2022 12:24

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: Media query - Liberty Stell Dalzell - Scotsman

Good afternoon.

Please see for review a draft response to a media query concerning the resignation of the auditors at Liberty Steel Dalzell.

Grateful for your thoughts.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Draft response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The appointment of auditors is a matter for Liberty Steel. Repayment of the £7 million loan is a matter for Scottish Enterprise.”

Media query

Liberty Steel Dalzell

LSDL's auditors, King & King (also under Financial Reporting Council investigation), have resigned as auditors of the company.

This comes with the annual accounts years overdue, and the outstanding issue of the £7m loan from Scottish Enterprise (which is in the latest accounts). A Scottish Government/Enterprise comment on whether the loan has been repaid, and whether there are concerns relating to the auditor's resignation.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager| News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 15 September 2022 12:17

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: Dalzell and Rangers

Thanks

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 15 September 2022 12:12

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: Dalzell and Rangers

I'd suggest a line saying the appointment of auditors is a matter for the company. Refer questions about the £7m loan to SE.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 15 September 2022 12:10

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: Dalzell and Rangers

No problem [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 15 September 2022 11:59

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy
Subject: RE: Dalzell and Rangers

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))], do you have capacity to pick up the Dalzell query? Holler if not!

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 15 September 2022 11:49
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: Dalzell and Rangers

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] and I have moved so will leave to [redacted (s38(1)(b))] and [redacted (s38(1)(b))] and adding [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
News | [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029
www.gov.scot/news



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 15 September 2022 11:47
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy
Subject: FW: Dalzell and Rangers

Hello,

Forwarding this query from the Scotsman to see if you can look at his first query, highlighted.

Not sure we can provide a substantive response in the mourning period, but can someone at your end pick up?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@nationalworld.com\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@nationalworld.com\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@nationalworld.com)>
Sent: 15 September 2022 11:39
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Subject: Dalzell and Rangers

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for lines (if possible) on two issues - one relating to Liberty Steel Dalzell and the other [REDACTED]. Details below - deadline for both is today.

Liberty Steel Dalzell

LSDL's auditors, King & King (also under Financial Reporting Council investigation), have resigned as auditors of the company.

4

In 2016, the Scottish Government facilitated the sale of Dalzell Steelworks in Motherwell, buying it off Tata Steel before almost immediately selling it on to current owners, Liberty Steel.

Under pressure from Mr Rennie to explain why it was necessary for the government to take ownership of the site, Business minister Ivan McKee claimed: "Tata Steel, Liberty House and the Scottish Government – were all aligned in agreeing a transaction that secured the earliest realisation of the commercial and wider economic benefits of the deal, and the selected structure was the best available means to deliver this" but refused to offer any explanation as to what benefits there were to Tata Steel and Liberty House of such an unusual arrangement.

The structure of the deal has prompted speculation that Scottish Government ministers promised to protect Tata from future costs of Dalzell, including the liability for environmental clean-up costs.

The parliamentary questions come on the heels of emails released under freedom of information legislation to the Scottish Liberal Democrats in which officials emphasised the need to clarify the situation as soon as possible because otherwise they will "compound the difficulties caused by rushed advice and decision in 2016."

Commenting, Willie Rennie said:

"We have known for some time that the Scottish Government was briefly the legal owners of the Dalzell steel works but shift SNP ministers are still unable to give a straight answer about why this was necessary.

"If ministers have promised to protect Tata from the costs of cleaning up the Dalzell site then taxpayers could be on the hook for tens of millions of pounds.

"If this is not the case, then you would think ministers would be biting my arm off to tell me.

"Fundamentally the problem here is an untrustworthy SNP government which prefers to operate in the shadows than tell the truth about the deals they sign with taxpayers' money.

"Sooner or later these dealings are going to be dragged into the light. The choice for the SNP is whether this process is swift and transparent or slow and painful.

"Ministers should come to parliament and spell out just what benefits there were to all parties involved from the Scottish Government taking on ownership of the steelworks."

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@nationalworld.com>

Subject: Dalzell

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Looking for a line on the below from the Lib Dems - deadline preferably by the end of play today, however the story is for the SoS so if there's a need for it to wait till tomorrow, that's grand.

Cheers,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Shift SNP hiding legal responsibility for steelworks clean up

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today branded Scottish Government ministers “shifty” after they yet again refused to clarify why the Scottish Government briefly took ownership of the Dalzell steelworks

In 2016, the Scottish Government facilitated the sale of Dalzell Steelworks in Motherwell, buying it off Tata Steel before almost immediately selling it on to current owners, Liberty Steel.

Under pressure from Mr Rennie to explain why it was necessary for the government to take ownership of the site, Business minister Ivan McKee claimed: “Tata Steel, Liberty House and the Scottish Government – were all aligned in agreeing a transaction that secured the earliest realisation of the commercial and wider economic benefits of the deal, and the selected structure was the best available means to deliver this” but refused to offer any explanation as to what benefits there were to Tata Steel and Liberty House of such an **unusual** arrangement.

The structure of the deal has prompted speculation that Scottish Government ministers promised to protect Tata from future costs of Dalzell, including the liability for environmental clean-up costs.

The parliamentary questions come on the heels of emails released under freedom of information legislation to the Scottish Liberal Democrats in which officials emphasised the need to clarify the situation as soon as possible because otherwise they will “compound the difficulties caused by rushed advice and decision in 2016.”

Commenting, Willie Rennie said:

“We have known for some time that the Scottish Government was briefly the legal owners of the Dalzell steel works but shifty SNP ministers are still unable to give a straight answer about why this was necessary.

“If ministers have promised to protect Tata from the costs of cleaning up the Dalzell site then taxpayers could be on the hook for tens of millions of pounds.

“If this is not the case, then you would think ministers would be biting my arm off to tell me.

“Fundamentally the problem here is an untrustworthy SNP government which prefers to operate in the shadows than tell the truth about the deals they sign with taxpayers’ money.

“Sooner or later these dealings are going to be dragged into the light. The choice for the SNP is whether this process is swift and transparent or slow and painful.

“Ministers should come to parliament and spell out just what benefits there were to all parties involved from the Scottish Government taking on ownership of the steelworks.”

--
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Parliament Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 17 August 2022 18:46

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); Higgins K (Kate); Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot

Subject: RE: For clearance please - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Thanks, [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. Will issue now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 17 August 2022 18:45
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); Higgins K (Kate); Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work
<MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For clearance please - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

DFM is content to clear the lines below.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | **M:** [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | **Email:** DFMCSCR@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)
Sent: 17 August 2022 18:34
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); Higgins K (Kate); Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work
<MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>
Subject: For clearance please - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Good evening DFMPO,

We've been asked to respond to a Willie Rennie news release on GFG (see below).

Policy have helped draft the lines below, and SpAds are content.

Grateful if you could confirm clearance. I'm assuming this is for DFM, but copying in other F&E Ministers PO just in case.

QUERY

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today pressed the Scottish Government over what discussions it has had with the owners of the Lochaber smelter and hydro-electric plant, as he revealed that the firm's latest set of accounts are now more than eight months overdue.

Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance acquired the smelter and its hydro-electric plant from mining giant Rio Tinto for £330m deal in 2016. The deal was underwritten by a £586m guarantee from the Scottish Government.

The Serious Fraud Office are currently investigating "suspected fraud, fraudulent trading and money laundering" at GFG.

Accounts for Kinlochleven Power Ltd were due by 30 November 2021 but have yet to be published.

Mr Rennie said:

"The companies under the umbrella of GFG Alliance are turning into serial accounts offenders.

"If everything was going to plan then we would expect accounts to have been filed months ago. This will be worrying news for staff and a warning sign for the Scottish Government.

"Taxpayers provided a multi-million-pound guarantee to enable the purchase of the smelter and the power plant to go ahead. Now the firm enthusiastically lauded by the First Minister is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

"Scottish ministers should set out what engagement they have had with the firm over the past year and whether they have asked for an update on the accounts and the firm's financial situation.

"We have had next to nothing in return for that guarantee and the promised 2000 jobs have not materialised.

"We need honesty from the Scottish Government on the exposure to taxpayers following the multi-million-pound government financial guarantee."

LINES TO TAKE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"Public information available from Companies House makes clear that Kinlochleven Power Limited is controlled by Equitix. It is wrong to assert that GFG Alliance is responsible for the filing of accounts

"The power station does not supply power to the Lochaber aluminium smelter at Fort William and its owner has no link whatsoever to the Scottish Government's guarantee.

"The Scottish Government's intervention to support Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity in the Highlands and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people."

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@pressandjournal.co.uk>

Sent: 17 August 2022 11:04

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: Kinlochleven Power

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, here is that Lib Dem release, re Kinlochleven Power Ltd

If you could let me know by close of play today if there would be a Scot Gov line, please let me know.

Many thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today pressed the Scottish Government over what discussions it has had with the owners of the Lochaber smelter and hydro-electric plant, as he revealed that the firm's latest set of accounts are now more than eight months overdue.

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"We have had next to nothing in return for that guarantee and the promised 2000 jobs have not materialised.

"We need honesty from the Scottish Government on the exposure to taxpayers following the multi-million-pound government financial guarantee."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The firm's page on Companies House can be found [here](#).

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 17 August 2022 18:30

To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); McCaig C (Callum); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth);

Subject: RE: For URGENT SpAd views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Subject: RE: For URGENT SpAd views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

(www.blackberry.com)

Subject: RE: For URGENT SpAd views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Subject: RE: For URGENT SpAd views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: For URGENT SpAd views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

SpAds, we've been asked to respond to a Willie Rennie news release on GFG.

Are you content with the following lines, provided by policy colleagues, to go up for clearance?

QUERY

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today pressed the Scottish Government over what discussions it has had with the owners of the Lochaber smelter and hydro-electric plant, as he revealed that the firm's latest set of accounts are now more than eight months overdue.

Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance acquired the smelter and its hydro-electric plant from mining giant Rio Tinto for £330m deal in 2016. The deal was underwritten by a £586m guarantee from the Scottish Government.

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Accounts for Kinlochleven Power Ltd were due by 30 November 2021 but have yet to be published.

Mr Rennie said:

"The companies under the umbrella of GFG Alliance are turning into serial accounts offenders.

"If everything was going to plan then we would expect accounts to have been filed months ago. This will be worrying news for staff and a warning sign for the Scottish Government.

"Taxpayers provided a multi-million-pound guarantee to enable the purchase of the smelter and the power plant to go ahead. Now the firm enthusiastically lauded by the First Minister is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

"Scottish ministers should set out what engagement they have had with the firm over the past year and whether they have asked for an update on the accounts and the firm's financial situation.

"We have had next to nothing in return for that guarantee and the promised 2000 jobs have not materialised.

"We need honesty from the Scottish Government on the exposure to taxpayers following the multi-million-pound government financial guarantee."

ENDS

LINES TO TAKE

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“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity in the Highlands and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 17 August 2022 17:38

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Fine with me, thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 17 August 2022 17:34

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I wouldn't refer to any politician in our lines, so have edited as follows:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Public information available from Companies House makes clear that Kinlochleven Power Limited is controlled by Equitix. It is wrong to assert that GFG Alliance is responsible for the filing of accounts

“The power station does not supply power to the Lochaber aluminium smelter at Fort William and its owner has no link whatsoever to the Scottish Government’s guarantee.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity in the Highlands and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.”

I'll put to SpAds shortly.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 17 August 2022 17:26

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Apologies for delay

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Sent: 17 August 2022 17:18

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Hello colleagues,

Could I get some lines on this please?

At this point, I think a short response outlining the company referred to is nothing to do with SG would suffice.

Copying evening duty for awareness – but I'd like to get this up for swift clearance in the next hour if I can.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 17 August 2022 13:14

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Thanks – Lib Dems seem determined to lay all of this at SG's door, so grateful for suggested lines to make this clear.

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 17 August 2022 11:41

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

We'll come back on this shortly though the Lib Dems are pointing to a company (Kinlochleven Power Ltd) that is not linked to the SG guarantee and is not part of SG's security.

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 17 August 2022 11:29

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: For policy views - media query - GFG/Kinlochleven Power - Press & Journal

Hello colleagues,

The Lib Dems have issued a news release, claiming a GFG company is behind in issuing its accounts (see below).

Grateful for a steer on what our reply might be to this.

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@pressandjournal.co.uk\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@pressandjournal.co.uk\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@pressandjournal.co.uk)>

Sent: 17 August 2022 11:04

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: Kinlochleven Power

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, here is that Lib Dem release, re Kinlochleven Power Ltd

If you could let me know by close of play today if there would be a Scot Gov line, please let me know.

Many thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today pressed the Scottish Government over what discussions it has had with the owners of the Lochaber smelter and hydro-electric plant, as he revealed that the firm's latest set of accounts are now more than eight months overdue.

Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance acquired the smelter and its hydro-electric plant from mining giant Rio Tinto for £330m deal in 2016. The deal was underwritten by a £586m guarantee from the Scottish Government.

The Serious Fraud Office are currently investigating "suspected fraud, fraudulent trading and money laundering" at GFG.

Accounts for Kinlochleven Power Ltd were due by 30 November 2021 but have yet to be published.

Mr Rennie said:

"The companies under the umbrella of GFG Alliance are turning into serial accounts offenders.

"If everything was going to plan then we would expect accounts to have been filed months ago. This will be worrying news for staff and a warning sign for the Scottish Government.

"Taxpayers provided a multi-million-pound guarantee to enable the purchase of the smelter and the power plant to go ahead. Now the firm enthusiastically lauded by the First Minister is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

“Scottish ministers should set out what engagement they have had with the firm over the past year and whether they have asked for an update on the accounts and the firm’s financial situation.

“We have had next to nothing in return for that guarantee and the promised 2000 jobs have not materialised.

“We need honesty from the Scottish Government on the exposure to taxpayers following the multi-million-pound government financial guarantee.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The firm’s page on Companies House can be found [here](#).

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Sent: 16 August 2022 17:03

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: Gupta admits “serious concerns” over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Just checking did you send to [redacted (s38(1)(b))]? If not I can!

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Sent: 16 August 2022 14:48

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: Gupta admits “serious concerns” over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Hey, yeah. We’ve issued lines on this to a few papers so will send on to (s38(1)(b)).

The other one ([redacted (s38(1)(b))]) is a follow up).

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Sent: 16 August 2022 14:44

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: FW: Gupta admits “serious concerns” over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))] – is this what you’re looking at? I can add to grid

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]| News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]|@dailymail.co.uk>

Sent: 16 August 2022 14:42

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]|@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Gupta admits "serious concerns" over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

From: Media Team - Scottish Liberal Democrats <media@scotlibdems.org.uk>

Sent: 16 August 2022 09:15

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]|@dailymail.co.uk>

Subject: Gupta admits "serious concerns" over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

External Sender



Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Embargo: Immediate

Gupta admits "serious concerns" over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today written to the Finance Secretary to ask what will happen to Scottish Government financial guarantees in the event that the Lochaber aluminium smelter ceases to be a going concern or is sold by financier Sanjeev Gupta and urge them to make a statement to parliament.

His letter follows the publication of Alvalde British Aluminium's unaudited accounts, in which Mr Gupta outlines "material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern." The accounts reveal that the firm lost £4m last year.

Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant and its accompanying hydropower station in 2016. However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate's business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering.

Mr Rennie said:

“These late and unaudited accounts are another worrying sign about the underlying health of the Lochaber smelter.

“Despite flashy promises of 2,000 jobs and a new billet plant nothing has materialised even though the SNP Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees. Given Mr Gupta’s record it is looking more and more like the government were duped.

“There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group’s financial difficulties. The Scottish Government will need to set out what will happen to the financial guarantees that it has provided, what will happen to the workers at the plant and whether it will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

“The SNP Government must finally be open about the financial agreements with Sanjeev Gupta and report to parliament with urgency.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

A copy of the Alvalde British Aluminum accounts can be found [here](#). The key material is on page 10.

Mr Rennie’s letter is as follows:

Dear John,

I am writing to raise my concerns over the future of the Lochaber smelter, currently trading under the name Alvalde British Aluminium.

Late and unaudited accounts published last week reveal that the firm lost £4m last year and note “material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern.”

Sanjeev Gupta, a significant financial partner of the Scottish Government, is sending a warning signal that the company may collapse as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group’s financial difficulties.

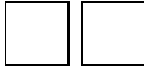
The Scottish Government provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees in exchange for the promise of 2,000 jobs at the site. However a spokesperson for your government admitted last week that just 40 new jobs have been created since 2016.

There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses so I am writing to ask you to set out what will happen to those financial guarantees and whether your government will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

I would like to urge you to deliver a statement to parliament on this matter at the earliest possible opportunity. This is a matter of significant public interest and one which should be properly scrutinised by parliament.

Yours sincerely,
Willie Rennie

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This email was sent to [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#) because you're subscribed to our press releases, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

Sent using [NationBuilder](#). Published and promoted by and on behalf of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, 4 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5DR.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Sent: 16 August 2022 17:48

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))], I will issue these just now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:52

To: Communications Finance & Economy; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Mr McKee is content to clear.

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Interim Private Secretary
Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
The Scottish Government
Edinburgh
Email: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Communications Finance & Economy

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:37

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

We've received a few follow up questions from The Herald on this. Details are below alongside suggested lines in response, agreed with policy and SpAd colleagues.

Grateful for Mr McKee's clearance of the below lines please.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

FOLLOW UP QUERIES

1) Where did the "trading profitably" come from. Latest accounts show pre-tax losses soared to £4.05m.

2) In return for the guarantees, the Scottish Government was supposed to receive an annual 'insurance' premium for the guarantee throughout the 25 years. It was valued at £21.4m at the time of the agreement, but as of 2020/21, it has been valued at 'nil'. Why is that?

SUGGESTED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“As a condition of the Lochaber guarantee the Scottish Government receives up-to-date management accounting information which is reviewed with Deloitte.

“The Scottish Government owes a duty of care to the business to protect its commercial information but the business has confirmed the smelter is benefitting from recent buoyant aluminium prices and is currently operating profitably.

“Account information that is not commercially sensitive will be in the public domain when the company publishes its next annual statutory accounts at Companies House.

“All guarantee fees due to the Scottish Government are up-to-date. For budget planning purposes, the Scottish Government takes a prudent approach to how future fee income is valued.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 16 August 2022 11:32

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts - Various

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. Mr McKee is content with these lines.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise – Ivan McKee

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

T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 16 August 2022 11:27

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted

(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR AWARENESS: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts - Various

Minister, PO.

Cc: DFM

For awareness:

We have been approached by several further media outlets this morning (Press and Journal, STV and The Herald) looking for Scottish Government response to Lib Dems/Willie Rennie letter and comments on Lochaber Smelter and accounts.

We have reissued the lines cleared below by the Minister.

Thanks
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 15 August 2022 18:18

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>;

(s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. Mr McKee is content.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise – Ivan McKee

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

T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>

Sent: 15 August 2022 17:35

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Adding Communication Duty colleague.

Thanks.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 15 August 2022 17:00

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Minister, PO.

Cc: DFM

Please find for clearance a draft response to a media query from The Scotsman on Lochaber smelter accounts on the back of a Lib Dems news release. Appended below.

Spads, Comms and policy have agreed on reissuing lines on the Lochaber smelter below.

Additionally the journalist has highlighted they had an FOI response back (attached) which “admits that officials were wrong to tell him that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen” and will also feature in his article.

Please see separate lines drafted with policy colleagues to cover.

Grateful if you can confirm that the Minister is content to issue.

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Draft responses:

On Lochaber smelter

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

On FOI response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“To ensure transparency a review of the original FOI was undertaken as requested. During the review it was noted that a meeting was within scope. However, the Scottish Government does not hold information relating to the request.

“As full a response as possible was provided to clarify the situation and the original decision was upheld.”

Media query.

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for a response to the below from the Lib Dems.

Also I've had an FOI response back (attached) which admits that officials were wrong to tell me that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen.

All for the one story, all for tomorrow's paper.

Thanks in advance,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Gupta admits “serious concerns” over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today written to the Finance Secretary to ask what will happen to Scottish Government financial guarantees in the event that the Lochaber aluminium smelter is sold by financier Sanjeev Gupta and urge her to make a statement to parliament.

His letter follows the publication of Alvalde British Aluminium's unaudited accounts, in which Mr Gupta outlines “material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern.” The accounts reveal that the firm lost £4m last year.

Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant and its accompanying hydropower station in 2016. However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate's business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering.

Mr Rennie said:

“These late and unaudited accounts are another worrying sign about the underlying health of the Lochaber smelter.

“Despite flashy promises of 2,000 jobs and a new billet plant nothing has materialised even though the SNP Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees. Given Mr Gupta's record it is looking more and more like the government were duped.

“There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group's financial difficulties. The Scottish Government will need to set out what will happen to the financial guarantees that it has provided and whether it will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

“The SNP Government must finally be open about the financial agreements with Sanjeev Gupta and report to parliament with urgency.”

--
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Parliament Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:35

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>;

[redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Spad views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Yes, content thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:31

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Spad views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Thanks Stuart,

We received another follow up from the journalist just as I was sending up for clearance – the question is below, alongside an additional line in red in the response, agreed with officials.

Are you content for me to send the amended for clearance?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

FOLLOW UP QUERY NO.2

In return for the guarantees, the the Scottish Government was supposed to receive an annual 'insurance' premium for the guarantee throughout the 25 years. It was valued at £21.4m at the time of the agreement, but as of 2020/21, it has been valued at 'nil'. Why is that?

SUGGESTED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“As a condition of the Lochaber guarantee the Scottish Government receives up-to-date management accounting information which is reviewed with Deloitte.

“The Scottish Government owes a duty of care to the business to protect its commercial information but the business has confirmed the smelter is benefitting from recent buoyant aluminium prices and is currently operating profitably.

“Account information that is not commercially sensitive will be in the public domain when the company publishes its next annual statutory accounts at Companies House.

“All guarantee fees due to the Scottish Government are up-to-date. For budget planning purposes, the Scottish Government takes a prudent approach to how future fee income is valued.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:05

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Spad views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Fine thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 August 2022 15:48

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: Spad views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Hi Spads,

Following the issuing of lines on the Lochaber Smelter accounts the journalist from The Herald has followed up with a query relating to the "trading profitably" part of the response. See emails appended below.

Comms and policy have drafted the lines below.

Grateful for Spad views and if content.

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Draft lines:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"As a condition of the Lochaber guarantee the Scottish Government receives up-to-date management accounting information which is reviewed with Deloitte.

"The Scottish Government owes a duty of care to the business to protect its commercial information but the business has confirmed the smelter is benefitting from recent buoyant aluminium prices and is currently operating profitably.

"Account information that is not commercially sensitive will be in the public domain when the company publishes its next annual statutory accounts at Companies House."

Media query

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@heraldandtimes.co.uk>

Sent: 16 August 2022 11:25

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>
Subject: Re: Scottish Government response

Where did the "trading profitably" come from. Latest accounts show pre-tax losses soared to £4.05m.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

The Herald/Herald on Sunday

Tel: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Email: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@theherald.co.uk\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@theherald.co.uk\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@theherald.co.uk)

Twitter: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:25

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: POLICY VIEWS: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Thanks Dermot,

I'll send the below up at 16:30.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"As a condition of the Lochaber guarantee the Scottish Government receives up-to-date management accounting information which is reviewed with Deloitte.

"The Scottish Government owes a duty of care to the business to protect its commercial information but the business has confirmed the smelter is benefitting from recent buoyant aluminium prices and is currently operating profitably.

"Account information that is not commercially sensitive will be in the public domain when the company publishes its next annual statutory accounts at Companies House.

"All guarantee fees due to the Scottish Government are up-to-date. For budget planning purposes, the Scottish Government takes a prudent approach to how future fee income is valued."

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:22

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: POLICY VIEWS: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

How about?

All guarantee fees due to the SG are up-to-date. However, for budget planning purposes we take a prudent approach to how we value future fee income.

D

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 August 2022 16:12

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: POLICY VIEWS: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Dermot/Officials,

We've received another follow up from the journalist, please see below. I'd be grateful for advice, I'll look to include in the lines agreed with SpAds in the chain below.

Grateful for advice on the below, thanks. Please feel free to amend the lines below.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

FOLLOW UP (Number 2)

In return for the guarantees, the the Scottish Government was supposed to receive an annual 'insurance' premium for the guarantee throughout the 25 years. It was valued at £21.4m at the time of the agreement, but as of 2020/21, it has been valued at 'nil'.

Why is that?

SUGGESTED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"As a condition of the Lochaber guarantee the Scottish Government receives up-to-date management accounting information which is reviewed with Deloitte.

"The Scottish Government owes a duty of care to the business to protect its commercial information but the business has confirmed the smelter is benefitting from recent buoyant aluminium prices and is currently operating profitably.

“Account information that is not commercially sensitive will be in the public domain when the company publishes its next annual statutory accounts at Companies House.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 16 August 2022 15:31

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Hi all.

If no further comments I will put to Spads at 15:45.

Thanks.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 16 August 2022 14:45

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Thanks Dermot.

Looking to tighten lines I have drafted the below.

Grateful for views/comment with aim of putting to Spads at 15:15.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“As a condition of the Lochaber guarantee the Scottish Government receives up-to-date management accounting information which is reviewed with Deloitte.

“The Scottish Government owes a duty of care to the business to protect its commercial information but the business has confirmed the smelter is benefitting from recent buoyant aluminium prices and is currently operating profitably.

“Account information that is not commercially sensitive will be in the public domain when the company publishes its next annual statutory accounts at Companies House.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 16 August 2022 14:01

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 16 August 2022 13:51

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Dermot,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 16 August 2022 13:13

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Subject: RE: Policy views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

The answer is:

[REDACTED]

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Sent: 16 August 2022 11:31

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Subject: Policy views: FOLLOW UP media query: - Lochaber smelter accounts - The Herald

Hi all.

Following reissuing of Lochaber Smelter lines journalist from The Herald has come back with the following:

Where did the "trading profitably" come from. Latest accounts show pre-tax losses soared to £4.05m.

Grateful for policy input as to a response.

Thanks.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

Sent: 16 August 2022 11:27

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)

(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR AWARENESS: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts - Various

Minister, PO.

Cc: DFM

For awareness:

We have been approached by several further media outlets this morning (Press and Journal, STV and The Herald) looking for Scottish Government response to Lib Dems/Willie Rennie letter and comments on Lochaber Smelter and accounts.

We have reissued the lines cleared below by the Minister.

Thanks
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 August 2022 10:23

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Spad views: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts - Press & Journal

Thanks Stuart.

STV also in for the lines so will also reissue to them and any additional media if approached.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 16 August 2022 10:22

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Spad views: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts - Press & Journal

Fine thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 August 2022 09:52

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: Spad views: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts - Press & Journal

Hi Spads.

We have been approached by Press and Journal also picking up on Lib Dems/Willie Rennie letter on Lochaber Smelter accounts.

Please find below lines issued yesterday regarding the same letter/comments.

Grateful for Spad views and if content to reissue on Spad clearance as journalist has indicated a **11:00 deadline**.

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Issued lines 15/8/2022

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

Media query

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I wonder if the Scottish Government would have a comment on a letter from Willie Rennie to them - please see below - concerning the Alvalde British Aluminium smelter at Lochaber.

I've got an 11:00 deadline on this so appreciate time is tight, but if you have a comment, it would be much appreciated.

Best regards,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today written to the Finance Secretary to ask what will happen to Scottish Government financial guarantees in the event that the Lochaber aluminium smelter ceases to be a going concern or is sold by financier Sanjeev Gupta and urge them to make a statement to parliament.

His letter follows the publication of Alvalde British Aluminium’s unaudited accounts, in which Mr Gupta outlines “material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern.” The accounts reveal that the firm lost £4m last year.

Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant and its accompanying hydropower station in 2016. However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate’s business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering.

Mr Rennie said:

“These late and unaudited accounts are another worrying sign about the underlying health of the Lochaber smelter.

“Despite flashy promises of 2,000 jobs and a new billet plant nothing has materialised even though the SNP Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees. Given Mr Gupta’s record it is looking more and more like the government were duped.

“There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group’s financial difficulties. The Scottish Government will need to set out what will happen to the financial guarantees that it has provided, what will happen to the workers at the plant and whether it will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

“The SNP Government must finally be open about the financial agreements with Sanjeev Gupta and report to parliament with urgency.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Press and Journal

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))][@ajl.co.uk](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@ajl.co.uk)

www.pressandjournal.co.uk

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 16 August 2022 09:47

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk

Subject: RE: Alvalde British Aluminium comment - Press and Journal

Thanks, [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 16 August 2022 09:46

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk

Subject: FW: Alvalde British Aluminium comment - Press and Journal

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

This came directly to my box. I believe we can just reissue lines below sent to [redacted (s38(1)(b))] regarding same Lib Dems letter. I can check with Spads if content to reissue on their clearance?

Lines still added to PRGloo. I will do that now.

Thanks

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: <[redacted (s38(1)(b))]ajl.co.uk>

Sent: 16 August 2022 09:36

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: Alvalde British Aluminium comment - Press and Journal

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I wonder if the Scottish Government would have a comment on a letter from Willie Rennie to them - please see below - concerning the Alvalde British Aluminium smelter at Lochaber.

I've got an 11:00 deadline on this so appreciate time is tight, but if you have a comment, it would be much appreciated.

Best regards,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today written to the Finance Secretary to ask what will happen to Scottish Government financial guarantees in the event that the Lochaber aluminium smelter ceases to be a going concern or is sold by financier Sanjeev Gupta and urge them to make a statement to parliament.

His letter follows the publication of Alvalde British Aluminium’s unaudited accounts, in which Mr Gupta outlines “material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern.” The accounts reveal that the firm lost £4m last year.

Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant and its accompanying hydropower station in 2016. However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate's business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering.

Mr Rennie said:

"These late and unaudited accounts are another worrying sign about the underlying health of the Lochaber smelter.

"Despite flashy promises of 2,000 jobs and a new billet plant nothing has materialised even though the SNP Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees. Given Mr Gupta's record it is looking more and more like the government were duped.

"There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group's financial difficulties. The Scottish Government will need to set out what will happen to the financial guarantees that it has provided, what will happen to the workers at the plant and whether it will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

"The SNP Government must finally be open about the financial agreements with Sanjeev Gupta and report to parliament with urgency."

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Press and Journal

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))][@ajl.co.uk](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@ajl.co.uk)

www.pressandjournal.co.uk

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 15 August 2022 18:19

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Thank you [redacted (s38(1)(b))], issuing now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | FM, DFM and COVID Recovery Communications

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 15 August 2022 18:18

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. Mr McKee is content.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise – Ivan McKee

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

T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 15 August 2022 17:35

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Adding Communication Duty colleague.

Thanks.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 15 August 2022 17:00

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Minister, PO.

Cc: DFM

Please find for clearance a draft response to a media query from The Scotsman on Lochaber smelter accounts on the back of a Lib Dems news release. Appended below.

Spads, Comms and policy have agreed on reissuing lines on the Lochaber smelter below.

Additionally the journalist has highlighted they had an FOI response back (attached) which “admits that officials were wrong to tell him that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen” and will also feature in his article.

Please see separate lines drafted with policy colleagues to cover.

Grateful if you can confirm that the Minister is content to issue.

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Draft responses:

On Lochaber smelter

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

On FOI response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“To ensure transparency a review of the original FOI was undertaken as requested. During the review it was noted that a meeting was within scope. However, the Scottish Government does not hold information relating to the request.

“As full a response as possible was provided to clarify the situation and the original decision was upheld.”

Media query.

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for a response to the below from the Lib Dems.

Also I've had an FOI response back (attached) which admits that officials were wrong to tell me that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen.

All for the one story, all for tomorrow's paper.

Thanks in advance,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Gupta admits “serious concerns” over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today written to the Finance Secretary to ask what will happen to Scottish Government financial guarantees in the event that the Lochaber aluminium smelter is sold by financier Sanjeev Gupta and urge her to make a statement to parliament.

His letter follows the publication of Alvalde British Aluminium’s unaudited accounts, in which Mr Gupta outlines “material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern.” The accounts reveal that the firm lost £4m last year.

Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant and its accompanying hydropower station in 2016. However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate’s business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering.

Mr Rennie said:

“These late and unaudited accounts are another worrying sign about the underlying health of the Lochaber smelter.

“Despite flashy promises of 2,000 jobs and a new billet plant nothing has materialised even though the SNP Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees. Given Mr Gupta’s record it is looking more and more like the government were duped.

“There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group’s financial difficulties. The Scottish Government will need to set out what will happen to the financial guarantees that it has provided and whether it will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

“The SNP Government must finally be open about the financial agreements with Sanjeev Gupta and report to parliament with urgency.”

--
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Parliament Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 15 August 2022 16:47

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Spad views: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Thanks Stuart.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 15 August 2022 16:31

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Spad views: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Ok thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 15 August 2022 13:38

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: Spad views: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Hi Spads,

We have received a media query from The Scotsman on Lochaber smelter accounts on the back of a Lib Dems news release. Appended below.

Comms and policy have agreed on reissuing lines on the Lochaber smelter below.

Additionally the journalist has highlighted they had an FOI response back (attached) which “admits that officials were wrong to tell him that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen” and will also feature in his article.

Please see separate lines drafted with policy colleagues to cover.

Grateful for Spad views and if content.

Thanks.

Draft responses:

On Lochaber smelter

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

On Dalzell meeting and FOI response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“To ensure transparency a review of the original FOI was undertaken as requested. During the review it was noted that a meeting was within scope. However, the Scottish Government does not hold information relating to the request.

“As full a response as possible was provided to clarify the situation and the original decision was upheld.”

Media query.

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for a response to the below from the Lib Dems.

Also I've had an FOI response back (attached) which admits that officials were wrong to tell me that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen.

All for the one story, all for tomorrow's paper.

Thanks in advance,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Gupta admits “serious concerns” over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today written to the Finance Secretary to ask what will happen to Scottish Government financial guarantees in the event that the Lochaber aluminium smelter is sold by financier Sanjeev Gupta and urge her to make a statement to parliament.

His letter follows the publication of Alvalde British Aluminium's unaudited accounts, in which Mr Gupta outlines “material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern.” The accounts reveal that the firm lost £4m last year.

Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant and its accompanying hydropower station in 2016. However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate's business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering.

Mr Rennie said:

“These late and unaudited accounts are another worrying sign about the underlying health of the Lochaber smelter.

“Despite flashy promises of 2,000 jobs and a new billet plant nothing has materialised even though the SNP Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees. Given Mr Gupta's record it is looking more and more like the government were duped.

“There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group's financial difficulties. The Scottish Government will need to set out what will happen to the financial guarantees that it has provided and whether it will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

“The SNP Government must finally be open about the financial agreements with Sanjeev Gupta and report to parliament with urgency.”

--

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Parliament Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 15 August 2022 13:33

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views/input: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Apologies.

Following further discussion with colleagues we've decided to use [redacted (s38(1)(b))]'s lines to ensure SG comment is provided over the FOI response.

Thanks
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Draft responses:

On Lochaber smelter

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

"The Scottish Government's intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

"The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed."

On Dalzell meeting and FOI response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"To ensure transparency a review of the original FOI was undertaken as requested. During the review it was noted that a meeting was within scope. However, the Scottish Government does not hold information relating to the request.

"As full a response as possible was provided to clarify the situation and the original decision was upheld."

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 15 August 2022 13:18

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk;

[redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Thanks all.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))], in regards to the FOI the journalist has SG response and information about the meeting in question and why SG does not hold any information within the scope of the request - which he is free to use in his article.

I will put to Spads at 13:25.

Thanks again

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Draft response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 15 August 2022 13:02

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

On the FOI part, I undertook the review and agree that there is not much more to say. The meeting was initially missed as the two SG attendants had both moved to new areas, but we do not have any information/docs within scope to released.

I've suggested a potential line below if required.

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 15 August 2022 12:50

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

The line is OK but I think Ministers will want to know about the FOI and the meetings it mentions. The FOI on Liberty Steel (not Lochaber which is Lib Dem focus) looks to be one handled by colleagues in SCI.

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 15 August 2022 12:20

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; News Desk; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: Policy views/input: Media query: Lochaber smelter accounts/Dalzell meeting - The Scotsman

Hi all.

We have received a media query from The Scotsman on Lochaber smelter accounts. Appended below.

I have pulled the lines previously issued on the unaudited accounts from last week.

Grateful for colleagues' views/input if these lines are still current or need updating.

Additionally the journalist has highlighted they had an FOI response back (attached) which admits that officials were wrong to tell him that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen and could feature in his article. I don't see what we can add to any lines that are not covered in the attached response.

Thanks.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Draft response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

Media query.

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for a response to the below from the Lib Dems.

Also I've had an FOI response back (attached) which admits that officials were wrong to tell me that a meeting between Scottish Enterprise, Dalzell and Teneo did not happen.

All for the one story, all for tomorrow's paper.

Thanks in advance,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Gupta admits “serious concerns” over whether Lochaber smelter can continue

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has today written to the Finance Secretary to ask what will happen to Scottish Government financial guarantees in the event that the Lochaber aluminium smelter is sold by financier Sanjeev Gupta and urge her to make a statement to parliament.

His letter follows the publication of Alvalde British Aluminium’s unaudited accounts, in which Mr Gupta outlines “material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern.” The accounts reveal that the firm lost £4m last year.

Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant and its accompanying hydropower station in 2016. However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate’s business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering.

Mr Rennie said:

“These late and unaudited accounts are another worrying sign about the underlying health of the Lochaber smelter.

“Despite flashy promises of 2,000 jobs and a new billet plant nothing has materialised even though the SNP Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees. Given Mr Gupta’s record it is looking more and more like the government were duped.

“There is now a significant risk that the firm is either sold or collapses as a result of the losses at Lochaber and the wider group’s financial difficulties. The Scottish Government will need to set out what will happen to the financial guarantees that it has provided and whether it will be taking an active role in securing new ownership and the future of the site.

“The SNP Government must finally be open about the financial agreements with Sanjeev Gupta and report to parliament with urgency.”

--
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Parliament Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 August 2022 17:36
To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Dobson L (Leanne); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Subject: RE: For clearance please - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. I'll issue now.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
Sent: 10 August 2022 17:08
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Dobson L (Leanne); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Subject: RE: For clearance please - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. Mr McKee is content.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise – Ivan McKee
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 August 2022 16:26
To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Dobson L (Leanne); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Subject: For clearance please - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Good afternoon PO,

Grateful for clearance of the following lines in response to the Daily Express query below. Policy and SpAds are content.

QUERY

Given that, I wanted to know if further meetings had been held but not disclosed by the minister (and if so, what reasons there were for not disclosing these). If no further meetings had been held, I want to know why that is the case given the concerns surrounding GFG Alliance as noted above.

“The fact that SNP ministers haven’t bothered to meet with GFG Alliance for five months will raise eyebrows, as this questionable financial deal could jeopardise millions of pounds of public money.

“So much was promised by Nicola Sturgeon and her senior ministers, who enjoyed fine dining with this firm and its associates. With the cost of living crisis hitting folk hard, it’s time the SNP got on with the day job and looked after Scotland’s finances.”

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Officials hold quarterly meetings to monitor performance in respect of the Scottish Government guarantee and maintain regular engagement at local and group level on business operations.

“The Scottish Government is committed to openness and transparency and will continue to publish details of all Ministerial engagements via its website.”

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Thanks. Sending up now.

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D

Subject: RE: For SpAd views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Ok thanks

Callum McCaig

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Please note 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 for information

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot)>

Sent: 10 August 2022 15:42

To: McCaig C (Callum); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot])

Subject: For SpAd views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Hi SpAds,

Grateful for views on the following lines in response to the Daily Express query below. Policy are content.

QUERY

I noticed a parliamentary question had been asked about meetings this year with GFG Alliance. In it, Ivan McKee states ministers met with officials from GFG Alliance three times in the first three months of the year but since then there have been no meetings. Obviously there have been concerns raised about GFG's involvement in the Lochaber smelter given the taxpayer-funded guarantee handed to the company by the SG in 2016 to purchase the plant and the business being under investigation for alleged fraud. It has also been claimed just 50 of the 2000 jobs promised at the facility have actually been created.

Given that, I wanted to know if further meetings had been held but not disclosed by the minister (and if so, what reasons there were for not disclosing these). If no further meetings had been held, I want to know why that is the case given the concerns surrounding GFG Alliance as noted above.

Comments from Monica Lennon

“The fact that SNP ministers haven’t bothered to meet with GFG Alliance for five months will raise eyebrows, as this questionable financial deal could jeopardise millions of pounds of public money.

“Scottish taxpayers deserve to know that the Scottish Government is being open about its arrangements with GFG Alliance, after all, Sanjeev Gupta’s business empire is being probed by the Serious Fraud Squad for suspected fraud and money laundering. It doesn’t get much more serious than that.

“So much was promised by Nicola Sturgeon and her senior ministers, who enjoyed fine dining with this firm and its associates. With the cost of living crisis hitting folk hard, it’s time the SNP got on with the day job and looked after Scotland’s finances.”

LINES TO TAKE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Regular engagement takes place between the Scottish Government and GFG Alliance at both official and ministerial level.

“Officials hold quarterly meetings to monitor performance in respect of the Scottish Government guarantee and maintain regular engagement at local and group level on business operations.

“The Scottish Government is committed to openness and transparency and will continue to publish details of all Ministerial engagements via its website.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 10 August 2022 14:58

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Hello all,

As discussed I'll put this up for clearance shortly if everyone is in agreement.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Regular engagement takes place between the Scottish Government and GFG Alliance at both official and ministerial level.

“Officials hold quarterly meetings to monitor performance in respect of the Scottish Government guarantee and maintain regular engagement at local and group level on business operations.

“The Scottish Government is committed to openness and transparency and will continue to publish details of all Ministerial engagements via its website.”

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 10 August 2022 14:43

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted

(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Tweaked the line further. Are you happy with this and can you indicate a time I could send for clearance?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 10 August 2022 13:41

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Hello [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Further to our chat, the journalist has also now come back to say he has the following comments for his story from Monica Lennon MSP

“The fact that SNP ministers haven’t bothered to meet with GFG Alliance for five months will raise eyebrows, as this questionable financial deal could jeopardise millions of pounds of public money.

“Scottish taxpayers deserve to know that the Scottish Government is being open about its arrangements with GFG Alliance, after all, Sanjeev Gupta’s business empire is being probed by the Serious Fraud Squad for suspected fraud and money laundering. It doesn’t get much more serious than that.

“So much was promised by Nicola Sturgeon and her senior ministers, who enjoyed fine dining with this firm and its associates. With the cost of living crisis hitting folk hard, it’s time the SNP got on with the day job and looked after Scotland’s finances.”

I’ve updated the lines as follows - grateful for your views.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 10 August 2022 12:38

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

From a ministerial perspective no there haven't been and we only answered this PQ a couple of days ago so it is very much current (there is a meeting scheduled for 15th Aug but they can find out about that when the register is published in due course)

Kindest regards

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 10 August 2022 12:26

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I think the journalist will keep pushing on whether there have been further meetings since the one in March?

Can we say whether there has been?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 10 August 2022 12:22

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Thanks and I don't think we will necessarily stray too far from the answer to the PQ which ultimately answers the question – perhaps the journalist is just refusing to acknowledge the second line which notes that officials hold regular engagement

Proposed starter response

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kindest regards

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 10 August 2022 12:02

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: News Desk; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: For policy views - media query - GFG Alliance meetings - Daily Express

Hello colleagues,

We have a query from the Daily Express about meetings with GFG Alliance, specifically asking:

- If further meetings had been held but not disclosed by the minister (and if so, what reasons there were for not disclosing these).
- If no further meetings had been held, why is that the case?

See query in full below. Grateful for a steer on what we can say.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@reachplc.com\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@reachplc.com\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@reachplc.com)>

Sent: 10 August 2022 11:53

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: GFG Alliance meetings

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Thanks for taking my call there

I noticed a parliamentary question had been asked about meetings this year with GFG Alliance. In it, Ivan McKee states ministers met with officials from GFG Alliance three times in the first three months of the year but since then there have been no meetings. Obviously there have been concerns raised about GFG's involvement in the Lochaber smelter given the

taxpayer-funded guarantee handed to the company by the SG in 2016 to purchase the plant and the business being under investigation for alleged fraud. It has also been claimed just 50 of the 2000 jobs promised at the facility have actually been created.

Given that, I wanted to know if further meetings had been held but not disclosed by the minister (and if so, what reasons there were for not disclosing these). If no further meetings had been held, I want to know why that is the case given the concerns surrounding GFG Alliance as noted above.

FYI, I've posted the full question below.

Cheers

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with GFG Alliance and its representatives in 2022.

S6W-09906

Ivan McKee: The Scottish Government engages regularly with representatives of the GFG Alliance at official and Ministerial level.

Officials hold quarterly meetings to monitor performance in respect of the Scottish Government guarantee and maintain regular engagement at local and group level on business operations.

Three Ministerial meetings have been held with the GFGAlliance in 2022. These meetings involving the Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise took place on 24 January, 18 February, and 29 March.

The Scottish Government will continue to publish details of all Ministerial engagements via its website (<https://www.gov.scot/collections/ministerial-engagements-travel-and-gifts/>).

--

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Scottish Daily Express

<https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/>

email: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@trinitymirror.com](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@trinitymirror.com)

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 10 August 2022 15:47

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Rhatigan D (Dermot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Glover D (Derek); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Macniven R (Ruairidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: For Ministerial clearance - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. I can confirm that Mr McKee is content.

Best,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise – Ivan McKee
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 10 August 2022 15:06

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Rhatigan D (Dermot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Glover D (Derek); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Macniven R (Ruairadh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: For Ministerial clearance - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

Good afternoon PO,

We've been approached by the Scotsman for a reaction to the below press release regarding Tata Steel issued by the Scottish Lib Dems under embargo for tomorrow.

SpADs, policy and comms have agreed this response, in line with what has been issued previously – I'd be grateful if you could confirm clearance from Mr McKee.

Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: “The Scottish Government acted at pace in 2016 to support a transaction involving Tata Steel and Liberty House to ensure steel communities in Scotland had a future.

“This saved the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel works, rescued more than 100 jobs and retained steel plate production in Scotland.

“Subsequently, Ministers were advised that one specific part of the contract arrangement may not comply with state aid rules. This finding was reported promptly to the Scottish Parliament and means in the unlikely event of the indemnity ever being called upon, no money would legally have to be paid out by the Scottish Government.”

Background:

In March 2016 the Scottish Government facilitated the ownership of the Dalzell and Clydebridge steelworks from Longs Steel UK (then a subsidiary of Tata Steel) to Liberty House to ensure the sites remained open and save jobs. As part of the back-to-back sale, the Government bought the sites for £1

and immediately sell them to Liberty House. Liberty House took on all existing liabilities and the Scottish Government agreed to indemnify Longs Steel UK from future claims. In turn, Liberty House and its parent company provided a continuing and unlimited indemnity to hold the Scottish Government harmless from all historic and future liabilities.

At the time of negotiating the deal it was acknowledged that the back-to-back indemnities approach was untested due to the novel approach of the transaction in the UK.

The Scottish Government's indemnity to Tata Steel, arising from its ownership of Longs Steel UK, covered certain future liabilities arising from the sites that might pass to the company. These included any share of environmental remediation costs, although many factors would have needed to happen before such a scenario came to fruition.

Query:

Rennie: SNP finally admit to “rushed advice and decision” in steelworks chaos

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie MSP has today condemned the Scottish Government for rushing the deal it made in 2016 with Dalzell steelworks, following a Scottish Liberal Democrat Freedom of Information request which showed the government admitting to the “rushed” deal between Tata and itself in a series of emails.

The Freedom of Information request, lodged by the Scottish Liberal Democrats, asked the government to provide, “all information and documentation that the Scottish Government holds on whether (a) Tata Steel or (b) the Scottish Government have any claim to the land upon which Dalzell steelworks are situated.”

In response, the government provided an email in which an official described “picking through what transpired back in 2016...challenging to say the least.”

In a further email to the Director General (Economy), another official emphasised the need to clarify the situation as soon as possible because otherwise they will “compound the difficulties caused by rushed advice and decision in 2016.”

In 2016, the Scottish Government facilitated the sale of Dalzell Steelworks in Motherwell, buying it off Tata Steel before almost immediately selling it on to current owners, Liberty Steel.

As part of the deal, Scottish Government ministers seemingly promised to protect Tata from future costs of Dalzell, including the liability for environmental clean-up costs. A subsequent review concluded that this indemnity may have been a breach of state aid rules.

Commenting on the emails, Mr Rennie said:

“The SNP’s handling of this entire affair almost leaves me speechless. It smacks of a government with no robust or informed industrial strategy, and one which is willing to throw the taxpayer under the bus in negotiations with big business.

“We knew that the government were working at what a source at the time called “breakneck speed,” determined to get something done by the May 2016 parliament election. We also knew that Tata was determined to get something done, by passing on its exposure for clean-ups.

"In spite of this, Nicola Sturgeon had the audacity to boast that her deal showed "the art of the possible."

"The only "art" the government have mastered is to let cynical political interests fold to the pressures of big business. Now they're having to admit that.

"We need answers urgently. If Tata are not responsible for clean-up operations does that mean the costs could fall to the Scottish taxpayers?

"When millions of pounds and the credibility of the Scottish Government's industrial policy are at stake, we deserve politicians who can give clear answers about what all of this means for the Scottish public."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The key extracts from the Scottish Liberal Democrat FOI are as follows:

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 October 2021 17:35

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Next Steps - Historic transaction

Hi [REDACTED]

Just following on from the accuracy point from our call today. I have included some feedback in red below. We have found it challenging to say the least in picking through what transpired back in 2016 so happy to talk through the below if needed.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Pearce H (Hilary) <Hilary.Pearce@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 August 2021 00:11
To: DG Economy <DGEEconomy@gov.scot>; Aitken R (Reuben) <Reuben.Aitken@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>;
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>;
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Rapid Response Unit <RRU@gov.scot>;
Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Submission - State Aid position re Tata-Longs SG indemnity of March 2016 - 16
August 2021
Importance: High
Liz, Reuben et al
Following our meeting this morning and later conversations, please see first draft
of submission to [REDACTED] on State aid implications of the Tata/Liberty deal in 2016.
Grateful for comments/suggestions as soon as possible on Tuesday morning
given pressure of time to achieve further clearance and then put to Ministers
before the meeting on Wednesday.
You will see that the submission seeks further time to put clear and full advice,
including from [REDACTED] colleagues, on the MEIP position in particular - which
appears to have been the ultimate basis for the 'not state aid' conclusion arrived
in March 2016. I know there is time pressure for this to be progressed as soon as
possible, but rushed advice now could compound the difficulties caused by rushed
advice and decision in 2016.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Thanks all
Hilary
Deputy Director - European Structural Funds and Subsidy Control Division
Working from home; contact me on: [REDACTED] | [\[REDACTED\]@scotgov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@scotgov.scot)

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: McCaig C (Callum)

Sent: 10 August 2022 14:09

To: Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Glover D (Derek); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SpAD views - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

Ok thanks

Callum McCaig

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Please note 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 for information

From: Dobson L (Leanne)

Sent: 10 August 2022 13:38

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Matheson C (Catriona); McCaig C (Callum)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Glover D (Derek); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SpAD views - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

Adding Callum

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 10 August 2022 13:17

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Glover D (Derek); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

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The Freedom of Information request, lodged by the Scottish Liberal Democrats, asked the government to provide, “all information and documentation that the Scottish Government holds on whether (a) Tata Steel or (b) the Scottish Government have any claim to the land upon which Dalzell steelworks are situated.”

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ENDS

Notes to editors:

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 October 2021 17:35

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Next Steps - Historic transaction

Hi [REDACTED]

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Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Pearce H (Hilary) <Hilary.Pearce@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 August 2021 00:11
To: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Aitken R (Reuben) <Reuben.Aitken@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Rapid Response Unit <RRU@gov.scot>;
Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Submission - State Aid position re Tata-Longs SG indemnity of March 2016 - 16 August 2021
Importance: High
Liz, Reuben et al
Following our meeting this morning and later conversations, please see first draft of submission to [redacted] on State aid implications of the Tata/Liberty deal in 2016. Grateful for comments/suggestions as soon as possible on Tuesday morning given pressure of time to achieve further clearance and then put to Ministers before the meeting on Wednesday.
You will see that the submission seeks further time to put clear and full advice, including from [redacted] colleagues, on the MEIP position in particular - which appears to have been the ultimate basis for the 'not state aid' conclusion arrived at in March 2016. I know there is time pressure for this to be progressed as soon as possible, but rushed advice now could compound the difficulties caused by rushed advice and decision in 2016.
[redacted]
[redacted]
Thanks all
Hilary
Deputy Director - European Structural Funds and Subsidy Control Division
Working from home; contact me on: [redacted] | @scotgovESIF

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Richards M (Mark)
Sent: 10 August 2022 11:33
To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); Glover D (Derek); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot])
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot])
Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

This correspondence is from the Scottish Government Legal Directorate. It contains legal advice and is legally privileged. It may, therefore, be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

Adding Kenny Hannaway and [redacted (s38(1)(b))] to the copy list and removing Caroline Beattie. Could you use this copy list going forward but also remove myself please.

Thank you

Mark

Mark Richards

Solicitor | Deputy Director (interim)

Marine, Planning and Natural Resources Division

Scottish Government Legal Directorate | [Law at the heart of the Scottish Government](#)

Area 1-H (North) | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh

Please contact me via MS Teams or by e-mail.



Want to know more about Legal Directorate?

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-Information for everyone. Legal Directorate and the Government Legal Service for Scotland:

<https://www.gov.scot/groups/government-legal-service-for-scotland/>

Right First Time - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/right-first-time-practical-guide-public-authorities-scotland-decision-making-law-second-edition/>

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 10 August 2022 11:25

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Richards M (Mark); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Glover D (Derek); Beattie C (Caroline); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

That change looks good.

I'm about to be offline for the afternoon (from 11:45) but can be reached by phone if needed.

Dermot

Dermot Rhatigan

Manufacturing and Industries Division

Directorate for Economic Development

Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU

Tel: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 10 August 2022 11:16

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Richards M (Mark); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Glover D (Derek); Beattie C (Caroline); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate)
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

[Suggest \[REDACTED\]](#)

[\[REDACTED\]](#)

[\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]](#)

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 10 August 2022 11:00

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Richards M (Mark); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Glover D (Derek); Beattie C (Caroline); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development; Hall K (Kate)
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

[\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]](#)

I've extended the copy list a little as we have a couple of PQs on this topic from Willie Rennie which we are in the process of answering.

I've adjusted the line a bit to try to make it as simple as possible.

Dermot

[\[REDACTED\]](#)

[\[REDACTED\]](#)

[\[REDACTED\]](#)

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 10 August 2022 10:30

To: Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Richards M (Mark); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Glover D (Derek); Beattie C (Caroline); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot)
Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>
Subject: Policy views - media query - Tata Steel - Scotsman

Colleagues,

We've been approached by the Scotsman for an SG reaction to the below press release regarding Tata Steel issued by the Scottish Lib Dems under embargo for tomorrow.

In terms of a response, I have included lines issued earlier this year but as it has been some time since they were used, I'd be grateful for a steer on any changes to them you would suggest.

Draft response:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Query:

Rennie: SNP finally admit to “rushed advice and decision” in steelworks chaos

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie MSP has today condemned the Scottish Government for rushing the deal it made in 2016 with Dalzell steelworks, following a Scottish Liberal Democrat Freedom of Information request which showed the government admitting to the “rushed” deal between Tata and itself in a series of emails.

The Freedom of Information request, lodged by the Scottish Liberal Democrats, asked the government to provide, “all information and documentation that the Scottish Government holds on whether (a) Tata Steel or (b) the Scottish Government have any claim to the land upon which Dalzell steelworks are situated.”

In response, the government provided an email in which an official described “picking through what transpired back in 2016...challenging to say the least.”

In a further email to the Director General (Economy), another official emphasised the need to clarify the situation as soon as possible because otherwise they will “compound the difficulties caused by rushed advice and decision in 2016.”

In 2016, the Scottish Government facilitated the sale of Dalzell Steelworks in Motherwell, buying it off Tata Steel before almost immediately selling it on to current owners, Liberty Steel.

As part of the deal, Scottish Government ministers seemingly promised to protect Tata from future costs of Dalzell, including the liability for environmental clean-up costs. A subsequent review concluded that this indemnity may have been a breach of state aid rules.

Commenting on the emails, Mr Rennie said:

"The SNP's handling of this entire affair almost leaves me speechless. It smacks of a government with no robust or informed industrial strategy, and one which is willing to throw the taxpayer under the bus in negotiations with big business.

"We knew that the government were working at what a source at the time called "breakneck speed," determined to get something done by the May 2016 parliament election. We also knew that Tata was determined to get something done, by passing on its exposure for clean-ups.

"In spite of this, Nicola Sturgeon had the audacity to boast that her deal showed "the art of the possible."

"The only "art" the government have mastered is to let cynical political interests fold to the pressures of big business. Now they're having to admit that.

"We need answers urgently. If Tata are not responsible for clean-up operations does that mean the costs could fall to the Scottish taxpayers?

"When millions of pounds and the credibility of the Scottish Government's industrial policy are at stake, we deserve politicians who can give clear answers about what all of this means for the Scottish public."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The key extracts from the Scottish Liberal Democrat FOI are as follows:

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 October 2021 17:35

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Next Steps - Historic transaction

Hi [REDACTED]

Just following on from the accuracy point from our call today. I have included some feedback in red below. We have found it challenging to say the least in picking through what transpired back in 2016 so happy to talk through the below if needed.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Pearce H (Hilary) <Hilary.Pearce@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 August 2021 00:11
To: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Aitken R (Reuben) <Reuben.Aitken@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Rapid Response Unit <RRU@gov.scot>;
Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Submission - State Aid position re Tata-Longs SG indemnity of March 2016 - 16 August 2021
Importance: High
Liz, Reuben et al
Following our meeting this morning and later conversations, please see first draft of submission to [redacted] on State aid implications of the Tata/Liberty deal in 2016. Grateful for comments/suggestions as soon as possible on Tuesday morning given pressure of time to achieve further clearance and then put to Ministers before the meeting on Wednesday.
You will see that the submission seeks further time to put clear and full advice, including from [redacted] colleagues, on the MEIP position in particular - which appears to have been the ultimate basis for the 'not state aid' conclusion arrived at in March 2016. I know there is time pressure for this to be progressed as soon as possible, but rushed advice now could compound the difficulties caused by rushed advice and decision in 2016.
[redacted]
[redacted]
Thanks all
Hilary
Deputy Director - European Structural Funds and Subsidy Control Division
Working from home; contact me on: [redacted] | @scotgovESIF

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 09 August 2022 17:24

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For DFM clearance - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))] – I'll issue the response to the reporter now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 09 August 2022 17:24

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

(s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For DFM clearance - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

DFM is content to clear.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Deputy Private Secretary to Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
M: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 09 August 2022 17:20

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>

Subject: For DFM clearance - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Good evening DFMPO,

Please see below a media query from the Financial Times regarding the latest accounts for Alvalde British Aluminium.

SpADs, policy and comms have agreed this response, which is in line with what has been issued before – I'd be grateful if you can confirm DFM clearance, please?

Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: "Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

"The Scottish Government's intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

"The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed."

Query:

The Financial Times is writing a story about the latest accounts (for the year to March 2021) filed by a company called Alvalde British Aluminium, which is owned by Sanjeev Gupta and which owns the Lochaber smelter. Give the guarantee provided by the Scottish government in 2016 covering the smelter's power purchases, we wanted to see if the Scottish government could comment on the firm's accounts, and particularly on any of the following points:

- the accounts are unaudited (even though Alvalde paid £66,520 to an auditor)
- the firm's pretax losses of more than £4m
- Gupta's comments in the accounts that there is "significant doubt" about Alvalde's ability to continue as a going concern
- the company did not file accounts to the year March 2020
- the company's large amount of related party transactions
- the recently-announced investigation by the Financial Reporting Council into King & King's audit of Alvalde's accounts for the year to March 2019
- the reported £5 of equity contributed by Gupta to complete the Lochaber deal in 2016

Please do let me know if the Scottish government can comment or if you have any further questions.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 09 August 2022 17:13

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SpAD views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Content thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 09 August 2022 16:56

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: SpAD views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

SpADs,

Please see below a media query from the Financial Times regarding the latest accounts for Alvalde British Aluminium.

Policy and comms suggest issuing this response, which is in line with what has been issued before but I'd be grateful for your views.

Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: “Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people. Since 2016, GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber, increasing direct employment to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

Query:

The Financial Times is writing a story about the latest accounts (for the year to March 2021) filed by a company called Alvanca British Aluminium, which is owned by Sanjeev Gupta and which owns the Lochaber smelter. Give the guarantee provided by the Scottish government in 2016 covering the smelter's power purchases, we wanted to see if the Scottish government could comment on the firm's accounts, and particularly on any of the following points:

- the accounts are unaudited (even though Alvanca paid £66,520 to an auditor)
- the firm's pretax losses of more than £4m
- Gupta's comments in the accounts that there is "significant doubt" about Alvanca's ability to continue as a going concern
- the company did not file accounts to the year March 2020
- the company's large amount of related party transactions
- the recently-announced investigation by the Financial Reporting Council into King & King's audit of Alvanca's accounts for the year to March 2019
- the reported £5 of equity contributed by Gupta to complete the Lochaber deal in 2016

Please do let me know if the Scottish government can comment or if you have any further questions.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 09 August 2022 16:51

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Hi Dermot,

Ok, we sometimes use 'Ministers' to avoid repeating the 'Scottish Government' too many times in a statement but I've removed the sentence in red and will send for SpAD views now.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 09 August 2022 16:49

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 09 August 2022 16:07

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Thanks Dermot – updated again below to reduce repetition and I'd quite like to keep the sentence in red included, if possible? I think it helps to press home that there is SG monitoring of the situation going on.

Let me know what you think.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 09 August 2022 15:59

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 09 August 2022 15:48

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I note proposed lines below.

Kind regards,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | **[redacted (s38(1)(b))] - Industrial Sectors and Projects**

Manufacturing & Industries Division | The Scottish Government

3rd Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

Email: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 09 August 2022 15:26

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Many thanks – could you keep me in copy, please, if there are email discussions about the approach to take? It's useful for us to stay involved as lines are being developed.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 09 August 2022 15:20

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I am emailing to acknowledge the request and we shall provide lines shortly.

Kind regards,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | [redacted (s38(1)(b))] - Industrial Sectors and Projects

Manufacturing & Industries Division | The Scottish Government

3rd Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

Email: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 09 August 2022 15:06

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: Policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Financial Times

Colleagues,

Please see below a media query we've had in from the Financial Times regarding the latest accounts for Alvalde British Aluminium.

I've included our previously issued lines but you'll see there are additional questions from the reporter – I'd be grateful if you could provide a steer on any further details you'd like to include in the response.

Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: "Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery, the business is now trading profitably.

"The Scottish Government's intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

"GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.

"The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed."

Background:

The guarantee was approved by the cross-party Finance Committee of the Scottish Parliament in 2016 and the transaction remains subject to regular scrutiny by Scottish Government officials, Audit Scotland and the Scottish Parliament.”

Query:

The Financial Times is writing a story about the latest accounts (for the year to March 2021) filed by a company called Alvanee British Aluminium, which is owned by Sanjeev Gupta and which owns the Lochaber smelter. Give the guarantee provided by the Scottish government in 2016 covering the smelter's power purchases, we wanted to see if the Scottish government could comment on the firm's accounts, and particularly on any of the following points:

- the accounts are unaudited (even though Alvanee paid £66,520 to an auditor)
- the firm's pretax losses of more than £4m
- Gupta's comments in the accounts that there is "significant doubt" about Alvanee's ability to continue as a going concern
- the company did not file accounts to the year March 2020
- the company's large amount of related party transactions
- the recently-announced investigation by the Financial Reporting Council into King & King's audit of Alvanee's accounts for the year to March 2019
- the reported £5 of equity contributed by Gupta to complete the Lochaber deal in 2016

Please do let me know if the Scottish government can comment or if you have any further questions.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 05 August 2022 15:04

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Subject: RE: For clearance: media query - Lochaber smelter - P&J

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

DFM is content.

Kind regards,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

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

T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | M: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | E: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 05 August 2022 14:27

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Subject: For clearance: media query - Lochaber smelter - P&J

Deputy First Minister, PO.

Please see for clearance a draft response to a media query on the £4 million operational loss at Lochaber smelter.

Officials and SpAds have reviewed.

Grateful for an indication of whether the Deputy First Minister is content.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Draft response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

“GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. The guarantee was approved by the cross-party Finance Committee of the Scottish Parliament in 2016 and the transaction remains subject to regular scrutiny conducted by Scottish Government officials, Audit Scotland and the Scottish Parliament.”

Query

As discussed just now, does the Scottish Government have a comment on Alvalde British Aluminium's unaudited financial statements showing a £4m operational loss to March, 2021?

The Scottish Lib Dems are saying the government must now be open about the financial agreements with GFG alliance and I wonder if you'd like to comment on that too please.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 05 August 2022 14:14

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); Mackintosh E (Emily)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For SpAD views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Press & Journal

Fine thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 05 August 2022 13:56

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Matheson C (Catriona); Dobson L (Leanne); Mackintosh E (Emily)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: For SpAD views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Press & Journal

SpADs,

We have been approached by the P&J on Alvalde British Aluminium's £4m operational loss.

Policy and comms suggested re-issuing the lines sent to the Scotsman earlier this week with the additional of the final sentence in red – I'd be grateful for your views.

Draft response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery the business is now trading profitably.

"The Scottish Government's intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

"GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.

"The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. **The guarantee was approved by the cross-party Finance Committee of the Scottish Parliament in 2016 and the transaction remains subject to regular scrutiny conducted by Scottish Government officials, Audit Scotland and the Scottish Parliament.**"

Query:

In terms of openness we could perhaps use an alternative last line:

The guarantee was approved by the cross-party Finance Committee of the Scottish Parliament in 2016 and the transaction remains subject to regular scrutiny conducted by Scottish Government officials, Audit Scotland and the Scottish Parliament.

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 05 August 2022 13:12

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: For policy views - media query - Lochaber smelter - Press & Journal

Colleagues,

We've been approached again, this time by the P&J, on Alvalde British Aluminium's £4m operational loss.

Are you content for me to re-issue the lines sent to the Scotsman earlier this week? I've added an additional few words in red to speak to the Lib Dem point raised by the journalist.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Query:

As discussed just now, does the Scottish Government have a comment on Alvalde British Aluminium's unaudited financial statements showing a £4m operational loss to March, 2021?

The Scottish Lib Dems are saying the government must now be open about the financial agreements with GFG alliance and I wonder if you'd like to comment on that too please.

Many thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 03 August 2022 16:34

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: For clearance: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

DFM is content to clear the lines below.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 August 2022 15:51

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: For clearance: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - The Scotsman

Deputy First Minister, PO.

Cc Business Minister.

Please see for clearance a draft response to a media query on published accounts of the Lochaber aluminium smelter, which show a £4 million loss in 2020/21.

Officials and SpAds have reviewed.

Grateful for an indication of whether the Deputy First Minister is content.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Draft response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

“GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and Guarantee fee payments are up-to-date.”

Media query

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for a line from the Government on the smelter's recently published accounts.

They show that the smelter ran an operating loss of £4m in 2020/21, prior to Greensill's collapse. They also, in the Going Concern part of the accounts, state the "future availability of funding is based on several external factors which are beyond the management's control" and states getting external funding is "also expected to be difficult". It concludes "subsequent to the year end the major funder of the Group to which the company belongs has entered into administration. These conditions suggest that there are material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern"

The accounts are also unaudited, when they should be. This is significant due to the prior auditors, King and King, being under investigation by the Financial Reporting Council: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/accounting-watchdog-looks-at-gupta-companies-audits-gw5hhnp7d>

A few questions:

- 1) Is the Scottish Government confident the smelter will continue to pay its bills, including the guarantee payment expected by the Government?
- 2) Has it been reassured by GFG Alliance about the profitability of the smelter and if so, on what basis is the Scottish Government confident?
- 3) Does the government view the smelter as a viable business and potential asset for the government if the security of the guarantee is ever called upon?

Accounts are here: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/SC549732/filing-history>

Cheers,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

Sent: 03 August 2022 15:43

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Mackintosh E (Emily); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: For SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - The Scotsman

Fine thanks.

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 15:29

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Dobson L (Leanne); Matheson C (Catriona); Mackintosh E (Emily); Higgins K (Kate)

Cc: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: For SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - The Scotsman

Good afternoon.

Please see for review a draft response to a query from [redacted (s38(1)(b))] at the Scotsman on published accounts of the Lochaber aluminium smelter, which show a £4 million loss in 2020/21.

Officials have reviewed.

Please let me know if you are content.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Draft response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

“GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and Guarantee fee payments are up-to-date.”

Media query

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for a line from the Government on the smelter's recently published accounts.

They show that the smelter ran an operating loss of £4m in 2020/21, prior to Greensill's collapse. They also, in the Going Concern part of the accounts, state the "future availability of funding is based on several external factors which are beyond the management's control" and states getting external funding is "also expected to be difficult". It concludes "subsequent to the year end the major funder of the Group to which the company belongs has entered into administration. These conditions suggest that there are material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern"

The accounts are also unaudited, when they should be. This is significant due to the prior auditors, King and King, being under investigation by the Financial Reporting

Council: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/accounting-watchdog-looks-at-gupta-companies-audits-gw5hhnp7d>

A few questions:

- 1) Is the Scottish Government confident the smelter will continue to pay its bills, including the guarantee payment expected by the Government?
- 2) Has it been reassured by GFG Alliance about the profitability of the smelter and if so, on what basis is the Scottish Government confident?
- 3) Does the government view the smelter as a viable business and potential asset for the government if the security of the guarantee is ever called upon?

Accounts are here: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/SC549732/filing-history>

Cheers,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 15:21

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

Thank you.

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 15:20

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

OK for me

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 15:16

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

(s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

Thanks Dermot.

[REDACTED]

“Like many businesses, the Fort William smelter was impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 but with world markets in recovery the business is now trading profitably.

“The Scottish Government’s intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

“GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs and supporting a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and Guarantee fee payments are up-to-date.”

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 15:06

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

How about?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 14:58

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

I will progress this now.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 14:50

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

Good afternoon [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I undernote some proposed lines below in response to this media query.

Kind regards,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Proposed lines:-

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | **[redacted (s38(1)(b))] - Industrial Sectors and Projects**

Manufacturing & Industries Division | The Scottish Government

3rd Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

Email: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 13:07

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Before 3pm please would be ideal.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 03 August 2022 12:35

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Subject: RE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Just acknowledging receipt, and will come back to you with proposed lines

What's your deadline?

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)
Sent: 03 August 2022 12:31
To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@transport.gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@transport.gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@transport.gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Hannaway K (Kenneth)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Subject: Media query - Lochaber Smelter - Scotsman

Good afternoon.

Lochaber smelter has published its annual report, showing a £4 million loss, and the Scotsman would like to know:

Are we confident it will continue to pay bills including guarantee payments, and if so what basis do we have for that confidence?

Is the smelter a viable business and valuable asset should the guarantee be called upon?

Grateful for views on this suggested draft response please.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Draft response

[REDACTED]

Media query

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, looking for a line from the Government on the smelter's recently published accounts.

They show that the smelter ran an operating loss of £4m in 2020/21, prior to Greensill's collapse. They also, in the Going Concern part of the accounts, state the "future availability of funding is based on several external factors which are beyond the management's control" and states getting external funding

is "also expected to be difficult". It concludes "subsequent to the year end the major funder of the Group to which the company belongs has entered into administration. These conditions suggest that there are material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern"

The accounts are also unaudited, when they should be. This is significant due to the prior auditors, King and King, being under investigation by the Financial Reporting

Council: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/accounting-watchdog-looks-at-gupta-companies-audits-gw5hhnp7d>

A few questions:

1) Is the Scottish Government confident the smelter will continue to pay its bills, including the guarantee payment expected by the Government?

2) Has it been reassured by GFG Alliance about the profitability of the smelter and if so, on what basis is the Scottish Government confident?

3) Does the government view the smelter as a viable business and potential asset for the government if the security of the guarantee is ever called upon?

Accounts are here: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/SC549732/filing-history>

Cheers,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager| News: Finance and the Economy
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 02 August 2022 10:28

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: MEDIA BID - Mr McKee - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Mr McKee is happy to decline this bid [REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Interim Private Secretary
Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
The Scottish Government
Edinburgh
Email: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 26 July 2022 13:26

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>;

Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: MEDIA BID - Mr McKee - The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I will let [redacted (s38(1)(b))] know Mr McKee is on leave and that we will be back in touch next week.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Sent: 26 July 2022 12:54

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>;

Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: MEDIA BID - Mr McKee - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Interim Private Secretary

Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

The Scottish Government

Edinburgh

Email: MinisterBTTE@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 25 July 2022 17:20

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: MEDIA BID - Mr McKee - The Scotsman

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

CC: Deputy First Minister,

Please see the below interview request we have received from [redacted (s38(1)(b))] at the Scotsman – he is keen to interview Mr McKee and discuss industrial interventions across Scotland, including GFG, Lochaber and BiFab.

Full details of the bid are below along with timings and logistics etc.

Comms have discussed with SpAds and would recommend declining the bid, [REDACTED]

Grateful if you could let me know if Mr McKee is content with this recommendation.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

MEDIA BID

Bid for Minister for Business, Ivan McKee by The Scotsman

Timings/Dates: Given it is recess, I am very flexible on times and dates and would be able to be fitted around Mr McKee's schedule. It would be great to speak to Mr McKee either next week (w/c August 1) or the week starting August 15. In terms of times, any time of the day which would suit Mr McKee would suit us.

Logistics: I would prefer for the interview to be in person, preferably in Edinburgh but I'm happy to travel through to Glasgow if required. If Zoom is the only option, that would also be okay.

Topics: The interview would cover issues surrounding the Scottish Government's ongoing industrial interventions across Scotland and the government's plans to ensure Scotland's industrial sector remains competitive and sustainable.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 26 July 2022 17:57

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Environment and Land Reform; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Dobson L (Leanne); McCaig C (Callum); Harrison F (Fiona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

(s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: TO CLEAR: BBC - GFG community land transaction

DFMPO

cc Rural Affairs Secretary, Business Minister, Transform Minister

The BBC in Inverness have spoken to the Chair of the East Lochaber Community Trust about the transferring of land to the Trust as part of the guarantee agreed between GFG and SG. The Chair has expressed concerns about the length of time it is taking to complete the transaction.

I've discussed with officials and we propose the below response, tying in lines on the SG's commitment to land reform and community ownership. SpAds have been sighted.

BBC are looking to run this on radio and possibly online. We don't have a firm date but expect it could be this week.

Grateful for confirmation the Deputy First Minister is content for the below lines to issue.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Scottish Government is committed to community ownership, and will provide advice to any community group to help them take advantage of community right to buy legislation and the Lochaber estate is no exception. We have been assured by GFG Alliance that they are dedicated to the development of the estate and are working with the community towards a future land transaction."

Background

The Scottish Government has a long running commitment to land reform and community ownership, and has recently launched a public consultation on proposals for the new ["Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation" Bill](#) on 4 July. This new Bill will build on our land reform measures to date and aim to ensure that the public interest is considered on transfers of large-scale landholdings, supporting the diversification of ownership through giving community bodies a right of pre-notification when a landowner intends to sell. These measures will be in addition to the existing Community Right to Buy mechanisms.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



QUERY

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] of the BBC in Inverness here.

We have been speaking with [redacted (s38(1)(b))], the chair of East Lochaber Community Trust, who has voiced his concerns on the lack of progress being made in transferring land to the trust as part of the guarantee agreed between GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government.

Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))] says it was determined in 2016 that a formal reciprocal undertaking outlined that GFG should “enter into a community land transaction with the East Lochaber Community Trust in relation to ‘significant portions’ of the estate lands”.

He says this would not affect the water rights which would allow the operator of the power stations and smelter to continue as they wish, it would however allow those who live and work there (call it home) to have a say in the lands use for the benefit of future generations.

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Seeking response from GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government to [redacted (s38(1)(b))]'s concerns. Will this be honoured? What progress has been made?

Any issues, please do just drop a line or give me a call.

Seeking response as soon as possible please, however, not pressing for end of play today

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 26 July 2022 20:23

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Environment and Land Reform; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Dobson L (Leanne); McCaig C (Callum); Harrison F (Fiona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: RE: TO CLEAR: BBC - GFG community land transaction

Thanks John

Will issue now.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 26 July 2022 20:18

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Environment and Land Reform; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Dobson L (Leanne); McCaig C (Callum); Harrison F (Fiona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: RE: TO CLEAR: BBC - GFG community land transaction

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

DFM is content to clear the lines.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 26 July 2022 17:57

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Environment and Land Reform; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Dobson L (Leanne); McCaig C (Callum); Harrison F (Fiona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Date: Tuesday, 26 Jul 2022, 5:51 pm

To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross), McCaig C (Callum), Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: Harrison F (Fiona), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), Rhatigan D (Dermot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), Communications Finance & Economy, [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), DG Economy, Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: SPAD VIEWS: BBC - GFG community land transaction

SpAds,

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] **News: Finance and the Economy**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



QUERY

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] of the BBC in Inverness here.

We have been speaking with [redacted (s38(1)(b))], the chair of East Lochaber Community Trust, who has voiced his concerns on the lack of progress being made in transferring land to the trust as part of the guarantee agreed between GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government.

Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))] says it was determined in 2016 that a formal reciprocal undertaking outlined that GFG should “enter into a community land transaction with the East Lochaber Community Trust in relation to ‘significant portions’ of the estate lands”.

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Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))] says the Scottish Government supported the agreement and believes they still do.

He says he is encouraged by recent discussions, but is keen to see progress as he feels things are no further forward than when they started out.

Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))] says he feels the agreement with the local community is “quite regularly forgotten” and that it is something he is “determined should happen”.

Seeking response from GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government to Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))]'s concerns.

Will this be honoured? What progress has been made?

Any issues, please do just drop a line or give me a call.

Seeking response as soon as possible please, however, not pressing for end of play today (Mon).

From: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross)

Sent: 26 July 2022 17:53

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne)

[illegible]

Subject: RE: SPAD VIEWS: BBC - GFG community land transaction

Looks fine

Sent with BlackBerry Work

(www.blackberry.com)

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Date: Tuesday, 26 Jul 2022, 5:51 pm

To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross), McCaig C (Callum), Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: Harrison F (Fiona), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), Rhatigan D (Dermot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), Communications Finance & Economy, [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot), DG Economy, Macdonald L (Louise)

Subject: SPAD VIEWS: BBC - GFG community land transaction

SpAds,

The BBC in Inverness have spoken to the Chair of the East Lochaber Community Trust about the transferring of land to the trust as part of the guarantee agreed between GFG and SG. The Chair has expressed concerns about the length of time it is taking to complete the transaction.

I've discussed with officials and we propose the below response, tying in lines on the SG's commitment to land reform and community ownership.

BBC are looking to run this on radio and possibly online. We don't have a firm date but expect it could be this week.

Grateful for SpAd views.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Scottish Government is committed to community ownership, and will provide advice to any community group to help them take advantage of community right to buy legislation and the Lochaber estate is no exception. We have been assured by GFG Alliance that they are dedicated to the development of the estate and are working with the community towards a future land transaction."

Background

The Scottish Government has a long running commitment to land reform and community ownership, and has recently launched a public consultation on proposals for the new ["Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation" Bill](#) on 4 July. This new Bill will build on our land reform measures to date and aim to ensure that the public interest is considered on transfers of large-scale landholdings, supporting the diversification of ownership through giving community bodies a right of pre-notification when a landowner intends to sell. These measures will be in addition to the existing Community Right to Buy mechanisms.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



QUERY

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] of the BBC in Inverness here.

We have been speaking with [redacted (s38(1)(b))], the chair of East Lochaber Community Trust, who has voiced his concerns on the lack of progress being made in transferring land to the trust as part of the guarantee agreed between GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] says it was determined in 2016 that a formal reciprocal undertaking outlined that GFG should "enter into a community land transaction with the East Lochaber Community Trust in relation to 'significant portions' of the estate lands".

He says this would not affect the water rights which would allow the operator of the power stations and smelter to continue as they wish, it would however allow those who live and work there (call it home) to have a say in the lands use for the benefit of future generations.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] says the Scottish Government supported the agreement and believes they still do.

He says he is encouraged by recent discussions, but is keen to see progress as he feels things are no further forward than when they started out.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] says he feels the agreement with the local community is “quite regularly forgotten” and that it is something he is “determined should happen”.

Seeking response from GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government to [redacted (s38(1)(b))]'s concerns. Will this be honoured? What progress has been made?

Any issues, please do just drop a line or give me a call.

Seeking response as soon as possible please, however, not pressing for end of play today (Mon).

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 26 July 2022 17:51

To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); McCaig C (Callum); Dobson L (Leanne)

Cc: Harrison F (Fiona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; DG Economy; Macdonald L (Louise)

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BBC are looking to run this on radio and possibly online. We don't have a firm date but expect it could be this week.

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

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Background

The Scottish Government has a long running commitment to land reform and community ownership, and has recently launched a public consultation on proposals for the new [“Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation” Bill](#) on 4 July. This new Bill will build on our land reform measures to date and aim to ensure that the public interest is considered on transfers of large-scale landholdings, supporting the diversification of ownership through giving community bodies a right



QUERY

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] of the BBC in Inverness here.

We have been speaking with [redacted (s38(1)(b))], the chair of East Lochaber Community Trust, who has voiced his concerns on the lack of progress being made in transferring land to the trust as part of the guarantee agreed between GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]¹ says it was determined in 2016 that a formal reciprocal undertaking outlined that GFG should “enter into a community land transaction with the East Lochaber Community Trust in relation to ‘significant portions’ of the estate lands”.

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Will this be honoured? What progress has been made?

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 26 July 2022 17:26

To: Harrison F (Fiona); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#).; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)>

Subject: RE: BBC - Lochaber Smelter

Hi Fiona,

Thanks for input. I'll put the below to SpAds. [REDACTED]

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: Harrison F (Fiona)

Sent: 26 July 2022 16:02

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: BBC - Lochaber Smelter

Adding community land leads—as they are the people who provide the advice—and have added a ref to CtRB.

Dr Fiona Harrison | Deputy Director, Future Rural Policy Frameworks, Land Use and Land Reform | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | The Scottish Government | Tel: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 July 2022 15:30

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Harrison F (Fiona)

Subject: RE: BBC - Lochaber Smelter

Thanks all

Sorry I have been out of touch for much of today, and thanks for colleagues for pulling this together.

[REDACTED] Have added a bit more below,

With thanks
[redacted (s38(1)(b))].

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)
Sent: 26 July 2022 15:15
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)
Subject: RE: BBC - Lochaber Smelter

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

I think that is better / sharper from my perspective.

Dermot

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)
Sent: 26 July 2022 14:44
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Rhatigan D (Dermot)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)
Subject: RE: BBC - Lochaber Smelter

Hi both,

Some amends from me. Grateful for views/input.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))][| News: Finance and the Economy](#)
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)
Sent: 26 July 2022 14:13
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Rhatigan D (Dermot)
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](#)
Subject: RE: BBC - Lochaber Smelter

Hi Dermot,

Further to the BBC request below and with Land Reform colleagues input, we have drafted the proposed lines for consideration:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Comms colleagues are seeking to issue today. Happy to amend as required.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 25 July 2022 16:32

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)>; Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: BBC - Lochaber Smelter

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Perfect timing – the BBC have called and provided the below details. Can you suggest any lines or provide me with the most up to date position I can take a look at?

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

QUERY

Good afternoon [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Thanks for taking the call.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] of the BBC in Inverness here.

We have been speaking with [redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted (s38(1)(b))], the chair of East Lochaber Community Trust, who has voiced his concerns on the lack of progress being made in transferring land to the trust as part of the guarantee agreed between GFG Alliance and the Scottish Government.

Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))] says it was determined in 2016 that a formal reciprocal undertaking outlined that GFG should “enter into a community land transaction with the East Lochaber Community Trust in relation to ‘significant portions’ of the estate lands”.

He says this would not affect the water rights which would allow the operator of the power stations and smelter to continue as they wish, it would however allow those who live and work there (call it home) to have a say in the lands use for the benefit of future generations.

Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))] says the Scottish Government supported the agreement and believes they still do.

He says he is encouraged by recent discussions, but is keen to see progress as he feels things are no further forward than when they started out.

Mr [redacted (s38(1)(b))] says he feels the agreement with the local community is “quite regularly forgotten” and that it is something he is “determined should happen”.

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Will this be honoured? What progress has been made?

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Sent: 25 July 2022 16:30
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Communications Finance & Economy
Subject: RE: Lochaber Smelter

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Thanks. I have swapped roles so adding in [redacted (s38(1)(b))] who is the new [redacted (s38(1)(b))].

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
News | [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9023
www.gov.scot/news



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Sent: 25 July 2022 16:29
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Subject: Lochaber Smelter

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I've learned today that BBC Highland may be undertaking a report for radio in respect of the Lochaber smelter and SG guarantee. I don't have any particular details unfortunately. [redacted (s38(1)(b))] in the Land Reform unit mentioned the possible report in developing a brief for Ms McAllan in the event she is queried during her series of public meetings next week. I've suggested [redacted (s38(1)(b))] may share the brief with you for information in the context of the potential BBC report but wanted to check first.

Thanks,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | [redacted (s38(1)(b))] - Industrial Sectors and Projects
Manufacturing & Industries Division | The Scottish Government
3rd Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sun 24/07/2022 16:51
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
RE: Line to clear - various publications - Ministers must end secrecy and explain Gupta links

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery DFMCSCR@gov.scot

Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))] issuing now

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 24 July 2022 16:47

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery DFMCSCR@gov.scot

Cc: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **Subject:** RE: Line to clear - various publications - Ministers must end secrecy and explain Gupta links

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

DFM has noted the lines below and is content to clear.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] **Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney MSP**
The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **M:** [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **Email:** DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 24 July 2022 13:13

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

Cc: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] <[redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted (s38(1)(b))]>
Subject: Line to clear - various publications - Ministers must end secrecy and explain Gupta links

PO/Deputy First Minister,

CC: Mr McKee, Mr Lochhead, Mr Arthur

The Scotsman, Record and PA have approached us for a comment on the below Labour NR on the Lochaber smelter. Comms and SpAds would propose reissuing the following response, as cleared for a similar query earlier in the week.

Grateful if you could confirm whether DFM is content with this approach.

Many thanks
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Lines to take

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is committed to openness and transparency. Our intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter and to secure the continued operation of the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel mills has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people since 2016.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and Guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the Guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.

“GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs. The business remains committed to investment in the long term future of the site. The Liberty steel sites continue to trade and directly support 140 households. Both businesses support a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.”

News release

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Embargo: Immediate

Rennie: Ministers must end secrecy and explain Gupta links

Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie MSP has today called on the Scottish Government to explain the deal it made with Sanjeev Gupta, chief executive of Liberty Steel, following reports that the metal tycoon contributed just £5 to his acquisition of the Lochaber smelting plant in the Highlands.

In 2016, Mr Gupta acquired the Lochaber plant, purchasing it for a total price of £330 million.

However, documents filed at Companies House reveal that while the Scottish Government provided guarantees of up to half a billion for the deal, Mr Gupta put just £5 towards it.

The metal magnate’s business empire is currently under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering. The Scottish Government has provided hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees to the GFG alliance at Lochaber and is exposed for clean-up costs at its Lanarkshire steel mills. However, it has refused to set out what steps it took to protect Scottish public finances.

Responding to the latest developments, Mr Rennie commented:

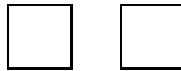
“The SNP government has been gullible once again. Two thousand jobs were promised by Gupta which have not been delivered. Hundreds of millions of pounds of financial backing were provided by the Scottish Government, but only £5 from Gupta.

“We knew that the Scottish Government’s industrial intervention strategy was a disaster, but this takes it to a new level.

“We need a statement from ministers to finally properly explain this deal, the financial exposure for the government and its detailed plan to recover the position and limit the exposure for the taxpayer.”

ENDS

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Fri 22/07/2022 10:28

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; on behalf of; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery DFMCSCR@gov.scot

RE: FOR AWARENESS: Media query - Lochaber - Sunday Times

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery DFMCSCR@gov.scot

Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot) <Dermot.Rhatigan@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] **Sent:** 21 July 2022 13:28

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot

Subject: Sunday Times

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))] , in light of the UK government's decision to cancel loan guarantees to Sanjeev Gupta (see link below), can SG confirm if similar guarantees attached to a £586m loan to Mr Gupta's businesses for the purchase of an aluminium smelter at Lochaber and two adjacent hydro power plants are also going to be removed?

many thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jul/18/uk-drops-guarantees-from-400m-of-greensill-loans-to-gupta-linked-firms>

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] Deputy Editor

Sunday Times Scotland

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot

Sent: 20 July 2022 17:02

To:
Director of Economic Development; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot;
[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot
[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot
[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy
Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

Thanks

Attaching fresh lines below – I will send on the below to SpAds.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

SUGGESTED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

REDACTED

REDACTED

“The existing grid connection at the site is being enhanced which will allow the operation to more efficiently export excess power.”

BACKGROUND

REDACTED

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]

Sent: 20 July 2022 16:57

To: redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot]; Director of Economic Development
<DirectorDED@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

Good Afternoon,

I have added an additional line in red to provide some more detail in the lines.

Responses to certain questions asked by [redacted (s38(1)(b))] are undernoted as background in blue. I can provide background in respect of the accounting provision which was widely

reported on in December 2021. [Scottish government raises provision on Gupta guarantee to £161m | Financial Times \(ft.com\)](#)

Kind regards,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] **(He/Him) | Senior Policy Officer - Industrial Sectors and Projects**
Manufacturing & Industries Division | The Scottish Government
3rd Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU
Email: [\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]](#)



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot
Sent: 20 July 2022 16:00
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; Director of Economic Development<DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Thanks for sharing lines – I am attaching below for benefit of copylist. REDACTED

[redacted (s38(1)(b))],

QUERY

1) Does the Lochaber hydroplant have a full grid connection to the Scottish Government's satisfaction?

- 2) Does the Scottish Government consider the current grid connection capabilities acceptable when concerning the guarantee?
- 3) What was the exposure of the government prior to the 28MW grid connection being completed, how much is it now, and how much would it be with a 'full' grid connection?
[REDACTED]
- 4) Does the Scottish Government still consider there to be a risk the power produced at the hydro/smelter would be "stranded" and therefore not possible to sell to the grid (FOI REF: 202200270012).
- 5) Is the Scottish Government satisfied it is past the 'highest risk period' of the guarantee agreement as set out in the Project Golf report issued by EY in 2016?

SUGGESTED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

REDACTED

REDACTED

"The existing grid connection at the site is being enhanced which will allow the operation to more efficiently export excess power."

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>

Sent: 20 July 2022 13:47

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>](mailto:CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m:



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>

Sent: 20 July 2022 13:29

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>](mailto:CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

Hi,

I confirm we are working on lines at the moment and will revert to you.

(He/Him) | Senior Policy Officer - Industrial Sectors and Projects

Manufacturing & Industries Division | The Scottish Government 3rd Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU Email: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>



From: Redacted

Sent: 20 July 2022 13:05

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>;[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>](mailto:CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot)

Subject: Policy input required: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

Officials,

Please see the below media query we have received from the Scotsman – questions are in relation to the Lochaber Smelter guarantee.

I'd be grateful for policy advice on the journalists questions below please and suggested lines.

Thanks,

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m:



From: redacted<@nationalworld.com>

Sent: 20 July 2022 12:01

To: redacted@gov/scot>

Subject: Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection

Hi Redacted.

As discussed, looking for some answers to some questions on the Lochaber Smelter guarantee, specifically around the grid connection of the hydroplant.

One of the key aspects of reducing the Scottish Government's exposure connected to the guarantee is the grid connection of the hydroplant. A full grid connection would allow the government, should it take over the hydroplant in the case of the collapse of GFG Alliance, to sell the power to the grid and make the plant an asset, rather than a liability.

Publicly available documents on the SSE website state there is only a grid connection of 28MW, with the rest 'under construction/commissioning' while the PPA was agreed for 45MW and the hydro can produce 63MW. The lack of a full grid connection, therefore, is a problem for the Scottish Government. There are also no planning applications available about a grid connection at the site.

FOI documents (REF:202200303745) also suggest the question of the grid connection is still an open one for the government.

A few questions...

- 1) Does the Lochaber hydroplant have a full grid connection to the Scottish Government's satisfaction?
- 2) Does the Scottish Government consider the current grid connection capabilities acceptable when concerning the guarantee?
- 3) What was the exposure of the government prior to the 28MW grid connection being completed, how much is it now, and how much would it be with a 'full' grid connection?
- 4) Does the Scottish Government still consider there to be a risk the power produced at the hydro/smelter would be "stranded" and therefore not possible to sell to the grid (FOI REF: 202200270012).
- 5) Is the Scottish Government satisfied it is past the 'highest risk period' of the guarantee agreement as set out in the Project Golf report issued by EY in 2016?

Best wishes,
REDACTED

--

REDACTED

Deputy Political Editor

Mobile: REDACTED

Parliament Phone: REDACTED



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From: redacted@scot.gov
Sent: 20 July 2022 17:59
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth); McCaig C (Callum); McAllister C (Colin) redacted@scot.gov; redacted@scot.gov; redacted@scot.gov; redacted@scot.gov; redacted@scot.gov; redacted@scot.gov
Cc: Director of Economic Development; Communications Finance & Economy
Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

Thanks, I will send for clearance just now.

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 July 2022 17:56
To: redacted@gov.scot; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Cc: redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

REDACTED...it's not his question...so happy to clear the line, REDACTED

Elizabeth Lloyd
Strategic Policy and Political Adviser to the First Minister
St Andrew's House Regent
Road Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel: redacted
Mobile: redacted
Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot

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From: redacted@gov.scot
Sent: 20 July 2022 17:48
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Cc: redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

Liz,

There lines had issued earlier on the week, it was just to give a bit more information but happy to remove.

Are you content for me to send up as below? Thanks

SUGGESTED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

- “The existing grid connection at the site is being enhanced which will allow the operation to more efficiently export excess power.”

BACKGROUND

REDACTED



From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 July 2022 17:40

To: REDACTED@gov.scot; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Cc: redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; Director of Economic Development

<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

REDACTED

Just a quick check – REDACTED - are there other questions?

I think you could just answer on the grid connection, the other info seems unnecessary Liz

Elizabeth Lloyd

Strategic Policy and Political Adviser to the First Minister

St Andrew's House Regent

Road Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: REDACTED

Mobile: REDACTED

Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot

Please note 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 for information.

From: Redacted@gov.scot

Sent: 20 July 2022 17:34

To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Cc: redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; Director of Economic Development

<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

SpAds,

Apologies for chasing – grateful for a SpAd view on the below please.

Thanks,

From: redacted@gov.scot

Sent: 20 July 2022 17:05

To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; Director of Economic Development

<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>

Subject: SpAd view: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

SpAds,

Please see the below media query from REDACTED at the Scotsman which relates to the Lochaber smelter and hydro grid connection.

REDACTED

Suggested lines are below – I'd be grateful for a SpAd view ahead of sending for clearance.

Thanks,

SUGGESTED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

REDACTED

REDACTED

- “The existing grid connection at the site is being enhanced which will allow the operation to more efficiently export excess power.”

BACKGROUND

REDACTED

From: redacted@nationalworld.com>

Sent: 20 July 2022 12:01

To: redacted@gov.scot _____
Subject: Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection

Hi redacted,

As discussed, looking for some answers to some questions on the Lochaber Smelter guarantee, specifically around the grid connection of the hydroplant.

One of the key aspects of reducing the Scottish Government's exposure connected to the guarantee is the grid connection of the hydroplant. A full grid connection would allow the government, should it take over the hydroplant in the case of the collapse of GFG Alliance, to sell the power to the grid and make the plant an asset, rather than a liability.

Publicly available documents on the SSE website state there is only a grid connection of 28MW, with the rest 'under construction/commissioning' while the PPA was agreed for 45MW and the hydro can produce 63MW. The lack of a full grid connection, therefore, is a problem for the Scottish Government. There are also no planning applications available about a grid connection at the site.

FOI documents (REF:202200303745) also suggest the question of the grid connection is still an open one for the government.

A few questions...

- 1) Does the Lochaber hydroplant have a full grid connection to the Scottish Government's satisfaction?
- 2) Does the Scottish Government consider the current grid connection capabilities acceptable when concerning the guarantee?
- 3) What was the exposure of the government prior to the 28MW grid connection being completed, how much is it now, and how much would it be with a 'full' grid connection?
- 4) Does the Scottish Government still consider there to be a risk the power produced at the hydro/smelter would be "stranded" and therefore not possible to sell to the grid (FOI REF: 202200270012).
- 5) Is the Scottish Government satisfied it is past the 'highest risk period' of the guarantee agreement as set out in the Project Golf report issued by EY in 2016?

Best wishes,
redacted

--

redacted **Deputy Political**
Editor Mobile: redacted
Parliament Phone: redacted

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From: redacted@gov.scot
Sent: 21 July 2022 16:56
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Cc: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work; McCaig C (Callum); Lloyd E (Elizabeth); redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; Director of Economic Development
<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR AWARENESS: Media query - Lochaber - Sunday Times

PO/Deputy First Minister,

CC: Mr McKee, Mr Lochhead, Mr Arthur

For awareness only, please see the below media query from the Sunday Times. The UK Government has decided to cancel loan guarantees to Sanjeev Gupta. The journalist is asking whether the Scottish Government has any plans to remove the guarantees attached to the £586 million loan.

I have discussed with officials and SpAds and have reissued the below lines on SpAd clearance. These lines were issued earlier this week.

Thanks
redacted

LINES REISSUED

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and Guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the guarantee, no debt is owed to the Scottish Government, which holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.”

Redacted

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: redacted



From: redacted <redacted@sunday-times.co.uk>
Sent: 21 July 2022 13:28
To: redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Sunday Times

Hi redacted, in light of the UK government's decision to cancel loan guarantees to Sanjeev Gupta (see link below), can SG confirm if similar guarantees attached to a £586m loan to Mr Gupta's businesses for the purchase of an aluminium smelter at Lochaber and two adjacent hydro power plants are also going to be removed?

many thanks
redacted

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jul/18/uk-drops-guarantees-from-400m-of-greensill-loans-to-gupta-linked-firms>

redacted
Deputy Editor
Sunday Times Scotland

redacted
redacted

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From: redacted@gov.scot
Sent: 20 July 2022 18:02
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Cc: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Lloyd E (Elizabeth); McCaig C (Callum); McAllister C (Colin); redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot; redacted@gov.scot
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection - Scotsman

PO/Deputy First Minister,

CC: Mr McKee

Please see the below media query from redacted at the Scotsman which relates to the Lochaber smelter and hydro grid connection.

REDACTED

Suggested line is below – grateful for Mr Swinney’s clearance please.

SUGGESTED LINE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

- “The existing grid connection at the site is being enhanced which will allow the operation to more efficiently export excess power.”

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: redacted



From: redacted <@nationalworld.com>
Sent: 20 July 2022 12:01
To: redacted <@gov.scot>
Subject: Lochaber Smelter/Hydro grid connection

Hi redacted,

As discussed, looking for some answers to some questions on the Lochaber Smelter guarantee, specifically around the grid connection of the hydroplant.

One of the key aspects of reducing the Scottish Government's exposure connected to the guarantee is the grid connection of the hydroplant. A full grid connection would allow the government, should it take over the hydroplant in the case of the collapse of GFG Alliance, to sell the power to the grid and make the plant an asset, rather than a liability.

Publicly available documents on the SSE website state there is only a grid connection of 28MW, with the rest 'under construction/commissioning' while the PPA was agreed for 45MW and the hydro can produce 63MW. The lack of a full grid connection, therefore, is a problem for the Scottish Government. There are also no planning applications available about a grid connection at the site.

FOI documents (REF:202200303745) also suggest the question of the grid connection is still an open one for the government.

A few questions...

- 1) Does the Lochaber hydroplant have a full grid connection to the Scottish Government's satisfaction?
- 2) Does the Scottish Government consider the current grid connection capabilities acceptable when concerning the guarantee?
- 3) What was the exposure of the government prior to the 28MW grid connection being completed, how much is it now, and how much would it be with a 'full' grid connection?
- 4) Does the Scottish Government still consider there to be a risk the power produced at the hydro/smelter would be "stranded" and therefore not possible to sell to the grid (FOI REF: 202200270012).
- 5) Is the Scottish Government satisfied it is past the 'highest risk period' of the guarantee agreement as set out in the Project Golf report issued by EY in 2016?

Best wishes,
redacted



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Tue 19/07/2022 17:27

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; on behalf of; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>

RE: For clearance: Media query - GFG Guarantee - Herald/Express

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>

McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot) <Dermot.Rhatigan@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; ([redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>

Hi All

I can confirm that Mr Arthur is content.

Thanks

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth – Tom Arthur
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG ||
Tel: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] | Email: MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot

Sent: 19 July 2022 17:11

To: Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>

Cc: McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; Rhatigan D (Dermot) <Dermot.Rhatigan@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] transport.gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))] @gov.scot>

Subject: For clearance: Media query - GFG Guarantee - Herald/Express

Minister, PO

Please see for clearance a draft response to a media query on Greensill Capital after Lib Dems urged SG to end “secrecy” and set out its steps to protect the public finances.

Officials and SpAds have reviewed.

Grateful for an indication of whether the Minister is content.

Best wishes.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Draft response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is committed to openness and transparency. Our intervention to support the Lochaber aluminium smelter and to secure the continued operation of the Dalzell and Clydebridge steel mills has preserved strategic industrial capacity and supported the livelihoods of hundreds of people since 2016.

“The Scottish Government receives a commercial fee in respect of the Lochaber Guarantee and Guarantee fee payments are up-to-date. There has been no call on the Guarantee and the Scottish Government holds a comprehensive suite of securities over the assets at Lochaber that have been valued at more than the outstanding amount guaranteed.

“GFG has created 40 new jobs in Lochaber since 2016 – increasing direct employment in the complex to 200 jobs. The business remains committed to investment in the long term future of the site. The Liberty steel sites continue to trade and directly support 140 households. Both businesses support a valuable supply chain with hundreds of associated jobs.”

Media query

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))] ,

Here's another finance related Lib Dem release I'd been keen to get a line on. Is that okay?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: Media Team - Scottish Liberal Democrats <media@scotlibdems.org.uk>

Sent: 19 July 2022 10:36

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] Subject: UK Government cancels Gupta loans, now Scottish Government must end secrecy



Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted (s38(1)(b))] Embargo: Immediate

UK Government cancels Gupta loans, now Scottish Government must end secrecy

Following the news that the UK government has withdrawn guarantees on £400m of loans Greensill Capital made to companies linked to Sanjeev

Gupta, Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Willie Rennie has called on the Scottish Government to set out the steps that it is taking to protect Scottish public finances and the taxpayer.

The metals magnate's business empire is under criminal investigation for suspected fraud and money laundering. The Scottish Government has provide hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees to GFG alliance at Lochaber and is exposed for clean-up costs at its Lanarkshire steel mills however it has refused to set out what steps it has taken to protect Scottish public finances.

Willie Rennie said:

"The financial arrangements between the SNP Government and the GFG alliance are mired in secrecy. I have repeatedly asked for details of the steps ministers have taken to protect our hard earned taxes but I have been blocked at every corner.

"We were promised 2,000 jobs at Lochaber in return for hundreds of millions of pounds of financial guarantees, but those jobs have not materialised.

"The SNP Government's cack-handed approach to the Lanarkshire steel mills means that we could be exposed to millions of pounds for the environmental clean-up.

"The industrial intervention strategy of this government is not a good one, which is why we need to be told more.

"The UK Government have taken action and been open about it so why can't the Scottish Government do likewise?"

ENDS

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))] **Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 14 July 2022 17:24

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Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); Director of Economic Development; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - Daily Mail - Dalzell

Ok, thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))]. We will put to SpAds.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



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Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY - Daily Mail - Dalzell

I've only had very limited involvement but don't think we'd want to add anything further to the lines already provided.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Subsidy Control Team | European Structural Funds Division | Directorate for Economic Development | **The Scottish Government** - 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU 📞[redacted (s38(1)(b))], Mob:

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

✉️ [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

(My usual working week is Mon. – Thurs)

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Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); Director of Economic Development

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - Daily Mail - Dalzell

Appreciated Scott, [redacted (s38(1)(b))] those lines stand good from my experience on this subject area as well. Just to see if Sub control colleagues have anything to add. Adding in Colin Cook for awareness of need to clear any lines.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] – Rapid Response Unit

Strategic Commercial Interventions Division

Scottish Government

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Sent: 14 July 2022 16:56

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@transport.gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@transport.gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@transport.gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rapid Response Unit; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - Daily Mail - Dalzell

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] – afraid I have very limited knowledge of this transaction, REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Copying in [redacted (s38(1)(b))] and [redacted (s38(1)(b))] in Hilary's absence

In respect of Dermot, he is on annual leave and so likely be looking at Colin for clearance

Kindest regards

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 14 July 2022 16:38

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@transport.gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@transport.gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@transport.gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rapid Response Unit; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - Daily Mail - Dalzell

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

I'll leave Sub control colleagues to add in anything on the legal costs. From the liberty steel FMQ we can use:

REDACTED

Happy to discuss further if anything else needed. Dermot is likely to want to clear this.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] – Rapid Response Unit

Strategic Commercial Interventions Division

Scottish Government

During Covid-19 available only on e-mail, MSTeams or mobile [redacted (s38(1)(b))] |

Please copy in the Team mailbox if responding to an RRU email, this ensures we keep a corporate record where appropriate.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@transport.gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@transport.gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@transport.gov.scot)

Sent: 14 July 2022 16:23

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rapid Response Unit; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - Daily Mail - Dalzell

Copying in Subsidy Control colleagues (state aid) alongside MID colleagues (Dalzell transaction).

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 14 July 2022 16:18

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rapid Response Unit; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot);

[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: FW:MEDIA QUERY - Daily Mail - Dalzell

Hi all,

See below media query from the Daily Mail about an FOI on the costs of the Dalzell/Liberty steel works. Do we have lines on this FOI? Can I also please get the latest lines on state aid.

Grateful for input within the hour if possible.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 May 2022 12:06

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: FW: Press inquiry - BBC Scotland - GFG

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

I've had a call from [redacted (s38(1)(b))] in BEIS, asking if we agree to [redacted (s38(1)(b))] being referred back to us (see below).

He seemed to indicate there had been further talks between policy officials yesterday.

Wondering if I should go back to Hilary for a discussion?

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 May 2022 13:26

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: GFG Liquidation fears

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 27 April 2022 17:22

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Finance & Economy; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; DG Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Subject: RE: For clearance please - media query - GFG Alliance - Scotsman - DEADLINE 6PM

Thanks all. Adding DFM PO for info.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 April 2022 17:19

To: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy; Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; DG Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); [redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For clearance please - media query - GFG Alliance - Scotsman - DEADLINE 6PM

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Grateful for clearance of the following lines in response to the query below from The Scotsman about the Lochaber guarantee.

Policy and SpAds are content.

QUERY

- 1) Will the Scottish Government commit to publishing, in full, the new terms of the guarantee with GFG/Liberty given the recent negotiations.
- 2) Can the Scottish Government confirm that GFG/Liberty abided by the terms of the guarantee and paid the relevant fees on time and correctly?
- 3) Has the Scottish Government had, at any point, the option to call on its security in regards to the guarantee?
- 4) Why did the government view an exposure of £586m versus a security of £162m a sound financial risk to take?
- 5) Could the government respond to the reports that Liberty Steel offices have been raided by the Serious Fraud Office when responding to this story? For reference: <https://twitter.com/BBCSimonJack/status/1519308999824400385>

LINES TO TAKE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“It was absolutely right for the Scottish Government to provide the Lochaber guarantee to protect jobs in the region, underpin additional investment at the site, and promote industry in Scotland. Supporting the strategically important steel and aluminium sectors and the highly-skilled jobs they provide is a priority, while ensuring value for money to the public purse.

“We are unable to comment on a live investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. This relates to loans made under the UK Government’s Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme administered by the British Business Bank.

“There has been no call on the Scottish Government guarantee, no debt is owed to the Scottish Government under the Lochaber guarantee, all guarantee fees are up-to-date and we hold a comprehensive suite of securities in respect of the Lochaber guarantee. If the guarantee were to be called on, the assets secured to the Scottish Government would more than cover the cost of the guarantee.

“The net present value of the remaining power purchase agreement revenue stream over the remaining 20 years is £284 million, while recent accounts valued the assets at Fort William at £438 million.

“The Lochaber guarantee is compliant with EU state aid rules and was approved by the Scottish Parliament’s Finance and Constitution Committee, which has cross party representation, following appropriate due diligence. GFG is committed to investing in Lochaber to secure the future of the operations, creating new high quality employment.”

Many thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@jpress.co.uk](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@jpress.co.uk)>

Subject: GFG Alliance

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

As discussed, we're publishing a story tomorrow on the latest details around the Lochaber guarantee - specifically on the following aspects of it.

The main points of the story will state:

- It is understood the Scottish Government was advised that state aid rules may have been broken with the agreement around the Lochaber guarantee
- The total security the Scottish Government had in the initial agreement was at least £162m and at most £172m, compared to the exposure of £586m
- The fee for the guarantee was set by assuming Liberty House's credit rating provided by CARE India could be translated to a Moody's credit rating - would be similar to Ba 3 (or BB-). My source says this is not a responsible way to assess credit-worthiness.
- The fee is worth c£1.1m per year and £26.8m over the 25 year period, at a rate of 3.05% cost of finance (according to the EY report)
- The smelter was only profitable if and when the alloy wheels plant was brought online, which never happened, raising further questions about whether GFG abided by the terms of the guarantee agreement

We will also be running this quote:

A source close to the initial transaction between the Scottish Government and GFG said: "The Scottish Government were advised the guarantee was likely in breach state aid rules, which could carry serious consequences for both Scottish Government and GFG, and that they should proceed with absolute caution, if at all, given numerous concerns surrounding GFG and the Lochaber business plan."

We will also be quoting from the report.

A few questions as well;

- 1) Will the Scottish Government commit to publishing, in full, the new terms of the guarantee with GFG/Liberty given the recent negotiations.
- 2) Can the Scottish Government confirm that GFG/Liberty abided by the terms of the guarantee and paid the relevant fees on time and correctly?
- 3) Has the Scottish Government had, at any point, the option to call on its security in regards to the guarantee?
- 4) Why did the government view an exposure of £586m versus a security of £162m a sound financial risk to take?

Deadline on this is 6pm please - any later cc in [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@jpress.co.uk](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@jpress.co.uk). Hard deadline about 8pm.

Best wishes,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

--

Best wishes,
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
The Scotsman
Phone: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Mobile: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Sent: 28 April 2022 10:07

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rhatigan D (Dermot); Pearce H (Hilary); DG Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Director of Economic Development; Rapid Response Unit; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); SCl : Rapid Response; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - New information on 2016 steel rescue deal - BBC

Thanks [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

I left a message to speak to the journalist yesterday, and will hopefully catch up with him today and advise him as we discussed.

I am currently drafting lines for the post FMQ media briefing – to be used only if asked.

I will circulate that to this reduced copylist once I've got it drawn up, just to make sure I'm across all the issues since I'm new to this.

Best wishes,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot)

Sent: 28 April 2022 09:58

To: Rhatigan D (Dermot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Pearce H (Hilary); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Richards M (Mark); DG Economy; [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Glover D (Derek); Beattie C (Caroline); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Rooney M (Maureen); [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]\[@gov.scot\]\(mailto:\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@gov.scot\)](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@gov.scot); Macniven R (Ruairaidh); Aitken R (Reuben); Chief Financial Officer <cfo@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development; Rapid Response Unit; [redacted (s38(1)(b))]

(s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Benn R (Robin) <Robin.Benn@gov.scot>; McGuinness L (Lisa) <Lisa.Mcguinness@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; McSheaffrey A (Alison) <Alison.McSheaffrey@gov.scot>; DG Economy; Hackett R ([redacted (s38(1)(b))) <[redacted (s38(1)(b))].Hackett2@gov.scot>; SCI : Business Briefing Unit <DLEEBBEREDBBU@gov.scot>; SCI : Business Insights and Analysis <DLECONBCBRSBIA@gov.scot>; SCI : Rapid Response; SCI : Strategic Industrial Assets <DLECONBCBRSSCI@gov.scot>; [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b)))@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy
Subject: RE: For policy views - media query - New information on 2016 steel rescue deal - BBC

[redacted (s38(1)(b))] we spoke yesterday, Hillary responded on the State Aid point and we agreed an informal response for you to go back with. If you require anything else or there is any follow-up on the media enquiry please just come back to me. You can also narrow the copy list going forward to myself, [redacted (s38(1)(b))], Dermot, Hillary, [redacted (s38(1)(b))]/ [redacted (s38(1)(b))], and CC in DED Director, DG Economy and SCI Rapid Response (for awareness as they lead on any contingency planning response for Dalzell).

Hope this was all helpful.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]



[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
Manufacturing and Industries Division
T:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]
M:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow G2 8LU

Pronouns: He/Him

From: Rhatigan D (Dermot)

Sent: 28 April 2022 07:53

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Cc: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)@gov.scot\]](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot]); Communications Finance & Economy

Subject: For policy views - media query - New information on 2016 steel rescue deal - BBC

Good afternoon colleagues,

We've had a query from the BBC, asking if there are any updates from our news release in December around the issues around State aid rules in the steel rescue deal? (see below)

The journalist is asking in particular if further talks with Tata have taken place, and if the UK Government has informed the European Commission

Grateful for any information you can supply. If it's easier for me to have a chat with colleagues on this, give me a shout.

I should stress the journalist is not doing a story at this stage – he's just wanting to find out if there might be a story here.

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

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[redacted (s38(1)(b))] | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted (s38(1)(b))]



From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][\[redacted \(s38\(1\)\(b\)\)\]@bbc.co.uk](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))]@bbc.co.uk)>

Subject: RE: New information on 2016 steel rescue deal

Hi [redacted (s38(1)(b))],

Hope you're well. I was just wondering if there had been any update on that terrifically complex business with the steel rescue deal from 2016, with the potential state aid issue? Original release from December below. I recall there were meant to be further talks with Tata and the UK government were going to be asked to inform the European Commission – do you know if that has happened already, or is it a more drawn-out process? I assume there is a vast amount of bureaucracy involved in these things...

Would be interested to hear if there have been any developments, no matter how dull and procedural!

Thanks,

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

BBC Scotland

New information on 2016 steel rescue deal

Parliament informed of potential State aid issue.

A Scottish Government review of the 2016 rescue deal which saved more than 100 jobs and retained steel plate production in Scotland has identified a potential State aid issue.

The development relates to a single clause in the arrangement with Tata Steel, via its former subsidiary Longs Steel UK, under which the Scottish Government facilitated the ownership transfer of the Dalzell and Clydebridge steelworks. There is no impact on the wider agreement or Liberty Steel's current ownership and operation of the plants.

The review considers that Scottish Ministers' commitment to indemnify Tata Steel, as the previous owner, from certain past, present or future liabilities arising from the sites may not comply with State aid rules and would therefore be unenforceable. This would mean that in the unlikely event of the indemnity being called upon, no money would be paid out by the Scottish Government.

The issue was identified during contingency planning undertaken in response to the administration of Greensill Capital UK. There is no adverse impact on the public purse and no money has been paid under the Scottish Government's indemnity.

The Scottish Parliament, Audit Scotland and Tata Steel have been informed and discussions are continuing. The Scottish Government will ask the UK Government, as the former member state, to inform the European Commission.

Business Minister Ivan McKee said:

"The rescue deal facilitated by the Scottish Government in 2016 was agreed at pace and in good faith to maintain employment at Dalzell and Clydebridge. Without our intervention the likelihood of anyone being employed producing steel plate in Scotland today would be very slim. The decision to support the steel industry in Scotland was, and still, is the right thing to do.

"The contract arrangement has now been re-examined as part of the ongoing contingency planning process and it is considered that the clause providing the indemnity to Tata Steel may represent State aid, even though no money has, or may ever, change hands.

“In the interests of transparency we have made the interested parties aware of these findings. However, it is important to emphasise that this matter does not affect the integrity of the wider agreement struck in 2016 or impact Liberty Steel’s ownership and running of the steelworks.

“We will continue supportive dialogue with Tata Steel and the company has access to our officials as it requires. Most importantly we will continue to support the production of steel plate in Scotland and help our steel communities to prosper and to harness new opportunities that develop.”

Background

The Business Minister’s [statement to Parliament](#).

In March 2016 the Scottish Government facilitated the transfer of ownership of the Dalzell and Clydebridge steelworks from Longs Steel UK (then a subsidiary of Tata Steel) to Liberty House to ensure the sites remained open and save jobs. The back-to-back sale saw the Government buy the sites for £1 and immediately sell them to Liberty House. Liberty House took on all existing liabilities and the Scottish Government agreed to indemnify Longs Steel UK from future claims. In turn Liberty House and its parent company provided a continuing and unlimited indemnity to hold the Scottish Government harmless from all historic and future liabilities.

At the time of negotiating the deal it was acknowledged that the back-to-back indemnities approach was untested due to the novel approach of the transaction in the UK.

The Scottish Government’s indemnity to Tata Steel, arising from its ownership of Longs Steel UK, covered certain future liabilities arising from the sites that might pass to the company. These included any share of environmental remediation costs, although many factors would need to happen before such a scenario came to fruition.

The original transaction was reported to the Scottish Parliament in 2016.

Contact Information

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