

First Minister
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

COVID 19 – AUGUST MARKETING ACTIVITY

Purpose

1. To outline recommended COVID marketing plans for August to support the move beyond level zero.

Priority

2. Urgent. We require a response by 4pm on Tuesday 03 August in order to activate plans.

Background

3. The planned move beyond level zero is a milestone moment in the pandemic but does not mean that all protection measures are lifted entirely. It is therefore crucial that marketing communications continue to reinforce the key behaviours required of the public.
4. Ministers have already approved the continuation of the riskometer campaign with the new endline (“Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track”), and production is underway to update the current campaign assets ready for the 09 August. This applies to the summer safety campaign, as well as symptomatic testing & isolation, and universal asymptomatic testing. Please see *ANNEX A* for a summary of the campaign.

Marketing Approach

5. To support the activity across the three pillars of vaccination, safety and test & protect, we are proposing to implement an overarching campaign that will draw the various pillars together. The recommended creative approach can be found in **ANNEX B** for approval.
6. The campaign aims to achieve the following SMART objectives:
 - To ensure 40% campaign recognition amongst those aged 18+.
 - To encourage 50% of campaign recognisers to have taken a relevant action (including x2 doses of the vaccine, safety measures and regular testing, whether or not they have symptoms)

- To encourage 65% of campaign recognisers to agree that the campaign makes clear that we all have a role to play in reducing the risk of catching and spreading coronavirus through the decisions we make every day
- To encourage 65% of campaign recognisers to agree that the campaign makes clear that we can all take action to protect ourselves and other people from coronavirus.

Media Laydown

- To support the move to beyond level 0, an integrated media plan that keeps key behaviours at the forefront of people's mind throughout August will be implemented.
 - The overarching campaign will take the lead and run at a heavier weight from 09-23 August. This will then run at a lower level until 5 September.
 - Summer Safety - TV will be starting again on 19 August at a medium weight, allowing the three pillars to communicate the safety behaviours initially.
 - Symptomatic Testing & Isolation and Universal Asymptomatic Testing will run concurrently on TV, but will alternate weekly on radio to build frequency.

- A summary of the media timeline is as follows:

	w/c 9 Aug	w/c 16 Aug	w/c 23 Aug	w/c 30 Aug	Coverage
3 Pillars Campaign					Delivering 92.5% cover and a frequency of 15.5x
Summer Safety					Delivering 96.54% cover and a frequency of 17.2x
Symptomatic Testing & Isolation					Delivering 91.89% cover and a frequency of 10.5x
Universal Asymptomatic Testing					Delivering 89.03% cover and a frequency of 10.2x

N.B. Darker colour denotes heavier weight

- The proposed media schedules are in **Annex C** for approval.

Budget

- The proposed spend for this approach is:

- Media
 - Three pillars campaign - £369,000
 - Summer Safety - £292,000
 - Symptomatic Testing & Isolation - £275,000
 - Universal Testing - £181,000
- Production costs – Up to £90k

- This will be funded from the previously approved spend for July to September.

Evaluation

12. Campaigns will be evaluated against SMARTS objectives via our covid campaign evaluation tracking.

Recommendation

13. The **First Minister**, the **Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery**, the **Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care** are invited to:

- (i) approve the creative approach in *ANNEX B*.
- (ii) approve the budget detailed above and media schedules in *ANNEX C*.

From: <<REDACTED>>
Core Covid Marketing

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister	X				
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery	X				
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care	X				

Updated creative for Beyond Level 0 including new endline

Safety Measures

TV

June Compliance Amended Script

We open on a woman in a modest garden with friends and neighbours barbecuing. On screen we see a riskometer bar, it's pointing at the green SAFER end.

She starts to walk and talk to us, serving a burnt sausage to a friend as she goes. The friend pulls a face as it lands on their plate.

Woman: It feels good to see more of each other. But now it's our job to think how we can make hanging out together as safe as possible.

She steps into a small kitchen where other friends are preparing food. The riskometer quickly edges towards dark amber.

Woman: It's up to us to make space and open windows if we're inside, to help keep ourselves and others safe.

The woman moves back to make room for a friend and opens some windows. The riskometer edges back to light amber.

She picks up a salad to take outside. Passing through the living room (where the windows are closed) a girl and guy in their early twenties are furiously gaming. The riskometer shoots up to where it's almost red on the scale.

The woman says, '**Food's ready**' to the pair as she passes through.

She opens the doors into the garden and they all step outside together. The two gamers squint in the sunlight. The riskometer swings back to green.

Woman: And where possible, even if we've had both doses of the vaccine, let's choose to be outside to stop local outbreaks taking hold.

The woman hands the pair each a big plate of food, they tuck in joyously.

The riskometer bar morphs into a semi-circle, to create our lock up.

Woman: Let's make safer choices this summer to reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track

Lockup: Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track.

Endframe: #WeAreScotland.

Healthier Scotland logo. NHS Scotland logo.

Radio

Radio Script 1: Outdoors, windows, space

SFX: Background music and chatter.

MVO: It feels good to see more of each other. But now it's up to all of us, to think how we can make hanging out together as safe as possible.

Even if we've had both doses of the vaccine, let's choose to be outside to stop local outbreaks taking hold.

And if we have to be indoors, let's make space and open windows to keep ourselves and others safe.

Let's make safer choices this summer to reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track.

Visit gov.scot/coronavirus to find out more.

Radio Script 2: Hands, face coverings, distancing

SFX: High street background noise, traffic.

MVO: We are all out and about a bit more now, so let's think about how we can keep ourselves as safe as possible.

Even if we've had both doses of the vaccine, it's up to us to keep sanitising our hands,
To wear our face coverings when required.

And to keep our distance in busy places.

Let's make safer choices this summer to reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track.

Visit scot.gov/coronavirus to find out more.

Out of Home

Let's make safer choices and open windows if meeting up indoors.



A photograph of two men, one with long curly hair and one with short dark hair, standing indoors near a large window. The man on the left is holding a cup. The window looks out onto a cityscape.



A semi-circular risk gauge with a color gradient from green (SAFER) to red (RISKIER). The needle points towards the green 'SAFER' section.


Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track
gov.scot/coronavirus



Let's make safer choices and meet up outside whenever we can.



A photograph of a young woman and a young man sitting on a wooden picnic table in a park. There are drinks and food on the table. The background shows green trees.



A semi-circular risk gauge with a color gradient from green (SAFER) to red (RISKIER). The needle points towards the green 'SAFER' section.

Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track
gov.scot/coronavirus



Let's make safer choices and clean our hands often indoors and out.



A photograph of two women sitting at a small blue table outdoors. One woman is using a hand sanitizer dispenser.




A semi-circular risk gauge with a color gradient from green (SAFER) to red (RISKIER). The needle points towards the green 'SAFER' section.


Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track
gov.scot/coronavirus



Let's make safer choices and use face coverings when required.





An illustration showing people in a public space, some wearing face coverings. One person in the foreground is clearly wearing a white face mask.




A semi-circular risk gauge with a color gradient from green (SAFER) to red (RISKIER). The needle points towards the green 'SAFER' section.

Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track
gov.scot/coronavirus




New photography will be used here





Let's make safer choices when we travel.

- Use face coverings
- Keep our distance when we can
- Clean our hands often
- Use contactless when it's an option
- Plan ahead and avoid busier times



Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track
gov.scot/coronavirus

Social








Let's make safer choices









and use face coverings indoors

and in crowds.

Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track
gov.scot/coronavirus







Let's make safer choices when we travel.




- Use face coverings
- Keep our distance when we can
- Clean our hands often

- Use contactless when it's an option
- Plan ahead and avoid busier times






Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track
gov.scot/coronavirus

Symptomatic Testing & Isolation

TV Script

We open on a lad in his living room in his PJ's not looking so well. The riskometer is at amber.

VO: Even if we're vaccinated, we can still get coronavirus and pass it on to others.

He makes a video call to his mate in the park. In the background others are kicking a ball about, waiting to get started. He says to his friend,

'Count me out mate, I'm isolating.'

We cut to the park where the riskometer is at the green safer end. His friend replies, **'Right you're in goal next time'.**

That's why, as much as we'd love to be out enjoying ourselves, it's vital that we self-isolate immediately and book a test even we have only mild symptoms or are asked to by the NHS.

Some other mates gather to wave hello. One of the girls starts doing keepy uppys, and everyone eggs her on. The guy with the phone turns the camera round to watch so his mate feels like he's not missing out.

Let's make safer choices this summer to reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track.

The riskometer bar morphs into a semi circle, to create our lock up.

**Lockup: Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track.
Healthier Scotland logo, NHS Test & Protect logo
nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect**

Radio

VO: It's great to be out seeing people more.

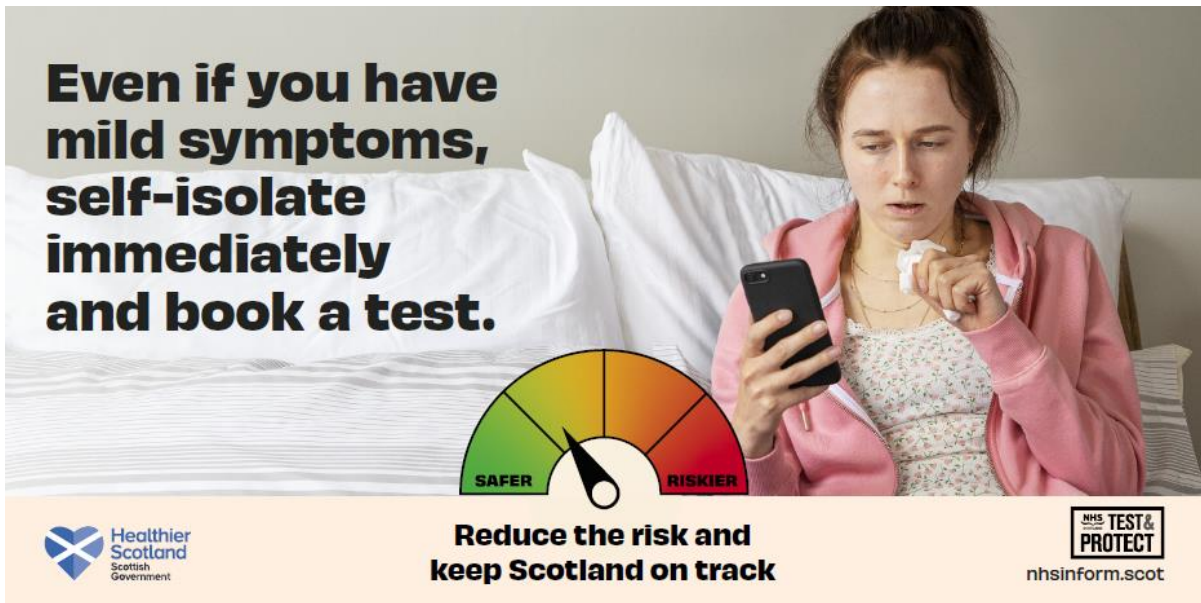
But even if we're vaccinated, we can still get coronavirus and pass it on to others.

That's why, as much as we'd love to be out with our friends and family.

It's vital that we self-isolate immediately and book a test even if we only have mild symptoms or are asked to by the NHS.

Let's make safer choices this summer to reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track.
Visit nhsinform.scot

Out of home



Even if you have mild symptoms, self-isolate immediately and book a test.

Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track

Healthier Scotland
Scottish Government

NHS TEST & PROTECT
nhsinform.scot

Universal Asymptomatic Testing

TV Script

VO: Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't show any symptoms, but can still spread it.

We need you to take two tests every week, even if you're fully vaccinated and don't have symptoms, to help reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track

Radio

VO: Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't show any symptoms, but can still spread it.

We need you to take two Covid tests every week and register your result online, even if it's negative.

Recording both positive and negative results allows us to track the presence of the virus in your community.

So we can keep everyone safe and help reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track

Register your result at covidtest.scot

OVERARCHING CAMPAIGN CREATIVE

TV Script

Jason Leitch talks to camera

Thank you for helping us reduce the spread of coronavirus, and move beyond level 0.

But remember, there's lots we still need to do, so we can keep moving forward, and protect others.

[Alt: But remember, there's lots we still need to do, so we can keep doing the things that matter most to us, and protect others.]

Like getting two doses of the vaccine. It protects you and helps you stop spreading the virus.

A vaccine icon appears next to him together with the words – Get two vaccine doses.

Wear face coverings where required, meet people outdoors or open windows if indoors, and clean your hands often.

The facemask, window and hand washing icons appear, and the words – Remember safe behaviours.

If you have symptoms, self-isolate immediately and book a test. And even if you feel well, you should test yourself regularly.

The testing icons appears, and the words - Keep getting tested.

Let's all reduce the risks and keep Scotland on track.

The icons disappear, and the risk dial appears and goes from red to green.

The Healthier Scotland logo, gov.scot/coronavirus & NHS Scotland logo appear

Radio Script

Thank you for helping us reduce the spread of coronavirus, and move beyond level 0.

But remember there's lots we still need to do. Like getting two doses of the vaccine.

Wear face coverings where required, meet people outdoors or open windows if indoors, and clean your hands often.

If you have symptoms, self-isolate immediately and book a test.
Let's all reduce the risks and keep Scotland on track.

Out of Home



**REDUCE THE RISK
AND KEEP
SCOTLAND ON TRACK**

 **Get two vaccine doses**

 **Remember safe behaviours**

 **Keep getting tested**

Media Schedules

Three Pillars campaign

Media	Size	Detail	August			
			9	16	23	30
			All Activity front-weighted			
AV						
Television	40"	Front weighted: Ave 125 TVRS pw	9th Aug - 5th Sept			
BVOD	40"	Frontweighted: Ave 250,000 impressions per week	9th Aug - 5th Sept			
Short Form VOD	40"	Frontweighted: Ave 25,000 impressions per week	9th Aug - 5th Sept			
Adsmart	40"	Frontweighted: Ave 325,000 household impressions per	9th Aug - 5th Sept			
OUT OF HOME						
Digital OOH	D6s/D48s/LFD	Roadside digital in major cities				
			11th-26th			
RADIO						
	30"	Front weighted: ave 3 OTH pw overall	9th Aug - 5th Sept			
DIGITAL						
Social	15s video	Front weighted: overall ave mediumweight	9th Aug - 5th Sept			
Digital Video & Audio	15s video	Front weighted: overall ave mediumweight	9th Aug - 5th Sept			

Summer Safety

Media	Size	Detail	August				
			2	9	16	23	30
TV							
STV/C4/ITVB/Adsmart/BVOD	40 secs	Medium Weight - 100 TVR's per			19		5
RADIO							
Bauer/Heart/Smooth/Capital/Community/BAM	30 secs	Medium Weight - 3.5 OTH per week		9			5
OOH							
Roadside/Shopping/Transport	Various	Medium Weight			19		5
DIGITAL							
Social/Video	Various	Maintenance - Medium Weight		9			5

Symptomatic Testing & Isolation

Media	Size	Detail	August				
			2	9	16	23	30
TV							
STV/C4/ITVB/Border/Adsmart/BVOD	30 secs	100 TVR's per week		9			5
OOH							
Roadside	LFD/D48/D6	Medium Weight		9	22		
DIGITAL							
Social/Native Video/Mobile	Various	Maintenance Weight		9			5
RADIO							
Commercial / Community / BAME	30 secs	3 OTH per week		9			5

Universal Testing

Media	Size	Detail	August				
			2	9	16	23	30
TV							
STV/C4/ITVB/Border/Adsmart/BVOD	20 secs	Medium Weight - 100 TVRs per week	5			29	
DIGITAL							
Social/Video	Various	Maintenance Weight	5			29	
RADIO							
Commercial / Community / BAME	30 secs	Medium Weight - 3 OTH per week	5			25	

From: <<REDACTED>> On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 03 August 2021 17:35
To: <<REDACTED>>
Subject: RE: Covid-19 - AUGUST MARKETING ACTIVITY FOR APPROVAL

<<REDACTED>>,

The First Minister is content with the recommendations.

Regards

<<REDACTED>>
DPS/First Minister of Scotland

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From: <<REDACTED>>
Sent: 02 August 2021 21:18
To: First Minister <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>
Cc: <<REDACTED>>
Subject: Covid-19 - AUGUST MARKETING ACTIVITY FOR APPROVAL

P/S First Minister
P/S Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
P/S Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Further to my email last week regarding plans for Beyond Level Zero, please now find attached our creative and media recommendations for the month of August.

To ensure we meet our production schedule, please can I ask for your approval of the following by 4pm on Tuesday 3 August:

- Creative proposal for the Three Pillars campaign
- Budget and media plans for the month of August.

Kind Regards
<<REDACTED>>

Document 1:

Record of Stakeholder Engagement on Covid Vaccine Certification

Date	Meeting
07/04/2021	• Event Industry Advisory Group – Updates and Guidance
13/05/2021	• DG Economy and Main Business Organisation Meeting
02/06/2021	• Meeting with Key Event Stakeholders – Domestic Certification
16/06/2021	• Event Industry Advisory Group – Updates and Guidance
05/08/2021	• DG Economy and Main Business Organisations Meeting
17/08/2021	• Event Industry Advisory Group – Updates and Guidance
25/08/2021	• Event Industry Advisory Group – Domestic Certification
26/08/2021	• Business Events Stakeholder Meeting
27/08/2021	• Meeting with Underbelly
01/09/2021	• Meeting with Chair of Event Industry Advisory Group
03/09/2021	• Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
06/09/2021	• Roundtable with Business Organisations • Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
08/09/2021	• Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders • Meeting with Edinburgh Culture Venues Group
13/09/2021	• Meeting with Rangers FC
14/09/2021	• Business Organisations Round Table • Meeting with Hibernian FC • Meeting with Hearts FC
15/09/2021	• Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
16/09/2021	• Meeting with Business Stakeholders • Meeting with SEC
17/09/2021	• Meeting with Celtic FC • Meeting with Aberdeen FC • Meeting with Scottish Commercial Music Industry Association • Meeting with British Beer and Pub Association • Events Industry Advisory Group Meeting
18/09/2021	• Meeting with Scottish Football Association
20/09/2021	• Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
21/09/2021	• Meeting with SFA and SPFL
22/09/2021	• Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
23/09/2021	• Meeting with SFA and SPFL • Meeting with Hearts FC • Meeting with Rangers FC
24/09/2021	• Meeting with Aberdeen FC • Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
27/09/2021	• Meeting with Underbelly
28/09/2021	• Roundtable with Business Organisations
30/09/2021	• Meeting with EICC and SEC
06/10/2021	• Meeting with P&J Live

07/10/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Glasgow Convention Bureau
12/10/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable with Business Organisations
14/10/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Dundee and Angus Convention Bureau
20/10/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Industry Advisory Group Meeting
26/10/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Chair of Event Industry Advisory Group
03/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
09/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with SFA and SPFL
10/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders • Meeting with Close Contact Service Stakeholders • Meeting with Federation of Scottish Theatres • Meeting with SEC • Meeting with Rural and Agricultural Stakeholders
11/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with CMI and Performing Arts Organisations • Meeting with Rural and Agricultural Stakeholders • Meeting with Scottish Wedding Industry Alliance Representatives • Meeting with Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions
12/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Horticulture Trades Association
16/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events Industry Advisory Group Meeting
17/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders
18/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Hospitality Stakeholders and NTIA
19/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop with Hospitality Stakeholders
22/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable with Stakeholders
29/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Business Rep Groups
30/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with DF Concerts
01/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Underbelly
10/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events Industry Advisory Group Meeting
17/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Celtic Connections • Meeting with Underbelly
21/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Underbelly
22/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events Industry Advisory Group Meeting
23/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Edinburgh City Council
06/01/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Business Stakeholders • Meeting with Edinburgh City Council
13/01/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events Industry Advisory Group Meeting • Meeting with Biscuit Factory • Meeting with [REDACTED] re. Business Support

Document 2:

DOMESTIC COVID CERTIFICATION – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – 17 AUGUST 2021

Attendees:

[REDACTED], Scottish Government

[REDACTED], Scottish Government

[REDACTED], Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Scottish Government
[REDACTED], EventScotland
[REDACTED], SEC Campus
[REDACTED], SFA
[REDACTED], DF Concerts
[REDACTED], SRU
[REDACTED], City of Glasgow Council
[REDACTED], SEC Campus

During the discussion the following points were made:

- Work is ongoing within SG on what could be introduced in relation to certification. There are multiple policy areas across Scottish Government engaging with relevant stakeholders to gather views on potential impacts on sectors.
- The Scottish Government Certification app is under development and is scheduled to be available in September. It is primarily being developed to assist with International Travel but with the option that a Domestic Certification option can be 'switched on' for limited access to medical data to enable use across different sectors. We are being clear that use of this system is not being considered for day to day use but is a mitigation measure that can be used to potentially help events to proceed if there is a spike in cases that might result in cancellation.
- The sectors most likely to see the introduction of domestic certification are Nightclubs, large scale events and indoor hospitality. Indicative thresholds that could be set for attendance numbers were floated as examples i.e. Indoor Stand over 500, Outdoor Stand over 4000 and, based on UKG suggestions, business events over 400.
- SG understand that any system we introduce must work for businesses and provide them with the opportunity to feed in issues as part of the development process.
- Policy officials from the multiple policy areas involved will provide information to Ministers in the coming weeks before decisions are made and further engagement undertaken with relevant sectors.

SG asked for views from stakeholders on the call, which will NOT be directly quoted or assigned in future work:

- **[REDACTED – SECTION 30(b)(ii) – FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS]**
- **[REDACTED – SECTION 30(b)(ii) – FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS]**

- [REDACTED – SECTION 30(b)(ii) – FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS]
- [REDACTED – SECTION 30(b)(ii) – FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS]
- [REDACTED – SECTION 30(b)(ii) – FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS]

[REDACTED – SECTION 30(B)(II) – FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS]

Conclusion and Next Steps

- SG are consulting lawyers and also working on regulations alongside the stakeholder engagement.
- SG confirmed we would like continued engagement on this over the coming weeks so have asked that any comments/questions/issues be fed in to [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] will also trawl for comments after the meeting and any additional data re numbers of events and further issues stakeholders wished to raise.

Major Events 19 August 2021

Document 3:

DOMESTIC COVID CERTIFICATION – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – EIAG
MEETING 25 AUGUST 2021

Attendees:

[REDACTED], Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Scottish Government

During the discussion the following points were made by members of the full Events Industry Advisory Group:

- **Scanning apps would not be possible.** Whilst venues and organisers have dedicated ticket systems, which often involve scanning, not all do. Therefore it would not be possible to alter existing systems to scan some sort of QR code on a ‘phone. Similarly under GDPR etc., as well as feasibility, organisers could not allow Stewards to use their own ‘phones. Group accepted that having a securely displayed “green” tick would be the best option.
- Interoperability between the different certification apps from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland would also be essential – attendees would be coming from across the UK, and indeed from abroad. There would also be a need

to enable fans from Scotland to travel to venues and events outwith Scotland. There was also the case about what regs and certifications would be needed to deal with artistes and tour road crew who would often be drawn from multiple countries.

- There was some discussion of whether the status could be declared in advance when purchasing tickets, essentially acting as a third party guarantee of vaccination. This though would not cope with where tickets were physically purchased or bought online by someone else other than attendee. It was not raised but it would also be an issue where tickets were sold or traded.
- Whether the approach of ensuring all were vaccinated was questions: instead shouldn't the emphasis be on ensuring that everyone eligible was vaccinated, that the need to have that status was set out clearly as a condition of attendance and that in random checks at a venue if this was found not to be the case then would someone be fined for punishment and ejected.
- The general time for the app being activated was also discussed. The need to ensure that organisers and venues had sufficient time to put in place the necessary arrangements was critical: this could not simply be expected to swing into action over night. Regs should make clear what the de minimis implementation lead in time would be. There could be no return to uncertainty for the industry.
- There was a query around community events and whether the proposed limits would apply. With no defined points of entry and exit and no hard perimeter (such as we'd expect to see at fireworks displays in the coming months or summer galas longer term), it would be impossible for voluntary or not-for-profit organisations to hold events and would also mean councils were most reluctant to organise community events.
- There was also a query about the impact of certification iro marches and parades – which we were unable to answer. **Referred to Parades and Marches colleagues for their information.**
- There were some suggestions about the need to introduce certification in the form suggested. References were made to the reports from the UKG Events Research Programme iro the Open in Kent. This event resulted in 152k people being put through LFTs, albeit with a clear three week lead in time.
- Any additional action other than checking the original ticket was shown at the Open to add 15 minutes per gate over the course of a day, and generate public safety issues in wider terms due to queuing. This adds to additional costs iro staff, stewards, signage, storage for tests and staff to administer LFT if required. It also places strain on local health services to potentially provide the LFT in such volume.
- In context of FM announcement 24 August, and the public messages re the sector taking all possible proactive steps to promote and reinforce the baseline

measures, feedback was that individual businesses are likely to seek clarification of what is it that they are legally required to do, rather than what they might do over and above the letter of the law.

In closing the presentation, further engagement was encouraged and a request for any data that attendees might offer that would highlight specific events in the next 6 months that might cause particular issues if domestic certification were to be introduced.

[REDACTED]
Major Events
25 August 2021

Document 4:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 August 2021 11:16
To: Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; McCormack M (Marion) <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; McPhee D (David) <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Sizeland B (Bettina) <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Feedback from Business Events Sector stakeholders re domestic covid certification - 26 August 2021

Liz, [REDACTED],

Please see below a note from the business events sector discussion on domestic covid certification following the meeting on Thursday 26.

Covid Certification – stakeholder engagement – Business Events Sector – 26 August 2021

Attendees

[REDACTED], Glasgow City Council
[REDACTED], EICC
[REDACTED], University of Strathclyde
[REDACTED], Dundee and Angus
[REDACTED], Scottish Event Campus Glasgow
[REDACTED], P&J Live
[REDACTED], P&J Live
[REDACTED], EICC

[REDACTED], EICC
[REDACTED], P&J Live
[REDACTED], P&J Live
[REDACTED], Scottish Events Campus
[REDACTED], Royal College of Surgeons
[REDACTED], Global Sport Strategies

[REDACTED], Tourism and Hospitality Team, SG
[REDACTED], Tourism and Hospitality Team, SG
[REDACTED], Covid Public Health Team, SG

Intro Summary – SG set out core messages

Discussion – key points raised (non-attributed)

- If International delegates or delegates from England how would this work (live issue and under consideration)
- Current EU certification allows attendance in other countries i.e. live in NL but attend event France or Germany – would like to see this also reflected in Scottish model
- If International attendees only have to do a LFD this would also open up sector to the International market – as opposed to current arrangements that require PCR test on day two etc. with additional costs etc. (while this is being targeted at a domestic market take note of read across to International aspects). Affordability of testing should also be considered.
- Beneficial to have app that links to rUK/EU – needs to be simple and easy to follow (under consideration – systems are quite different but looking at cross recognition between systems)
- Need to think about longevity of app v accepted effectiveness life span of vaccination
- Should certainly do this as alternative to closures but need to proceed with care (no yet clear on timeframes, still subject to wider decisions/learning, incl. JCVI considerations on issues like boosters etc.)
- Getting app right is important but must bear in mind costs – need a solution that does not add yet further to costs of delegates at business events
- Events will be multi-function across the programmes and be up to and over 500 + threshold i.e. standing/seated, working sessions/hospitality – therefore needs to be easy to understand and simple (large events possibly in scope unless there was a specific exclusion)
- Would be good if there was an exclusion for business events – 500+ threshold would capture many business events

- Need more information on how LFTs would be managed – delegates would need to easily understand requirements
- Business events sector is inevitably International in outlook– a purely domestic system will not fully support the sector
- Who would be responsible for enforcement and delivery and what would be the associated costs for businesses (event organiser would be responsible, but may be sub contracted to security/stewarding provider)
- There are logistical and reputational risks if delegates are denied access or is problematic. Attendees will have invested more time and money into attending an event as compared with hospitality settings, having booked accommodation etc.
- Also, training for staff to implement the arrangements will be key (would be guidance to support measures – but all under active consideration as part of planning)
- Would need to be clear on where legal obligation sits and sanctions for non-compliance – who is ultimately responsible for managing and implementing, especially where there are often third parties involved in business events i.e. car launch commissioned by car company, but events business organises the launch event – a duty of care plan may be helpful
- What is the timeline in relation to the decision making process, and from announcement to rollout? i.e. what time will there be for preparation on the part of businesses (tbc – UKG of course working to end Sept for nightclubs and other high risk settings – will be considering that as part of the advice to Ministers)
- Need to consider how ‘high risk’ a business event setting is – taking into account a highly compliant audience and a range of mitigations – would like to think business events will fall outside of the ‘high risk’ category.
- Need to note that there is a difference between premises owners i.e. restaurants/bars/clubs, and those running business events who will not own the premises where the event is being hosted – this creates different challenges
- Need to be clear on what is mandatory and what is not – personal behaviour will vary so clarity is paramount so people know what is required of them
- Note – would like to flag that business events are not in the same category as nightclubs in terms of risk – this was considered an important point, that the risk profile between the two are very different and should be recognised

Next steps – advice to go to Ministers shortly. Can arrange a follow up call once there is more clarity around scope of measures and consider, if necessary, operability in the sector.

[REDACTED] | **Senior Tourism Policy Adviser**

Tourism and Major Events Division | Culture, Tourism and Major Events Directorate

Please note I am currently working from home and can be contacted on my mobile: [REDACTED] or Email: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Document 5:

COVID CERTIFICATION - MEETING WITH UNDERBELLY, 27 AUGUST 2021

[REDACTED], Scottish Government

[REDACTED], Underbelly

[REDACTED], Underbelly

[REDACTED], Underbelly

In the meeting the following topics were discussed:

- The sector would welcome the approach as an alternative to further restriction and mitigations.
- Already see it in operation through the use of NHS England COVID Passport in such domestic settings as theatres etc. throughout England.
- The predominant set up in the industry is turnstiles – and speed of access through these is essential. However it is essential to have those without certification removed from the queue before the turnstile: after that it's too late.
- The drive to mount certification functionality on an app is admirable, but needs to recognise that there will be those who need to show a widely recognised exemption certificate. There is also the wider social exclusion issue in that not all will have access to 'phones and will need a paper version
- Scanning any apps is impracticable and stewards would need to give any certificate (paper or phone) a cursory glance. There could be no further identify checks before the customer moved onto a second perimeter where the ticket was actually checked.
- The need for interoperability is essential, and organisers would have to train stewards on what were valid certificates. This widens when you get onto the issue not just of rest of UK approaches but international travellers: how do visitors outwith UK systems prove they are double vaccinated? Presumably the WHO international travel app could be used (but will a paper copy require a QR scanner – that would be impracticable).
- As an indication of scale, Edinburgh's Hogmanay in 2019 sold tickets to people across 57 countries. Even if only a small percentage of the international travellers return, that represented a potentially huge range of options which we expect organisers to cope with.

- Is there any option for a negative LFT within 48 hours to be accepted as an alternative to proof of vaccination or an exemption certificate? Bearing in mind the upper age limit for vaccinations in place in UK, demographics of audiences can differ markedly.
- Passing through entry points will be slowed, especially where queuing is needed in front of fixed points like turnstiles. While some events start from scratch and can flex their perimeters and adjust to take into account the public safety implications of this: others such as stadia and fixed site venues cannot: this raises further public safety/public order points to consider.

[REDACTED]
Major Events
27 August 2021

Document 6:

Covid Status Certification Roundtable Meeting - 6 September 2021

Note of Meeting

(For attendees see separate list)

Chaired by David McPhee, Deputy Director- Covid Safer Workplaces- Scottish Government

[REDACTED] - SPFL

- What is the public policy on Certification, what evidence.
- Certification is no guarantee that you don't have the virus or can spread it
- What about those who can't get a certificate* children etc.)
- What about the range of others involved in games(players, stewards, ball boys etc.)
- What is the identified risk that puts pressure on emergency services that certification will mitigate.
- 5 Scottish clubs who have games over 10,000, so 17 games in a season, and 6 cup ties.
- Massive investment needed for this justified and is technology available anyway as not implemented yet in UK yet
- Introduction will likely delay fans getting in and this could pose issues around public disorder. Noted at Euros it was ground entry not stadia.
- What evidence there is that outdoor events such as football create a proportionally increased risk
- What would be proportion of checking certificates at entry- spot check basis- Could ground access have sample check of evidence attendees not carrying virus.

[REDACTED]- DF Concerts Ltd

- Likely this will get through Parliament but needs to be shaped up and fit for purpose as too fluid at moment.
- Agreed with points on evidence on what Nightclubs and big events, needs to be wider reaching and include cinemas, concerts , etc if it is to control the virus spread.
- Make it a vaccine passport and combo of 2 jabs + 2 weeks , a negative LFD test before, or elapsed time past a positive PCR test - this would get round those who can't get a vaccine
- Also real shortage of qualified security staff to not only cover existing events so extra to cover certification may be a huge issue. Global issue.
- TRNSMT- need to show a negative LFD test for entry
- Process needs to be based on paper or a screenshot to get round connectivity and other issues.

[REDACTED] - Mor Rioghain Group

- Market distortion - say a 200 capacity "nightclub" has to do this but a late opening pub next door with 1000 capacity does not.
- Needs far more consultation with sectors
- Is full checking of all customers is required this could cause significant delays in getting people in as with 400 people and 20 secs per person that is around 2 hours more in a queue. So increased staffing would be needed to speed this up. So extra cost and also many struggle to source qualified security staff as it is.
- Market distortion - Small club venues have more transient clients ie they don't book tickets in advance like a large concert/event, so if there is issue with certification and gaining access they could lose clients to other venues not requiring certification. This could be catastrophic and some clubs could close permanently as a result.
- Definition of "nightclub" need to be cleared up. 100 Scottish venues categorise themselves as "nightclubs" but around 1000 others do not but are essentially all the same (late night venue with drinking and dancing)
- Discrimination of those ethnic groups who are well behind in taking up vaccination- 1st dose- White British- 75% Black Afro Caribbean- 51%
- What is the Scope of what is included in the scheme and what is not.
- What is to stop someone booking venue and have 499 tickets and therefore falls under the line to require certification.
- Concerned this will get rushed through and there are complex and difficulty issues to consider- needs much longer to consider

[REDACTED]- Scottish Horse Racing

- If boosters are needed in Autumn will the entry policy change to 2 vaccinations and booster and will tech be able to deal with that.
- Funding – all this will need more cost for everyone and what will SG do to help with those costs – any funding going to be available.

- Check in Scotland App - Is there data in there to see what is going on in venues i.e. identify trends and infections.

[REDACTED] - Festival Edinburgh

- Large international events have many rUK and international visitors and so any system needs to be able to accept other certification.
- Consideration needed for seated and unseated events as seated has much more limited interaction between attendees.
- Needs much longer lead time to implement this- Has a staged introduction been considered. DMcP- issue is the virus needs to be contained now and so to maximise the benefit of this proposal it needs to be implemented as soon as we can.

[REDACTED] - SPFL

- Timing is crucial and needs a longer lead time to introduction
- Keen to see the evidence of why these events are contributing to increased spread.
- Some grounds have large capacity 10,000+(Kilmarnock) but the majority of the time do not fill this. Will it be based on potential capacity or average attendees.
- Still need the clarification of purpose of certification and timing needs to be reviewed.

[REDACTED] - Hampden

- Issues with entry with a certification check. Stewards already have a great deal to check prior to allowing entry and this would create a bigger ask on them and likely cause greater delays in attendees gaining entry. Possible public order issues as a result of delays.
- Hampden now has QR tickets for entry and moving to electronic access. Change will take some time to normalise in supporters who may not be technically adept and need to now allow more time to gain access and not leave it to last minute as they have done for years before.

[REDACTED] - UK Hospitality (Scotland)

- Scotland looks like it will go down a different route to RUK, keen to see a 4 Nation approach to Certification.
- Need to make it as easy as possible as Scotland seeing large increase in Staycation market and want that to continue. Don't need anything that puts us at a disadvantage.
- What business support are SG looking at to bring this in as the introduction will have a financial impact on them.
- Facing challenges in compliance(face coverings) so need to make sure public and businesses need to know why they need to do this. Clear messaging.

[REDACTED] - Scottish Event Campus

- This needs to be shaped up quickly and provide clarify on what SG are looking to achieve from this. Too general at moment- Needs to be specific and detailed.
- There are a diverse range of challenges in its introduction, need the evidence for this and develop a single proposal that works across all sectors.

[REDACTED] - Scottish Event Campus

- Good to have more information on technology (app) and how it works and discuss at next meeting.

END

6 Sept 2021

Document 7:

Meeting with Business Events Sector – Vaccine Certification.

Thursday 16 September

4.30 pm – 5.15 pm

Attendees

[REDACTED], EICC
 [REDACTED], EICC
 [REDACTED]– P&J
 [REDACTED]P&J
 [REDACTED]– SEC
 [REDACTED]– VisitScotland
 [REDACTED]– Glasgow Convention Bureau

Officials

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Intro and purpose

[REDACTED]shared that 'Peripheral activity' such as drinks receptions would not be excepted. Certification would be required for that part of the event, if it breached the certification thresholds. The paper published in SPiCE said that certain business events that people are required to attend for work purposes will be excepted from the requirement for certification.

- Looking for feedback on specific questions of how many / what proportion of events would include social programme elements which would be in scope – so standing 500+
- What are the issues as you see them for operationalising vaccine certification for the business events sector in these terms?

Keen to gather feedback and have an open discussion. The points raised will be fed into advice for Ministers and the non-clinical public health team.

Key points raised by attendees were that:

- Strong and unanimous feedback from leading Business Events professionals representing conference venues across Scotland is that Business Events in their entirety should be exempt from vaccine certification as people are attending in a work capacity.
- Social programme elements are considered to be an integral and inextricable element of these events in terms of developing connections and relationships to foster business opportunities.
- For the majority of high value business events held in Scotland this would include welcome receptions, coffee and lunches (unseated 500+). It is considered that organisers will view the additional bureaucracy and increased costs associated with implementing vaccine certification as a barrier to business and will lead to events in other parts of the UK becoming more attractive prospects with considerable negative economic impact.
- The potential proposal to exempt only the core educational / work elements of business events was considered unviable due to the complexity associated with treating different elements of business events differently, the associated cost, and the impact on delegates who are attending all elements in a work capacity. The audience for business events comprises an older demographic who are likely to be double vaccinated, are fully registered for track and trace purposes and are likely to comply with all mitigations (such as face coverings, hand hygiene etc.).
- The issue raised is that delegates are required to attend ALL elements for work purposes, not just the sit down conference hall session, also exhibits and networking lunches, also some very practical issues, related to inability to 'carve out' different elements, in fact cannot run a full day conference without refreshment breaks, lunch etc,
- Sector arguing that how does this differ from customers being able to go to the bar in interval in a theatre, for example. Sector also stress that conference audience is fully traceable, and regulated at all times and that they are able to ensure mitigations are in place.
- Sector stress that this is not akin to a nightclub or other big event setting.
- Concern that many events won't have the capacity to check
- Concerns raised re whether the QR code / app will be compatible with rUK and internationally.
- Concerns raised as to the rationale – suggested that the vast majority will be vaccinated that that this measure / implementation re business events is not going to boost uptake of the vaccines.

Officials key points:

- [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] reiterated the aims of the certification programme – to prevent sectors from being closed down, and AG provided reassurance that colleagues in digital were working to ensure that systems were as streamlined and compatible as possible.
- Also provided reassurance that we would feed these key points to the non-clinical public health team for the submission for Ministers but that ultimately this was a Ministerial decision.

Document 8:

Covid Status Certification

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting – 28 September 2021 @ 1500

Notes:

David McPhee:

- Intro and welcome
- [REDACTED]: Any ministers? Not this time.
- Relevant issues from FM's statement at 1415, hence delaying this meeting.
- Ministers continue to think certification is important tool
- Scheme will still be in force on 1st October at 5 am
- However, enforcement won't take place til 18th October
- Last Thursday we said to business that they would get 4 weeks to get checks where they need to be. Even after 18th October they will get another week to get 100% checks. No change from communication last week.
- Publishing guidance today, but it won't be the final version. [guidance was published during the meeting]
- We're removing events caps – no need to go through council anymore.
- Peripheral events at business conferences still need certification.

[REDACTED]:

- 18th October enforcement. What happens if businesses fall foul? – fines etc.?
- Even if SG are publishing guidance, the regulations aren't done. Normally regulations would come before guidance.
- Still awaiting BRIA.

David McPhee:

- Guidance before regulations is not good practice, but due to moving at pace this happens sometimes.
- Keen to get guidance out.
- BRIA and regulations will be shared with committee this week and thus published.
- Guidance will not be set in stone – may well change through implementation. Want continual conversation.
- Enforcement done through local authorities – on a 4 E's basis. Enforcement is always the last element of this.

[REDACTED]:

- Hope business will recognise that the way that local authorities have enforced regulations throughout the pandemic has been pragmatic and that they would expect this to continue as it will.

[REDACTED]:

- Who is legally responsible for compliance? The business, venue, promoter or organiser? Need clarity on this. Suggest relate it to the licence-holder – might simplify things.
- Would like to see exclusion of consumer exhibitions from this scheme as they are a retail environment. Lots of them may not happen if not excluded. Target market who go there is not mainly the target market for boosting vaccination uptake.

David McPhee:

- Ministers say consumer exhibitions should be included. Will take away legal responsibility question.

[REDACTED]:

- 2 week delay is welcome. Sector won't be able to implement this scheme in three days. However, even with the delay substantial elements of policy are not implementable. It takes 3 months to train door staff and there is a critical shortage of them, so can't implement this before Christmas. It is a fundamentally unworkable policy.
- Not seen the BRIA, Equities Impact Assessment, Evidence promised last week.
- Cases gone down – policy not needed to reduce cases.
- Target demographic of policy registering some of the lowest case rates in Scotland.
- Not seen anything on lawfulness of policy.
- Disappointing not had meaningful consultation that would have allowed for a better scheme.

David McPhee:

- Will continue to review this.
- Will raise with colleagues about BRIA, EQIA etc.

[REDACTED]:

- How will one venue implement when other venues are not until 18th? May lead to customer confusion.

David McPhee:

- Business should start implementing the scheme this Friday 1st October as planned. Business can use this grace period to start to understand challenges.
- Up to business whether to do anything between this Friday and 18th or just do it from 18th.

- There will therefore be some differential between businesses for next two weeks.

[REDACTED]:

- Potentially may use the match on 9th October [Scotland v Israel at Hampden Park] as a learning curve, but will need to bear in mind other issues too, in terms of public order etc.
- Important to the implementation of this policy that spectators get a similar experience when going to matches to avoid confusion at the gates.

[REDACTED]:

- Consumer is confidence broken – they don't know what the rules will be.
- We were told there was to be a public information campaign this week – where is it?

David McPhee:

- Comms people not on call, but, some of it is in FM's statement, some on Twitter, COVID check-in website, more material beyond this.
- Will send email to **[REDACTED]** with all the comms we're doing.

[REDACTED]:

- The comms hasn't landed. Newspaper headlines are against this scheme.
- What is SG doing to engage nightclubs, events to be part of comms?

David McPhee:

- Civil servants are having conversations with business on this through sector-specific colleagues.
- We welcome comms ideas.

[REDACTED]:

- Doing a lot of comms through Events Scotland. For example, e-news, webinar this week. Conscious of need to get messaging to consumers. More e-comms coming this Friday.

[REDACTED]:

- Events Scotland, Visit Scotland webinar on Thursday. Not sure how aware consumers/public are.

[REDACTED]:

- SG doing a lot of things to stop people going to our businesses.
- Increasingly clear that the measures are not proportionate.
- Two weeks of Freshers' Week (including 2nd year students) has just happened. Cases don't seem to have gone up. 85% of young people have immunity. What is the gateway condition? What benchmarks are there to end this?

David McPhee:

- Ministers will look every 3 weeks. Gateway condition part of conversation with ministers. None of this is a hard and fast number – always a judgement call by ministers across all the harms. Certification not seen in isolation.

[REDACTED]:

- Unfair to business to not know what the criteria are. We want these measures in place for as little time as possible.
- As part of the decision-making process by ministers, are they using the ONS's statistics on immunity?

David McPhee:

- Yes, they are already using the ONS's stats. Will continue to feed that in.

[REDACTED]:

- One off outdoor events are hard to enforce as they are not there every week to have conversations.
- What did David McPhee mean about events capacity limits?

David McPhee:

- [Explains about removing events capacity limits – it's about removing the requirement to get approval from the council]

[REDACTED]:

- Have you just taken the 5000 person limit and dropped it to 4000?

David McPhee:

- There was no point in having two sets of requirements.

[REDACTED]:

- Free unticketed events are exempted from certification, so it's not necessarily about just reducing the limits.

David McPhee:

- It's about removing the burden.

[REDACTED]:

- Fantastic.

[REDACTED]:

- We welcome delay on enforcement til 18th
- Changing the definition of businesses that should be included from midnight to 1 am (or even 2 am per [REDACTED]) would help re: lack of doorstaff etc.
- Insurance policies – if venues do not have SIA-qualified doorman on the door, and so have to have other staff members do certification for lack of qualified staff, there may be knock on effect onto insurance liabilities.
- UKG have published consultation which said 1 am. So 1 am would put us into alignment with England.

- Adding LFD as an element to the certification scheme would be a good idea. Would like to see discussion and movement on that before 18th October.

David McPhee:

- Still discussion of adding LFD. Ministers have not ruled it out.

[REDACTED]:

- Terminal hour in Glasgow is midnight, but Edinburgh, Glasgow etc. are 1 am. Anything that can align that better would be more practical for the industry.

[REDACTED]:

- Comms – piggybacking on any comms and going out with specific messaging, going out with databases and groups.

[REDACTED]:

- 2 week extension gives a bit of breathing space.
- Don't think it will alleviate recruitment problem. Nightclubs may be able to get door staff, but small pubs etc. won't be able to.
- Would like for scope to be businesses open at 2 am. Under the current scope, places that do private functions will be caught where they otherwise wouldn't.
- 2 am would make it better for recruitment – can't get the staff. People are leaving because they can't take any more stress.
- 99% of businesses refuse to let staff get mobiles out while working. They can't afford to buy phones for staff. How to resolve this?
- Inconsistency in application of the proposals. For example, a hotel with two function rooms – a wedding in one room, and an anniversary event in the other. The wedding doesn't need COVID certification, but other one does.

David McPhee:

- Have COVID certification everywhere? Has been considered, but on a 4 Harms approach ministers drew line away from weddings.
- Want to continue this conversation post-implementation too.

[REDACTED]:

- How many people have got vax certificate so far? Reflects on the comms piece, which would make our life easier over the next few weeks. 0 of our guests realised our premises would be caught up in this. Message hasn't landed. Shouldn't be up to the sector to convince customers on this.
- Sector concerns have been disregarded. Ministers have said that certification schemes are working elsewhere. But elsewhere they include LFDs, and often immunity – natural immunity via PCR test. Can't find a single example of a country that's drawn the line halfway through hospitality sector.
- Other countries have largely drawn it around all of hospitality, which is what has driven uptake. General public in Scotland have no clue that they will need a vaccine passport to go to some pubs.
- This scheme is deeply problematic.

- Want direct discussion with FM and ministers.

David McPhee:

- Will get numbers on Certificates and share it.
- Changing phrasing away from “nightclub” to “late night venues” because of the feedback given from business
- Immunity and tests haven’t been ruled out but not being used at present.
- Would there not still be resource implications of checking tests? What reasons do you have for wanting tests added to the certification scheme?

[REDACTED]:

- LFTs would decrease the discrimination issue – equalities an issue. Removes discriminatory impact of different vaccine uptake re: socio-economic minorities, certain religions etc.
- 2010 Equalities Act may be in conflict with implementing vaccine certification on the ground.

David McPhee:

- The EQIA will cover this to some extent.

[REDACTED]:

- Part of the guidance about the later hours test doesn’t work legally.

David McPhee:

- Let’s do this by email – recognise concern.

[REDACTED]:

- Wedding vs Wedding anniversary in 2 function rooms – how do we get around it?

David McPhee:

- Reasonable measures – wedding held exclusively.

[REDACTED]:

- What’s the difference?

David McPhee:

- Ministers made a 4 harms judgements. Weddings are such that it is not proportionate to certificate per ministers. Had to draw a line.

[REDACTED]:

- On 18 October, we still won’t have enough staff to enforce this scheme. Are we going to be forced to close by default?

David McPhee:

- Need to continue to have this conversation about what might work.

[REDACTED]:

- In guidance, if have venue that has different areas, they can be sectioned off. Need this to be a bit clearer that it is not the whole premise that is captured, just the room, event location etc.

David McPhee:

- This has been a helpful conversation for us. Next week meeting if people want. Keen to have minister at next meeting. Happy to take feedback on whether this is valuable or not. Want this group to meet at least once more before the end of the implementation period.

Document 9:

Business events and Covid certification – discussions prior to implementation date

[REDACTED] EICC and [REDACTED]SG – 30 September 2021 3pm – 3.30 pm.

Purpose

- Check in re implementation, what's potentially in scope for certification for the next few weeks, any areas of the guidance which could be clarified. Also to urge feedback on any concerns and practical issues. Guidance is a live document so it will be updated regularly.

EICC key points of feedback

- [REDACTED] confirmed that they have 33 events between now and the end of the year, a third of which may fall into scope depending on numbers and requirements.
- The most imminent is scheduled for 17 October (currently around 700 plus but numbers to be confirmed), others are scheduled for November.
- Question of what we consider to be a large event? This relates to the minimum 20% requirement – but in terms of checking and registration it's recognised that as a matter of course they'll be looking at as many checks as possible.
- Can vax checking be done in advance as they do checking and registration as a matter of course.
- Question on guidance for people coming from outside of Scotland. The guidance as it currently stands has a link which doesn't provide relevant information: For guidance on accepting an officially recognised certificate from outwith the UK, see www.covidcheck.scot.
- [REDACTED] asked for any other feedback on implementation and issues or concerns to be raised so we can look to address them

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]SEC – 4 pm – 4.30 pm

Purpose

- Check in re implementation, what's potentially in scope for certification for the next few weeks, any areas of the guidance which could be clarified. Also to urge feedback on any concerns and practical issues. Guidance is a live document so it will be updated regularly.

SEC key points of feedback

- guidance is not clear enough on the definition of a peripheral event. Where would an exhibition which combines an educational elements for attendees with a networking reception that is a continuation of the event (say at 4 pm or 5 pm) fall – in scope or out?
- The assumption that these are optional is not correct – many of these are a part of employment and not an option. For many there is an employment obligation to be there.
- Business events usually have 3 or 4 components – out of which one or two will be in scope and this then essentially puts the full thing in scope.
- Often receptions and networking events are the key to making events a success and are a core part of it in terms of quality of experience.
- Argued also that the target group are not those who are likely to be unvaccinated – the demographic is older and vaccinated.
- The question of grey areas and judgement on what is and what is not a peripheral event carries risk for who is responsible. The venue are responsible so there is a high degree of risk.
- At business events, there is often more than one point of entry which makes checking challenging – and events which could be termed peripheral could be attended by the same participants in the same venue who would not be allowed to attend one component. The risk profile is questioned here. Why is the risk higher?
- The uncertainty and lack of clarity is also affecting future events / prospective events – what does it mean for exhibitors and organisers? They are put off by risk and an event may be held elsewhere because the terms are clearer. Organisers and exhibitors will also be concerned that people may not attend due to the requirement.
- Also concerns that the communications around this has been substandard. Lack of information on what is acceptable for those checking, the types of letters that are acceptable, and a lack of information to the public on how this will work and expectations. Argued that there has not been a clear / critical path to implementation.
- Argued that the delay to enforcement has muddied the waters in terms of communication. The venue is pushing the message that this is a legal requirement.
- There are concerns around public safety for events – if people are inebriated and are denied entry to an event this may lead to conflict.
- [REDACTED] – understand these concerns. Decisions have been made but will be regularly reviewed on a 4 harms basis, so if there is evidence of

economic harm then please share so that we can ensure they are properly considered alongside other evidence.

- Actions: [REDACTED] to share some examples of events which may or may not be 'peripheral' and SEC to share feedback on how this is being implemented in practice and any evidence of economic harm.

Document 10:

Business events and Covid certification – discussions after go live date

P&J [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] & [REDACTED] – 6 October 2021 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm.

Purpose

- Check in re implementation, what's potentially in scope for certification for the next few weeks, any areas of the guidance which could be clarified. Also to urge feedback on any concerns and practical issues.

P&J key points of feedback

- At the moment there are not too many Business Events which will be caught in scope.
- For Business Events that could be caught in scope they are advising clients against holding receptions and 'peripheral events' due to the complexity of having vaccine certification for this element of business events. This will reduce revenue and will have a knock on effect on staffing required.
- Next year there are a larger number of association / conferences planned for the P&J so the impact could be larger.
- Again questioned the rationale of why delegates would be exempt for all other aspects of the conference have to have certification for this element (particularly when it's in the same venue) and the difficulty of implementing.
- In terms of business fairs / exhibitions open to the public the 'Love Touring Expo' will take place between the 4 – 7 November. In terms of implementing vaccine certification checks this will be more straightforward than entertainment events as the audience is more staggered than at a concert - which typically involves an influx of attendees at the same time.
- Plans to facilitate checking will involve a queueing system and customer care area but there are concerns around older people who are less likely to have a passport and may not know how to download.
- Putting staffing in place will involve extra costs, and there are additional concerns around refusals and managing people who are disgruntled and potentially aggressive if they aren't admitted.
- P&J have incorporated comms on their website where this is required, and anything on ticketmaster has appropriate information.
- On question of a large or small event P&J have defined anything under 1000 as small. [REDACTED] noted that guidance will be updated shortly and that

it's likely to be the case that small events are under 4,000 and that 100% checks will be required. Anything over 4,000 is defined as large and will require 20%.

- Noted that there are ongoing problems with the app and that it hasn't been possible to verify. They have bought mobile phones to act as scanners. 4G coverage is required but there are ongoing issues with data coverage and connections for checking both covid cert status and e-tickets.
- The English app shows a 'green tick' but in Scotland there are 2 QR codes. When will the 'green tick' symbol be enabled for Scotland? This would simplify checking.
- The checking time is currently estimated at 3 per minute – there are planned checks at an event this weekend with an additional 6 staff members in place for the event.
- [REDACTED] noted that it would be helpful to hear about how this works operationally and any issues.
- Staff shortages continue to be an issue and it has been a challenge to find the additional staff required to do the certification checks.
- [REDACTED] asked whether they had considered pre-checking - that we had been advised that businesses could do this as long as they are compliant with the DPA. The ICO has published guidance for businesses in this regards: Looking after your customers' personal data when completing vaccination and COVID status checks – Advice for nightclub businesses and organisers of large events | ICO.
- [REDACTED] said that they had investigated this but that the cost and complexity of having the ticket and covid certification in the one place (in compliance with DPA) was considered to be too challenging.

Document 11:

Business events and Covid certification – discussions after go live date

Glasgow Convention Bureau [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Tourism Team - [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

7 October 2021 10.15 am – 10.45 am.

Purpose

- Check in re implementation, what's potentially in scope for certification for the next few weeks, any areas of the guidance which could be clarified. Also to urge feedback on any concerns and practical issues.

Glasgow Convention Bureau GCB key points of feedback

- Due to COP26 there are not many conferences / convention events planned with peripheral social elements in the next few weeks.

- However, a few are scheduled for next year which are likely to fall into scope in early January and March.
- The convention bureau deal with business to business so SEC will be the main point of contact on business to customer, open trade fairs.
- Of utmost importance will be providing clarity on communications and guidance to delegates, particularly from outside of Scotland.
- Question of how international delegates will be dealt with and the rest of the UK – [REDACTED] highlighted the visitors from outside Scotland section within the guidance.
- Cost implications of having additional members of security staff to check were raised, as well as delays to entering receptions and queuing which could impact on delegate experience.
- Questions on how many checks are appropriate and whether it would be 100% or spot-checks. That a large civic reception involving approx. 1,000 would be costly and take substantial time to do so. [REDACTED] confirmed that the more detailed guidance on large and small events and providing numbers was in the process of being clarified and that guidance would be updated shortly.
- Particular concerns regarding a different approach in England, this is 50% of the key market and so any perception that Scotland is putting barriers in the way of events and delegates attending would be damaging to Scotland's reputation.
- The communication and process need to be as clear and straightforward as possible with a focus on how it is making events safer.
- It is too early to say how the requirement has been received by conference organisers and any potential economic impacts, but the staffing cost and onus on checking will be borne by organisers. GCB to provide any relevant feedback as appropriate.
- On pre-checking this would likely add another layer of complexity in terms of how it could be done and the onus on organisers to ensure compliance with DPA. In practical terms this would require further rounds of communication and engagement with delegates who have already registered for events in early next year. [REDACTED] highlighted the ICO guidance which has published for businesses: [Looking after your customers' personal data when completing vaccination and COVID status checks – Advice for nightclub businesses and organisers of large events | ICO](#)
- Request for guidance – info for businesses and event organisers and for customers. [REDACTED] to share.

Document 12:

Scottish Government/Hospitality Sector regular engagement call – Wednesday 3rd November 2021 – 11:30-12:30

On call: [REDACTED] (NTIA), [REDACTED] (NTIA), [REDACTED] (SLTA), [REDACTED] (SP&BA), [REDACTED] (SHG), [REDACTED] (TLT Solicitors),

[REDACTED] (SLLP), David McPhee (SG, Safer Workplaces), [REDACTED] (SG, Safer Workplaces), John Harden (SG Deputy National Clinical Director) [REDACTED] (SG Tourism & Hospitality Unit), [REDACTED] (SG, Tourism and Hospitality Team) [REDACTED] (OCEA Tourism and Culture Economics)

[REDACTED] joined call and gave a presentation on state of the pandemic based on latest Public Health Scotland stats. A Q&A followed. Majority of questions around the age demographics and if these could be broken down more to show specifics.:

Summary of points raised in presentation:

- Currently rates are sitting at 2,500 cases a day – by way of contrast lockdowns brought the case numbers down to near enough 0.
- Averaging 300 cases per 100,000 individuals per week, with level of control measures currently associated with Beyond Level 0 (basket of baseline measures).
- All data available on the Public Health Scotland website.
- 25 – 44 age group case numbers are increasing. Seeing that in the older age groups as well.
- More hospital admissions now compared to pre vaccination.
- Younger demographic being admitted to hospitals now. The ones that aren't vaccinated are coming off worse. Deaths overall are lower now compared to previously, and that's is down to the vaccination working.
- Interventions are necessary to reduce the spread pool of the disease, especially going into winter.
- Anything over 100 Covid hospital admission per day is a tipping point, beyond which pressure on NHS risks become unsustainable.

Stakeholder comments and questions

[REDACTED] (NTIA):

- Covid certification is having a major economic impact – between 20 – 40% down and still seeing the adverse effects around racial discrimination, abuse of staff and some real damage to business and damage to long term position within communities.
- Fair to say that everybody at this table is in agreement that the Covid certification passport is a complete waste of time.
- Many businesses only have weeks before they will most likely close. This is something that the industry has pointed out since day 1 and it is having that impact. It will continue to have this sort of impact. Really need to get to a point where we find solutions, to redefine the policy to mitigate some of the damage or government needs to take up responsibility to compensate those businesses.

[REDACTED] (SP&BA):

- Can testing be taken alongside certification passports for those who will otherwise miss out on festive period due to time required between doses. Suggest use of testing as an alternative, for those who cannot get second vax

until next year. Ask that SG amend to bring in that if you have your first vax and show a negative lateral flow test then that can grant people access to hospitality venues for 24 hrs?

[REDACTED] (TNT Solicitors) :

- Is Covid certification is going to be expanded out to wider hospitality?

[REDACTED] (NTIA):

- Businesses are taking a hammering because groups of people are deciding not to go (i.e. if a group of 10 are planning to go to a venue, but 1 of them only has the 1st vax, then the whole group are deciding not to go to the venue which is a huge problem for the industry). The staying away issue is the biggest issue for the sector as a whole.
- Based on all the evidence that was presented at start of meeting, the targeting of this is completely off. Feels like it is specifically being targeted on the one age group (20-24) that is not demonstrating an upsurge in cases at the moment.
- General frustration continues and grows – in last week's statement by FM on review – there was no reference other than a passing reference to the scheme, which is immensely frustrating. Government is not acknowledging or understanding the impact.
- All door staff must be SIA credited for nightclub and hybrid venues and there is a significant shortage of staff. Vax certs requires more of door staff, and therefore more staff each night that previously needed to process same number of customers in same time, and manage queues. These staff do not exist.

[REDACTED] (SHG)

- Waiting for FM to join one of these meetings – industry now becoming impatient.
- Have been asking since August for Government to release a full winter plan – what's going to happen if more restrictions come into play, and where will the financial support come from should this happen?
- Request for an SG spokesperson/Minister to put out comms on the abuse of staff within hospitality sector, and indicate firmly that this is not acceptable.
- If certification is rolled out further in hospitality – the industry feels this should be rolled about the whole of society, not just hospitality.
- Would like to see evidence to show how certification is reducing infection rates.

Document 13:

Scottish Government/Hospitality Sector regular engagement call – Wednesday 10th November 2021 – 11:30-12:30

On call: [REDACTED] (NTIA), [REDACTED] (NTIA), [REDACTED] (SLTA), [REDACTED] (SP&BA), [REDACTED] (SHG), [REDACTED] (TLT Solicitors), [REDACTED] (EHO Representative) [REDACTED] (UKH) [REDACTED] (SG, Safer Workplaces), Liz Sadler (SG Covid Ready Society) Marion McCormack (SG Covid Ready Society) Colin Cook (SG Director of Economic Development) [REDACTED] (SG Tourism & Hospitality Unit), [REDACTED] (SG, Tourism and Hospitality Team) [REDACTED] (OCEA Tourism and Culture Economics)

The topic of the meeting was the DFM statement on 9th November, the concerns the sector have re extension of the vax cert scheme and ongoing issues with the operation of the current scheme. Representative of CRS, and Director Economic Development were in attendance to respond on key points and hear the discussion.

Introductory comments

- Group will be aware that Ministers make a judgment every three weeks on whether the current restrictions provide the right balance, with the next formal review is 16 November
- Ministers will decide then, on the basis of the evidence at that time, whether to retain the current baseline measures, whether to relax them or whether they need to be increased
- Vaccination certification could be extended to other sectors, or it could have no role to play
That will depend on a judgment on proportionality, which is the legal duty Ministers have to fulfil
- As we head into winter and case rates remain stubbornly high, hospitalisation and ICU admissions are also high meaning the health service is under intense pressure. This was set out in last week's presentation from [REDACTED].
- Ministers want to keep the economy open
- No decisions have been made but officials have been asked us to consider whether certification should be expanded to a wider range of settings
- DFM indicated yesterday this could include hospitality and some leisure settings
- Work also underway to allow a recent negative lateral flow test should be an alternative to proof of vaccination
- Definitions and scope still to be determined
- Any expansion of the scheme would need to be subject to parliamentary agreement
- Purpose of today's particular discussion is to share thinking on this with you. gauge initial reactions and any particular (new) issues arising.
- Also to gather more information on practical issues and economic impact.

Stakeholder comments and questions

[REDACTED] (SB&PA):

- Troubling to hear what DFM said yesterday – if government decides to extend the certification into wider hospitality venues then this will be disastrous for the

industry. There will be a number of practical and operational difficulties if being operated how it is in other venues.

- SIA/door staff is still going to be an issue
- Would not have ability to check customers at the door if extending out to other premises. Most businesses could not afford another person to put on the door to do these checks.
- Economic impact on the businesses we are seeing 20-40% down since the introduction of the scheme. Premises trying to take themselves out of scope as they cannot afford to put measures in place to comply with the policy.
- A lot of English visitors will be coming up for festive period – the season is of critical importance to operators as sees businesses through the lean period beginning of the year. Businesses have no cushion going into this period.
- Lack of financial support from UKG or SG deeply concerning.
- It is difficult to see how scheme would work going by what has been going on so far, and fact it is building on a already flawed approach.

[REDACTED] (NTIA):

- In terms of update on trading impact. Seeing identical issues to turnover that we saw in the first week. Does not see uptake in vaccine uptake in relevant age demographics. Venues that have taken themselves out of scope (i.e stopped dancing etc.) still seeing reduction in turnover of 24%. For nightclubs it has been consistent in 45-50% downfall in turnover.
- On average footfall down 36% for nightclubs and 24% for pubs that have taken themselves out of scope. This is unsustainable.
- A lot of these businesses are now accruing more debt and unable to pay Covid debts. Creditors now enforcing debt collectors (HMRC).
- Staffing – significant cuts to staff hours (premises responding to the downfall in turnover) as a result of the current policy – will only get worse if rolled out further. This is affecting take home pay of many staff.
- Already seeing enquiries from group bookings for festive period – including a lot of cancellations due to some people in group not being vaxxed.
- Significant increase in anti vax sentiment on social media – definitely noticeable online. Significant increase in house parties. People no longer going to venues – going to house parties instead. Much worse ventilation or no hygiene standards so this is a concerning trend triggered by the implementation of covid vaccination passports.
- There is a lack of evidence on transmissions within hospitality venues.

[REDACTED] (SHG):

- Just had a cancellation for a group booking of 18 people worth £3.5k and they have now booked private lodges through AirBnB. Losing too much business because of the certification.
- Moving forward – how can we move forward, if we don't resolve the issues we are currently having. The reduction in footfall is now putting a lot of businesses into the negative.

- If going to be rolled out to other premises there has to be a fundamental change of policy – it will cause confusion which will result in people staying home/house parties and this will cause a spike in infections.

[REDACTED] (SLTA)

- Appreciate we don't know what the extension of the scheme is going to be, but we are all expecting the worst. The bottom line is, if we have to have SIA accredited individuals on doors at all times when premises is open – that is going to shut down the whole industry. Don't think it's been taken seriously enough.
- Amazed that there are reports that exist saying the certification policy has been a success, and insulted to see reduction in trade being quoted as a sign it must be working.
- There continues to be lack of clarity of aims of policy, told at this group vax uptake was only one (secondary) factor But Minister for Covid Recovery saying on GMS, this is a core aim of policy.
- Has asked repeatedly for info on vax uptake broken down by age groups for vax cert – still not seen this?
- Taking part in Covid recovery committee next week.
- Still waiting for details on grants for improving ventilation. No info on this what so ever.
- If SG is looking at other countries to compare how the certification process is going – can you please ensure comparisons are valid (we compare apples with apples).

[REDACTED] (UKH)

- Speaking with members since yesterday and the industry is beginning to see it as a war against hospitality. Concern that the fact sector is in such a fragile state is being ignored and misunderstood.
- Night time businesses – impact of certification has hit overall footfall in city centres, businesses saying they are much lighter in numbers.
- Lot of discussion about other countries introducing this – can economists look at the evidence coming from these countries – a lot of media I have seen shows they are also struggling – and there are significant concerns and resistance (unrest). Not reasonable to argue that other countries have successfully done this, when they have not and indeed are seeing new waves (France and Germany)
- A lot of members are thinking of just closing up after the festive period.
- Yesterday's news that this might be coming has caused further dismay and hit business confidence at a time where businesses should be planning for the festive period.

[REDACTED] (NTIA)

- Particularly concerning comms that came from Mr Leitch and Swinney. Data that was provided last week misused. Mr Leitch said that downturn in trade this was proof that it meant the policy was working? To say this is a success

when businesses are turning people away at doors is ridiculous. Made me extremely angry.

- Comments were inappropriate, didn't address the damage caused to our businesses, many of us have debt issues – HMRC are chasing, bounce back loans being collected from Jan onwards.
- Evidence on the ground is showing that the policy isn't a success.
- Financial impacts on us are profound and the reality is that we are seeing a severe economic impact on the sector.
- Mr Leitch this morning – main point of policy is to increase vax uptake. David McPhee in particular the last couple meetings stated that the main point of policy is the public health concern – contradicting messages across government. Very disrespectful to our industry. Wondering what the point in these engagement in the first place if the info we are feeding in is not being used?
- People that are turned away from our doors damaged business but it's the people that don't come in the first place that really damage business.

Points made from all industry reps that it takes 3 – 4 months from recruitment to being able to have someone on the door that is SIA accredited. SIA website says that if refusing entry to a licensed premise then you must be SIA accredited. Currently there is a shortage of doormen for the industry which is another real concern.

Document 14:

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 11 November 2021 14:43

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Sadler E (Elizabeth) <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; McCormack M (Marion) <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Covid-19 Director <covid-19.director@gov.scot>; SGLD Covid Legislation <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; McPhee D (David) <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: My rough notes from Cabinet

Hi all

Some feedback from the SEC on increasing the % of spot checks above 20%. I've brought in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who'd emailed separately asking for similar feedback.

I think the key message is they can do 100% scanned checks for consumer trade fairs and peripheral business events, and 20% scanned checks for live events are

workable. Any more than 20% for live events would be challenging given extra staffing involved and given pressure of people arriving near start time, and would mean a move to visual checks only (which could be argued to be a less robust check). Any would need an appropriate lead-in time to plan for – end of the month discussed and they said at least that.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

- SEC operated certification for Crafts for Xmas (business to consumer a trade fair), a large event which achieved 100% checks (this is possible given the format of craft fairs where arrival is staggered over the day). The biggest issue at that was the older audience and their knowledge of whether an exhibition was in scope (the SG media comms were primarily focused on football, nightclubs and gigs), and therefore there was a gap in the knowledge of what was needed for entry. SEC advance comms were robust – but it's not always guaranteed to be read or to land with the ticket holder themselves, especially for this demographic.
- Because of COP 26 the SEC has not yet operated in the live environment with refusals required, the first event that will do that is Fat Boy Slim on 19 November. They have a robust plan in place increased further from the trials to achieve 20% checks (given the planning time required it would be very difficult to increase the % required for that event at this stage).
- In terms of increasing the expected minimum % of sport checks at large events to above 20% further into the future – in the main the SEC think they can achieve 20% for live events and closer to 100% for exhibitions and peripheral business events. They would not like to see an increase from 20% for live events. It's too pressured an environment, especially closer to show start where there is a significant volume of people dealt with in a very short period of time. The demographic of the audience for certain shows has a large bearing on what stewards are already faced with (which include bag and person checks for alcohol and illegal substances) – to increase this beyond 20% in the current format would not be welcomed.
- Unlike football spectators who are now starting to repeatedly attend and show certificates, and so increasingly know what's expected, gig and other live events will often be one-off attendances and so attendees are less likely to be prepared and compliant, even with advance comms from the SEC.
- The current 20% the SEC is achieving is scanned checks of the QR code. They would be likely to get above this with visual checks only which would be compliant with the guidance but there would appear to be a trade-off between the robustness of the checking using scanning vs the volume / % that can be achieved which is higher with visual checks. We discussed that throughout the pandemic there has been a reliance on the public acting honestly in line

with the rules that are in place, which would appear to be in line with visual checks.

- Noted that if events of under 500 people indoors come into scope the impact that will have on additional staff required across the whole site will mean that visual checks only is what is likely to be possible.
- If a comparison is being made to 100% checks for very large events in Wales they would like to understand whether that is scanning or visual checks, along with the physical circumstances of the venues achieving that to see how comparable that is to their circumstances.
- SEC continue to be supportive of adding testing as an alternative to vaccine certification.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]|Head of Major Events Unit| Scottish Government

Document 15:

**Coronavirus- marriage- potential expansion of COVID vaccine certification
Note of meeting with Scottish Wedding Industry Alliance (SWIA)
11 November 2021**

Attending: [REDACTED] (SWIA), [REDACTED] (SWIA), [REDACTED] (SG), [REDACTED] (SG), [REDACTED] (National Records of Scotland), [REDACTED] (SG), [REDACTED] (SG), [REDACTED] (SG)

1. [REDACTED] SG opened the meeting. SWIA would be aware of the announcement by the Deputy First Minister (DFM) on 9 November and possibly his appearance on Good Morning Scotland yesterday, that Scottish Ministers were considering, in advance of the 3 week review point next Tuesday, whether an expansion of the Covid vaccine certification scheme was necessary and proportionate. DFM indicated this could include hospitality and some leisure settings. Any expansion of the scheme would be likely to include an alternative of a recent negative lateral flow test as well a vaccine certificate or evidence of exemption.
2. No decision has been made yet but Ministers will decide on the basis of the evidence next week whether to expand the scheme. Ministers' key aim is to keep the economy open but we are heading into winter and case rates are still high and hospital and ICU admissions are also high. [REDACTED] SG noted that she and [REDACTED] (SG) were engaged in a range of meeting with tourism and hospitality stakeholders to get their initial reactions and hear about any particular issues for different sectors.
3. [REDACTED] (SWIA) said that his and SWIA's immediate reaction was that they had not seen this possibility coming and were devastated it was even being suggested that receptions might be caught by the scheme in the future. The

possibility suggests that Ministers do not appreciate the impact for a business sector such as weddings which has very long lead in times (couples book well in advance) when this announcement could be implemented in the immediate future.

4. He noted that couples were already choosing to marry south of the border where there were no restrictions at all and no COVID vaccine certification. Wedding businesses are also still dealing with legal difficulties from the situation as it is now. Some couples who were booked were arguing that venues could not as a result of the current restrictions organise the wedding they had booked for.

5. Any further change would simply result in couples cancelling their entire wedding and this would have a catastrophic impact: the supply chain would be as impacted as the venues due to host the weddings. This would then lead to difficulties with couples cancelling. It could raise issues again about the guidance of the Competition and Markets Authority on entitlements to refunds.

6. [REDACTED] (SWIA) noted that they had sought views from their members via Facebook and the vast majority (80%) of those who responded were objecting to the use of the certification scheme for wedding receptions.

7. Members objecting were raising concerns around evidence on passports preventing spread of the virus. Some SWIA members were asking about the couple, noting that there may be situations where the couple marrying would not be double jabbed. Many were raising concerns around the adverse impact for the human rights of the couples and guests and expressing a lack of confidence in the vaccine data and saying that there was a lack of data around the beneficial impact of the certification scheme itself.

8. Others were concerned about the wider implications of an expansion and wondered what other areas of life and society might be next.

9. SWIA noted that whilst their members heavily opposed expanding the certification scheme to cover wedding receptions, it would be better for any expanded scheme to include the possibility of testing as an alternative to being double vaccinated.

10. [REDACTED] (SWIA) noted generally that the evidence from their Facebook page was that there were strong upset among their members and that there was a lack of trust in Government at present. She was personally very worried and noted that the impacts could not be underestimated for both venues and businesses in the supply chain for weddings.

11. [REDACTED] (SG) emphasised that there was no confirmed announcement that any expansion of the scheme would include wedding receptions. The views of SWIA and other stakeholders obtained through stakeholder engagement such as this meeting would be fed in.

12. [REDACTED] (SWIA) noted that in the last 3 months his experience was of couples and their guests starting to enjoy their weddings again and venues being able to deliver the events that they also enjoy delivering. However, the industry and

the supply chain remain fragile and there is an underlying fear for the future. While they are busy at present compared to the previous position and there are weddings booked for 2024, 2023 is not that busy. A change now may take them back to a position of conflict with couples who want refunds.

13. [REDACTED] (SG) noted that some stakeholders had raised a question around the operation of the scheme now and asked whether more liability could be placed on individuals accessing settings, rather than the manager of venues bearing the sole responsibility.

14. Commenting on that, [REDACTED] (SWIA) said that in their experience individuals were actually very responsible and would be unlikely to seek to falsify their status. People were acting very responsibly, admitting when they have had a positive test and not attending the wedding. [REDACTED] (SWIA) mentioned a recent wedding where the father of the bride had flu and had decided not to attend his daughter's wedding and instead watched the proceedings from his room.

15. [REDACTED] (SG) said that if SWIA had any evidence of likely impact, statistics and so on that might be useful for Ministers' considerations, it would be helpful to send those on as soon as possible this week. She referred to any evidence of the economic impact, such as couples choosing to travel to other countries or cancelling. In response to a question from [REDACTED] (SWIA) about evidence of a link between the current application of the scheme and beneficial results in terms of transmission or hospitality admission, [REDACTED] (SG) noted that there was no clear line of sight between each baseline measure and a public health outcome. There was evidence that the combined basket of measures was making a difference but the question at present was whether the basket of baseline measures was making sufficient impact.

16. [REDACTED] (SG) asked whether there might be an argument that expanding the scheme to include wedding receptions and offering the option of a negative test for those who were not vaccinated and not exempt from vaccination would reassure guests who were otherwise nervous of attending a busy event. [REDACTED] (SWIA) said they could consider asking this of their couples to see what their views were. [REDACTED] (SWIA) wondered if this was appropriate and might just create more uncertainty and result in couples being more nervous about the likely outcome of the decision next week.

[[REDACTED] (SG) and [REDACTED] (SG) left the meeting at this point to attend another meeting.]

17. [REDACTED] (SG) indicated that the current expectation was that ceremonies were likely to be excluded from any expansion of the scheme. SG recognised that if receptions were included but ceremonies excluded this might create some practical issues for venues.

18. [REDACTED] (SWIA) advised that the ceremony was only a very small aspect of a wedding and really the experience of a wedding was about the reception and receptions drove the wedding industry. The ceremony might only costs a few hundred pounds. [REDACTED] mentioned that a survey of couples had suggested

that the average spend on a wedding was £20,800. [REDACTED] (SWIA) advised that the average benefit to the economy of a full wedding was around £35,000 once the spending of guests on accommodation, travel and so on was also included.

19. [REDACTED] (SWIA) noted that couples' confidence had returned since the lifting of the restrictions on numbers and that the momentum which had been built up since then would be entirely reversed if the expansion included receptions.

20. He wondered if it would be possible for SWIA members to meet with the DFM and Jason Leitch so that they could get answers to their questions.

21. [REDACTED] (SWIA) mentioned that during winter, numbers of weddings were usually lower and that there would be little beneficial impact before the end of the year of including receptions in the scheme.

22. Turning to the existing requirement for face coverings, [REDACTED] (SG) mentioned that officials have heard some anecdotal evidence from celebrants and registrars that this requirement was largely being ignored by guests at marriage ceremonies. [REDACTED] (SWIA) said that his venue was being strict on this and those attending were being reminded of the legal requirement for face coverings. Staff were actively promoting their use. He felt that there was a lack of consistency in enforcement and mentioned a picture SWIA had shared on their twitter of some attendees at a meeting that he advised had been attended by Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, as part of COP26 where face coverings were not being worn. [REDACTED] (SG) noted that he could not offer comment on that meeting, at which he had not been present.

23. [REDACTED] (SWIA) said that they would send on any material that might be helpful in demonstrating the impact of including receptions in the certification scheme. [REDACTED] (SG) said that SG would keep in touch with SWIA.

[The meeting came to a close at 9.45.]

**Family Law Policy Unit
11 November 2021**

Document 16:

MEETING WITH ASVA – COVID CERTIFICATION – 11 NOVEMBER 2021

Attendees:

[REDACTED], CEO, ASVA
[REDACTED], T&H, Scottish Government
[REDACTED], T&H, Scottish Government

[REDACTED] (SG) opened the meeting by speaking about the DFM announcement yesterday explaining that Ministers make a judgment every three weeks on whether the current restrictions provide the right balance. The next formal review is 16 November. Vaccination certification could be extended to other sectors, including visitor attractions. That will depend on a judgment on proportionality, which is the legal

duty ministers have to fulfil. No decisions have been made but ministers have asked us to consider whether certification should be expanded to a wider range of settings.

This meeting is an opportunity to discuss this matter this with you and for you to highlight any particular issues.

[REDACTED] (ASVA) said that ASVA always put safety first and work responsibly as a sector. The recent ASVA survey highlighted that two thirds of attractions continue to operate physical distancing, one way systems etc. 92.8% of attractions operate with enhanced measures, above the mandatory, which includes the biggest operators who restrict numbers.

Board members would like to see the evidence to suggest that visitors to attractions are spreading the virus, especially in relation to supermarkets who have no entry control in place. The sector workforce are still feeling battered and bruised from the pandemic and introduction another layer of measures will involve more checking if certification put in place. If no evidence is produced this introduction will show increased mental health issues and economic harm.

The visitor demographic are an older audience who are mostly double vaccinated, therefore this introduction to the sector will not help with encouraging younger people to be vaccinated.

[REDACTED] (ASVA) added that attractions already have good mitigations in place and care about visitors.

[REDACTED] (ASVA) followed up the meeting with the following summary:

As a follow up, to summarise the concerns about imposing certification measures on attractions:

- **Quality of experience for staff and visitors;** stress, delays, changing comms creating confusion and frustration
- **Enforcement:** Who is liable/responsible for policing?
- **Economic impact:** Indoor attractions are still in survival mode with visitor numbers down by more than 50% on pre-pandemic levels. The signal that further restrictions are needed in our sector will only slow down the recovery further.
- **Consistency:** SG offering £4m in Day Out fund to a sector then restricted by measures which will discourage visitation (not because of the need to show certification, but because the need for further restriction indicates that our sector is not safe).
- **Proportionality:**– are attractions a real and genuine threat compared to other sites/locations/experiences? – **This is the key question from my members.**

Overall, unless there is evidence that shows our sector is contributing to the spread and the measures we are currently enforcing are not working (which include timed

entry, one ways systems and physical distancing at two thirds of attractions, including virtually every major attraction in the country), mandating covid certification regulation on our sector is likely to see economic and mental health harms that far out way the benefits.

Document 17:

BACTA Feedback received 12 November 2021 – Widening of certification into Leisure facilities including amusement arcades

Bacta does not support the introduction of vaccine passports for entry to the premises we represent, principally High Street Adult Gaming Centres and Family Entertainment Centres at the coast. Very quickly these are the reasons:

- The value generally of vaccine passports is questionable, and the numbers of infections doesn't appear to be accelerating
- The infrastructure for monitoring entrances, particularly at seaside venues where the front and sides of the venue are all open, does not exist. Door monitoring is not something we have done in any venue.
- There is a cost to doing anything like this. Given the impact of the pandemic every cost really requires a solid justification, and as mentioned above the value is questionable.
- Our customers' demographic for seaside arcades is clearly family members. The vaccine passport would not apply to children and therefore again one has to question its value.
- In the High Street Gaming Centre sector the demographic is much older. Many of our customers won't have the technology to access a vaccine passport. Are their freedoms to be curtailed just because they don't have a smartphone?
- Are vaccine passports going to be required of the staff who work in venues where vaccine passports apply? Again this is introducing a compulsory condition to employment contracts that goes beyond the reasonable.
- As we mentioned many times during the pandemic, our venues are very low risk. Through the winter seaside arcades will not have many customers and in many cases will not be open for much of the winter. Even in winter they are well ventilated. High Street arcades they are never particularly busy and customers tend to be stationery.
- Cleaning regimes and mask wearing are still in place.

Document 18:

Notes of meeting 17 November 2021

On call: [REDACTED] (NTIA), [REDACTED] (NTIA), [REDACTED] (SLTA), [REDACTED] (SP&BA), [REDACTED] (SHG), [REDACTED] (TLT Solicitors),

[REDACTED] (UKH) [REDACTED] (SG Tourism & Hospitality Unit), [REDACTED] (SG, Tourism and Hospitality Team) [REDACTED] (OCEA Tourism and Culture Economics) [REDACTED] (subbing for [REDACTED] – EHO rep) David McPhee (DD, Covid Safer Workplaces) [REDACTED] (Head of FACTS Unit) [REDACTED] () [REDACTED] (Head of Getting It Right for Every Child) [REDACTED] (Covid Safer Workplaces) [REDACTED] (Covid Safer Workplaces)

Context:

- Industry have a meeting with Mr McKee in diaries for tomorrow 1pm – invite will be issued this afternoon.
- Take big issues around implementation around the current scheme to meeting tomorrow.
- We are hoping [REDACTED] is back tomorrow.
- Timetable – covid committee tomorrow morning and Mr Swinney also appearing.
- Statement on Tuesday setting out latest decision – no decisions been made yet. FM just commented on we will be publishing evidence paper at end of this week ahead of next Tuesday's update.
- All info being provided to us is being fed in to this.
- Date identified of any extended scheme is the 6th December (decision still to be made).

Key issues on implementation on current scheme:

[REDACTED] (SLTA):

- Meeting with KPMG this morning and one discussion was around covid passports. One individual actually had experience of going to a pool hall and told eventually you will need a covid passport to get in pretty soon. 8 from group decided to download the app and only 5 could get the certification passport. Problem being that the app could not find the details of the 3 individuals – not the best.
- Officials commented that work is going on behind the scenes to fix bugs/glitches happening with the app and will also feed this info into the discussions being had before final decision made.

[REDACTED] (SHG):

- Unique user information – industry have still not seen this – when can we see it? David McPhee to ask for update on this information. Can see how many people have downloaded app and certification downloaded. Mainly looking at the age group demographics. Double checking with colleagues.
- Clarification on the email sent round on the SIA information ASAP.
- Gateway – will the gateway percentage be extended because of the booster vaccinations? When we get to the point (example 92%) does this mean that it will go on and on and on? I.e 4th booster, 5th booster etc.
- Officials commented that Ministers have not said it is as simple as reaching a gateway.

[REDACTED] (NTIA):

- Encouraging to hear that the certification scheme was finally addressed in parliament yesterday and also the point about lateral flow tests being used instead of vaccinations to have access to premises.
- If any changes are thinking to be brought in – does that include any potential change on the policy to include lateral flow tests?
- This would have a positive impact for a lot of people in the industry. No definitive answer on this yet – it is still under consideration. 6th will be the earliest that any changes come in.
- To clarify something – whether or not the booster vaccinations are going to be included in vaccination passports moving forward? Officials commented that all we can confirm is that there is work underway on this point.

[REDACTED] (NTIA):

- Surveyed all of the publican and licensed trade bodies across Scotland and put survey results to officials beginning of this week. The results are frankly pretty grim around financial impact for premises that have currently been affected by the certification scheme.
- Weekly reminder that businesses are still occurring trade losses and it will not go away.
- There was a concern around some of the terminology officials were using on the call - Note concern at terminology around squeezing uptake in vaccinations – industry have been numerous times that vaccination increase was not the main aim of the scheme however other ministers have come out and said that is the case. Officials cleared that one of the purposes of the policy was to increase vaccination uptake – not the main purpose.

[REDACTED] (SP&BA):

- Downturn in general trade since introduction of covid passports across whole sector not just those premises in scope.
- Inflation rates concerns that feed into industries financial concerns.
- Main trading season for our industry is coming up and it is essential government get the policy right or it will be detrimental.

Ministers are clear internally – the best way to deal with the virus is through vaccination. Keen for everyone to get the booster which increases immunity dramatically. So ministers are clear, the best way to get on top of the virus is through vaccination including boosters.

Discussion around expansion:

4 options to expansion as below:

- 1 – no change
- 2 – expand scheme
- 3 - expand scheme and add negative lateral flow tests in the policy
- 4 – expand the scheme and add negative lateral flow and pcr test to the scheme.

[REDACTED] (NTIA):

- 3 big problems with the scheme. If we look at passport uptake – nights out in hospitality tend not to be planned. With only a quarter of population having a vaccine passport, 75% of customers would not be able to enter our premises. Ask what have the government done to increase the comms on vaccine passports to drive the uptake in vaccinations/people downloading the app??
- In terms of options set out – clearly all will cause damage to our sector. We reject the scheme all together but if you are going to do, don't do it in December – push it back to first week in January.
- If you damage trading more in December then businesses won't get through Winter.
- HMRC are threatening to put businesses out of action and other parts of Government (SG) limiting to what we can do.

[REDACTED] (TLT Solicitors):

- Announcement yesterday about covid vaccine passports being decided and could be implemented on 6th December.
- First Minister makes a decision and we all need to run round and deal with the consequences.
- We cannot answer the question – we cannot actually touch policy or know what announcement the FM is making.
- Real lack of evidence being put forward by the sector who are all currently in in a reactive state still.
- Each possibility has to be worked through - not once have they been worked through since the start of pandemic– it is having a severe impact on this sector.
- Wrong attitude towards the sector which is important for a lot of people's livelihoods.
- Business failures are coming in the near future.
- Formulation of these discussions need to be reassessed.

[REDACTED] (SG):

- We all care about getting this right, reality is that this all happens at pace.
- Don't have a defined bucket yet of all options– and never really been in a position to have this.
- Its not that I don't want to do it – part of it is the pace in which this works.
- The decision on the extension has not been made yet and won't be made until Tuesday (next week).
- It is still a bit uncertain because case rate numbers are actually down today.
- We have a duty to ensure everything we do is proportionate and this is something we are held too. By no way is this a done deal or set in stone.

[REDACTED] (UKH):

- Difficulty in coming up with least worst scenario – when certification was brought in it was targeting certain parts of hospitality and we are already talking about extending it.

- How long before its extended again? Point is, if SG thinks certification is the way to keep people safe etc.. why not roll it out so you need to show a certification passport by having it everywhere (i.e supermarkets, buses etc..). I don't think extending further out to hospitality that this is going to really change anything.
- Gradual introduction as we know just leads to misplacement (people going to house parties etc which we are seeing now) difficult for us to say a least worst as some colleagues will be thrown under the bus either way.

Officials states that this is about being prepared and doing the least we can to get the best outcome for infection control. Suggest the industry raise all of this again with Ivan McKee tomorrow and officials have encouraged group to discuss the options between themselves ahead of the meeting.

Need clarity from SIA around rejecting people into premises who don't have a covid vaccination passport – sector says staff need to be SIA accredited whereas SIA have said this is not the case – need clear lines on this from SIA. SG officials to go away and look into this.

Document 19:

Scottish Government Meeting with Hospitality on Certification and Baseline Measures

Attendees:

- [REDACTED] (PT)
- [REDACTED] (SM)
- [REDACTED] (GS)
- [REDACTED] (CW)
- [REDACTED] (CL)
- [REDACTED] (LT)
- [REDACTED] (AG)
- [REDACTED] (MG)

SG Officials: [REDACTED], David McPhee, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

Discussion

Overview on Current State of the Pandemic

COVID-19 cases have risen slightly to around 3,000 per day and appear to be plateauing around this level, therefore if there are increases this would place substantial pressure on the NHS. Cases are higher in younger demographics. Currently there are 250 people in ICU and 63 of these are COVID patients as of 19 November.

- Hospitalisations from COVID-19 are at a low level compared to cases, and questions were raised around this, whether it is down to general uptake or the boosters? And what the SG is doing to promote boosters? (PT and GS).
 - Noted that admissions are in older demographics and boosters are a priority. However, it is all about balance as younger people, who are likely to be unvaccinated, that are hospitalised may take up a hospital bed for longer than others. We also need to be cautious as cases take around 3-4 weeks to have an impact on hospitalisations.

Certification and Baseline Measures

[REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]

Baseline Measures:

Baseline measures have remained in place in Scotland to help reduce the risk of infection, these include face coverings in indoor public spaces. These could be extended (for instance requiring face masks at outdoor events and stadia) or additional measures, such as requiring table service or a queuing system in hospitality premises.

- Question around additional baseline measures is if they are more or less damaging than certification? Considering the measures mentioned, they appear to more damaging as profitability is impacted more, and impacts will vary over different premises. Restaurants already have table service so there will be a greater impact in bars. Hospitality businesses have significantly high fixed costs, particularly if they rent the premises, and reducing the profitability without any financial support could have significant impact. (GS and CW)
- Boosters should be the priority so how does certification and baseline measures, plus those further measures that are suggested help improve booster uptake? Are additional or expansion of existing measures necessary as cases could drop? Is there potential for some support for businesses during the Christmas period or exemptions to enforcement around Christmas (for instance if some parties have people who have just turned 18 and not fully vaccinated yet), to save the full booking being cancelled? (GS and SM)
- LFD testing was accepted for COP26 and there seems to be no spike from that, so why is this not accepted for businesses? Need to consider that a group of unvaccinated people within a wider group may drive decisions of the group, which may lead them to unregulated spaces like house parties. Including LFD tests may allow them to go to a late night premises which has mitigations in place. (MG)
- [REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]
- LFD testing could lessen the economic impact, but not completely, it would also help reduce transmission, and would be a welcome addition to the scheme. The Northern Irish scheme, similar to German scheme, requires people to provide a negative LFD test, or proof of double vaccination, or receive positive PCR test in last 30-180 days. (GS)
- It would be useful for businesses to know what is the exit strategy as the current policy is not sustainable for businesses. (PT and GS)

- Certification with LFD testing was considered to be the favoured option for hospitality, and the SG is considering adding testing to the certification scheme. Communications are targeted to improve booster uptake and this is improving. As the regulations currently stand, certification is due to end in February 2022, however it will be reviewed every three weeks.

DOCUMENT 20:

6th Meeting - COVID Vaccine Certification Roundtable

Monday, 22nd November 2021

Points of Note:

- Jason Leitch pointed out that COVID rates were rising among teenagers and 40-49 year olds.
- Only 265 cases out of 400,000 tests at COP26. The Blue Zone was 1/3 infection rate of general population. This is because of vaccination and daily lateral flow tests.
- The role that COVID certification can play in that league table of mitigations is open. It can help make a place safe, but how safe do we want our locations to be? That's a question for politicians.
- There was support from multiple stakeholders in the music events industry for adding a Lateral Flow Test as an alternative to the vaccine certificate. One stakeholder pointed out that the major obstacle at the moment was dealing with customers who were being refused entry. Adding an LFT to the scheme would mean that venues could provide an alternative to simply refusing entry outright – they could even provide the Lateral Flow Devices themselves and ask people to come back when they'd done the test.
- Music festivals thought checking people's COVID status wasn't as tricky as they had expected.
- Audrey MacDougall (Analysis Division, Scottish Government) stated that there is high public awareness of and support for certification. 3/10 more likely to attend events, but 1/5 less likely to attend.
- [REDACTED] from the Edinburgh Playhouse stated that they have voluntarily been requesting vaccine certificates or an LFT on their doors for some weeks now. They are busier than ever, and the public seem supportive too.
- [REDACTED] from the NTIA stated that this industry had seen significant decrease in attendance or turnover – up to 40%. Substantial sites taking themselves out of scope e.g. decommissioning dancefloors – down 20%.
- As was picked up during the meeting by stakeholders, there was some difference in views towards the scheme's impact depending on whether the business in question relied more on customers who planned their visit in advance or on spontaneous trade. Those sectors that relied on spontaneous trade (e.g. hospitality) had greater concerns around impact than those for

which customers would tend to book their tickets in advance, such as live music.

- There were suggestions raised for how to get the certificates to the public. One suggestion was for SG to send a paper certificate to everyone who is double-jabbed. Another was for SG to provide a small credit card-style card with the information on it to everyone who had had two vaccinations. Jason Leitch stated that SG had considered these options but that they were extremely expensive and might not be good value for money.
- Hospitality suggested that certification should be rolled out much more widely across the economy. This would mean that people would be used to the idea of showing certification as just one of the things that you do, rather than an extra obstacle for a few unusual occasions.
- Hospitality warned of the danger to their businesses of the scheme being in place in the Christmas period, emphasising the amount of trade they do at that time of year. By contrast January tends to be significantly quieter, so they would expect less effect on their yearly profits if the scheme were in operation at that time of year.
- There are several issues that hospitality venues, in particular, continue to face with the scheme as regards door checks. They lack staff to check customers on the doors and legally they are the ones culpable for breaches of the license (not the customer).
- Hospitality and the night time sector continue to have issues relating to the accreditation of door-staff. There is a lack of clarity as to whether door staff legally require SIA accreditation to escort customers off the premises. Moreover, even if this is resolved, many venues' insurance policies state that they have to use SIA-accredited staff in any case. Concerns were also raised at the physical risks to non-accredited staff if they were employed in these roles. SG officials have committed to exploring this further with the hospitality sector and SIA representatives.
- Several sectors, among them cinemas, wanted to know whether there was any evidence about which sectors were likely to pose the greatest risk to public health. Audrey MacDougall (Analysis Division, Scottish Government) stated that it was extremely difficult to isolate this information when there is high community spread of the virus, as we have in Scotland.
- The cinema industry stated that takings had been down 40% in Wales on the weekend the Welsh Government introduced Certification there, while remaining unchanged in the rest of the UK.
- There were queries about displacement of people from hospitality venues to house parties, which might be riskier. Audrey MacDougall (Analysis Division, Scottish Government) stated that to avoid this outcome SG may have to re-impose restrictions on private gatherings, which would be based on current evidence disproportionate.
- The FSB stated that expansion of COVID certification would disproportionately hit small business, and would be especially damaging to smaller firms, which have more debt, are less established, and have fewer

staff. Unlicensed café-type businesses who don't have a lot of contact with authorities suddenly would be in scope.

- Sectors both in scope (hospitality) and being considered to be in scope (cinemas, theatres) stated that SG's communications campaign had not been effective. SG officials agreed that in the event of any expansion, the issue of communications will be given careful consideration.
- Multiple sectors stated that it would be much easier for businesses to financially weather COVID certification if they knew when the scheme would end. SG colleagues stated that regulations covering the scheme expire at the end of February 2022 although there was acknowledgement that this may be extended if it was proportionate to do so in response to the public health challenge.
- The night time industry stated firmly that requiring both a Lateral Flow Test result and a COVID certificate would sound the death knell for hospitality. However, they were very supportive of instituting LFT or certification.
- There was a suggestion that there should be advice at vaccination centres for how to get your COVID certificate, in order to increase the number of people who are eligible for the certificate actually getting one.
- Theatres stated that even being mentioned as potentially in scope by FM was causing an increase in cancellations. There is already confusion about the requirement for mask-wearing, which is obligatory, but people believe otherwise. As detailed above, SG officials note the need for a clear campaign to explain what people need to do. Theatres are already spending a lot on mitigations e.g. ventilation.
- There was a request from the live events industry for SG to give three weeks' notice before changing policy, so that businesses could contact customers and explain any changes.
- There was a request for financial support from hospitality and the live events industry, to mitigate the effects of this policy.

Document 21:

Event Industry Advisory Group Meeting Friday 10 December 2021, via Zoom, 2pm-3pm Meeting Note

Attendance	
[REDACTED]	CEO, SEC
John Harden	Deputy National Clinical Director, Scottish Government
[REDACTED]	President, National Outdoor Events Association / Director, Specialized Security
[REDACTED]	Director, Festivals Edinburgh
[REDACTED]	Director of Operations, SEC
[REDACTED]	Director, 21CC Group Ltd
[REDACTED]	Head of Event Management & Production, DF Concerts (attending for Geoff Ellis)

[REDACTED]	Director of Sport and Events, Glasgow Life (attending for Bridget McConnell)
[REDACTED]	Head of Operations, RHASS
[REDACTED]	Executive Director - Championships, The R&A
[REDACTED]	Freelance Technical Production Manager
[REDACTED]	Deputy Festival Director, HebCelt Festival
[REDACTED]	Director, Black Light Ltd
[REDACTED]	Scottish Commercial Music Industry Association (attending for Lisa Whytock)
[REDACTED]	CEO, EICC
[REDACTED]	Chief Inspector, Police Scotland
[REDACTED]	Concerts Manager, DF Concerts & Events
[REDACTED]	CEO, RHASS
Observers	
[REDACTED]	Head of Major Events, Scottish Government
[REDACTED]	Major Events and Themed Years Team, Scottish Government
[REDACTED]	Major Events Policy, Scottish Government
[REDACTED]	Strategic Communications and Engagement Manager, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	Major Events and Themed Years Team, Scottish Government
[REDACTED]	Major Events Policy, Scottish Government
[REDACTED]	Deputy Director, Major Events and Themed Years
[REDACTED]	Head of Development - Events Industry, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	Interim Head of EventScotland, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	Executive Assistant, VisitScotland
Administrators	
[REDACTED]	Development Manager, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	Brand Experience Manager – Events, VisitScotland
Apologies	
[REDACTED]	Director of Events, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	Head of Business Events, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	Head of EventScotland, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	Managing Director, P&J Live
[REDACTED]	Principal Events Officer, Dundee City Council
[REDACTED]	Director, Rare Management
[REDACTED]	Events PR & Media Manager, VisitScotland
[REDACTED]	CEO, DF Concerts (represented by Colin Rodger)
[REDACTED]	Group Head of Stadium Operations, Scottish Rugby
[REDACTED]	Executive Director, Edinburgh International Festival
[REDACTED]	City Centre Manager, Glasgow City Council
[REDACTED]	CEO, Federation of Scottish Theatre
[REDACTED]	Vice Chair, Society of Chief Environmental Health Officers of Scotland
[REDACTED]	CEO, Scottish Football Association
[REDACTED]	Managing Director, Experience Scotland
[REDACTED]	CEO, Glasgow Life (represented by Billy Garrett)
[REDACTED]	Head of Licensing, Glasgow City Council
[REDACTED]	Scottish Commercial Music Industry Association/ Active Events (represented by Colin Keenan)

1. Welcome and introduction

[REDACTED] welcomed **John Harden**, Deputy National Clinical Director, and EIAG members to the meeting.

[REDACTED] noted (listed above) the apologies received for this meeting.

Members approved the previously circulated draft Meeting Note of the EIAG meeting held on 16 November. [REDACTED] advised that all actions had either been completed or would be picked up later in the agenda.

2. Scottish Government update and discussion

Pandemic update

JH recapped the current situation and highlighted key points from the First Minister's statement earlier in the day.

- Delta variant cases have now levelled off in Scotland to between 2-3,000 per day.
- The new Omicron variant has 32 different mutations and originated in South Africa - where it has spread like 'wildfire' to now become the dominant strain. An increase in infections has led to an increase in hospitalisations.
- There have now been Omicron cases throughout the UK including in Scotland. Evidence indicates that Omicron has a transmission advantage over Delta – with case numbers doubling every 2-3 days. This means that in a room of 100 people, if 1 was positive, then 50-60 of the 100 could get infected (this number is variable depending on the setting).
- There is not enough evidence yet to be certain of vaccine efficacy against Omicron.
- There is not enough evidence yet to identify the severity of illness Omicron will cause. While it is currently thought that Omicron may be slightly less severe, a percentage of people who catch this variant will end up in hospital – the concern then is that even a small percentage (of a larger number of cases) will place strain on the NHS.
- A concern also exists around the impact to industry that an increase in transmissions will have – ScotRail today cancelled 60 services due to staff shortages caused by the need to isolate.
- In light of the current situation, self-isolation guidance has now been updated - if you are a household contact of someone who tests positive you need to isolate for 10 days; if you are not a household contact then you can still undertake a PCR/LFT daily and if it is negative you do not need to isolate (this includes for children in both cases).

[REDACTED], while appreciating the challenges, felt that the industry was being 'softened up' for more damaging restrictions to come; and asked if it's possible to know more in terms of what financial support may become available, and the nature of any forthcoming changes - to allow for advance planning to take place. In reply, JH explained that results from preliminary studies into the transmission of Omicron are due in the next week, with a larger study to then follow – until decision makers have this data it is both difficult to predict what may, and determine what proportionate mitigations need to be, put in place.

On behalf of DF Concerts and several other concert organisers, [REDACTED] asked if the time is now to move to making proof of negative LFT mandatory before events - for all attendees - instead of the current choice of either presenting double vaccination or LFT proof (these tests would be taken at home and not at the venue). It was felt that this could help future-proof the next few weeks by improving the safety aspect of an event, increasing audience confidence, and avoiding the industry potentially being highlighted as a 'problem area'. [REDACTED] noted that, in the case of the SEC, they already include a recommendation in all event communications that attendees return a negative LFT before arriving. While acknowledging that the protocols used at both TRNSMT and COP26 worked well, JH reiterated that data from ongoing studies is needed to identify which approach is best to take with Omicron - and so advisors remain open minded. However, current consensus points to a layered, rather than single, approach being of most benefit. [REDACTED] offered that if 80% of people in the country are already vaccinated, then asking everyone to LFT before attending an event would display the layered approach being sought, however, that any such move could lead to issues if not mandated. LC felt that stronger messaging around LFT is needed, will feed this into officials, and update members on options early next week.

Concerned that significant restrictions may be reimposed, [REDACTED] urged that if this was to happen then the Scottish Government needs to push for financial support to compensate workers on the periphery of the events industry, such as security staff and cleaners – many of whom lost out from lack of support during previous lockdowns. JH reassured that, as highlighted in the First Minister's statement, it is acknowledged that further restrictions would require additional support and that discussions on this subject are taking place with the UK Treasury, in parallel with the Welsh Government. [REDACTED] felt that being part of a four nations approach on such discussions was beneficial.

While highlighting that some events are already starting to cancel or postpone to later in 2022 or even 2023 - and the financial impact of this happening – [REDACTED] asked if it was known i) what restrictions are being considered and ii) in what order and timescale they may be implemented. JH explained that we don't want to revisit past restrictions unless absolutely necessary. Evidence will indicate how far we need to go. But with the virus doubling every 2-3 days, it's a race to understand what should be put in place to stay ahead of vaccine growth. It is hoped that initial data knowledge will be available within 1.5 weeks; it was cautioned that an adapted vaccine will take at least 3 months to develop. [REDACTED] raised concern around this timescale, citing a nervousness with any policy change in the immediate lead up to, or during, the festive season; and the massive impact it would have on

planned events. **LC** echoed this view and will highlight to officials while **JH** reassured that the situation and data is being reviewed daily. **[REDACTED]** concluded by making a plea that if restriction changes are necessary, to not delay implementing, reiterating that change would be easier to deal with the further away it is from Christmas - businesses are currently on a critical path of loss, with the situation getting worse every day.

[REDACTED] asked if any early assumptions had been made about what increased mitigations may need to be put in place for outdoor events. **JH** confirmed that at this stage there is no data on outdoor v indoor events explaining that it would boil down factors such as – virus numbers; prevalence of disease in the environment; weather; and human behaviour leading to potential for spread. These factors could undo the benefit of the event being outdoors.

JH was thanked for his input by **[REDACTED]** and left the meeting.

Scottish Government Budget

[REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]

UK Event Research Programme (Phase II & III)

[REDACTED] informed members that the UK Government has now published phases II and III of the Event Research Programme with findings, as expected, consistent with the results from phase I. It was however noted that some evidence of outdoor transmission had now been identified. The findings are being further reviewed currently to see if any learnings can be taken from them for Scotland – to add to the learnings from our own flagship event programme and COP26.

National Event Strategy Review

[OUT OF SCOPE]

3. Update from EventScotland & Discussion

[REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]

Discussion

[REDACTED] asked if there were any scenarios - eg physical distancing or a capacity limit on event attendance numbers being reintroduced - that could be planned for in advance of being announced. **LC** advised that it was difficult to predict what was to come, particularly due to the current speed of virus spread, but suggested:

- Best case scenario – an expansion of the vaccine certification scheme
- Mid scenario – the reintroduction of capacity limits; restrictions based on transmission risk (outdoor/indoor); physical distancing
- Worst case scenario – events being stopped

[REDACTED] introduced **Rachael McKechnie**, Deputy Director, Major Events and Themed Years. Advocating continued and regular consultation with the industry, **RM** assured that the message from members of needing to know of any changes 'sooner rather than later' is being taken back to Ministers; and that while concerned about the direction of virus travel, Ministers were likely at this stage to only seek stronger enforcement of existing mitigations rather than making significant changes to guidance.

[REDACTED] felt that what was said about all events included in the Event Research Programme was fairly reassuring – highlighting a specific reference to “little evidence of increased transmission at featured events”; and that this both justifies the planning process and effort of organisers, and illustrates the ability of the industry to adapt to change and maintain professional delivery at all times.

[REDACTED] advised that lessons learnt from our own flagship event programme are currently being collated but that they will not have the same level of academic research as with the ERP.

4. Key areas of work

[REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]

5. Date of Next Meeting

Dates for future EIAG meetings will be scheduled in the new year.

[REDACTED] concluded the meeting by thanking members for their support and commitment over the year - acknowledging that while the work carried out by EIAG had achieved better recognition for the industry, there was still more work to be done.

Document 22:

Regular Ministerial Meeting with Chair of Events Industry Advisory Group
14:15-14:55, 26 October 2021
MS Teams

Attendees

Jennie Gilruth MSP, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
[REDACTED], Chair of Events Industry Advisory Group (EIAG) and Chief Executive of the Scottish Event Campus (SEC)
[REDACTED], Director of Events, EventScotland
[REDACTED], Private Secretary to Ms Gilruth
Penelope Cooper, Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination, Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Major Events, Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Major Events, Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Major Events, Scottish Government

[REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]

Event sector recovery was also discussed with the Minister noting the current context for this was an increasing number of Covid cases, and re-emphasising the need to comply with baseline measures. The Minister also noted the helpfulness of meeting with the sector in shaping her decision-making and ensuring, where possible, action is taken in response to the sector's input.

Key points of the discussion included:

- Certification. While there have been criticisms from the night-time industry in particular and the consensus is that although vaccine certification app is not fit for purpose, it is a tool which is intended to allow the sector to stay open and work at large scale capacities. It was accepted that in the current circumstances, certification was likely to be in place for the foreseeable future. Organisers face a number of issues including:
 - limited attendee understanding of certification requirements (especially international attendees) and understanding of what events require certification;
 - difficulty scanning QR codes with phones, especially where there are cracked screens, paper copies with folds, or rain;
 - the increased number of stewards required to implement checking at a time when qualified staff are difficult to find and acquiring a qualification takes months; and
 - the ease with which passports can be faked.
 - A key overarching concern is about need for guidance to be clearer that vaccine certification can stop where there is a threat to public safety and disorder if it continues.

Suggestions from the sector that may assist included adjusting how drinks receptions at business events are captured by requirements, treating trade fairs as retail, and including lateral flow testing as an alternative means of certification at an event for both non-vaccinated people and those who may have difficulty displaying their vaccination status. It was noted that with the current outlook, adding lateral flow testing as a measure in addition to vaccine certification was more likely than it being an alternative.

- [REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]
- [REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]
- [REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]

Actions

- [REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]
- [REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]
- EIAG to feedback its assessment of how widespread faking / gaming of vaccine certification is on the ground.
- [REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE]

Document 23:

Covid Certification Meeting 4 October 2021: Review of operations over 2 and 3 October 2021

Present:

Scot Gov – [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Hearts FC – [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (also Chair of FSOAS)
Rangers FC – [REDACTED]
Aberdeen FC – [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Hibernian FC – [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Celtic FC – [REDACTED]
SFA/Hampden – [REDACTED]

Scottish Government

- apologised for the situation over the weekend and recognised that the roll out of the app didn't go as planned
- acknowledged the positive way in how the messaging to fans was handled and thanked all clubs for this
- believes work has been carried out over the weekend to improve its performance

Hearts

- 2856 checks carried out on Saturday from a 17k crowd. This included checks of 978 Motherwell supporters. 2,600 positive checks (able to provide proof) with 256 negative checks (unable to provide proof), 22 of the negative checks in hospitality said they didn't bring because of the comms beforehand saying they would get in without.
- Carried out in 6 different locations across the stadium, including hospitality, using a funnelled barrier configuration
- Checks were carried out up until 25 minutes before kick-off as queues were forming causing increasing concerns for safety
- As queues started to form checks were carried out on every 1 in 20 persons
- Compliance was high, but general opinion that this was because they were getting in whether they brought proof or not
- Majority of supporters opted for paper checks, those with the App found it more time consuming getting into the app etc.
- No ID checks were carried out against the certificates being presented

Lessons Learnt

- Paper copies far more straightforward
- To have less locations for checking
- Comms were handled well beforehand
- Beforehand the fans reaction was negative, found it better on the day
- Those who complied came prepared, the most compliant were those who arrived steady between 1.30-2.15 pm
- Those who didn't comply said they wouldn't comply anyway as they are opposed to the scheme
- If we are to refuse entry to anyone who doesn't have proof it will, without a doubt, change the crowd dynamic and would have to check at less locations

- Clickers worked well for recording compliance
- Motherwell had a support, all interactions with Motherwell supporters were positive and their behaviour was good

Other comments

- Reiterated that they believe compliance was largely down to it being a test event, where entry wasn't being refused without proof, and that they would anticipated a different result when it comes to this being enforced.
- Largely paper copies, with the odd couple using the mobile app
- 20% should be the maximum required, nothing above, especially when turning people away as Stadiums already need to resource to manage the normal focus areas i.e., terrorism, pyro's, and this would likely need more people to help manage those being turned away
- As Chairman of SFOAS, [REDACTED] also noted that over the years we have tried to reduce presence of police at football games for 2 reasons – to release the police to the community to do what they should be doing and secondly, for clubs to take responsibility for the safety of their stadiums. This will be a backwards step if police presence is required again and will have to request this, not to mention the additional cost involved

Rangers

- Developed Vaccine Certification plan to adhere to more than 20% compliance
- Targeted harder in one area of the stadium along with spot checks in all other areas
- Used the weekend as a test event with the primary objective of educating supporters and were not denying anyone entry
- Carried out in-house testing of the app beforehand and found it to ineffective, however they did the same tests again today (04/10) and there was a noticeable improvement – like “night and day”
- Encouraged hard copies and decided hardcopy was the way forward
- Stewards were overseen by Stand managers
- Used clicker counts to record compliance/non-compliance
- A total of 22% checks were carried out
- 2 main reasons for non-compliance were
 - o Anti Scottish Government
 - o Personal belief that its unlawful
- All checks were done externally to the stadium and when queues formed they worked the queues
- 20% a realistic maximum for checking (of a stadium with circa capacity of 50,000), it is resource intensive and comes with risk

Observations

- Fully anticipate an adverse effect on crowd dynamics when becomes law and entry is refused
- Safety risk for all, especially our stewards
- Had to request police presence at the game and moving forward will definitely need a police presence at games along with increased staff
- Flow rates will be hampered and will generate an unwelcome hostility towards stewards who are just doing their job
- Arrival times will need to be earlier than normal

Question

The uptake of vaccinations has been hugely successful, how is the Scottish Government going to get confident that what we are doing is creating success, is there figure that we need to reach?

[REDACTED] (SG): Answer – although there has been an increase in vaccine uptake he has never seen a figure on what success looks like, there is already a concern around a return of COVID in the winter and work is underway on that.

Question

Can we get some definitive guidance on how to answer questions on, what seems to be the majority of complaints, the issue of asking for exemptions i.e. disabilities etc., as supporters are adamant that this is a breach of the Equalities Act 2010 and it would be catastrophic for any organisation if they were found to be in breach of those rights.

[REDACTED] (SG): Answer – will look into this.

Aberdeen

- Planned to check 5%
- It brings considerable challenge with stewarding, will have to bring in a 3rd company and request additional police resources
- Problems with the app and an overwhelming amount of negative contact/feedback from fans the decision was made to not run the event as a test
- Issued comms advising supporters they would get in and no proof required
- Have meeting scheduled for tomorrow (05/10) on the way forward

Question

- Is there somewhere we can direct fans too with their questions, concerns and complaints in the Scottish Government? (Note: **[REDACTED]** subsequently advised clubs to direct supporters to SG Central Enquiry Unit)

Observation

- For events and functions, only some small changes need to be made for venues to no longer be required to carry out checks

[REDACTED] (SG) answer: There was recognition that, given the very significant variables across hospitality, the line had to be drawn somewhere.

Hibs

- Were looking at turning people away from turnstiles
- Anyone collecting tickets at the ticket office would be checked and without proof they wouldn't get sold tickets
- Hospitality to arrive an hour earlier to get checked
- Block off certain areas on a timescale basis, divert supporters into lanes around the stadium to carry out checks
- Anyone with ticketing issues would also be checked

Question

- Looking for clarify on the 20% to be checked, is it the 10,000, or is only those in excess of 10,000

In general (from all clubs),

The post-match feedback has been fans saying its illegal and a breach of human rights, season ticket holders not happy about having to have a certificate to be able to use their ticket, demanding refunds. Supporters with hidden disabilities and religious reasons, this includes people who are double vaccinated.

Celtic

- Reiterated concerns already raised
- First game will be European fixture
- Outer perimeter funnelled barriers to get fans used to it
- Tend to have late arrivals so this will be a concern
- All supporters have been directly asking about refunds

Scotland National Team

- Supporters will be checked and will need proof to get in
- Look to do checks at turnstiles, with turnstiles opening 2 hours before kick-off
- Expect the checks to be carried out the first half hour then dropped after that – there are 2 planned protests outside Hampden on Saturday which will pose all sorts of challenges
- As with everyone else there are resourcing and safety concerns
- Unlike other games, every Scotland game brings a high % of new supporters unfamiliar with seating and requires extra support
- Police also have serious concerns, for a number of reasons, and will be involved in the decision on when the checks get dropped
- Expect we will review coms now this week following this discussion as it might soften the blow a bit