

1. Minutes from all meetings between UK government and Scottish government regarding drugs policy between July 1 2023 and the date of this FOI.

We can confirm that between 1 July 2023 and 21 August 2023 (the date of FOI submission) there were 6 meetings in total between the UK Government and Scottish Government regarding drugs policy.

All of these were meetings between officials from UK and Scottish Governments. There were no Ministerial meetings between the two governments during this period.

The details of each of these meetings are provided below.

4 July

Meeting between Scottish Government Drugs Policy Officials and officials from the UK Governments Department for Work and Pensions. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Scottish Government's Dual Housing Support Fund. The meeting covered the use of housing benefit for residential rehabilitation in Scotland. There was no minute taken of the meeting.

19 July

Meeting hosted by UK Government on information sharing. In attendance were officials from the Scottish Drugs Policy Division, from the UK Government's Joint Combating Drugs Unit alongside officials from the Welsh and Northern Irish Governments. The purpose of this meeting was to get agreement around guidance relating to the sharing of information for people impacted by problem substance use. There was no minute of the meeting but a (redacted) copy of the summary email circulated afterwards, including the action which came from the meeting, is below.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 4:52 PM
To:

[REDACTED]
Subject: UK drugs ministerial follow-up on info sharing

Hi all,

Many thanks for a useful meeting today. I've attached the slides in case they are useful to refer back to.

Key action from the meeting (hopefully this reflects the discussion but please do let us know if you disagree!):

- **UKG** to hold the pen on a single statement to local partners setting out the legal basis for sharing information around drug deaths and near fatal overdoses. To be circulated by end of August, for comment by end of September (assuming UK Drugs Ministerial goes ahead in Oct/Nov). **All** to consider and share case studies that can sit alongside the statement. **WG** to provide case study and model DPIA.

[REDACTED] I think there was a separate action for you to follow up with WG on the annual DRD stats for E&W.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Joint Combating Drugs Unit

[REDACTED]

27 July

Meeting between Scottish Government Drugs Policy Officials and officials from the UK Government's Office of Health Improvement and Disparities. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss workforce development. The discussion was a general catch up covering current areas of priority and sharing of good practice. There was no minute taken of the meeting.

15 August

Meeting between Scottish Government Drugs Policy Officials and officials from the UK Government's Drug Policy Team. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the development of drug checking facilities in Scotland. The meeting covered the development of applications for controlled drug licenses from those cities in Scotland which will be involved in this planned pilot. There was no minute taken of the meeting but a follow up, redacted, email covering the action coming from the meeting is below.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 4:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Follow up on drug checking

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Separately, we are still fine tuning the drug checking facility criteria wording, sorry that is taking a little longer than expected but still aiming to share something with you as soon as possible. The list I shared with you verbally still stands though so do continue working on that basis. I think you met with the services developing applications recently, were there any strong views on any of the criteria at this stage that it is worth me knowing about? Happy to catch up on a call if easier.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

15 August

Meeting between Scottish Government Drugs Policy Officials and officials from the UK Government's Drug Policy Team. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the emerging threat of synthetic opioids in the UK drug supply. The meeting covered the actions currently being taken by both Governments in response to these substances and the plans for future action. There was no minute taken of the meeting.

16 August

British Irish Council meeting of the Drugs and Alcohol work sector. This was a regular meeting of the Drug and Alcohol work sector and involved officials from both UK Government and Scottish Government's Drug Policy teams, alongside officials from all of the other UK Administrations.

Full list of media requests made to interview Michael Matheson and all of his junior ministers between March 28 and the date of this FOI (21 Aug) including the date, who requested and whether it was accepted or rejected.

DATE	MINISTER	SUBJECT	OUTLET	STATUS
28 March	MT	MUP	STV	Completed
28 March	MT	MUP	ITV Border	Completed
29 March	MT	MUP	ITV News	Withdrawn
29 March	MM	His appointment	Healthandcare.com	
Declined – lines issued				
29 March	MM	His appointment	Daily Record	Completed
30 March	EW	Her appointment	Daily Record	Completed
31 March	MM	His appointment	Scotsman/SOS	
Completed				
4 April	MT	Mental Health	The Sun	Completed
4 April	MM	Gastric surgery abroad	STV	Declined –
lines issued				
4 April	MM	Social care pay	BBC GMS	Declined-lines
issued				
6 April	JM	Women’s Health	Thrive	Declined –
lines issued				
6 April	JM	Menopause	Mac TV	Completed
9 April	MM	Junior Doctors	Sunday Show	Declined –
lines issued				
14 April	MT	Her appointment	Holyrood Mag	Completed
14 April	HY/MM	Alcohol deaths	BBC	Completed
20 April	EW/MM	Alcohol deaths	The Nine	Declined-lines
issued				
20 April	MM	Eljamel	Bauer	Completed
20 April	MM	Doctors retiring	STV	Outcome not
found				
21 April	MM	Eljamel	STV	
Completed				
24 April	MM	General healthcare	The Nine	Outcome not
found				
25 April	MT	Mental health portfolio	Holyrood Mag	Completed
25 April	MM	GP pressures	STV	Completed
25 April	EW	PHS RADAR stats	STV	Declined –
lines issued				
26 April	MM	Doctors retiring	STV	Declined –
lines issued				
26 April	MT	Mental health portfolio	Sun	Completed
26 April	MM	Eljamel	STV	Completed
26 April	MM	Eljamel	BBC	Completed
27 April	MT	Swimming pools	Go Radio	Declined-lines
issued				
27 April	EW	MUP anniversary	STV	Completed
3 May	MM	RCN report	BBC GMS	Declined-lines
issued				

3 May	MM	GP pressures	STV	Completed
3 May	MT	Racism/sport	BBC	Withdrawn
4 May	JM	Abortion	Bauer	Declined
4 May	MM	Healthcare/general	Sunday Show	Completed
4 May	MM	Trans-healthcare	ITV Border	Declined
4 May	MM	Eljamel	STV	Declined-lines
4 May	MM	Moray maternity	STV	Declined
5 May	MM	Healthcare/general	Scotsman	Completed
5 May	MM	Junior doc pay	STV News	Declined
5 May	MM	Junior doc pay	Drivetime	Declined
9 May	MT	NCS Bill	BBC GMS	Completed
10 May	MM	Junior docs	Spectator	Declined –
lines issued				
11 May	MT	Unpaid carers	ITV	Completed
12 May	MM	Nurse shortage	STV	Declined-
lines issued				
18 May	JM	Vaping	BBC phone in	Declined-
lines issued				
19 May	MM	GP practices	STV	Completed
19 May	JM	Endometriosis	Drivetime	Declined –
lines issued				
22 May	MM	Junior doc pay	Bauer	Completed
22 May	MM	Junior doc pay	Global	Completed
22 May	MM	Junior doc pay	Go Radio	Completed
22 May	MM	Junior doc pay	STV	Completed
22 May	MM	Junior doc pay	BBC	Completed
22 May	MM	Junior Doc pay	The Nine	Declined
23 May	MT	Mental Health	BBC	Completed
23 May	MT	Care staff pay	BBC GMS	Declined-
lines issued				
23 May	JM	Mesh	STV	Declined-
lines issued				
23 May	JM	Mesh	BBC	Declined-
lines issued				
24 May	MT	Suicide prevention	BBC	Declined
24 May	MT	Care homes	The Nine	Declined-
lines issued				
24 May	MT	Care home contract	ITV Border	Declined-
lines issued				
24 May	MT	Mental health/suicide	Radio Scotland	
Completed				
25 May	JM	Endometriosis	Drivetime	Declined-
lines issued				
25 May	EW	Scottish Families letter	STV	No record
of outcome found				
25 May	MM	Pharmacy funding	STV	Declined
30 May	JM	Dentistry	ITV Border	Declined-
lines given				

30 May	JM	Hospice funding	Radio Scotland	
Declined-lines issued				
30 May	MT	Care at Home	STV	Declined-
lines given				
30 May	MM	Waiting times	BBC Drivetime	Declined-
lines issued				
30 May	MM	Community pharmacies	STV	Declined-
lines issued				
31 May	MM	Waiting times	Radio Scotland	
Declined-lines issued				
31 May	MT	Dementia strategy	BBC Rep Scot	
Completed				
31 May	JM	Abortion stats	Drivetime	Completed
31 May	MT	Dementia strategy	Drivetime	Declined
5 June	MT	CAMHS	BBC	
Completed				
5 June	MT	Unpaid carers	STV	Declined-
lines issued				
6 June	MT	CAMHS	Bauer	Completed
6 June	MM	NHS workforce	GMS	Declined
7 June	DFM/EW	Opiods	Drivetime	
Completed				
9 June	MT	Mental health	A nail in the fish podcast	
Declined				
9 June	MM	Louise Slorance	Radio Clyde	No record of
outcome found				
12 June	MM	NHS at 75	5 Live	Declined
13 June	MM	Junior doc ballot	BBC GMS	Completed
13 June	MM	Junior doc ballot	BBC	Completed
13 June	MM	Junior doc ballot	Drivetime	Completed
13 June	MM	Junior doc ballot	The Nine	Declined
13 June	MM	Junior doc ballot	Courier/audio clip	
Completed				
14 June	JM	Abortion law	National	Completed
14 June	MM	Junior docs	STV	Withdrawn
15 June	MM	QEUH	ITV Border	Declined-
lines issued				
19 June	MM	NHS at 75	STV	Declined
20 June	MT	Coming Home report	BBC	Completed
21 June	MM	NHS GGC	Radio Clyde	Declined
23 June	MM/MT	Eating disorders	Scotland Tonight	
Completed				
26 June	MT	Carers for disabled children	STV	Passed on
26 June	EW	MUP report	BBC	Completed
27 June	EW	MUP report	STV	Completed
27 June	EW	MUP report	Drivetime	Completed
27 June	EW	MUP report	ITV Border	Completed
27 June	MM	NHS at 75	STV	Declined
27 June	MM	Cancer/stroke stats	The Nine	Declined
27 June	EW	MUP	Kaye Adams	Declined

3 July	MM	NHS at 75	BBC GMS	Declined
7 July	MT	Care home contract	STV	Declined
7 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	Drivetime	Completed
7 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	Radio 4	Completed
7 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	Times Radio	Completed
7 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	The Seven	Completed
7 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	Channel 4	Completed
7 July	EW	Drug Law reform	5 Live	Completed
7 July	MM	Junior docs pay deal	BBC	Completed
7 July	MM	Junior docs pay deal	STV	Completed
7 July	MM	NHS whistleblowing	STV	Declined
10 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	Politics Live	Completed
11 July	JM	Abortion care	STV	Declined -
lines issued				
11 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	Talk TV	Declined
11 July	EW	Drug Law Reform	GB News	Declined
11 July	JM	Fertility treatment	STV	Declined
12 July	MM	Abortion care	STV	Declined-
lines issued				
12 July	JM	Argyll dental services	BBC Alba	Declined-lines
issued				
12 July	JM	Dental fees	STV	Declined –
lines issued				
12 July	JM	Dental fees	Drivetime	Declined-
lines issued				
13 July	JM	IVF treatment	STV	Declined-
lines issued				
14 July	JM	Dental services	The Nine	Declined
17 July	MT	Facemasks	Drivetime	Completed
17 July	MT	Facemasks	STV	Completed
25 July	MT	Home care packages	Lunchtime Live	Declined
– lines issued				
27 July	JM	Dentistry fees	Drivetime	Declined
27 July	MT	RCPE report	Drivetime	Completed
27 July	JM	Dentistry reform	The Nine	Declined -
lines issued				
28 July	JM	Dentistry reform	The Nine	Declined-
lines issued				
29 July	JM	Dentistry reform	Radio Scotland	Declined-
lines issued				
30 July	MT	Mental health	STV	Declined-
lines issued				
1 Aug	MM	A&E stats	Bauer	Declined
3 Aug	MT	Care home complaints	STV	Declined
4 Aug	MM	Hospitals Inquiry	Sunday Mail	Declined
4 Aug	MM	General healthcare	Holyrood Mag	Completed
10 Aug	MM	BMA survey	Sunday Show	Declined-
lines issued				

11 Aug	EW	Drug Law Reform	Wall Street Journal	
Completed				
16 Aug	MM	Junior doc pay	Bauer	Completed
16 Aug	MM	Junior doc pay	STV	Completed
16 Aug	JM	Fertility	BBC	Declined
21 Aug	EW	Drug deaths	Channel 4, Bauer, Global, STV, BBC Channel 5, Times Radio, ITV, SKY, Go Radio, PA, Sun, Scotsman, Daily Mail, Lunchtime Live, The Nine	Completed 22 August

MM - Michael Matheson
 JM – Jenni Minto
 EW – Elena Whitham
 DFM – Deputy First Minister
 MT – Maree Todd
 HY – Humza Yousaf

[File: RE Meeting with Ms Whitham Minister for Drug and Alcohol Policy - 2 May](#)

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy
Sent: 03 May 2023 08:24
To: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>;
[redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; Heijmer-Mason O (Orlando) <Orlando.Heijmer-Mason@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>;
Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; Foggo R (Richard) <Richard.Foggo@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Meeting with Ms Whitham, Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy - 2 May

FYI.

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy – Elena Whitham MSP

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy
Sent: 03 May 2023 08:22
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Meeting with Ms Whitham, Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy - 2 May

For MiCase – MR please.

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]>
Sent: 02 May 2023 22:07
To: Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)b]
Subject: Re: Meeting with Ms Whitham, Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy - 2 May

Dear Elena,

Thank you for meeting with [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]> and I today to discuss service access, choice, and recovery. As promised, I am sending a follow-up email to summarise our conversation and request additional information on certain topics.

I would appreciate a written response regarding how you intend to address the following discussion points, which are numbered for your convenience:

[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]
5. The Right to Recovery Bill.

I would appreciate any additional information and insights you can share on these critical problems.

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

Thank you once more for your time and consideration of these critical concerns. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

Sender notified by
Mailtrack
02/05/23, 22:03:49

On Tue, 18 Apr 2023 at 10:39, <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot> wrote:
Hi,

[redacted – out of scope]

Kind regards,

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy – Elena Whitham MSP
The Scottish Government

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]>

Sent: 17 April 2023 20:41

To: Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]>

Subject: Re: Meeting with Ms Whitham, Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy - 2 May

Yes, teams would suit best, we are resource stretched & time limited.

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

On Mon, 17 Apr 2023 at 18:37, <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot> wrote:
Hi [redacted – s.38(1)b],

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

Many thanks,
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy – Elena Whitham MSP

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b]
<[redacted – s.38(1)b]>
Sent: 17 April 2023 18:21
To: Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Meeting with Ms Whitham, Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

On Fri, 14 Apr 2023 at 14:13, <MinisterforDAP@gov.scot> wrote:
Dear [redacted – s.38(1)b],

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

Kind regards and best wishes,
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy – Elena Whitham MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Email: ministerfordap@gov.scot

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**

[File: FW: Quick out the gate \(MiCase Reference Case Reference: 202300350318\)](#)

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] on behalf of Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy
Sent: 31 March 2023 13:16
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Drugs Policy; Orlando Heijmer-mason; Morris Fraser; [redacted – s.38(1)b]
Subject: FW: Quick out the gate.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: [redacted – s.38(1)b], MICASE

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

For MiCase – Diary for Ms Whitham.

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]>
Sent: 29 March 2023 23:31
To: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]>; Whitham E (Elena), MSP
<Elena.Whitham.MSP@Parliament.scot>
Subject: Quick out the gate.

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Hi [redacted – s.38(1)b],

Thanks for this and, of course & as always, I'm happy to meet anyone e to discuss ideas around the addiction sector and the work done on the Bill, and other ideas i/we are involved in more widely.

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 11:18:35 PM
To: Whitham E (Elena), MSP <Elena.Whitham.MSP@parliament.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]>
Subject: Quick out the gate.

Elena I am grateful that you took the time tonight to respond to my tweet. [redacted – s.38(1)b] and I would like to meet with you as soon as it is convenient for you so that we can talk about the right to recovery bill and explain how the idea originally came about and where we hope you will take it.

Sincerely

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

Sender notified by
Mailtrack
29/03/23, 23:17:33

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

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[File: OPQ on Right to Addiction Recovery Bill](#)

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b]
Sent: 14 April 2023 08:49
To: [redacted – s.38(1)b]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)b]; [redacted – s.38(1)b]; [redacted – s.38(1)b]
Subject: OPQ on Right to Addiction Recovery Bill

Importance: High

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)b], [redacted – s.38(1)b],

[redacted – out of scope]

AB
[redacted – s.38(1)b],

[redacted – s.38(1)b], I [redacted – s.38(1)b], I Drugs Policy
Division I Scottish Government I 3 E St Andrews House I Regent Road I Edinburgh I EH1 3DG

Hi,

[redacted – out of scope]

8. Annie Wells: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will support the Proposed Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill in order to aim to save lives and tackle Scotland's drug deaths crisis. ([S6O-02131](#))
ELENA WHITHAM

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

Thanks,
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
Private Secretary to Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy – Elena Whitham MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Mob: [redacted – s.38(1)b] | Email: ministerfordap@gov.scot

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of ParlyClerk Scotland

Sent: 12 April 2023 16:47

To: [redacted – s.38(1)b]<[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b]< [redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)b]< [redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b]< [redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)b]<[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <dgej@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b]

<[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>;

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<[redacted – s.38(1)b]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: General Running Order for Thursday 20 April

Please find attached the running order for the General Questions on Thursday 20 April

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

Parly Clerks Office

[redacted – s.38(1)b]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)b] <[redacted – s.38(1)b]@Parliament.scot>
Sent: 14 June 2023 17:05
To: Central Enquiry Unit
Subject: FOI: Scottish Conservatives Right to Recovery policy

Categories: FOI

Hi there,

Can I please request the following information:

Copies of any correspondence (briefing, letters, emails, handwritten notes, memos, minutes of calls, minutes of meetings, attachments and/or otherwise) from and/or to civil servants and/or Special Advisers and/or Scottish Government MSPs regarding the Scottish Conservatives Right to Recovery policy.

Best regards,
[redacted – s.38(1)b]

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The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

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DPH : Drugs Policy

DIRECTORATE FOR POPULATION HEALTH

[redacted – s.38(1)b]
[redacted – s.38(1)b]@Parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202300361933

14 July 2023

[redacted – s.38(1)b],

Thank you for your request dated 14 June 2023 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for 'Copies of any correspondence (briefing, letters, emails, handwritten notes, memos, minutes of calls, minutes of meetings, attachments and/or otherwise) from and/or to civil servants and/or Special Advisers and/or Scottish Government MSPs regarding the Scottish Conservatives Right to Recovery policy.'

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving and providing the information requested would exceed the upper cost limit of £600. This is due to the open timeframe of the request as well as the scope of the topic area.

The scope of 'the Scottish Conservatives Right to Recovery policy' is wide, and we interpret this as including not only any discussion of the proposed 'Right to Recovery' Bill but also anything else that relates to the policy aims of the proposals. Furthermore, with regard to scope, while the 'Right to Rehab' Bill was first mentioned by the Conservatives in April 2021 the policy has been referred to in different ways by different people which mean that the search parameters are very broad. These include, for example: 'Right to Rehab,' 'Right to Addiction Recovery,' and 'Right to Recovery'. Under section 12 of FOISA public authorities are not required to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the upper cost limit, which is currently set at £600 by Regulations made under section 12.

You may, however, wish to consider reducing the scope of your request in order that the costs can be

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG www.gov.scot



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brought below £600. For example, a request with a narrower timeframe and(or) scope could allow us to provide a response that is within the upper cost limit. You may also find it helpful to look at the Scottish Information Commissioner's 'Tips for requesting information under FOI and the EIRs' on his website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to . Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

<https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

[redacted – s.38(1)b] **DP : Whole Systems Unit**

