

[REDACTED – Out of Scope]

COVID ECONOMY MINISTERS' GROUP – MEETING 21

ANNEX A

COVID ECONOMY MINISTERS' GROUP, MEETING 20

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN ST ANDREW'S HOUSE, EDINBURGH AT 10:00 ON FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST 2020

Present:	Fiona Hyslop MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work & Culture
	John Swinney MSP	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills
	Kate Forbes MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Finance
	Michael Matheson MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity
	Roseanna Cunningham MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform
	Mairi Gougeon	Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Environment
	Kevin Stewart MSP	Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
In Attendance:	Liz Ditchburn	DG Economy
	Alyson Stafford	DG Scottish Exchequer
	Gary Gillespie	Chief Economic Adviser
	Uzma Khan	SG Economy COVID Hub
	Mark Logan	(External) Scottish Tech Ecosystem Review

Apologies

1. Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister.
Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism.
Aileen Campbell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government.

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

Item 1: [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

Item 2: [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

a) [REDACTED]

b) [REDACTED]

c) [REDACTED]

d) [REDACTED]

Item 3: OCEA Update (oral item and slides)

7. Particular points noted from the slides were:

a) Subsequent to large-scale contraction during the lockdown period, growth has returned although output remains 18% below its level in February 2020.

b) Officials participated in a call this week with colleagues from New Zealand, Finland, Iceland, Canada and Wales. Discussion covered sectors such as tourism that [REDACTED] as well as those such as retail that have changed rapidly.

c) New furlough data published today highlights that 77% of employees in Food and Accommodation Services are furloughed – reflects low footfall in town centres.

d) [REDACTED]

e) [REDACTED]

Item 4: Scottish Technology Ecosystem Review

8. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance introduced, noting that the report lays out actions required to make Scotland a global technology leader through development of a tech ecosystem, with recommendations that cover a number of different Ministerial portfolios. Mark Logan then presented. Particular points noted from the slides were:

a) Outlined the tech ecosystem, and noted the importance of scaling up tech businesses, moving from the start-up stage to larger scale companies.

b) The report recommends ways that Scotland can bridge the 'opportunity gap', maximising the number of tech companies that scale up and become more successful.

c) The concept of a 'tipping point' is important – once Scotland has a critical mass of start-ups and scaled-up tech businesses, more talent will be attracted. This will strengthen the tech ecosystem, which attracts further talent and creates a virtuous cycle of tech ecosystem growth and development.

d) It is vital that interventions are evaluated / assessed to consider their impact on the whole ecosystem, rather than only on individual companies / organisations.

e) Developing the tech ecosystem relies on developing the approach to education, ecosystem infrastructure (physical and social infrastructure) and funding.

f) Key example recommendations of the report were outlined. [REDACTED]

In discussion the following points were made:

- a) [REDACTED]
- b) [REDACTED]
- c) [REDACTED]
- d) Whole system approach taken by the report is the right one.
- e) Report will publish next week, and the Scottish Government will thereafter respond to its recommendations.

[REDACTED – Out of Scope]

Any Other Business

- 9. None.

COVID Economy Hub, 21 August 2020

[REDACTED – Out of Scope]

STER Board Meeting

Wednesday 6 April 2022

15:00 – 16:30

Microsoft Teams

Board Attendees	Role
Kate Forbes MSP (KFo) Stephen Ingledew (SI) Mark Logan (ML) Susanne Mitschke (SM) Sarah Ronald (SR) Jennifer Crow (JC) Varun Nair (VN) [REDACTED] Sir Jim McDonald (SJM) Neil Francis (sub) (SE sub) Roan Lavery (RL)	
Other Attendees	
Stephen O'Neill (SO) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	SG STER Delivery Team Nile HQ for facilitation SG Civtech SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG – Investment Division SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team
Apologies	
Maria Gutierrez Jude Cook Lesly Eccles Vicky Brock Adrian Gillespie (sub) Colin Cook [REDACTED] Stuart Fancey	Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member SG – Director Economic Development SG – Investment division SG – Scottish Funding Council

Agenda Item	Description	Lead
1	Introduction	SI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chair welcomed all to the STER Advisory Board meetingNo conflict of interests were logged	
2	Cabinet Secretary Update	KFo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KFo reflected that individuals, organisations and the business community have been impressed by the momentum STER has created. This momentum needs to be maintained, particularly following NSET. • KFo reflected on recent developments in the STER programme since the last STER Board meeting on 9 February. • KFo highlighted that she will make a statement to Parliament on 19 April where she will provide an update on what we are doing to deliver the recommendations to date and linking to clear focus on delivery – providing an opportunity to raise the Programme’s profile. • KFo noted upcoming trips to Finland and Denmark provide an opportunity to do the same internationally. • In closing, KFo linked STER to the work of NSET and highlighted three pillars in particular (1) Entrepreneurship (2) New Markets and (3) Productivity. This will extend STER’s legacy to all high growth start-ups. 	
3	STER Programme Update	[REDACTED] and SoN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] provided an updated on STER delivery. This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The Ecosystem Fund has been very well received. The team is currently analysing the feedback as we prepare for Phase 2. ➢ STER are working closely with Toni Scullion and Brendan McCart as part of the Scottish Teachers Advancing Computing Science (STACS) and hoping to launch a teacher upskilling pilot by the end of year. ➢ SoN mentions the tech scaler procurement process and that ahead of the decision being publicised (announcement likely in May/June) we will let the Board know. ➢ SoN also mentioned the NSET and relevance of the entrepreneurial chapter for STER and our ambitions for being a start-up nation and highlights this discussion will be brought to the board in near future. <p>[REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] 	
4	Talent attraction	SR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR explained she wants to gather Board Members insights into talent attraction and retention which she can share with a new Board that the Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise, Ivan McKee, has set up - the first meeting taking place on 19 April. • SR explained the exercise will cover three key themes: awareness, opportunity and welcome. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] introduced the problem statement which is around attracting senior leadership and executive and technical talent into Scotland. 	[REDACTED]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] and SR invited the board to share personal anecdotes about the trends experienced in their personal and professional networks. <p><i>Discussion – anecdotes of trends in personal networks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] <p><i>Discussion – theme 1 – awareness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] introduced the next topic about the type of campaign Scotland should run to attract people. • [REDACTED] <p><i>Discussion – theme 2 – opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] <p><i>Discussion – theme 3 – welcome</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] introduces next theme and importance of welcoming talent. • Discussion (VN) on importance of information/welcome pack to help entrepreneurs settle in more smoothly covering things like childcare, schools, renting, mortgages etc. ME mentioned ‘No Wrong Doors Approach’ in the NorthEast of England and offering a more collaborative and or designated place for incoming entrepreneurs/talent to direct any questions to. • SI discussed some of the work Fintech Scotland do well to help welcome people into Scotland/the sector. SI discussed importance of it being a personal decision, being inclusive and importance of humanising the talent (i.e. they are people with families). • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • SR thanks group for contributions. 	
5	International conferences	[REDACTED]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] asked group their views on conferences [REDACTED] • Discussion took place (VN, RV) on going to conferences but that for a few Board Members the real value falls outside the actual conference. Discussion took place that for some it is a place to find customers, potential partners and employees. Also a discussion (RL) on the value of conferences in meeting people who are at a different (more advanced) stage of growing their company. • SJM noted importance of curating a high quality network and mentions the Glasgow Convention Bureau. A discussion took place on helpfulness of convention bureaus and CW provides example of Aberdeen and life sciences. • A discussion took place on Irish and Austrian government showcasing at conferences. • KFo provided closing remark. 	
6	Close	SI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SI thanked participants and closed meeting	
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STER Board Meeting

9 February 2022

14:00 – 15:30

Virtual

Board Attendees	Role
Stephen Ingledeew (SI) Kate Forbes MSP (KFo) Mark Logan (ML) Colin Cook (CC) Lesley Eccles (LE) Vicky Brock (VB) Maria Gutierrez (MG) Linda Hanna (LH) Sir Jim McDonald (SJM) Sarah Ronald (SR) Varun Nair (VN) Susanne Mitschke (SM) Jude Cook (JCo)	Co-Chair Co-Chair
Other Attendees	
Stuart Fancey (SF) [REDACTED] Stephen O'Neill (SO) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Geoff Huggins (GH) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Scottish Funding Council SG – Investment Division SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG Curriculum Unit SG Curriculum Unit SG – Investment Division Scottish Funding Council Scottish Funding Council
Apologies	
Roan Lavery (RL) Jennifer Crow (JC)	Board Member Board Member

Agenda Item	Description	Lead
1	Introduction	SI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all to the STER Advisory Board meeting. No conflict of interests were logged. 	
2	Cabinet Secretary Update	KFo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KFo reflected on recent developments in the STER programme since the last STER Board meeting on 6 October 2021. • KFo noted work needs to progress in other STER work streams, and progress will be strengthened by the Advisory Board’s continued commitment and involvement in the programme. • KFo reflected on the ongoing work around the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), indicating that it will include key actions around entrepreneurship and the key to the Strategy’s success will lie in its delivery. • KFo highlighted that post-16 education and investment will be a very important piece of work for the STER programme. [REDACTED] <p>Questions / Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SI asked when we can expect the NSET to be published. KFo noted that discussions are ongoing and it is nearing the finish line. 	
3	STER Programme Update	SO, [REDACTED]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO updated the board in more detail on recent developments in the STER programme covering, e.g. the tech scaler bid, the ecosystem fund, education and skills work streams. • [REDACTED] outlined plans for STER team engagement with the Advisory Board moving forward, including increasing the frequency of meetings and creating a programme dashboard for board members to get closer to the delivery side of the programme. • It was proposed that meetings move to a more regular two month schedule to avoid a sizeable gap between meetings (Action – to be completed by 22/2/22). • [REDACTED] will pull together a STER programme dashboard and share a draft with Board members. • [REDACTED] noted that next year’s STER communications plan will be circulated to the Advisory Board for wider input, once approved by the Cabinet Secretary (Action – to be completed by 08/03/22). • [REDACTED] <p>[REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] 	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>VB, [REDACTED]</p> <p>All</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • SI asked whether working groups are part of plans to further engage board members with STER work streams. [REDACTED] agreed that working groups will be formed but will not be limited to set membership. • [REDACTED] asked for board members' views on the delivery culture of the STER programme and whether it's proceeding in the right direction (Action – to be completed by 08/03/22). 	
4	Post-16 Entrepreneurial Campus Strategy Update	SF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF gave an update on progress by SFC with the post-16 entrepreneurial campus work stream. • SFC will draft an action plan to bring back to the STER Advisory Board, outlining agreed actions to deliver quantifiable progress and increased entrepreneurial activity on a large scale (Action – to be completed by 08/03/22). <p>Questions / Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LH asked how colleges were involved in SFC's recent consultation process on the post-16 entrepreneurial campus. SF noted the college sector is already highly entrepreneurial but will also need support, so SFC will bring universities and colleges together in further consultation in the coming months. • KFo noted the level of appetite amongst the business community to give back to the tech ecosystem and the need for the post-16 entrepreneurial campus strategy to respond to their particular requirements. They should have opportunities to meaningfully feed in to the post-16 entrepreneurial campus strategy. • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • MG noted the University of Limerick as a good example of teaming up with tech leaders to create new curriculums and immersive courses. SO acknowledged that models like this are at the forefront of thinking in the education work stream and the new NSET. • [REDACTED] • SJM highlighted a number of national and international examples of best practice that are not heavily regulated and given freedom to innovate. 	SF

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • SF thanked colleagues for their comments and agreed a balance of prescription versus co-design is a key issue to be considered when developing the post-16 entrepreneurial campus strategy. 	
5	Investment Update	[REDACTED]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] gave an update on recent developments in the investment work stream, and asked for the STER Advisory Board's input on four elements to progress. • [REDACTED] Investment team to meet with STER Programme Team to discuss milestones to be incorporated into the STER Programme Plan, with indicative dates for delivery. (Action – to be completed by 08/03/22). <p>Questions / Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • LH noted that we need to not just solve the supply problem but solve the demand and financial management capability of businesses too. Links should be made with the other work streams of STER such as the post-16 entrepreneurial campus strategy. • VN highlighted the importance of the investment readiness of companies. Support in this should not just be for start-ups within the tech scaler network but should be more widely available. • VN acknowledged that funding companies to meet investors always carries a risk, especially travelling to the US with the potential for investors to move companies to base in the US for ease of funding. • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] 	
6	Close	SI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KFo thanked the STER Advisory Board for a great meeting, with lots of work to progress at the current pace. • SI thanked all for their contributions and looks forward to engaging further with the STER work streams in the coming months. 	

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Date of next STER Board Meeting:

6 April 2022
15:00 – 16:30
Virtual

STER Board Meeting

6 October 2021

15:00 – 16:30

Virtual

Board Attendees	Role
Stephen Ingledeew (SI) Kate Forbes MSP (KFo) Mark Logan (ML) Colin Cook (CC) Lesley Eccles (LE) Vicky Brock (VB) Jennifer Craw (JC) Maria Gutierrez (MG) Linda Hanna (LH) Roan Lavery (RL) Sir Jim McDonald (SJM) Sarah Ronald (SR) Varun Nair (VN)	Co-Chair Co-Chair
Other Attendees	
Stephen O'Neill (SO) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Stuart Fancey (SF) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG Digital Adoption Team SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG STER Delivery Team SG Curriculum Unit SG – Deputy Private Sec Scottish Funding Council SG – Investment Division SG – Capital Investment Policy
Apologies	
Susanne Mitschke (SM) Jude Cook (JCo)	Board Member Board Member

Agenda Item	Description	Lead
1	Introduction	SI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SI welcomed all to the meeting and gave apologies for SM and JCo. SI gave a special welcome to VN at his first STER Advisory Board meeting. No conflict of interests were logged. 	
2	Cabinet Secretary Update Q&A	KFo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • MG noted the lack of gender diversity is a perpetuating problem, as there aren't as many women reaching leadership positions that can influence further change based on their own personal experience. • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • SI and SO thanked [REDACTED] for her presentation and for taking this work stream forward. 	<p>LH</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>SF</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>
4	STER Delivery Team Update	SO, [REDACTED]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO gave an update on progress with STER delivery. SO will circulate the Tech Scaler procurement documents to meeting attendees (action). • [REDACTED] is leading on the investment work stream and gave an update on recent progress. [REDACTED] will bring a paper for discussion to the next board meeting (action). • [REDACTED] gave an update on additional STER Tech Ecosystem Team resource. [REDACTED] will send out new work stream leads for Board members to engage with (action). • SF is leading on the post-16 education work stream. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) are engaged with the university sector and colleges to position this work as an important part of SFC's strategy. SF will share and test the strategy with the board prior to the next board meeting (action). • Action: SF will reach out to [REDACTED] to ensure the post-16 entrepreneurial campus work is as inclusive as it can be. <p>Questions / Comments</p>	<p>SO</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>SF</p> <p>SF</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] 	[REDACTED]
5	Close	SI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SI gave thanks to the SG team and [REDACTED] for their presentations. SI and ML thanked the Board for their input. • SO noted the SG team will be in contact between now and the next board meeting in January. 	