

[Reacted under S381b]

Subject: RE: 16:00 Call with Sir Ian Wood, The Wood Foundation - 10 June 2021

Many thanks, Ms Somerville has noted.

[Reacted under S381b]

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PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

1. Please see the note of meeting below. It is likely that we will see a request for a Cab Sec meeting with Sir Ian Wood in the coming weeks.

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Thanks for this. DFM is content but has asked the note is shared with Ms Somerville please.

Many thanks

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PS/Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Here is a summary note of the discussion today between DFM and Sir Ian Wood from the Wood Foundation.

[Reacted under S381b]

Teams meeting between the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery and The Wood Foundation – The Excelerate Programme – 10 June 2021

Attendees

- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery, John Swinney (JS)
- Sir Ian Wood, The Wood Foundation (SIW)
- Alison MacLachlan, The Wood Foundation (AM)
- [Reacted under S381b]

Discussion

- SIW explained how the Wood Foundation's Excelerate programme was progressing well and that the intention was now to increase the number of schools engaged from 6 to 9. He wishes to bring the concept to the attention of Ms Somerville in her new role as education secretary and is seeking advice from DFM as to how best that can be achieved. He was clear that the key people who can make change to the education system are teachers.
- JS noted that Ms Somerville is likely to be interested in hearing how the programme has demonstrated improvement over time. Inevitably, there will be a range of views about how programmes such as this can be developed, with some being entirely receptive to the approach and others being more resistant to change. Ms Somerville is likely to approach this being mindful of the same set of limitations as her predecessors.
- AM noted that it was helpful to have this conversation and she acknowledges the on-going support for the work of the Foundation from SG and Education Scotland. She has developed a positive working relationship with the councils involved in the programme and a measured approach is being taken to assess impact. She was well aware that it was essential to have the confidence of teaching practitioners before going forward.

CLOSE

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I will attend and prepare a note of the discussion.

To [Reacted under S381b]

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Thank you for the briefing.

Our preference would be for one official to attend please. I would also be grateful if you could confirm who that is and if they can take a short note of the meeting.

Many thanks

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PS/Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

1. Please find attached a 5 page briefing for the Teams call with Sir Ian Wood tomorrow.
2. The policy responsibility for the programmes outlined here are split between two teams; hence the suggestion that an official from each team attend. Should you wish that altered, please let me know.

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