


Meeting with Katrín Jakobsdóttir – Prime Minister of Iceland
Thursday, 17 August 2023, 17:15, St Andrew’s House

<p>Key messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased to see Scottish-Icelandic collaboration expand and diversify further with new areas for cooperation including wind energy, aquaculture and sustainable agriculture. • We also remain committed to longstanding knowledge exchange with Iceland in relation to wellbeing economy, Bairns’ Hoose approach and Arctic. • We are grateful for your officials’ support in identifying avenues for the Scottish Government to formalise our growing collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers during Iceland’s presidency. • Congratulations on your appointment as WHO Champion for the European Wellbeing Economy Initiative and for hosting the WEGo Forum in June (attended by Cabinet Secretary Gray). • We expect a steady flow of ministerial visits to and from Iceland in the coming months. We are looking forward to welcoming your Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries to Scotland next month. Our Energy Minister will represent the Scottish Government at this year’s Arctic Circle Assembly.
<p>Why</p>	<p>Recent months have seen a further expansion of our engagement and policy connections with Iceland. Current policy exchanges now span from wellbeing economy (WEGo), wind energy, aquaculture, agriculture and child protection (Bairns’ Hoose) to Arctic issues. Your bilateral will serve as an opportunity to mark this rich portfolio of Scottish-Icelandic links and reiterate Scotland’s continued commitment to develop even stronger bilateral relations going further.</p> <p>[redacted]</p>
<p>Who</p>	<p>HE Katrín Jakobsdóttir – Prime Minister of Iceland</p>  <p>Ms Jakobsdóttir became Iceland’s PM in November 2017 and has been member of the Icelandic Parliament for the Reykjavík North constituency since 2007. She has been chairperson of the Left-Green Movement since 2013. She served as Iceland’s Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Nordic Co-operation from 2009 to 2013.</p> <p>The Prime Minister will be supported by Iceland’s Ambassador to the UK Sturla Sigurjónsson.</p>
<p>Where</p>	<p>St Andrew’s House – FM’s office, 5th floor</p>
<p>Media</p>	<p>FM Comms to advise @katrinjak @MFAIceland @IcelandinUK</p>
<p>Supporting official</p>	<p>[Redacted] Head of Nordic and Arctic Unit [Redacted] – Nordic Desk Office</p>
<p>Attached documents</p>	<p>Annex A – Core brief and points for discussion Annex B – Iceland country profile</p>

Background

Ms Jakobsdóttir is visiting Edinburgh in a personal capacity to address the Edinburgh International Book Festival following the publication of her first novel in December 2022. An English version of the book – a crime novel titled *Reykjavík* – will be released on the day of your meeting.

The Prime Minister has been consistently supportive of increased cooperation with Scotland and has held regular meetings with Scottish Ministers in recent years. She met the former First Minister several times – including at the Arctic Circle Assembly in October 2021 and at COP26. Most recently, in June 2023 Ms Jakobsdóttir met Cabinet Secretary Gray during the Wellbeing Economy Governments' Forum in Reykjavik. A steady flow of inward and outward Ministerial visits (from and to Iceland) is expected for the coming months. More information is available below.

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Points for discussion**Wind energy**

- In January 2023, the Icelandic Parliament's Environment and Communications Committee paid a study visit to Scotland with a focus on wind energy, protected nature areas and public transport.
- Among other engagements, the delegation met Mr Matheson (then Energy Secretary) and Mr Robertson before visiting the Burnhead Moss wind farm.
- In partnership with the British Embassy in Reykjavik, SG officials organised a reciprocal visit to Iceland in April. Our delegation included SG's Offshore Wind and Marine Scotland officials and representatives from Scottish Power Renewables.
- There are early plans for a further visit to Scotland from Icelandic offshore wind experts and industry representatives.

SENSITIVITY – [redacted] *The Icelandic government set up a working group that is looking at environmental impacts, regulatory approaches and community engagement in other countries including Scotland, Norway, Denmark and New Zealand.*

Offer: *We stand ready to share the expertise that we have developed in relation to wind energy solutions. Our Energy Minister will visit Reykjavik in October for the Arctic Circle Assembly and will be accompanied by senior officials from our new Directorate for Offshore Wind.*

Aquaculture

- During a meeting with Mr Robertson earlier this year, Ambassador Sigurjónsson (who will join this meeting) expressed interest in increasing bilateral collaboration on land-based aquaculture.
- A first call between officials took place in June 2023. Key points of interest included regulatory framework, funding for research, surveillance and resource fee reforms.
- This exchange of expertise could inform a Bill that the Icelandic Government is planning to introduce in spring 2024.

Offer: *I know that the Ambassador was keen to establish links with Marine Scotland on aquaculture policies and I am pleased policy exchange is already progressing at pace.*

Wellbeing Economy Government (WEGo)

- Iceland is a founding member of the network and regularly participates in WEGo sessions.
- You had received an invitation to attend a Wellbeing Economy conference in June 2023 which was passed on to Cabinet Secretary Gray.
- Mr Gray met with the Prime Minister in the margins of the conference.

Offer: *Congratulations of your appointment as World Health Organisation's Champion for the Wellbeing Economy Initiative. It is a prestigious recognition of Iceland's commitment to justice and equalities over the years.*

Bairns' Hoose

- The Scottish Government has strong links with Iceland in relation to the Barnahus model. We work closely with [redacted], the pioneer of Barnahus in Iceland.
- The Bairns' Hoose model is based on the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), recognising that all children must receive the right help at the right time.
- We have learned a lot from Iceland – back in 2017 then Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Minister for Children and Young People visited the Barnahus. Former FM Sturgeon visited the Reykjavik Barnahus too in October 2021.
- National Bairns' Hoose Standards were published in May 2023. From the autumn, these National Standards will be implemented across Scotland by several Pathfinder partnerships.

***Offer.** Through my previous role as Cabinet Secretary for Justice, I had close involvement in Bairns' Hoose policy and am taking a keen interest in the implementation of the Bairns' Hoose model in Scotland as First Minister.*

***Offer.** We look forward to continuing our learning and cooperation with our Icelandic counterparts on this issue including through our membership of the European PROMISE Barnahus network.*

Nordic Council of Ministers

- Iceland holds the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) in 2023, with a programme focused on peace and sustainability.

Collaboration between Scottish Government and NCM (including its agencies) has grown at pace in recent years. [redacted]

- [redacted]

***Offer.** We are grateful for your officials' support with identifying avenues for the Scottish Government to formalise our relationship with the NCM. We share many policy ambitions and our expertise is complementary. We are keen to work more closely with Nordic partners to pool best practice and increase sustainability and wellbeing for our respective communities.*

Arctic Circle Assembly – October 2023

- Minister for Energy and the Environment Gillian Martin will represent the Scottish Government at this year's Arctic Circle Assembly.
- Scottish Ministers have addressed the conference in Reykjavik every year it has been held since 2016. The former First Minister attended three times (2016, 2017 and 2021).
- Following his participation in last year's conference, Mr Robertson tasked officials with identifying opportunities to maximise the event's potential as an amplifier of our international energy messaging and to promote Scotland's role as a key renewable energy partner in the North Sea.
- Officials are currently developing a programme of activities including several break-out sessions, a Scottish networking event and a promotional stall.

***Ask.** We would be grateful for your officials' support with building a programme of high-profile engagements for Ms Martin. Her visit is an opportunity to build on ongoing discussions on renewable solutions, including wind energy.*

Reykjavik Global Forum – November 2023

- Co-hosted annually in partnership with the Icelandic Government and the Parliament of Iceland, the Reykjavik Global Forum serves as a platform for global leaders to connect, confer and exchange best practices on gender equality and leadership.
- The core mission revolves around harnessing the collective power of women leaders to further advance the society, while promoting and increasing the number of women in leadership positions.
- Minister McKelvie has expressed interest in participating in this year's Forum and discussions with the organisers are currently underway regarding the format of the Minister's participation.

Human Rights

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- Earlier this year, Iceland's Prime Minister announced plans to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). It will have a broad mandate to work on the promotion and protection of human rights and inform the content of Iceland's national plan on human rights.
- Scotland has had its own independent, UN-accredited NHRI (the Scottish Human Rights Commission) since 2008. The Human Rights Bill currently being developed by the Scottish Government is likely to further enhance the Commission's powers. Work has also been undertaken in collaboration with the Commission and civil society partners to develop a further iteration of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP)
- The Icelandic Embassy has provided relevant contacts in the Icelandic Government responsible for these areas of work, which will be followed up at official-level.
- Iceland's successful recent presidency of the Council of Europe (Nov 2022 to May 2023) focused on a renewed commitment to core values (democracy, human rights and the rule of law) as well as the need for action on equality and the environment. The Scottish Government shares those values and priorities, which also have the support of the overwhelming majority of Scottish parliamentarians.
- Scotland emphatically rejects suggestions that the UK ought to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. We have similarly condemned the UK Government's Rwanda scheme. Co-ordinated international action, rather than a unilateral, go-it-alone response, is clearly the right way forward.

SENSITIVITY – [redacted]

SENSITIVITY – *Asylum and immigration are wholly reserved to the UK Parliament and handled by the Home Office, the Scottish Government has no control of these processes. In the UK a person who receives a negative asylum decision is given notice to move on from Home Office provided asylum accommodation and support within 21 days (this was paused during the Covid-19 Pandemic but is now resuming across the UK). People who have been refused asylum in the UK are subject to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and restricted from accessing local authority housing and homelessness services. The UK Parliament has also recently passed the Illegal Migration Act which will restrict access to the UK asylum system.*

Visit by Icelandic Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries – 13-14 September 2023

- Icelandic Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Svandís Svavarsdóttir will visit Scotland next month. A bilateral meeting with Ms Gougeon has been arranged for 13 September.
- The visit will focus on Scotland's approach to agricultural research, peatland restoration and emissions reduction in agriculture.
- It stems from a nascent partnership between the James Hutton Institute and the Icelandic Soil Conservation Service.

ICELAND COUNTRY PROFILE**ANNEX B****Population:** 376,248 **Capital city:** Reykjavik**National Day:** 17 June (Inauguration of the Republic of Iceland in 1944. Union with Denmark terminated on 16 June 1944).**Head of State:** President Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson (second term as president, elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020).**Head of Government:** Katrín Jakobsdóttir (Left-Green Party).**Iceland in Scotland:** Kristín Hannesdóttir, Honorary Consul.**Government composition:** Three party coalition consisting of Left Green Movement, Independence Party (centre-right) and Progressive Party (centre).**Parliament:** The *Althingi* is a unicameral 63-seat parliament with members elected for a 4-year term.**Politics:**

- The outgoing left-right coalition increased its majority in September 2021 elections, due to a strong performance by the centre-right Independence Party and a 5-seat gain for the centrist Progressive Party. Despite her good personal ratings, PM Jakobsdóttir's Left-Green Movement lost 3 seats.
- The Independence Party is the traditional party of government in Iceland, it has been the most voted party in all but one (2009) parliamentary elections held since WWII.
- Recent polls suggest a **sharp decline in approval ratings for the current government**. The PM's Left-Green Movement is currently polling at 5.7%, the lowest in nine years. While the Independence Party is still popular nationwide with 20.8%, the combined support for the current coalition is far from the required 32-seat parliamentary majority. Meanwhile, the main opposition party (Social Democratic Alliance) has recently registered 27% of votes – the highest level in 14 years.

Hot topics

- Icelandic shipping companies have expressed their strong **criticism against a newly implemented EU directive on maritime transport pollution** which requires businesses to buy pollution quotas to assist with climate change targets. They are of a view that Iceland should be offered exceptional treatment given that almost 90% of all transport to and from Iceland is by ship.
- Mirroring similar developments in Norway, Iceland was the second country in the world to legislate gender quotas in company management in 2018. Following the legislation, Iceland has now been announced the most gender-equal country (for 14 consecutive years) and the **only country to have closed more than 90% of its gender gap** (currently at 91.2% as of June 2023).
- Iceland's Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (who is due to travel to Scotland in September) has come under **heavy criticism from the fishing sector for suspending existing whaling licenses** until the end of August. The decision stems from a report commissioned last year which demonstrated unhuman treatment of whales during hunts. Norway and Japan are the only countries that still hunt whales commercially with Iceland planning to cease the practice from 2024.
- Support for a **referendum on Iceland resuming EU membership** negotiations and the membership itself **has increased to 59%** and 44% respectively. Last year, only 25% favoured joining the EU. The current level of support is the highest Iceland has seen.

Recent Ministerial engagement with Iceland

- June 2023 – Mr Gray met with Icelandic PM Katrín Jakobsdóttir at a WEGo Forum in Reykjavik.
- June 2023 – Mr Gray had a bilateral meeting with Icelandic Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Bjarni Benediktsson in the margins of a WEGo Forum in Reykjavik.
- May 2023 – Ms Gilruth's bilateral meeting with Ásmundur Einar Daðason, Iceland's Minister of Education and Children at an Education Summit in Oslo.
- March 2023 – Cabinet Secretary Robertson's bilateral meeting with Icelandic Ambassador to the UK Sturla Sigurjónsson
- February 2023 – Cabinet Secretary Robertson had a brush-by with Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs Þórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir at Arctic Frontiers in Norway.
- January 2023 – Cabinet Secretary Robertson and Cabinet Secretary Matheson met with the Icelandic Parliament's Environment and Communications Committee in Edinburgh

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BILATERAL WITH ICELAND PRIME MINISTER KATRÍN JAKOBSDÓTTIR

Key message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in intensifying policy and knowledge exchange with Iceland on gender equality and gender-based violence; and climate. Scotland has a wealth of experience in tackling violence, including violence and sexual offending against women and girls but it is crucial that we continue to learn from the solutions developed by others. Pleased to see Scottish-Icelandic collaboration expand at pace, with regular Ministerial meetings. You are one of our closest partners. Ms Martin will represent the Scottish Government at this year’s Arctic Circle Assembly.
What	Bilateral meeting with the Icelandic Prime Minister following her recent visit to Edinburgh.
Who	<p>HE Katrín Jakobsdóttir – Prime Minister of Iceland</p> <p>Ms Jakobsdóttir became Iceland’s PM in November 2017 and has been member of the Icelandic Parliament for the Reykjavík North constituency since 2007. She has been chairperson of the Left-Green Movement since 2013. She served as Iceland’s Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Nordic Co-operation from 2009 to 2013.</p>
Why	<p>You met Ms Jakobsdóttir in Edinburgh on 17 August 2023. A copy of the minutes is available at Annex D. On that occasion, you and the PM agreed to re-convene in New York to discuss opportunities for bilateral collaboration on policies concerning gender equality and gender-based violence. The PM offered to provide an overview of Iceland’s key programmes and best practices. Her officials have since shared an overview of Iceland’s policies – see Annex C.</p> <p>Recent months have seen a further expansion of our policy connections with Iceland, with regular Ministerial visits in both directions. Discussions are underway between officials to explore the idea of a joint publication showcasing the wealth of policy links between the two governments and serving as a catalyst for further cooperation. Discussions are still at an early stage.</p>
Where	<p>Mott MacDonald Office</p> <p>1400 Broadway 21st Floor, New York, 10018</p>
When	Wednesday 20 September 2023, 08:30 – 09:15
Likely themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy exchange on gender equality and gender-based violence Upcoming Ministerial engagements with Iceland
Media	@katrinjak @MFAIceland @IcelandinUK
Supporting officials	<p>[redacted], ICC</p> <p>[redacted], US Hub</p>
Attached documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex A – Suggested points for discussion Annex B – Top lines and background briefing Annex C – Background briefing on Icelandic policies Annex D – Meeting with PM Jakobsdóttir, 17 August 2023

Collaboration on gender equality and gender-based violence

- As we discussed during our recent meeting in Edinburgh, I would be keen for our governments to work more closely together and exchange expertise around policies concerning gender equality and gender-based violence.
- We are determined to advance gender equality and the recent PfG features several commitments concerning the protection and promotion of women's rights and our desire to end all forms of violence against women and girls.
- In my recent statement to Parliament on our PfG, I mentioned addressing toxic masculinity and the role that men play in advancing gender equality and tackling misogyny. I know we mentioned this at our meeting in Edinburgh.
- I know that you opened the European Domestic Violence Conference in Reykjavik earlier this month. There was a strong Scottish presence at the event, including SG officials.

Ask: *How does your government embed equality across key policies?*

Offer: *I would like to continue discussions on how we can tackle misogyny and toxic masculinity, including by inspiring change on the international stage.*

Ask: *How can we optimise opportunities to share knowledge and learning as we continue to tackle domestic abuse?*

Ask – *We are all looking to grapple with the growth in online exploitation. Could you outline any particular initiatives Iceland are progressing or are perhaps involved with, both domestically and internationally, that we could learn from?*

Arctic Circle Assembly – Ms Martin's visit

- As discussed in Edinburgh, our Energy Minister Gillian Martin will be in Iceland next month for the Arctic Circle Assembly.
- Her visit will have a strong energy focus and it will allow us to build on recent discussions on energy collaboration, especially wind energy, and how to use COP28 in the shift away from renewables.
- I understand your Energy and Climate Minister will chair a briefing session with the COP28 president in the margins of the Assembly. Very pleased Ms Martin has been invited.

Ask: *Grateful for your help with setting up a meeting between our Energy Ministers. We would be delighted to share the expertise we have developed in relation to both on- and off- shore wind projects.*

Ask: *Has Iceland considered providing funding on Loss and Damage? My officials happy to provide advice/support on this. We could have a briefing ready for your Climate Minister to consider ahead of the COP28 meeting in Reykjavik*

Upcoming Ministerial engagements

- Minister McKelvie will address the Reykjavik Global Forum for Women Leaders in November. Her visit will be an opportunity to build on today's discussions.

- We were pleased to welcome your Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries to Edinburgh earlier this week (18-19 September). She visited the James Hutton Institute (Dundee), SRUC (Edinburgh) and met Cabinet Secretary Gougeon.

Formalising our growing policy links

- Scottish-Icelandic collaboration continues to grow and diversify. Bilateral cooperation covers a rich variety of policies, from wellbeing economy and child protection (Bairns' Hoose) to aquaculture and energy.
- I know that our officials are discussing ways to capture and showcase this growing volume of policy links, possibly in the form of a joint publication.

Offer: *We stand ready to work with your officials to find new ways to showcase the benefits that Scottish-Icelandic collaboration brings to our respective communities and economies.*

GENDER EQUALITY

- Through collaborative work on the **Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021**, access to free period products is enshrined in law for anyone who needs them, building on Scotland's world-leading work in this area.
- On 20 August 2021, the Scottish Government published a **Women's Health Plan**. The aim of this ambitious Plan is to reduce inequality in health outcomes for women, and to improve information and services for women.
- Since August 2021, all local authorities have been **offering all eligible children 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare**. We continue to work closely with local government to embed the benefits of the expansion, ensuring that childcare is flexible, affordable, accessible, and high quality.
- We set up an **Independent Working Group on Misogyny and Criminal Justice in Scotland** to explore whether there should be a specific offence to tackle misogynistic conduct and whether 'sex' should be added to the hate crime framework. This group published its findings in 2022.
- We are taking forward activity to tackle the drivers of the **gender pay gap** set out in our **refreshed Fair Work Action Plan: Becoming a Fair Work Nation by 2025** published on 9 December 2022.
- This brings together actions in our **Fairer Scotland for Women: Gender Pay Gap Action Plan** as well as our **Fair Work** and **Disabled People's Employment** action plans, along with the actions from our new **Anti-Racist Employment Strategy** which will tackle intersectional labour market inequalities in Scotland.
- We have established a **Gender Equality Taskforce in Education and Learning** which works closely with our **Gender Based Violence in Schools Working Group**.

Programme for Government 2023-2024, gender equality commitments

- This year Programme for Government is explicitly an anti-poverty, and we recognise that the cost-of-living crisis is not felt equally with an increased impact on women and particular women who face other forms of disadvantage. Our response aims to reflect and address this inequality.
- There are multiple commitments in PfG that explicitly seek to advance gender equality, protect, and promote women's rights, and end all forms of violence against women and girls. There are also several commitments which seek to make improvements in areas which have a disproportionate effect on women, such as social care and childcare provision.
- Achieving gender equality demands a cross-government endeavour.
- Some commitments are directly delivering recommendations from the National Advisory Council on Women and Girls, such as legislation to criminalise misogynistic conduct, introduction of a Human Rights Bill which will incorporate the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Gender equality and International Development

- As advised by the OECD, accelerating progress towards gender equality requires combining gender-focused actions with mainstreaming. The SG is therefore seeking to take a twin-track approach to advancing gender equality by:
 - establishing a new Equalities Programme. This includes establishing a new Women & Girls Fund and continued support for the partnership between Police Scotland and the Police Services of Malawi and Zambia that focusses on the protections of vulnerable groups (this includes training on gender-based violence).
 - mainstreaming gender equality throughout the rest of our ID programming, ensuring that any work undertaken as part of these programmes seeks to support/advance gender equality.

Women and Girls Fund:

- In line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5), the WGF will support the advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in our partner countries (Malawi, Zambia, and Rwanda)
- The overall aim of the WGF is to provide direct funding to support women and girl-led organisations in Malawi, Zambia, and Rwanda, with the advancement of gender equality and the rights of women and girls as a principal objective.
- An Invitation to Tender for the participatory design and management of this Fund is currently live.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

- **Equally Safe**, the strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls, is focused on preventing violence from occurring in the first place and strengthening the justice response to victims and perpetrators.
- This is backed by £19m of annual funding to support 121 projects from 112 organisations that focus on early intervention, prevention, and support services.
 - Almost 20,000 people have benefited from support services to date in the first six months of the Delivering Equally Safe Fund and the stories of the transformative impact on their lives speak of the importance to the work undertaken.
- We are investing record levels of funding to support victims through a range of front-line specialist services.
- Our Victim Centred Approach Fund will provide £48m to 23 organisations across Scotland over the period of 2022/25.
- This includes £18.5m for specialist advocacy support for survivors of gender-based violence.

Equally Safe Refresh

Equally Safe is Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.

- Our strategy focuses on the need for prevention of violence and recognises that violence against women and girls is a cause and a consequence of women's inequality.
- Equally Safe places emphasis on challenging gender inequality and norms, and the underpinning attitudes that perpetuate and condone such violence.

- Under the auspices of Equally Safe we have strengthened the law in relation to VAWG; and we have taken forward a great deal of work to ensure those working in the public sector are equipped with the resource and knowledge to confidently and sensitively work with those affected by violence against women and girls.
- We are currently undergoing extensive consultation with our key partners and frontline organisations on how to best address issues that have arisen since the last version of the Equally Safe Strategy was published.

Women's Justice Leadership Panel

- Our Women's Justice Leadership Panel was established in January 2022 to address gender inequality and improve women's experiences within the justice system.
- The Panel's remit is to demonstrate that the experience of women in the justice system is different to men, and to promote consistent understanding of gendered issues within the justice system.
- The Panel concluded that:
 - there is strong evidence which supports the view that women's experience of the justice system is very different to that of men.
 - there is a need to improve gender and intersectional data collection and research across the justice system as well as deeper and meaningful engagement with women and girls with experience of the justice system.
 - there is a need within the justice system for an agreed understanding of an intersectional and gender competent approach which is used to inform both policy and practice.
 - services provided should be person-centred and trauma informed, and consistent across the entire justice system.

PROSTITUTION

- Iceland introduced legislation which criminalised the purchase of sex in 2009, although until 2007 Iceland had also criminalised the exchange of sexual services for money. (It was reported in 2010 that Iceland had also banned strip clubs).
- NGO Stígamót offers counselling for victims of sexual abuse and provides support to women in prostitution.
- A 2021 an OSCE report on tackling the demand for trafficking linked to sexual exploitation highlighted that Stígamót also operates awareness raising campaigns on the links between trafficking and prostitution. As part of its efforts, it has published a brochure for men seeking to educate them about the sexual violence involved in prostitution. (In addition to learning lessons from the support aspects Stígamót deliver, their approaches on societal education, in relation to tackling commercial sexual exploitation would also be of interest).
- Iceland is also grappling with the issue of online exploitation, with an OSCE special representative visit in 2022 calling for further action on this, and a US Government 2023 Trafficking [report](#) on Iceland included that 'the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police maintained a unit for combating trafficking and commercial sex supported by a cyber-crime unit that monitored the internet for trafficking activity. With the rise in online exploitation, including trafficking, experts noted the need to build expertise investigating such cases.' (Efforts in tackling online exploitation and wider online VAWG would be another common area of interest.)

Prostitution - Scotland

- Commercial sexual exploitation is included in the definition of VAWG (within Equally Safe) because of the harms associated with it.
- The law in Scotland prohibits many activities associated with prostitution, including: trading in the prostitution of others and running a brothel, procuring for the purposes of prostitution as well as publicly soliciting or loitering for the purpose of purchasing sex.
- **We committed in our PfG** to *"develop a model for Scotland which effectively tackles and challenges men's demand for prostitution."*
- We are taking this forward through a Framework for Scotland, to challenge men's demand for prostitution and support those with experience of it.
- Principles to underpin the developing Framework and inform relevant policy and practice, across Government and the wider public and third sector were published in December 2022. The Principles include recognising the need for a collective response across government, and the wider public and third sector, and civic society, to tackle the systemic societal and economic disadvantages and circumstances that can foster sexual exploitation.
- The focus over the next 12 months will be to bring the Framework to completion and to see it operating and tested to the full.
- In 2022 Scottish Government published an international review of challenge demand approaches in France, Sweden, Norway, ROI and Northern Ireland. Officials are progressing discussions with their opposite numbers in Sweden, Norway, and France to ensure that we give effect to an approach in Scotland that works. It is important that we continue to learn lessons from others.

BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON ICELANDIC POLICIES**ANNEX C****Action Plan on preventive actions among children and young people against sexual and gender-based violence and harassment 2021-2025**

In 2020, the Icelandic Parliament passed a resolution on preventing sexual and gender-based violence among children and young people. As a result, an action plan was developed, with a focus on children and youth in schools. The overarching goal is to increase education on preventing and acting on gender-based violence, deepening discussions, raising awareness, and understanding in society. This will be done at all school levels in collaboration with health care boards, leisure centres and community centres. The main purpose of the prevention policy is to:

- Develop age-based and gender-sensitive education and prevention material about GBV, emphasizing digital/online violence.
- Develop and promote gender-sensitive education at all levels of the curriculum that informs students of their rights and equips them with the skills required to understand social norms, gendered stereotypes, and power dynamics.

Progress on the delivery of the action plan the is monitored and published online.

Action plan for the handling of sexual violence for the years 2023-2025.

The aim of the action plan is to continue to systematically improve the handling of sexual offenses in the legal system as well as improve experiences and services for those involved.

Reform of the criminal law to protect sexual privacy

In early 2021, the Icelandic Parliament adopted a reform of the Criminal Law which included a new clause protecting individuals from sexual violations by digital means. The legislation makes sharing sexual material and images without consent punishable. The threat of sharing such content is also punishable. This is currently being implemented.

Gender Equality Action Programme for the period 2020-2023

Every four years, in accordance with the Gender Equality Act, the Prime Minister is required to table a motion setting out a four-year gender equality action plan for the parliament to scrutinise. The plan is informed by proposals made by Ministries and the Directorate of Equality as well as discussions at the biannual Gender Equality Forum held by the Prime Minister.

Parental leave

In 2020 a new Act on Maternity/Paternity Leave and Parental Leave was adopted. Now parents have each an independent entitlement to parental leave for up to six months. However, up to 6 weeks are transferrable from one parent to the other.

Termination of pregnancy

The aim of the Termination of Pregnancy Act No. 43/2019 is to ensure that women who request terminations of pregnancy have secure access to health services.

Any woman who so desires shall have the right to have her pregnancy terminated up to the end of the 22nd week of pregnancy. In all cases, pregnancy shall be terminated as soon as possible, and preferably before the end of the 12th week of pregnancy.

Equal Pay Certification

The purpose of the obligatory equal pay certification is to enforce the current legislation prohibiting discriminatory practices based on gender and requiring that employees shall be paid equal wages and enjoy equal terms of employment for the same jobs or jobs of equal value. Companies and institutions employing 25 or more workers, will be required to obtain equal pay certification. Companies employing between 25-49 people can however opt for an equal pay *confirmation* (instead of a certification) which is a simpler process without any compromise on meeting the goals of equal pay and equal terms of employment.

As of 1st of September 2023, 537 companies and institutions that employ 114.828 people in total have obtained an equal pay certification or confirmation. That is approx. 75% of employees that the provision on equal pay certification is estimated to cover.

Action group on equal pay and equality on the labour market

The gender pay gap has decreased in Iceland in recent years, but gender still matters in wage settings at a disadvantage for women. According to a study conducted in 2021 the residual unadjusted pay gap is the consequence of a gender segregated labour market and an undervaluation of women dominated jobs.

An action group has been tasked with establishing a project on the evaluation of jobs, by creating tools for employers that capture the equal value approach of the equality legislation. The project aims to increase knowledge in the labour market of evaluation of jobs in accordance with legislation on equal pay for work of equal value.

[redacted]

ANNEX E TRANSITION TO A WELLBEING ECONOMY - TOP LINES

Our vision is for a Wellbeing Economy – an economy which meets the needs and aspirations of people and provides opportunities for all.

- A genuine Wellbeing Economy will reduce poverty and support high quality public services.
- We will ensure this happens, backed by public and private investment, and informed by our **Wellbeing Economy Expert Advisory Group** and through our international engagement with the Wellbeing Economy Governments (**WEGo**) network.
- The First Minister has set out three **interconnected missions** for 2023-26 as we transition to a Wellbeing Economy: Equality – tackling poverty and protecting people from harm; Opportunity – building a fair, green, growing economy; and Community – delivering efficient and effective public services. In doing so we will embed equality and human rights in everything we do.
- We must ensure that our economy is **fair, green, and growing**, and benefits all of Scotland’s communities and people. We want our businesses to thrive and for their success to benefit all of society. This is critical to our three key missions.
- We will support **fair, green economic growth for a purpose**: to create good jobs and promote fair work, to reduce poverty and improve living standards, and to boost tax revenues and sustain high-quality public services.
- Scotland has the people, skills and resources to transform our economy and secure the **economic opportunities** and benefits of a just transition to net zero. This is how we will protect the planet, improve living standards, create good and sustainable jobs, increase wages, and attract investment.
- Creating **good jobs** and increasing **wages** is one of the best ways to support our anti-poverty agenda. A vibrant economy will boost the tax revenues that sustain high quality public services.

For Scotland, economic success means making the most of the incredibly rich resources we have and using them to build an economy that works for people, not the other way around.

- The **New Deal for Business** group report includes recommendations on businesses’ role in the Wellbeing Economy transition, for example recognising the importance of fair work and pay, secure employment, supporting participation and inclusion, and working in partnership with communities.
- Our **Wellbeing Economy Monitor** tracks broader economic outcomes beyond GDP on issues such as health, equality, fair work, and the environment, and helps us assess Scotland’s progress in building a fairer, greener, and more prosperous economy.
- Our **Wellbeing Economy Toolkit** provides a guide for local authorities to view the Wellbeing Economy as a system and to develop local strategies focused on wellbeing outcomes, based on Scotland’s National Outcomes.
- We have established a **Centre of Expertise in Equality and Human Rights** within the Scottish Government to embed equality and human rights in economic policy making.
- Our leadership in forming the **WEGo** network of Wellbeing Economy governments and delivering the **National Strategy for Economic Transformation** - harnessing the opportunities of the net zero transition and tackling structural inequalities - sets us on a path to a fairer, greener, more prosperous country.
- **Examples of our Wellbeing Economy transition in practice** include the Scottish National Investment Bank, our Fair Work and Just Transition plans, our planned legislation on

Community Wealth Building, Land Reform and the Circular Economy, and the Scottish Child Payment.

Economic activity should serve a purpose. It should be a sustainable means to improved health and wellbeing for all, rather than simply an end in itself.

- In February, the **World Health Organisation** published a *Deep Dive on the Well-being Economy Showcasing Experiences of Finland, Iceland, Scotland, and Wales*¹¹, highlighting Scotland's progress - putting people at the heart of decision-making and prioritising sustainability, equality, and prosperity for current and future generations.
- In May, the Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy spoke at the **WHO Small Countries Initiative** High-level meeting in Luxembourg, where he set out the important links between the economy and health, and our work to transition to a Wellbeing Economy.
- Health and wellbeing go hand in hand. The economy has a direct effect on improving population health and wellbeing, and this relationship is cyclical in nature.
- A focus on wellbeing pays dividends in improving population health, which in turn can have a direct effect on the economy, growing productivity and economic output and lessening the strain on our public services.
- The public health sector is a driver, co-creator and beneficiary of the Wellbeing Economy and is crucial to advancing wellbeing economies.
- The recovery and reform of our **NHS** and other vital public services remain critical to supporting our Wellbeing Economy and to improving the life chances of people across our country. [PfG]
- We will provide the necessary funding in the next Budget to increase the **pay of social care workers** in the private, third and independent (PVI) sectors in a direct care role, and those working in the PVI sector to deliver funded **early learning and childcare**, to at least £12 per hour, an increase that could be worth up to £2,000 per year for those on full-time contracts.

The Scottish Government is committed to continuing Scotland's international leadership in the transition to a Wellbeing Economy as a defining mission.

- Scotland, with Iceland and New Zealand, were founding members of the **WEGo** network of Wellbeing Economy governments, which was established in 2018.
- The combined efforts of Scotland, Iceland, New Zealand, Finland, and Wales - as well as Canada, who are engaging closely with us - have been a real driver of our success to date. All the members are continuing to work with and learn from one other and from further engagement with organisations across the world, including the **WHO and OECD**.
- Our National Strategy for Economic Transformation has a vision that Scotland will be recognised at home and throughout the world as an international benchmark for how an economy can transform itself, decarbonise and rebuild natural capital.
- A net zero, nature positive, Wellbeing Economy serves people first and is based on the principles of prosperity, equality, sustainability and resilience now and for the future.
- The just transition to a net zero, nature positive, Wellbeing Economy is an opportunity to create new, good jobs and businesses and support the transition of existing sectors in a way that has fairness and equality built in.

We will use every lever at our disposal to deliver a Wellbeing Economy that is fair, green, and growing.

- Scotland does not yet have all the **powers** required to fully transform our economy and society for the better, but within the limited powers and budget available, we will continue to do everything possible to build a fair, green, and growing Wellbeing Economy, to tackle poverty and inequality in our society, and to deliver efficient and effective public services.
- We are exploring how we can work with our **partners** to take effective action to tackle poverty in a way that we can afford as a nation, supporting a **strong and vibrant Wellbeing Economy**.
- The Programme for Government seeks to attract investment, drive innovation, and grow our Wellbeing Economy – playing to our strengths in areas such as data and technology, energy, financial services, food and drink, and tourism, while also seizing the new economic opportunities presented by the just transition.
- The Wellbeing Economy approach takes a broader view of the economy. It recognises that the economy is everybody’s business – from health and care to education, and from housing and energy to food and agriculture – requiring a joined-up focus across government at all levels, across all sectors of the economy and all parts of society.
- Wellbeing is an explicit, central part of our national purpose as a country, underpinning the **National Performance Framework - Scotland’s Wellbeing Framework**. The NPF provides a clear long-term purpose and set of improved outcomes for Scotland’s future wellbeing that we all want to see, including on public health outcomes.

We believe in sustainable economic growth for a purpose.

- The Programme for Government is unapologetically anti-poverty, pro-growth - which is both fair and green - and focused on delivering high quality public services.
- We know that businesses, if supported, will help create good jobs, deliver fair wages, expand our tax base, and help to provide important revenue for us to invest in tackling poverty, improving our public services, and delivering Fair Work.
- In the year ahead, we will set out how we propose to reduce Scotland’s contribution to climate change by 2040 in our draft Climate Change Plan, ensuring this journey is fair and actively tackles inequalities through our **just transition** planning. We have the people and resources to adapt and thrive, seizing the economic opportunities this transformation presents.
- Through a new **Green Industrial Strategy** we will help businesses and investors, so that the people of Scotland can share in the enormous economic opportunities of the global transition to net zero.
- A key focus in the year ahead will be to work across the public and private sectors to drive forward agreed recommendations from the Investor Panel on how we **attract private investment** for large scale infrastructure projects and use public spending more effectively to crowd in private capital.

- ^[1] [Deep dives on the well-being economy showcasing the experiences of Finland, Iceland, Scotland and Wales: My government will use every lever at its disposal to deliver a wellbeing economy that is fair, green and growing.](#)

[summary of key findings \(who.int\)](#)

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

Meeting with HE the High Commissioner of India to the UK

28 September 2023

Key message	India is a key country for the Scottish Government's international work. Scotland values its Indian community and the important role they play in enriching Scotland socially, culturally, and economically. [redacted]
What	An introductory meeting with the Indian High Commissioner
Why	To build on existing ties with India, in particular in education, trade and investment, and renewable energy sectors. An opportunity to raise the case of the detention of Jagtar Singh Johal.
Who	His Excellency Vikram K. Doraiswami , High Commissioner of the Republic of India to the UK Shri Bijay Selvaraj , Consul General of India, Edinburgh [redacted] , Second Secretary Indian High Commission
Where	First Minister's Office, Scottish Parliament
When	13:15-13:45, Thursday 28 September
Likely themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Detention of Jagtar Singh Johal2. Collaboration on Education and Research3. Trade and Investment (Green Energy and Whisky)4. Indian diaspora in Scotland
Media	FM Communications team to advise.
Supporting official	Reuben Aitken, Director SDI [redacted], International Relations Team Leader- [redacted]
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Annex A: Suggested Points to Make Annex B: Background Information Annex C: Biographies Annex D: India/Scotland Key Achievements

Agenda and Summary

Meeting the High Commissioner represents an excellent opportunity to strengthen the bilateral relationship with India, principally in trade and investment (with a focus on renewable energy and whisky) and education (primarily research partnerships and opportunities through Transnational Education, as well as engagement with alumni).

The meeting will also allow the First Minister to call for the release of Jagtar Singh Johal. In June the First Minister committed to raising Mr Johal's case with the Indian Government at every opportunity.

During his visit to Scotland, the High Commissioner will meet the presiding officer, Anas Sarwar, Douglas Ross, and Kate Forbes in addition to meetings with the Indian diaspora and giving an 'India at 75' lecture at Edinburgh University.

Agenda items

1. The case of Jagtar Singh Johal
2. Whisky Tariffs and FTA
3. Renewable Energy
4. Education and Research Links

Expectations/ desired outcomes

- Raise the case of Jagtar Singh Johal and receive an update from the High Commissioner.
- Raise the reduction of tariffs for Scottish Whisky exports to India.
- Discuss Scottish expertise in renewable energy.
- Promote SAPHIRE, Transnational Education initiatives and research links between Scottish and Indian institutions.

Recent engagement

21 September 2023, the Minister for CEID met with an Additional Support Need employment training delegation from India. The delegation additionally met with the Indian High Commissioner and Consul General. The Scottish Government have supported the work of the delegates for several years, in particular through their partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College.

The High Commissioner visited Scotland in **December 2022**, meeting the Former First Minister. Their conversation focused on culture, hydrogen, Jagtar Singh Johal, and Education. In the cordial meeting the High Commissioner emphasised his commitment to working with Scotland.

23 November 2022, prior to Mr Gray's visit to India he met the High Commissioner to discuss developing partnerships in Education, Trade, and Renewable Energy.

Sensitivities

- [redacted]

Lines to take only if pressed

- All countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law.

- It is important that Canada's investigation runs its course and the perpetrators brought to justice. Scottish Ministers do not comment on ongoing domestic judicial processes of other countries.

Jagtar Singh Johal- officials advise raising the case of the detention of Mr Johal as an agenda item **(see lines to take in Annex A)**.

- Mr Johal, from Dumbarton, was arrested on **4 November 2017** in Northern India on suspicion of illegal actions against the Indian Government. He is one of 10 men accused of being involved in the murder of Hindu nationalist leader Ravinder Gosain in 2015. Mr Johal has made allegations of torture whilst in custody.

4 May 2022: UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concludes Mr Johal's detention to be arbitrary, and therefore unlawful. Their recommendation is for his release.

12 August 2022: Mr Johal starts litigation against the UK Government with media reporting allegations that the UK Government provided the intelligence to the Indian Government that led to his arrest and subsequent torture.

5 December 2022: Cabinet Secretary Gray met with Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi in New Delhi and raised Mr Johal's case and the UN Working Group's conclusions.

16 January 2023: Mr Johal is formally charged in eight cases prosecuted by India's National Investigation Agency. These cases have now progressed to trial although Mr Johal's legal team estimate these could take years to conclude. Hearings take place every 8 weeks with frequent adjournments.

Suggested Points to Make

[redacted]

Jagtar Singh Johal

- In a meeting with Mr Johal's family in June, you pledged to raise Mr Johal's case with representation of the Indian Government at every available opportunity.
- I call for the immediate release of Mr Johal, in line with the recommendations of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. His detention is unlawful.
- I understand that the UK Prime Minister, Mr Sunak raised Mr Johal's case with Mr Modi on 9 September in Delhi, emphasizing concerns over allegations of torture, mistreatment and Mr Johal's right to a fair trial. This followed my letter to Mr Sunak in June.
- I met with Mr Johal's brother in June 2023, his family remain deeply concerned about his continued detention, the incredibly slow progress of the legal proceedings in India, and allegations that he was tortured in custody. There is a huge degree of concern for Mr Johal's welfare across Scotland.
- You may wish to ask the High Commissioner for an update on the case.

[redacted]

Renewable Energy

- Last year, in meeting the Former First Minister, the High Commissioner was eager to discuss hydrogen. He noted the use of hydrogen powered ferries in Kerala.
- Scotland has the resources, the people and the ambition to become a world leader in hydrogen production, and our Hydrogen Action Plan sets out how we will work collaboratively with the energy sector to drive progress over the coming years to 2026.
- These actions intend to help put Scotland on the pathway to becoming a leading nation by 2045 in the production of competitive and sustainable hydrogen as well as help securing Scotland's future as a centre of international excellence in areas such as innovation, skills and supply chain.
- In the Action Plan, we refresh our commitment to providing the supportive policy and regulatory environment required to enable Scotland to take a pioneering role in a growing global industry and to support our vision for Scotland to become a leading hydrogen nation in the production of reliable, competitive, sustainable hydrogen.
- A new chapter dedicated to 'Scotland's Hydrogen Export Ambitions' seeks to highlight the scale of the export opportunity, Scotland's competitive advantage and the initial actions we will take at home and abroad to support Scottish companies to participate in and benefit from the development of the international hydrogen market.
- During his visit to Delhi last year, Cabinet Secretary Gray outlined Scotland's hydrogen credentials at the International Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Conference.
- SDI led an energy trade delegation from India to Scotland for Offshore Europe earlier this month. Sun Petrochemicals and Hero Future Energies joined the Indian delegation. SDI introduced the delegates to many energy transition technologies in Scotland relevant to tidal, wave, offshore wind, CCS, and green hydrogen.

- Sun Petro has assets in high tidal potential areas. Visits to Scottish tidal energy companies QED Naval and Orbital Marine Power and a visit to the FloWave facility enhanced their understanding of the options available in tidal energy.
- Hero Future Energies plans to develop green hydrogen projects in Scotland and India. The delegate appreciated the introduction to SDI inward investment colleagues and visits to the ACHES Hydrogen refuelling station and Hydrogen Skills Academy.
- SDI and DBT energy trade teams are working together for Windergy in Chennai in October. SDI is a co-sponsor with DBT and Scottish companies will be part of the UK trade mission.

Education and Research Collaboration

- I am delighted that so many Indian students chose Scotland for higher education, last year 10,165 Indian students studied in Scottish institutions- a huge increase from 5,745 students in 2020/2021.
- A key part of our diaspora engagement (as part of the new Scottish Connections Framework) are the overseas alumni of Scottish universities. We are planning to hold an event in Delhi for St Andrews Day this year.
- In October 2020 the Scottish Government launched the SAPHIRE small research projects funds with Asian countries. Since October 2020 SAPHIRE has funded 6 research projects with Indian institutions, totalling approx. £ 47,458. Applications for the next round of funding will be open to Indian researchers shortly.
- This scheme has been delivered through the Royal Society of Edinburgh and focuses on economic and social recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and on global transition to net zero carbon. Its aims are to enhance and add value to existing international research partnerships between Scottish Universities, research institutes, and partners in Asia.
- The Scottish Government is delighted to fund SAPHIRE. We do this to expand and build upon people-to-people research links between Scotland and India and other select countries in Asia and beyond to deepen our relationships there in key thematic areas.
- In July 2022, a MOU was signed between the UK Government and India on mutual recognition of academic qualifications. This will encourage further student mobility between the UK and India by allowing students to continue or share their studies in both countries.
- Transnational Education is the provision of education from institutions in one country to students in another, typically delivered through distance learning, teaching partnerships and off-shore campuses.
- We hope that the partnership between Edinburgh University and Gujarat Biotechnology University will help stimulate more Transnational Education partnerships between India and Scotland.

Background Lines and Information- if raised

Equality and Lemon Tree Visit

- I am delighted that the Scottish Government supports the partnership between Glasgow Kelvin College and Lemon Tree Hotels.
- I am keen to explore new ways to promote best practice sharing between Indian and Scottish businesses, educational institutions, and civil society groups.

Indian Diaspora in Scotland

- The Scottish Government is exploring new ways to connect to the Indian diaspora in Scotland. We are eager to learn more on how we can support the diaspora develop business, educational, and cultural connections in India.
- Scotland values its Indian community and the important role they play in enriching Scotland socially, culturally, and economically.
- You may wish to ask the High Commissioner about his consular and community interaction with Indians in the Scotland.

Direct Air Link to India

- Transport Scotland officials have been working with [redacted] to explore the possibility of a direct airlink between India and Scotland.
- The Scottish Government has always recognised the importance of Scotland's international connectivity. We are committed to working with Scotland's airports to help grow our international connectivity, while not returning to previous levels of emissions.
- A direct air link between Scotland and India has been identified as a future opportunity, and we have been making the case for a direct service, we have previously engaged with Indian airlines to promote the Scottish opportunity, as well as having discussed the case with key Indian Government Personnel.

Biographies

Vikram K Doraiswami, Indian High Commissioner to the UK, joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1992. Prior to this he worked for one year as a journalist. He has a master's degree in history from the University of Delhi.



He became Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan in October 2014, before being assigned as India's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea in April 2015. From October 2020 to September 2022 he served as the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh. He was then appointed High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom on 23 September 2022.

Mr Doraiswami's interests include reading, jazz, sports, and history. He is an avid reader and a long-standing fan of the works of PG Wodehouse. He speaks Chinese, French and conversational Korean. He is married with a son. His wife, Sangeeta works in education.

The First Minister has not met the High Commissioner previously according to Scottish Government records.

Shri Bijay Selvaraj, Consul General, Edinburgh is from Tamil Nadu. He graduated in Electronics and Communications Engineering in 1997 from Kumaraguru College of Technology. The Consul General joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2006. He began his diplomatic career in Cairo where he learnt Arabic and served as Second Secretary (Press and Political) from 2010-13. He later moved to Bangladesh as the First Secretary (Commercial) in 2013 and served there till 2016. He worked as Deputy Secretary (Policy Planning and Research) from 2016-18 and as the Protector of Emigrants in Trivandrum from April 2018.



Shri Bijay Selvaraj speaks English, Arabic, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi.

The First Minister has not met the High Commissioner previously according to Scottish Government records.

Scotland/India Key Achievements

In 2021 Minister's Reviewed Scotland's Engagement Strategy with India to focus on Trade and Investment and the following key areas of collaboration between Scotland and India:

- Education
- Equality
- Environment

Trade & Investment

- Scottish (direct) exports to India-£365m – 2019 (Export Statistics Scotland)
- Scotland's 21st largest export destination (1% of total exports) in 2019.
- In 2018 manufacturing sectors accounted for £190 million (64.6%). Exports of services accounted for £70 million (23.7%), while the remaining £35 million (11.7%) came from other sectors. The top sector of exports was Food & Drink, which accounted for £140 million (47.5%) of exports to India.

Investment

- 30 Indian-owned companies employ 3950 people with Scottish turnover of £282m
- India's largest IT company Tata Consultancy Services operates across financial services, utilities and energy
- Hinduja Global Solutions, with an office in Selkirk, won a contract with Money Adviser leading to new jobs
- Wipro acquired part of SAIC Corporation and now operates from three Scottish locations. The East Kilbride office is also now catering to Royal Sun Alliance and Allied Irish bank in Ireland.
- Hero Enterprise has a JV with Catalyst Capital in the hospitality sector after acquiring Elgin House
- Piramal Healthcare UK Limited have significant manufacturing operations at Grangemouth

Higher Education

- 10,165 higher education students from India studying in Scotland 2021/2022- a sizeable increase from 5745 the previous year.
- India is Scotland's second-biggest international market for further and higher education students.
- A 2018 survey carried out by Universities Scotland of its members shows Scotland's HEIs have 89 unique academic and research links with Indian universities.

Tourism

- Total visits: 40,000 trips; Total nights in Scotland: 634,000; Total spend in Scotland: £22.5 million (VisitScotland 2018).

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

«MEETING WITH NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER»

«30 MAY 2023»

Key message	<i>Scotland enjoys strong links with New Zealand. I want to continue strengthening and developing our relationship, building on the strong diaspora and cultural relationships already in place.</i>
What	<i>Meeting the New Zealand High Commissioner as part of his first official visit to Scotland.</i>
Why	<i>Officials recommend where possible the First Minister sees fully accredited Ambassadors and High Commissioners, and prioritises those from countries where we have strong links</i>
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>New Zealand High Commissioner, Phil Goff</i>• <i>Philip Greatex, Senior Policy Adviser</i>• <i>Scott Williamson, Honorary Consul</i>
Where	<i>St Andrews House, First Ministers Office</i>
When	<i>12:15 – 12:45, 30 May 2023</i>
Likely themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Strengthening of Scotland/New Zealand relations, covering diaspora, culture, higher education, T&I and energy.</i>
Media	<i>Agreed with FM comms, images for twitter will be taken at the beginning of the meeting.</i>
Supporting official	[redacted – DEXA official]
Attached documents	<i>Annex A: Summary Annex B: Top lines/Background Annex C: Biography</i>

Background

This is the High Commissioner's (HC) first official visit to Scotland, following his appointment at the beginning of 2023. This is an opportunity to understand New Zealand's priorities in Scotland and identify areas for further collaboration, specifically in diaspora, culture and climate.

The HC is interested in learning more about the Scotland/Westminster dynamic, including the impact of the Internal Markets Act, priorities for 2023 and the First Minister's views on the current political landscape, [redacted].

The New Zealand High Commission has told us that the HC would like to discuss the UK-NZ Free Trade Agreement, the expanded UK-NZ Working Holiday Scheme, and the bilateral cooperation on Wellbeing Economy Governments (WeGo). The HC will also meet Cabinet Secretary Neil Gray to discuss energy and wellbeing economy.

Recent engagement

Various teams across SG engage with New Zealand at official level. In 2021 energy officials worked with NZ to develop the *Just Transition Strategy* and are sharing learning as NZ develops its National Energy Strategy. Human Rights colleagues have engaged with the NZ Human Rights Commission in relation to the upcoming Human Rights Bill.

Key points to raise:

- The Scottish Government is keen to strengthen our relationship with New Zealand. **You may wish to ask about NZ's upcoming general elections on 14 October 2023.**
- **WeGo** - Delighted to continue our collaboration with the New Zealand government on this shared area of interest. The Scottish Government is committed to continuing Scotland's global leadership role in the transition to a wellbeing economy as a strategic priority and defining mission.
- **FTA** - The Scottish Government is keen to work with New Zealand for the benefit of both our countries and aware there is a lot of commonality between our concerns for the welfare of our people and the planet.
- **Diaspora** - You may wish to highlight the publication of the Scottish Connection framework, Scotland/New Zealand have a long shared history and strong diaspora connections and we are keen to engage more in this space, including more uncomfortable historical issues.

[redacted]

WeGo top lines

- **Delighted to continue our collaboration with the New Zealand government on this shared area of interest.** The Scottish Government is committed to continuing Scotland's global leadership role in the transition to a wellbeing economy as a strategic priority and defining mission.

Background

- As a founding member of Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGo) network in 2018, alongside New Zealand and Iceland, we recognise the value of building a coalition for change and in sharing best practise and experience internationally.
- Colleagues from the NZ Treasury join our regular online policy labs and seminars, and attended an in-person event in Glasgow last November. Discussions have touched on a wide range of topics including wellbeing measurements and frameworks, child poverty and wellbeing, just transition and green and inclusive recoveries from COVID-19.
- The then First Minister of Scotland, the First Minister of Wales, the Prime Minister of Iceland and the Climate Change Ambassador of New Zealand met at COP26 and reaffirmed their commitment to a wellbeing economy.

FTA top lines

- **The Scottish Government is keen to work with New Zealand for the benefit of both our countries and aware there is a lot of commonality between our concerns for the welfare of our people and the planet.**

Background

- The UK-New Zealand FTA was signed on 28 February 2022. The last of the secondary legislation was laid on Thursday 4 May and Entry into Force (EIF) is expected to take place on Wednesday 31 May. This was officially announced by both Prime Ministers on 5 May.
- There were two Scottish Statutory Instruments which needed to be made and be in force before the FTAs with Australia and New Zealand can take effect. Scottish Government policy leads on procurement (covering both FTAs) and alcohol labelling (New Zealand only) were in regular contact with the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) to ensure the respective timeframes are consistent. The alcohol labelling instrument came into force in April and procurement instrument will be at the end of May. [redacted].

Sensitivities

- The Scottish agricultural sector has serious concerns over the nature of the New Zealand trade deal, although not as potentially damaging as the Australian FTA. It is however disappointing that the EU secured a better deal for their agri-food sector soon after the UK concluded negotiations.
- New Zealand is one of the most export oriented agri-food producer in the world, there are limited export opportunities for Scottish producers. Stakeholders have been extremely critical of the signed trade deal, this was compounded by the EU securing a better deal for their agri-

food producers shortly after the UK deal was announced. There are however opportunities to work together on Animal Welfare, Climate Change and Anti-Microbial Resistance and potential opportunities for Scottish and New Zealand producers to share expertise.

Food and Drink

- The FTA with New Zealand does present some opportunities. New Zealand has committed to meaningful progress on animal welfare, climate change and anti-microbial resistance and we look forward to working together on these issues that are vital for the agri-food sector. There are also some tariff reductions on a number of food and drink products, such as gin.
- We also hope to work together to resolve any technical or non-tariff barriers to trade that emerge bilaterally and through the committees defined in the trade deal. We will be pressing the UK Government to action the commitment to establish geographical indicator scheme extension to New Zealand as soon as possible, hopefully sooner than the 24 month time limit contained within the trade deal text.
- **Finally there may be opportunities for Scottish and New Zealand agri-food producers to work together to enhance seasonal produce in both markets.**

Environment

- In line with our Vision for Trade we support the strong environmental provisions in the UK-NZ FTA. We welcomed the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and the specific reference to temperature goals.
- We recognise world leading role NZ plays in trade and environment. In our Vision for Trade we called upon the UK Government to join the ACCTS negotiations.
- We also support and admire the work on trade and environment NZ carries out through the WTO. We support their work on fossil fuel subsidies at the WTO and the Scottish Government has ended overseas trade promotion support for purely fossil fuel goods and services.
- We recognise that both parties are committed to the energy transition and are happy to see FTA commitments to end electricity generation from unabated coal, take steps to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies where they exist, and pursue a more ambitious phase down of hydrofluorocarbons.
- Furthermore we are pleased that the commitments made in the FTA such as those intended to tackle environmental challenges, deforestation and address inadequate fisheries management will be enforceable through the trade deal's dispute settlement function.

UK-NZ Working Holiday Scheme

- **We welcome the recent expansion of the UK/NZ Youth Mobility Scheme and NZ/UK Working Holiday, which will provide more opportunities for mobility between our countries.**

- **Both Scotland and New Zealand will benefit culturally, socially and economically by having more young people travel and work in each other's countries.**
- While these recent changes are welcome, we would like the UK Government to go further. For example, the UK Government should work with the Scottish Government to develop a pilot scheme to allow people on the Youth Mobility Scheme visa to extend their stay for up to an additional year if they reside in Scotland during that time.

Background:

- The Youth Mobility Scheme is open for people age 18 to 30 from Australia, Canada, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Iceland, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.
- It is also open to young people with certain types of British nationality, such as British Overseas Citizens. It allows people to live and work in the UK for up to 2 years.
- In 2022 a total of 3,251 people from New Zealand came to the UK on the Youth Mobility Scheme, when 13,000 places are available to New Zealanders each year.
- From 29 June 2023, the age limit for New Zealand applicants coming to the UK will go up from 30 to 35 years old and the maximum length of time people can stay will be extended to 3 years.
- Similarly the age limit for the reciprocal Working Holiday scheme for UK applicants coming to New Zealand will be increased from 30 to 35 on 1 July 2023, and the length of time people will be able to stay and work will increase to 3 years.

Scottish Connections

- The Scottish Connections Framework, published in April 2023 outlines a cross-cutting approach to diaspora engagement. This is the first time that work across the Scottish Government and partners has been brought together into a cohesive approach.
- The Framework outlines a series of commitments and ambitions to strengthen and expand our relationships with, and between, Scotland's international communities.
- We believe that New Zealand has a large Scottish ancestral diaspora, but also more recent family ties and many alumni of Scottish universities. We would welcome the HC's views on how to better connect with our diaspora in a way that strengthens our bilateral relationship.

Higher Education

- In academic year 2021-22 there were 75 students from New Zealand studying in Higher Education Institutions in Scotland. This is up from 65 in academic year 2020-21.
- The University of Glasgow currently has exchange agreements with the University of Otago and the University of Auckland.

Human rights

- New Zealand has a strong reputation regarding human rights and Scotland remains interested in their National Plan of Action on Human Rights as an example of good practice.
- We would be interested in speaking at an official level to learn more about their implementation of the National Plan and their experience in monitoring international human rights instruments.

(if raised) FCDO guidance on Ministerial visits overseas

- Scottish Ministers undertake overseas visits in support of Scotland's economy, promoting Scotland as the best place to live, work, study, visit or do business.
- Scottish Ministers quite rightly engage internationally on a wide range of devolved issues. The UK Government has been unable to provide any serious examples of Scottish Ministers acting inappropriately or exceeding their remit.



Phil Goff took up post as High Commissioner of New Zealand to the United Kingdom at the beginning of 2023.

Phil Goff was born and brought up in Auckland. He graduated from the University of Auckland with a Master's Degree (1st Class Honours) in Political Studies and then taught at the University for four years.

In 1981 he ran for Parliament as a Labour candidate and won the Auckland seat of Roskill. He was elected to Cabinet in 1984 in the Lange Government and at age 31 became the youngest ever Cabinet Minister in New Zealand. Over those first six years in Cabinet, his portfolios included Housing, Employment, Environment, Tourism, Youth Affairs and Education.

Losing his seat in 1990, Phil taught for three years as a Senior Lecturer in Politics for the Bachelor of Communications course at the Auckland University of Technology, and attended Nuffield College at Oxford on an FCO scholarship.

Re-elected in 1993 in his former seat of Roskill, Phil served as an MP through to 2016 with nine further years as a Cabinet Minister in the Clark Government. His portfolios included Foreign Affairs, Justice, Trade, Defence, Disarmament, Corrections and Associate Finance. In 2008 to 2011, he served as Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition. In 2016 and 2019 he was elected and then re-elected as Mayor of Auckland, retiring from this position in 2022.

He was awarded Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for public service and Order of Merit from Timor Leste.