

Annex A

Section 29(1)(a) – formulation or development of government policy

An exemption under section 29(1)(a) of FOISA (formulation or development of government policy) applies to the information requested because it relates to the development of the Scottish Government's policy on preparing an independence prospectus.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the work on preparing an independence prospectus will be disclosed in the near future, when it may undermine or constrain the Government's view on that policy while it is still under discussion and development.

Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)

We are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because an exemption under section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information) of FOISA applies to that information. This is because it is personal data of a third party, specifically the personal details of individuals below Senior Civil Service grade, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.

Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice

An exemption under section 30(b)(i) of FOISA (free and frank provision of advice) applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank provision of advice.

This exemption recognises the need for officials to have a private space within which to provide free and frank advice to Ministers before the Scottish Government reaches a settled public view. Disclosing the content of free and frank advice around the content of responses to media will substantially inhibit the provision of such advice in the future, particularly because these discussions are still ongoing and decisions have not been taken.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing a private space within which officials can provide full and frank advice to Ministers, as part of the process of exploring and refining the Government's position on monitoring the publication of ESS until the Government as a whole can adopt a policy that is sound and likely to be effective. This private thinking space is essential to enable all options to be properly considered, based on the best available advice, so that good policy decisions can be taken. Premature disclosure is likely to undermine the full and frank discussion of issues between Ministers and officials, which in turn will undermine the quality of the policy making process, which would not be in the public interest.

Section 30(b)(ii) – Free and Frank Exchange of Views for the Purposes of Deliberation

An exemption under section 30(b)(ii) of FOISA (Free and Frank Exchange of Views) applies to some of the amount of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. This exemption recognises the need for a private space to discuss and explore options with stakeholders. Disclosing the content of free and frank discussions will substantially inhibit such discussions in the future and may deter stakeholders from entering into discussions with the Scottish Government if they believe their comments will be published.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing a private space within which to engage with stakeholders and external experts. This private thinking space is essential to enable all options to be properly considered, so that good policy decisions can be taken. Premature disclosure is likely to undermine the full and frank discussion of issues, which in turn will undermine the quality of the policy making process, which would not be in the public interest.

Section 30(c) (Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs)

The reason why this exemption applies is because releasing draft plans for and content of Scottish Government publications, which do not reflect final decisions taken, would result in inaccurate information on the Scottish Government's proposals for an independent Scotland being published, thereby undermining the Scottish Government's ability to effectively and accurately engage and communicate with the public.

This in turn would be likely to impair the Government's ability to take forward its work on policy development for an independent Scotland. This would constitute substantial prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs in terms of the exemption.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in enabling the Scottish Government to effectively and accurately engage and communicate with the public on its proposals for an independent Scotland without the risk of these proposals being prejudiced by inaccurate information, which doesn't reflect final decisions taken.

Annex B

Item 1 –

From: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 2:10 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Exports Statistics <Exports_Statistics@gov.scot>; Kathy Johnston <Kathy.Johnston@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For sign-off - ESS plans - ministerial briefing

Thanks [redacted]

A couple of tweaks to submission but happy with date and progress. It wouldn't let me track them.....

Dr Gary Gillespie
Chief Economist
Scottish Government
Tel:[redacted]



From: [redacted]
OCEA: Economic Statistics
August 2023

Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade

Planned publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021

Priority and Purpose

1. This submission is to inform the Minister on the planned publication strategy for the 2020 and 2021 Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) publication.
2. **The priority marking is routine.** This is for information only and no action is required.

Context and Issues

3. Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) is a National Statistics publication, which provides official estimates of Scotland's exports of goods and services by sector and covers both international and rest of the UK exports. The statistics:
 - help us understand trading patterns of Scottish businesses and provide sector level analysis
 - provide us with an important data source for monitoring and understanding the impacts of our trade policies and economic shocks like the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Scotland's trade
 - provide us with relevant data for future trade policy analysis
4. Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) has previously been published at the end of January each year. In 2020, it was decided to delay the Global Connections Survey (GCS) 2019, which forms the basis of ESS, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and then to allow businesses to focus on preparing for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period. This delay to ESS 2019 has had a subsequent effect on the timing of the 2020 and 2021 publications.
5. To reduce the delay, the Trade Statistics team ran the Global Connections Survey for 2020 and 2021 simultaneously for the first time. This data collection is complete, the data has been quality assured but is still being processed to produce the ESS data.
6. [redacted]
7. Given our current progress, we now have a **planned publication date of 29th November 2023** [redacted]
8. In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, we will pre-announce this publication date in Forthcoming Publications shortly.

Handling

9. The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires that the timing and content of National Statistics must be determined independently of Ministers. We intend to pre-announce this date in line with the code of practise.
- 10.

Recommendations and next steps

11. The Minister is invited to note this information.

[redacted]

OCEA: Economic Statistics

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 August 2023 10:15
To: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>
Cc: Exports Statistics <Exports_Statistics@gov.scot>; Kathy Johnston <Kathy.Johnston@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: For sign-off - ESS plans - ministerial briefing

Hi Gary

I hope you enjoyed your time off.

Please find attached a draft of the briefing we intend to send to Mr Lochhead to inform him of our planned publication date for Export Statistics Scotland (ESS). Further to our discussions earlier this year, we have continued to work on the modified methodology for producing the ESS data and are now performing detailed checks of the SAS code that processes the data.

[redacted], we now have a **planned publication date of 29th November 2023**. [redacted]. We have also been liaising with the other teams that use the ESS data and keeping them informed and updated.

If you are content with this, then we will inform the Minister and pre-announce the date in Forthcoming Publications according to the guidance for Official Statistics.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]
Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government
[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)



From: Kathy Johnston <Kathy.Johnston@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 August 2023 17:10
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Exports Statistics <Exports_Statistics@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Export Statistics Scotland planned publication date

[redacted]

Thanks. [redacted]

Kathy

Kathy Johnston

Deputy Director, Economic Analysis & Head of Economist Profession |
Office of the Chief Economic Adviser (OCEA) |
Mobile number: [redacted] | or call on MS Teams

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 August 2023 16:19
To: Kathy Johnston <Kathy.Johnston@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Exports Statistics <Exports_Statistics@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Export Statistics Scotland planned publication date

Kathy,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Kathy Johnston <Kathy.Johnston@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:09 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Exports Statistics <Exports_Statistics@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Export Statistics Scotland planned publication date

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for this.

[redacted]

Kathy

Kathy Johnston

Deputy Director, Economic Analysis & Head of Economist Profession |
Office of the Chief Economic Adviser (OCEA) |
Mobile number: [redacted] | or call on MS Teams

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 August 2023 11:21
To: Kathy Johnston <Kathy.Johnston@gov.scot>
Cc: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

Exports Statistics <Exports_Statistics@gov.scot>
Subject: Export Statistics Scotland planned publication date

Hi Kathy,

[redacted]

ESS has previously been published at the end of January each year. Statisticians decided to delay the Global Connections Survey (GCS) 2019, which forms the basis of ESS, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and then to allow businesses to focus on preparing for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period. This delay to ESS 2019 has had a subsequent effect on the timing of the 2020 and 2021 publications.

Data collection via the Global Connections Survey for 2020 and 2021 is complete and the data has been quality assured.

As the timetable for publication has changed from previous years, we are now able to revise the methodology for processing the data to include more timely sources of information [redacted]

Further to our discussions with Gary earlier this year, we have continued to work on the modified methodology for producing the Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) data and are now performing detailed checks of the SAS code and quality assuring the data.

[redacted] we now have a planned publication date of 29th November 2023. This publication would include data for the years 2019-2021, which represents a reduced time series compared to previous publications, due to the break in the time-series. [redacted]

If you are content with this, then we will inform the Minister and pre-announce the date in Forthcoming Publications according to the guidance for Official Statistics.

Thank you very much,
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government

[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)

 [@ScotGovOCEA](#)

Item 2 –

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 4:29 PM

To: Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade
<MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy
<CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; Richard Rollison <Richard.Rollison@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; David Barnes

<David.Barnes@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted] @gov.scot>; Richard Murray <Richard.Murray@gov.scot>

Subject: Ministerial submission: Planned publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021

Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade,

Please find attached a submission regarding our publications plans for Export Statistics Scotland 2021.

If you require any further detail or have any questions, please let me know.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government

[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)



From: [redacted]
OCEA: Economic Statistics
15 August 2023

Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade

Planned publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021

Priority and Purpose

1. This submission is to inform the Minister on the planned publication strategy for the 2020 and 2021 Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) publication.
2. **The priority marking is routine.** This is for information only and no action is required.

Context and Issues

3. Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) is a National Statistics publication, which provides official estimates of Scotland's exports of goods and services by sector and covers both international and rest of the UK exports. The statistics:

- help us understand trading patterns of Scottish businesses and provide sector level analysis
 - provide us with an important data source for monitoring and understanding the impacts of our trade policies and economic shocks like the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Scotland's trade
 - provide us with relevant data for future trade policy analysis
4. Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) has previously been published at the end of January each year. In 2020, it was decided to delay the Global Connections Survey (GCS) 2019, which forms the basis of ESS, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and then to allow businesses to focus on preparing for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period. This delay to ESS 2019 has had a subsequent effect on the timing of the 2020 and 2021 publications.
 5. To reduce the delay, the Trade Statistics team ran the Global Connections Survey for 2020 and 2021 simultaneously for the first time. This data collection is complete, the data has been quality assured but is still being processed to produce the ESS data.
 6. [redacted].
 7. Given our current progress, we now have a **planned publication date of 29th November 2023**. [redacted]
 8. In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, we will pre-announce this publication date in Forthcoming Publications shortly.

Handling

9. The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires that the timing and content of National Statistics must be determined independently of Ministers. We intend to pre-announce this date in line with the code of practice.

Recommendations and next steps

10. The Minister is invited to note this information.

[redacted]

OCEA: Economic Statistics

15 August 2023

Item 3 –

From: Richard Murray <Richard.Murray@gov.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:11 AM

To: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: For info - FW: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi Gary,

Just to put on your radar – bit of political interest in the delayed export stats. Hopefully the response below will be sufficient, but I'll flag if there's more attention on this in the run up to publication.

Richard

Richard Murray

Deputy Director – Economic Development, Enterprise and Labour Market Analysis
Office of the Chief Economic Adviser (OCEA)
Scottish Government

I'm working flexibly, both in the office and from home, and can be reached on MS Teams, email or mobile ([redacted]).

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Richard Murray <Richard.Murray@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: For info - FW: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi Richard

This is just for info, to keep you updated.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government
[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 September 2023 16:23
To: Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Minister / PO

We have received a media query from the Scottish Express around the delay in publishing export statistics. See media query appended below.

Spads, comms and policy have agreed the draft response below.

Grateful for the Minister's consideration and if content.

Thanks

[redacted]

Draft response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The timing and content of National Statistics, such as Export Statistics Scotland (ESS), are determined independently of Ministers according to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

"Recent Regional Trade Statistics published by HMRC show the value of Scotland's goods exports is growing at a faster rate than for the UK as a whole. When oil and gas are excluded, the value of Scotland's goods exports increased by 13.2%, which was greater than the 12.0% growth experienced by the UK in the year ending June 2023 compared with the previous year."

Background

As outlined on the Scottish Government website, due to the pandemic and then to allow businesses to focus on preparing for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period, statisticians decided to delay the Global Connections Survey 2019, which forms the basis of ESS. This delay to 2019 statistics has had a subsequent effect on the timing of the 2020 and 2021 publications.

The next ESS publication will include data for both 2020 and 2021 and will be published on 29th November 2023.

[Publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021 - About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, this publication date has been pre-announced in [Scottish Government Official Statistics: Forthcoming Publications](#).

Media query:

The Scot Tories are calling out an almost two year delay to export stats. Here is the comment and a response for online as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated:

Scottish Conservative shadow business, economic growth and tourism secretary Murdo Fraser MSP, said: "SNP ministers must be upfront with the public as to why these vital statistics are continuing to gather dust.

“They are crucial in knowing where Scotland’s largest exports markets are and we know from the most recent publication – almost two years ago – that by far and away remains our neighbours across the United Kingdom.

“Yet we have no idea how Scotland’s exports have been performing since before Covid struck. Nationalist ministers who try and dismiss the importance of the UK market to Scotland’s economy cannot play politics over this.

“They must confirm a date when the latest stats will finally be published and guarantee this will be done on a consistent basis going forward.”

[redacted]

[redacted] | News: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted]

From: Richard Murray <Richard.Murray@gov.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:10 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For info - FW: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi [redacted],

Many thanks for flagging this. [redacted], but please shout if there’s more traffic on this issue in the run up to publication.

Thanks again

Richard

Richard Murray

Deputy Director – Economic Development, Enterprise and Labour Market Analysis
Office of the Chief Economic Adviser (OCEA)
Scottish Government

I’m working flexibly, both in the office and from home, and can be reached on MS Teams, email or mobile ([redacted]).

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:59 PM

To: Richard Murray <Richard.Murray@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: For info - FW: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi Richard

This is just for info, to keep you updated.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government

[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)



From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:20 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: FOR CLEARANCE: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Thanks

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 5:26:41 PM

To: Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Callum

McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Thanks [redacted] / PO.

I will issue shortly on Spad clearance.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 5:26 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express
Thanks [redacted],

Mr Lochhead is currently at an engagement and unable to clear, grateful if this could go on SpAd clearance.

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] | **Private Secretary**

Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade – Richard Lochhead

ministrsbitt@gov.scot | **Telephone:** [redacted]

| **Mobile:** [redacted]

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:17 PM

To: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>;

Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig
<Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and
Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Spad views: media query - delay in publishing export statistics -
Scottish Express

Thanks Kevin.

Updated as below.

[redacted]

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:10 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen
<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>;
Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig
<Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and
Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Spad views: media query - delay in publishing export statistics -
Scottish Express

[redacted]

Thanks
Kevin

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:07 PM

To: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen
<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>;
Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig
<Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and
Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Spad views: media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish
Express

Hi Spads.

We have received a media query from the Scottish Express around the delay in publishing export statistics. See media query appended below.

Comms and policy have worked to draft the below response.

Grateful for Spad views and if content.

Thanks
[redacted]

Draft response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The timing and content of National Statistics, such as Export Statistics Scotland (ESS), are determined independently of Ministers according to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

“Recent Regional Trade Statistics published by HMRC show the value of Scotland’s goods exports is growing at a faster rate than for the UK as a whole. When oil and gas are excluded, the value of Scotland’s goods exports increased by 13.2%, which was greater than the 12.0% growth experienced by the UK in the year ending June 2023 compared with the previous year.”

Background

As stated on the Scottish Government website, due to the pandemic and then to allow businesses to focus on preparing for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period, statisticians decided to delay the Global Connections Survey 2019, which forms the basis of ESS. This delay to 2019 statistics has had a subsequent effect on the timing of the 2020 and 2021 publications.

The next ESS publication will include data for both 2020 and 2021 and will be published on **29th November 2023**.

[Publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021 - About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/export-statistics-scotland-2021/about-export-statistics-scotland-gov.scot)

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, this publication date has been pre-announced in [Scottish Government Official Statistics: Forthcoming Publications](#).

Media query:

The Scot Tories are calling out an almost two year delay to export stats. Here is the comment and a response for online as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated:

Scottish Conservative shadow business, economic growth and tourism secretary Murdo Fraser MSP, said: “SNP ministers must be upfront with the public as to why these vital statistics are continuing to gather dust.

“They are crucial in knowing where Scotland’s largest exports markets are and we know from the most recent publication – almost two years ago – that by far and away remains our neighbours across the United Kingdom.

“Yet we have no idea how Scotland’s exports have been performing since before Covid struck. Nationalist ministers who try and dismiss the importance of the UK market to Scotland’s economy cannot play politics over this.

“They must confirm a date when the latest stats will finally be published and guarantee this will be done on a consistent basis going forward.”

[redacted]

[redacted] | News: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted]



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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:01 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Thanks [redacted].

As discussed on Teams, tweaked/tightened as below.

I will pit to Spads now.

[redacted]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:
[redacted]

Background

[Publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021 - About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, this publication date has been pre-announced in [Scottish Government Official Statistics: Forthcoming Publications](#).

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 3:35 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkandenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi [redacted]

[redacted]

Background

[Publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021 - About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government

[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)

 @ScotGovOCEA

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

Sent: 19 September 2023 15:02

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Thanks [redacted]. I have amended

[redacted]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[redacted]

Background

[Publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021 - About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/export-statistics-scotland-2021/about-export-statistics-scotland-gov.scot)

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, this publication date has been pre-announced in [Scottish Government Official Statistics: Forthcoming Publications](#).

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 3:00 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government

[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)



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

Sent: 19 September 2023 14:52

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Thanks [redacted].

Following input from comms colleagues, I have worked into a comment from a SG spokesperson so our lines are carried in any article.

If no further comments, I'll get to Spads at 15:05.

[redacted]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[redacted]

Background

[Publication of Export Statistics Scotland 2021 - About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, this publication date has been pre-announced in [Scottish Government Official Statistics: Forthcoming Publications](#).

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:44 PM

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

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi [redacted]
Yes that information is correct regarding the next Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) publication.
It might also be worth noting that the timing and content of National Statistics, such as ESS, are determined independently of Ministers according to the Code of Practise for Official Statistics.
Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]
Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government
[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)



From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 September 2023 14:28
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi all. Apologies for following up.

Just checking policy are content for me to get this to Spads for a view with aim of issuing to the journalist as information.

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 1:18 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair
Work and Energy
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkandenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics -
Scottish Express

Hi all.

We have received a media query from the Scottish Express around the delay in publishing export statistics. See media query appended below.

I saw there was some mention of this last week between my colleague [redacted] and policy.

Would this be a case of pointing the journalist to the explainer on the SG site as below? As this appears to inform the journalist on her query.

Grateful for views/input.

Thanks
[redacted]

For information:

[redacted]

Media query:

The Scot Tories are calling out an almost two year delay to export stats. Here is the comment and a response for online as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated:

Scottish Conservative shadow business, economic growth and tourism secretary Murdo Fraser MSP, said: “SNP ministers must be upfront with the public as to why these vital statistics are continuing to gather dust.

“They are crucial in knowing where Scotland’s largest exports markets are and we know from the most recent publication – almost two years ago – that by far and away remains our neighbours across the United Kingdom.

“Yet we have no idea how Scotland’s exports have been performing since before Covid struck. Nationalist ministers who try and dismiss the importance of the UK market to Scotland’s economy cannot play politics over this.

“They must confirm a date when the latest stats will finally be published and guarantee this will be done on a consistent basis going forward.”

[redacted]

[redacted] | News: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [redacted]



From: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:41 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

[redacted],

[redacted]

[redacted]

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:28 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Policy views/input - media query - delay in publishing export statistics - Scottish Express

Hi all. Apologies for following up.

Just checking policy are content for me to get this to Spads for a view with aim of issuing to the journalist as information.

Thanks
[redacted]

Item 4 –

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:56 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkandenergy@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media Query - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

Hi [redacted],

Yes, that is all correct. The latest Export Statistics Scotland data available is for 2019, which was published in 2021. As explained on the website ([About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)), the pandemic impacted the timeline and caused a delay in these statistics. To reduce the delay, the Trade Statistics team ran the Global Connections Survey for 2020 and 2021 simultaneously for the first time and will publish data for both years in the next publication (ESS 2021), which will be published on 29th Nov 2023. In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, this publication date has been pre-announced in [Scottish Government Official Statistics: Forthcoming Publications](#).

We cannot provide a date for publication of ESS 2022 yet.

In terms of alternative export data, HMRC Regional Trade in Goods statistics for the second quarter of 2023 were published this morning: [UK regional trade in goods statistics: second quarter 2023 - UK Trade Info](#).

We will produce a report on these figures for Scotland in a few weeks, which will be available on the website. The report for Q1 2023 is available here: [Scotland's International Goods Trade: Quarter 1 2023 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

The Scottish Government also produces other statistics which are derived from annual supply and use tables. The Quarterly National Accounts statistics include high level provisional estimates of total exports for Scotland's onshore economy, which include quarterly breakdowns and provisional estimates for more recent periods. The latest release can be found here: [Supporting documents - GDP Quarterly National Accounts: 2023 Quarter 1 \(January to March\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – [Other national Accounts summary tables G1](#)

I hope that helps.
Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] (she/her)

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government
[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)



From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 September 2023 09:49
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>
Subject: Media Query - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

Hi all

The Mail on Sunday have asked for the “latest export statistics” for Scotland, and have also queried the delay in publication of the Export Scotland Statistics.

[redacted]

In terms of providing latest statistics – intending to signpost the journalist to the “other sources” page, but let me know if you feel she should be signposted to a specific source. [About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Many thanks
[redacted]

From: Georgia Edkins <Georgia.Edkins@mailonsunday.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:54 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Export statistics

Hi [redacted],

Yes all in export stats please!

It says on the website that ‘The next ESS publication will contain data for 2020 and 2021 and will be published on **29th November 2023.**’

Do you know why, given this used to be published every year on time, there is such a massive two year delay please?

Best wishes,

Georgia

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 September 2023 14:50
To: Georgia Edkins <Georgia.Edkins@mailonsunday.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Export statistics

External Sender

Hi Georgia

Just picking this one up for you. When you say last stats published were Dec '21, is it these ones ("Export Statistics Scotland") you're referring to? [About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) (seems to have stopped in 2021)

Are there specific goods/stats you are looking for or general, all-in expert stats? (Just asking as there are various quarterly/annual reports from various sources so just want to make sure we get you the right info!

Thanks
[redacted]

From: Georgia Edkins <Georgia.Edkins@mailonsunday.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:15 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Export statistics

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for our call just now.

I was wondering where the latest export statistics were for Scotland please? I believe they were last published in Dec 2021 and am keen to know more updated figures please.

Warmest wishes and thanks,
Georgia Edkins

Georgia Edkins
Political Editor
Scottish Mail on Sunday
T: +44 ([redacted])
M: +44 [redacted]
E: georgia.edkins@mailonsunday.co.uk

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Registered No 84121 England.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:28 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media Query - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

I agree, that's very helpful, thank you!

[redacted] (she/her)
Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government
[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 September 2023 10:24
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media Query - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

Hi [redacted],

[redacted]
Does that help?

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:17 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Media Query - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

Hi [redacted],

[redacted]

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] (she/her)

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government
[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 September 2023 09:49
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkAndenergy@gov.scot>
Subject: Media Query - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

Hi all

The Mail on Sunday have asked for the “latest export statistics” for Scotland, and have also queried the delay in publication of the Export Scotland Statistics.

[redacted]

Many thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:35 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For allocation - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

Thanks, [redacted]. Yes indeed. We'll pick up.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:31 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]2@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: For allocation - Export statistics - Mail on Sunday

Hi [redacted]/team,

Do you guys deal with export statistics? The Mail on Sunday are looking for up-to-date figures.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | [redacted]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture | Scottish Government
[redacted] | [redacted]

Item 5 –

From: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 12:26 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted],

Good spot. This should read: "up to 2023". [redacted] but I'll pick up with PO about getting this corrected.

James

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 12:15 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Hi [redacted],

I noticed the quarter is missing from the last sentence:

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 September 2023 11:52
To: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Thanks everyone for your input – copying final versions now with PO for awareness and given Glasgow holiday weekend

I'll flag to PO Callum has yet to clear

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

From: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 11:12 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted],

Thanks to you and others for the work on this. I've marked up a couple of changes in the attached.

[redacted]

James

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

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 10:34 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Thanks All

Changes incorporated into the attached

Can I just the highlighted below is accurate in the main answer?

[redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division

Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot
Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 10:23 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Hi [redacted],

Added one comment about the answer to supp5.

Thanks

[redacted] ([redacted])

[redacted] | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government
Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

From: Richard Murray <Richard.Murray@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 September 2023 09:53
To: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted],

Many thanks for your email and your/colleagues' work on this.

I've just tracked in some v minor tweaks, **[redacted]**

Let me know if you've any queries on this.

Richard

Richard Murray

Deputy Director – Economic Development, Enterprise and Labour Market Analysis
Office of the Chief Economic Adviser (OCEA)
Scottish Government

I'm working flexibly, both in the office and from home, and can be reached on MS Teams, email or mobile ([redacted]).

From: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 9:44 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted]

Emails crossed – not sure who is around on Glasgow side but will see if I can get the recent for when the November date was publicly announced.

[redacted]

Gary

*Dr Gary Gillespie
Chief Economist
Scottish Government
Tel: [redacted]*



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

Sent: 22 September 2023 09:32

To: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Apologies – background updated to include link to relevant Murdo Fraser piece in the Daily Express on 20 September 2023, and confirm ESS delay was updated on the SG website in December 2022.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 9:26 AM

To: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Hi

With apologies for the short timescales, can I ask for urgent clearance of both the answer and draft supplementary questions to the Orla PQ below, and relevant background by **10.30 this morning**.

The PQ was only allocated yesterday and has to be with PO by noon today

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:15 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

A PQ, reference S6O-02555 has been allocated to you as lead action officer. This PQ may be reached by clicking on the link below.

[redacted]

- MSP: Murdo Fraser
- Due at MPO: 25/09/2023
- Question Text: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on when the next set of export statistics will be published.

[redacted]

PQ S60-02555 - Answers

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on when the next set of export statistics will be published:

Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) provides the official estimates of the value of Scotland's exports. It covers Scotland's exports of goods and services, internationally and to the rest of the UK, excluding oil and gas. The next set of statistics will be published on the 29th of November 2023 and will include data up to 2021. This was pre-announced by the Chief Statistician in August 2022.

HMRC Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, which include figures for Scotland, are also released quarterly, with the next update, for the third quarter of 2023, due to be released on the 14th of December. Scottish Government also publish quarterly manufacturing export statistics for Scotland, with the most recent data covering the period up to quarter 2023.

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S60-02555

- Murdo Fraser has been the Conservative MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife since 2001 and is also a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee
- Murdo Fraser was quoted in the Daily Express on 20 September, accusing Scottish Ministers of letting export statistics 'gather dust' [SNP export stats STILL 'gathering dust' as ministers are warned to be 'upfront with public' on value of UK trade - Scottish Daily Express.](#)
- The reference is to delays in the Scottish Government's publication of Export Statistics Scotland (ESS).
- ESS has previously been delayed to concerns over the surveying of relevant businesses during the pandemic and Brexit.
- The Scottish Government's approach to publishing ESS data for 2020 and 2021 combined in 2023, has been in the public domain since December 2022, with confirmation of the November publication confirmed in August 2023.
- In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, both the timing and content of ESS is determined independently of Scottish Ministers.

Supplementary Questions

Supp 1 – When were the last set of service exports stats for Scotland published and why has there been such a delay?

The Scottish Government delayed the 2019 Global Connections Survey, which forms the basis of Export Statistics Scotland (ESS). This was due to concerns over the burden businesses faced during the pandemic, and in preparation for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period. As a result, the ESS 2019 was published late, in October 2021.

To reduce the delay in data between the ESS 2019 and the upcoming publication on 29 November 2023, the Global Connections Survey for 2020 and 2021 have been run together. This means the next ESS publication will include data for 2020 and 2021.

In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, both the timing and content of ESS is determined independently of Scottish Ministers.

[redacted]

Extract from background briefing:

Top lines

[redacted]

- in percentage terms than the 12.0% increase experienced by the UK¹.
- The next Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) publication will include data for 2020 and 2021 and will be published on **29th November 2023**, following previous delays due to the pandemic and Brexit.

[redacted]

Why have the Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) been delayed?

- The Global Connections Survey, which forms the basis of Export Statistics Scotland, was delayed in 2019 due the burden on businesses during the pandemic, and in preparation for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period.
- In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, both the timing and content of ESS is determined independently of Ministers (and was pre-announced in

¹ Data is presented in current prices, which means that it also includes the effects of inflation. Caution should therefore be applied when comparing values of exports over recent years, as changes may be due to inflation rather than changes in the volume of exports. Comparing trends with other regions of the UK is not subject to these caveats as they are likely to have experienced similar inflationary effects.

Scottish Government Official Statistics: Forthcoming Publications in December 2022)

- Ministers have been regularly informed of the delay and of plans and progress towards the next publication (initially to Mr McKee, but most recently in a submission to Mr Lochhead on 15th August).
- Publicly available information about the delay and publication plans is available on the Scottish Government website ([About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot))

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

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 11:03 AM

To: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted]

I'll amend the main answer to:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

From: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 10:59 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie

<Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted]

[redacted] – just looking over the supps and will come back on them asap.

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 10:55 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; James McLellan
<James.McLellan@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

I've checked the forthcoming publications database for changes. This determines what is published in the centralised stats release spreadsheet for publicaitons. There may have been other information in the public domain earlier than this, but I don't have access to records of that.

The policy is that the month of publication should be announced a year in advance, with the specific date announced at least a month in advance.

Publication added to system: Feb 2023, date tbc
Provisional publication date Aug 23 announced in March
Provisional date amended to Nov 23 announced in June
Finalised date 29 Nov 23 announced in August

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] ([redacted]) – National Accounts Statistics
Scottish Government | Office of the Chief Economic Adviser: Economic Analysis
4WR St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 10:47 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary
Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; James McLellan
<James.McLellan@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Grateful for confirmation asap, given its it the main answer, at very least I'd like to include the relevant month, if not the specific date

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

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

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 10:43 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Hi [redacted],

The 29th November date wasn't announced back in December, the timescales would have been more approximate in the original announcement. The 29th November date was only publicly announced more recently I believe in August,

[redacted]

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

Sent: 22 September 2023 09:32

To: James McLellan <James.McLellan@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Cc: Gary Gillespie <Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Apologies – background updated to include link to relevant Murdo Fraser piece in the Daily Express on 20 September 2023, and confirm ESS delay was updated on the SG website in December 2022.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

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

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 6:21 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Will do, thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

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

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 6:13 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Could you copy [redacted] in tomorrow when you're sharing versions please [redacted]?

Thank you and have a good weekend everyone.
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government

[redacted]@gov.scot

[Export Statistics Scotland](#)



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

Sent: 21 September 2023 17:33

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

I'm reviewing before asking James and SpADs to clear, but the tables etc can go, not appropriate for an oral answer

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division

Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

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

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 5:09 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Happy with the revision below?

[redacted]
[redacted]
Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot
Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 5:08 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Yes

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 5:07 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Just checking the initial answer – the highlighted section is confusing – does ESS cover and international and rUk?

Export Statistics Scotland provides the official estimates of the value of Scotland's exports. It covers **Scotland's** exports of goods and services, excluding oil and gas, internationally and ~~exports, and exports~~ to the rest of the UK. The next set of statistics will be published on the 29th November 2023 and will include data up to 2021.

[redacted]
[redacted]
Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot
Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 4:46 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Hi [redacted],

[redacted]

The PQ and supplementary questions have been updated with rough draft answers. Grateful if you can review and check if anything needs to be added or removed.

ATTACHMENT FOUND AT ITEM 6

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

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

Sent: 21 September 2023 15:58

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

Mr Lochhead's preferences here for reference – [redacted] can you share the current export stats brief, which from memory is in FMQ format, which is required re background in line with the preferences

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division

Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

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

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 3:28 PM

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

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted] – quick question. Are you going to allocate this to Mr Lochhead? Might make a difference in terms of Ministerial preferences.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:37 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted]/[redacted]

Oral PQ now allocated to me – I'll be online tomorrow to finalise, but I can you both to develop the following by close today please:

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on when the next set of export statistics will be published:

- Please provide a factual answer offering scheduled dates on the next release of both goods and service export statistics

Supp 1 – When were the last set of service exports stats for Scotland published and why has there been such a delay?

- Reference public statements on ESS publications
- Set out high level reasons for delays, are these delays comparable with other SG stats or UKG export stats?
- Set out why we are still able to monitor Scotland's export performance despite ESS delays

[redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Trade and Investment Delivery Division
Directorate for International Trade and Investment

Email: [redacted]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 10:00 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

[redacted]

[About Export Statistics Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

[redacted].

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 9:49 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-02555

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

Yes, we can help with this.

I've made a document that we can all work on so everything is in one place, to make things easier. I'll give you all access when I've sent this.

ATTACHMENT LOCATED AT ITEM 6

This might be related to the media query we had earlier this week:

https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/politics/snp-export-stats-still-gathering-30978234?utm_source=linkCopy&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=sharebar

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Senior Assistant Statistician | Trade Statistics | Office of the Chief Economic Advisor | Scottish Government

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[Export Statistics Scotland](http://www.gov.scot)

 @ScotGovOCEA

Item 6 –

PQ S60-02555 - Answers

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on when the next set of export statistics will be published:

Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) provides the official estimates of the value of Scotland's exports. It covers Scotland's exports of goods and services, internationally and to the rest of the UK, excluding oil and gas. The next set of statistics will be published on the 29th of November 2023 and will include data up to 2021.

HMRC Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, which include figures for Scotland, are also released quarterly, with the next update, for the third quarter of 2023, due to be released on the 14th of December.

Supp 1 – When were the last set of service exports stats for Scotland published and why has there been such a delay?

The Scottish Government delayed the 2019 Global Connections Survey, which forms the basis of Export Statistics Scotland, due the burden on businesses during the pandemic, and in preparation for the end of the EU Exit Transition Period.

As a result, the ESS 2019 was published late, in October 2021. To reduce this delay, the Global Connections Survey for 2020 and 2021 have been run together, so the next ESS publication will include data for 2020 and 2021 and will be published on **29th November 2023**.

In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, both the timing and content of ESS is determined independently of Scottish Ministers.

[redacted]