

FM DINNER WITH SENIOR LEADERS OF SCOTTISH HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

18:00-19:30 - Craiglockhart Campus, Edinburgh Napier University

Attendees: First Minister; Minister for Higher and Further Education; Sean McGivern (Special Adviser); Joe Griffin (Director General, Education and Justice); Stephen Pathirana (Director, Lifelong Learning and Skills Directorate); [redacted], University of St Andrews; [redacted], University of Dundee; [redacted], Robert Gordon University; [redacted], Edinburgh Napier University; [redacted], University of Edinburgh; [redacted], University of Aberdeen; [redacted], University of Glasgow; [redacted], Open University in Scotland; [redacted], Glasgow School of Art; [redacted], Abertay University).

- There was a broad discussion around the important role that universities play, feeding into all areas of government policy, with very specific roles around supporting economic growth, innovation and startups, as well as an important role to play in Scotland's international identity and impact. Through the discussion there was a desire to bring universities closer to government, with some specific areas of action identified.

Cross-cabinet 'deep dives'

- FM suggested that SG undertake some in-depth sessions with selected university representatives and relevant Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers to focus on how government and HE work together across the full range of portfolios.
- These would take place over a couple of hours and be an opportunity for ministers and principals to focus in on the detail of areas where there is overlap between government and HE.
- FM suggests first of these should focus on NSET, to broad agreement from principals.

International work

- The need for a joint effort to promote Scottish HE and Scotland generally on the international stage was agreed.
- FM and principals agreed to look at which country/region would be best to focus on for FM to lead an international mission there promoting HE
- It was strongly agreed by all parties to develop a shared narrative for use by government and the sector, focussing on:
 - The excellence in Scotland's HE sector;
 - The areas of particular strength in research and innovation e.g. life sciences;
 - The fact that Scotland is different from rUK in terms of its attitude towards foreigners/immigration. Some principals highlighted that it was important to be distinctive as 'Brand Scotland', as the UK brand is tainted in many countries, particularly by Brexit.

Minute of Meeting – First Minister and [redacted], Scottish Power

Wednesday 5 July 2023, 10:15 – 10:45

St Andrew's House

Attendees

The First Minister

[redacted] Scottish Power (KA)

[redacted] Scottish Power

Ragne Low, DD Onshore Electricity (RL)

Discussion

1. KA set out the scale of investment Scottish Power is making in Scotland through its renewables and networks businesses. [redacted], and future energy cost forecasts are still high. [redacted].
2. [redacted].
3. [redacted].
4. The FM noted there are key things, such as taking a more strategic approach to the development pipeline, and planning, that the Scottish Government has responsibility for and where will continue to work with the sector. There are also areas where we need to collaborate with the UK Government to unlock action.
5. The FM agreed that supply chain and workforce are critical to get right. KA highlighted where cross-sector work could help drive progress. [redacted]. This could significantly boost domestic content, creating jobs and export opportunities. [redacted]
6. The FM and KA agreed the opportunities from hydrogen are vast. KA emphasised that the key thing is to create the market for hydrogen; something that Scottish Power's projects are seeking to demonstrate.

Actions

- Officials to work with Scottish Power to agree a time for a meeting on hydrogen, supply chain, workforce/skills and planning, including Mr Gray, Ms Martin and Ms McAllan. Likely to need a half day, and could be combined with a visit to Whitelee.
- Scottish Power to share further information with officials (RL) about their work on providing supply chain certainty via long-term contracting, and the discussions with PWC on skills.
- Scottish Power to share a summary of their hydrogen work.

FIRST MINISTER MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN

Location: Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

Time: 16:00-17:00 6th July 2023

Attendees:

- *Moazzam Ahmad Khan, High Commissioner*
- **[redacted]**, *Consul General*

- *First Minister*
- *John Primrose – Deputy Director International Relations*

Introductions:

- The meeting began with warm introductions, with FM congratulating HC on his retirement, thanking him for partnership.
- **[redacted]**
- HC reflected that Scotland-Pakistan, and wider UK-Pakistan relations were in very strong health. **[redacted]**.
- HC stressed his warmth towards Scotland and the real strength that we have in relations and potential to do more.

- **[redacted]**.

Trade, investment and renewables:

- **[redacted]**.
- The conversation also discussed the wealthy Pakistani diaspora and business interests. **[redacted]**.

Education:

- FM discussed the importance of higher education linkages with Pakistan, with the significant growth in students in recent years, as well as the net benefit highly qualified immigration provides to Scotland given need to increase working age populations. FM and HC agreed it could be good to engage with universities looking to visit Pakistan – perhaps the 4 or 5 major universities receiving students, to see if they can agree on any joint working to promote studying in Scotland.
- HC also discussed diaspora relations in both UK and in Pakistan. HC's view was that the diaspora living in UK from Pakistan needed to be well connected with each other as a community, and he had set up a web platform to support this. HC also asked if via his web platform he could help advance any job or internship opportunities in Scotland. FM discussed the potential of the returning diaspora in Pakistan who are huge ambassadors for Scotland, the universities and trade and investment potential. HC offered to engage with SG on more effective connection with the Pakistani Alumnus network.

Consul General

- As a final note the Consul General informed FM he was also moving on FM stressed he was keen to host for lunch before he did.

Actions

- DEXA/DECC to review any opportunities for engaging with incoming to Scotland our outgoing trade delegations on renewable technology from Pakistan, and consider for any future FM travel to region

- DEXA/DLLS review what Higher education engagement plans are in place for promoting Scotland's education sector for Pakistan.
- DEXA – to follow up on HC's web platform and request, consider "high value" relations in Pakistani diaspora community, as well as offer to support engagement on Alumnus relations in Pakistan as part of wider "Scottish Connections" work..
- DEXA/FMPO to follow up on a lunch between FM and CG before CG departs

John Primrose
DD International Division
Scottish Government

Note of Meeting – First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy meeting with Sumitomo Electric – Monday 7 August 2023

Attendees

First Minister
Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

Masayoshi Matsumoto, Chairman & CEO, Sumitomo Electric
Yasuyuki Shibata, Managing Executive Officer, Social Infrastructure Sales and Marketing Unit
Toshiyuki Furuhashi, General Manager, Power Project Business Division

[redacted], Scottish Government
[redacted], Deputy Private Secretary, Scottish Government
[redacted], Snr Business Dev Specialist, SDI

Mr Matsumoto thanked the FM for the opportunity to meet. In his opening remarks the Chairman highlighted Sumitomo Electric's 120 years of experience and very excited about the proposed cable factory at Nigg. His company was attracted to Scotland because of our renewables ambition and the need to produce cable to transport the electricity generated.

In response the FM welcomed Mr Matsumoto to Scotland and hoped whilst he was here he had the opportunity to sample our hospitality. FM outlined our ambition to make Scotland a global leader in renewable energy for our own needs and the needs of other nations through the export of electricity.

FM noted that there were still a few issues **[redacted]** but across local and national government we welcome Sumitomo Electric's investment.

Mr Matsumoto sought the FM's help in bringing people to Scotland to assist with the training of the cable factory workforce, to which the FM stated that Scotland wants people to come here and very honoured that his company has chosen here.

Mr Shibata highlighted a number of contracts that they were targeting for the factory but keen to gain more visibility of what is coming forward.

Cab Sec highlighted the ScotWind Supply Chain Development Statements that gives an insight into the project and the level of local content each project will deliver.

Mr Matsumoto comment that this information would be useful **[redacted]**.

The meeting closed with FM wishing the Chairman a safe onward journey to Inverness.

MEETING NOTE – First Minister and Edinburgh Fringe Society, August 11th, 2023

Attendees

First Minister (FM)
Benny Higgins (BH), Chair EFS
Shona McCarthy (SMcC), Chief Executive EFS
Anne Diack (AD), Head of External Affairs, EFS
Penelope Cooper, Director of Culture and Major Events
[redacted] FMPO

Meeting Note

The FM welcomed the EFS members and asked how the Fringe Festival was this year.

[redacted] reported that this year it was evident that the anxiety present last year in the recent wake of Covid 19 was no longer there. There is much more confidence, and a very positive 'vibe'.

FM shared his experience of participating in the Fringe, [redacted].

Fringe Festival 2023

[redacted] expanded on the scale and impact of the Fringe, and its tradition since 1947 of creating space and a stage for anyone, emphasizing inclusion and access. This year there are over 3,500 shows, 50,000 performances including free shows and 200 street performers. The square outside St Giles is the best pitch in the whole world for its size and acoustics.

Artists are coming from 72 countries, with 17 country showcases in the programme. Over 1 million tickets have been sold, with still 2 weeks to go.

The Edinburgh Fringe Society

[redacted] explained that the EFS is a charitable organisation with the purpose of:

1. Support and provide information to the artists. They receive on average 1,500-2000 queries every week of the year from across the world.
2. Provide resources to support the Fringe. These include navigation tools for the audiences, box offices and an App of the programme, supporting microbusinesses that are the Fringe. The App provides up to date information, as since the programme was printed in June, 500 more performances have been added.
3. Provide a collective brand to individual venues and shows. It is a massive brand, with high levels of recognition worldwide. This brand is loaned to support their 'Voices from the South' programme for selected countries that can not afford to travel to Edinburgh. This is a 2-month programme of on-line new work, that has allowed countries such as Brazil and the Republic of South Africa to create their showcases.

EFS Finances

[redacted].

FM thanked them for the explanations and recognized the international impact and importance of the Fringe. Whilst not being complacent, the current financial situation is fragile. [redacted].

[redacted].

FM asked if there were other ways they could generate income, such as by increasing ticket prices marginally, or modify the fees.

[redacted] explained that they had committed to freezing fees for artists as most are freelance and the impact of Covid was brutal. The registration fee is £94 -£394 which provides the EFS's basic income. There is then a 4% commission on every ticket. They have pared their staff to the minimum of 35-40 people year-round, rising to 200 in the 2 months around the festival. Venues set the ticket prices, and they are still struggling themselves. All have different models and are themselves facing increasing costs.

The EFS is there to protect artists, and ensure participation remains affordable, [redacted].

[redacted] stated that the EFS encourages a range of incomes and backgrounds to the Fringe. It is more than a festival, it is an 'Expo' for new talent, and there is a huge economic impact. There is also a social impact, with the Deaf festival this year, and their cutting-edge work on sensory packs for those challenged with sensory overload.

[redacted] emphasized the high financial return on investment that the cultural economy provides, [redacted] the EFS had previously been a Regularly Funded Organisation (RFO). [redacted].

[redacted] confirmed that they received money for Scottish artists from Expo and also Place funding, and that they worked with 35 community partners.

[redacted].

City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) involvement

[redacted] confirmed that the EFS had contributed to the consultation on the visitor levy. This included a request that the transport providers improve the service, particularly late at night, as they try and reduce their carbon footprint. She also emphasized that this is an Olympic-scale event, and that the poor Wi-Fi connections in the city centre do not support the participants or artists well.

[redacted].

The FM understood that the purpose of the short-term letting regulation was for good, and that it was possible to make exceptions. He offered to meet [redacted] from the CEC, with Cabinet Secretary Robertson, to gain a better understanding of their approach to this.

[redacted] warned against being complacent, as there are other competitor festivals, globally and in the UK. She cited Adelaide in Australia, and also Camden, currently billing its arts festival as a 'healthy alternative to Edinburgh'.

Conclusion

The FM concluded the meeting by reiterating his government's commitment to support culture and the arts. He recognized the importance of the sector, and of the Fringe and the danger of being complacent and assuming it would maintain its status in the face of competition. He agreed to help as much as he could on the requests and reassured the EFS that Mr. Robertson represented the sector strongly at Cabinet, and in interactions with his colleagues.

Actions to follow up.

1. [redacted];
2. FM to meet with [redacted], CEC, and Cabinet Secretary Robertson to discuss short-term letting and the visitor levy in Edinburgh in the context of the festivals;
3. Officials to arrange a meeting with [redacted] and the FM to discuss wider cultural interests.

Ending Conversion Practices Bill Discussion - Year 3 Legislative Programme

1 August 2023

Attendance

First Minister (FM)
Deputy First Minister (DFM)
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (CSSJ)
Minister for Parliamentary Business (MPB)

Callum McCaig, Special Advisor
Jeanette Campbell, Special Advisor
Helen Webster, Head of Cabinet, Parliament & Governance Division
Kevin McGowan, Strategic Lead for Equality and Inclusion Division
[redacted], SGLD
[redacted] team leader
[redacted], Ending Conversion Practices Bill team

Minutes

1. [redacted].
1. DFM highlighted the need for discussions with the Green Group to commence as well as understanding the position of other parties (noting recent public statements from Anneliese Dodds). Consulting on draft clauses will facilitate a focused discussion on the detail of definitions and more contentious issues.
[redacted].
2. [redacted].
3. CSSJ noted recent work on the acts that will form the basis of the criminal offence and asked officials to prepare a note on this for her to share with FM and FM.

Follow-up Actions:

4. Cab Sec to discuss delay to Bill Timetable and commence discussions on policy with the Green Group ([redacted]).
5. Officials to prepare a note on the acts that will form the basis of the criminal offence for CSSJ to share with DFM and FM.
6. [redacted]

FM MEETING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS ON ALCOHOL – 31st July 2023

Attendees

Internally

- Humza Yousaf, First Minister
- Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care (online)
- Elena Whitham, Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy
- Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (online)

Externally:

- **[redacted]**, Alcohol Focus Scotland (CEO)
- **[redacted]**, Scottish Alcohol Counselling Consortium (Chair)
- **[redacted]**, Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (Chair)
- **[redacted]**, Scottish Recovery Consortium (Policy Lead)
- **[redacted]**, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (CEO)
- **[redacted]**, Public Health Scotland (CEO)
- **[redacted]**, Public Health Scotland, Consultant in Public Health Medicine
- **[redacted]**, Eurocare (President)
- **[redacted]**, Lothians & Edinburgh Abstinence Programme (Lead Clinician)

Officials

- Niamh O'Connor (Deputy Director, Population Health Strategy and Improvement)
- Orlando Heijmer-Mason (Deputy Director, Head of Drugs Policy Division)
- **[redacted]** (Head of Tobacco and Alcohol Unit)
- Jennie Gollan (Special Advisor)
- PO officials

Minutes

FM welcomed attendees to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

FM noted his wish for an open and frank discussion. He introduced the policy context, noting the range of work being undertaken to support the reduction in harms from alcohol. He acknowledged the significant work of Public Health Scotland (PHS) on developing the evidence base for Minimum Unit Price (MUP) and spoke through some of the top level findings. FM then spoke through the New Deal stressing that this does not detract from the need to ensure the independence of public health policy from industry.

EW also thanked attendees for attendance and for their views at the recent round tables as part of the on-going MUP evaluation work. The Minister also thanked PHS for their work on the evaluation of MUP. They then gave an overview of the work around alcohol marketing and the analysis of the

consultation as well as the work to develop a conflict-of-interest public health policy for Scottish Government when dealing with industry.

Both FM and EW stated their commitment to supporting families and to continue to address the levers that lead to people becoming addicted in the first place.

The work on stigma, Alcohol Brief Interventions, the Alcohol Treatment Guidelines and Alcohol Targets work were also briefly outlined.

FM noted his concern for the rise in alcohol-specific deaths and that more was needed to be done to understand why there has been a decrease in treatment. Noting that although the National Mission prioritises alcohol it should not be to the detriment of alcohol.

[redacted] welcomed both Ministers comments and the priorities given to those treating and supporting those with alcohol harms. **[redacted]** noted that a human rights-based approach should be pursued. **[redacted]** then discussed the need to address the increase in alcohol-specific deaths and the financial implications to the NHS of not doing so.

[redacted] noted that Scotland has international standing in this area, especially around high-quality evaluation and there will be a letter in the Lancet soon noting this point around MUP. The wider international approaches were discussed, and it was noted that other countries like Ireland and Lithuania have developed significant new alcohol harm prevention policies. Work on the conflict of interest was welcomed.

[redacted] noted that some items within the 2018 alcohol framework had not progressed as swiftly as stakeholders had hoped.

FM noted that the alcohol marketing consultation is being analysed and that Ministers will come back to parliament with solid proposals, particularly in reference to children.

FM also noted that willing to learn from international approaches including Ireland on their approaches to alcohol marketing.

ACTION - Officials to liaise with Ireland to understand more about their approaches around alcohol marketing and any learning.

EW noted that there was an opportunity to review the current framework and how this aligns with the world we live in.

[redacted] gave an overview of the experience of treatment on the front line including the unintended consequences of Alcohol Drug Partnerships (ADPs) that are very focused on drugs. **[redacted]** noted that this was an issue that had experienced directly in their ADP area. The discussion then noted that there was a need to ensure the momentum in drugs was passed through to the work on drugs.

FM explained that the consolidation of alcohol and drugs under one Ministerial portfolio was to ensure more joined up approaches across the two areas. FM recognised there was more work that could be done with ADPs.

ACTION - officials to engage with ADPs to clarify where National Mission funding is also intended to cover alcohol. Team to work to understand issues including any barriers to treatment and how spend is managed/distributed.

ACTION - Minister for Drugs and Alcohol to write to all ADPs to clarify National Mission funding and how that can/should also be used to support those with alcohol harm issues.

[redacted] then discussed how people gain access to support and the impact covid has had on this. The role of community support was discussed and the need for continued support to maintain access. The role of ADPs was also discussed.

[redacted] then discussed the importance of a whole population approach noting continued pressures on the health service and the need to reduce people needing to access the system. [redacted] then reiterated public health stakeholders call for MUP to be uprated.

[redacted] then requested that an alcohol levy be reviewed again noting that there is a previous model from the Public Health Supplement.

[redacted] noted [redacted] concern over the messaging around 'going back to the drawing board' on alcohol marketing and the perceptions in a change in stance on alcohol marketing. The opportunities around alcohol marketing was discussed, including how this is seen across the community and impacts on those in recovery.

FM noted he would welcome further conversations from [redacted] and [redacted] networks.

FM noted work is continuing on analysing the responses to the alcohol marketing consultation and is dependent on what the outcome is from the analysis of the consultation. He noted there was a risk of misinformation building about the range of options SG could consider to address alcohol marketing and that he requested a fresh look in the light of this risk. FM stressed he remained committed to taking action on marketing to protect children and young people from alcohol related harm.

ACTION - officials to consider how to engage more visibly with families before the consultation response is published.

EW noted that public health stakeholders have an opportunity to disseminate the international evidence to parliament.

[redacted] noted their recent YouGov poll has been supportive on further action around alcohol marketing.

[redacted] discussed the work of PHS around MUP and their willingness to support on the development of the evidence base to support policy making across all the issues in alcohol harm. This includes providing evidence-based briefing to MSPs which was welcomed by Ministers.

[redacted] discussed the drop in treatment access noting that some individuals who use services will not be known to other clinical services. The issue of capacity was discussed.

ACTION - Officials to work with PHS and others to understand factors behind drop in alcohol treatment numbers and actions required to improve access to treatment for those who require it

MM discussed his experience on MUP and the importance of evidence alongside building consensus in approaches to progress difficult issues.

JM noted the importance of removing stigma, reflecting on recent visits to community projects. JM also noted that the local profiles compiled by Alcohol Focus Scotland were useful and there was a role for more of this information to help build consensus.

[redacted] noted that the conflict-of-interest policy is important and welcomed work on this.

FM then noted that parliament is considering a debate in September around MUP and will likely include action on wider areas of alcohol policy such as marketing. FM then summarised the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

SFT led session on Private Finance, including the Mutual Investment Model (MIM)

[redacted]

Time and location: 19 July, 13:45-14:30, St Andrew's House.

Summary of discussion:

[redacted]

Next Steps:

[redacted]

Note of meeting with Back Off Scotland and First Minister

05 July 2022

[redacted]

NACWG Co-Chairs, First Minister and Deputy First Minister Meeting 19 July 2023 3:15-16:00

Attendees

- First Minister
- Deputy First Minister
- Co-Chairs [redacted]
- [redacted]: Strategic Lead Gender and VAWG
- [redacted]: NACWG Secretariat Team Leader

Discussion

The First Minister welcomed Co-Chairs, emphasised the importance of this work, and thanked the NACWG for their work to date. The First Minister also emphasised that the NACWG will continue to report to him and the Deputy First Minister would be further support to them. Co-Chairs congratulated the First Minister on his appointment, welcomed male leadership in this space, and pointed out that they were keen to understand what Mr Yousaf's vision of the NACWG is. Further to this the Co-Chairs asked how the First Minister sees them being able to influence further than current NACWG accountability and scrutiny work, to both improve gender competence and policy making.

The First Minister advised that he was keen to use his position to influence wider and shine a light on the issues that the NACWG are addressing, and support their work to the best of his ability. Mr Yousaf reflected on the new focus of Scottish Government, with the Policy Prospectus (Equality – tackling poverty and protecting people from harm, Opportunity – a fair, green and growing economy Community – prioritising our public services) and how work would be taken forward to ensure the budget was aligned to these priorities.

[redacted].

- **Action:** To connect Co-Chairs and PfG team, asap (policy lead)
- **Action:** To connect Co-Chairs and the budget process. This could be a joint policy and secretariat lead, with the secretariat managing this as part of DFM engagement with Co-Chairs, and policy with EHRBAG/ exchequer colleagues – lead tbc).

The challenges Co-Chairs raised fell into three main categories:

1. Homogenising equality is poor short-sighted focus and has a high risk of outcomes for women being diluted - if a strong focus is on marginalised women then **all** protected groups are considered with policy development and will benefit from improved outcomes.
2. The misunderstanding of intersectionality leads to homogenisation and instead of taking an intersectional approach, officials often preference an approach which looks at everything. This results in a diluted focus instead of a specific one, and ultimately less effective policy making. An example given was with the NACWG recommendation for a Senior Leaders' Group – the focus being developed is wider than the recommendation which is specifically about intersectional gender competence - Co-Chairs do not agree with this

approach are concerned about this dilution. The First Minister considers that the PfG and budgeting are key areas where government should be aiming to demonstrate a good understanding of intersectionality.

3. Language around the importance of gender is not explicit in policy documents, leading to lack of visibility of the issue, and it being open to interpretation (“parents” instead of women, for example). Explicit language is even more important when aspects of the policy are then implemented at local government level. The focus on child poverty was mentioned and how the vast majority of lone parents are women, and if there was a focus on **women’s poverty** then that would have a direct impact on **child poverty**.

- **Action: The First Minister would welcome a session that focussed on women and poverty with senior officials and at a pre or post Cabinet meeting (policy/ secretariat?).**
- **Action: The First Minister suggested revisiting the focus of the leadership group and bringing this back to a single focus on women and girls but through an intersectional lens (policy).**

The DFM is keen to see tangible action and to explore:

- Raising gender competence and understanding throughout the organisation and to go as high as Cabinet level;
 - Focussing on women’s poverty when considering child poverty;
 - Social Security and the New Deal for Local Government;
 - Women in politics; and
 - Disability.
- **Action: Consider with DFM’s engagement with NACWG (secretariat).**

[redacted].

- **Action: Gender Policy Team/ VAWG Team to follow up on the First Minister’s ambitions regarding male toxicity.**
- **Action: Co-Chairs will meet again with the First Minister at the end of their Second Focus of Scrutiny.**
- **Action: Secretariat will follow up with DFM to start initiating an engagement programme with Co-Chairs.**

Date: 19/7/2023

Attendees: First Minister, Deputy First Minister, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights, Ross Greer, Gillian Mackay, Callum McCaig, Kevin Pringle, Leanne Dobson, Gavin Corbett, Harry Huyton, Helen Webster

1. The meeting was convened in order to reflect on the positive way in which the Bute House Agreement has worked in practice following the confirmation of Mr Yousaf as the new SNP First Minister, and to look ahead to shared priorities for the next parliamentary session.
2. [redacted].
3. [redacted].
4. [redacted].

First Minister meeting with Mayor of Greater Manchester

22 August 2023 – St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh

Attendees:

[redacted]

Introductions

[redacted]

Net zero and just transition

[redacted]

Housing

[redacted]

Skills

[redacted]

Social security

[redacted]

FIRST MINISTER AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, NET ZERO, AND JUST TRANSITION MEETING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

15 August 2023 – 12.15-13.15

Agenda for Meeting with Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations

- Welcome and introduction from the First Minister for Scotland
- Tackling the climate and nature emergencies
- Just Transition
- Journey to COP28
- AOB

Attendees:

- First Minister (FM)
- Ms McAllan, Cabinet Secretary For Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition (MM)
- [redacted], Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
- [redacted] Friends of the Earth Scotland
- [redacted], WWF Scotland
- [redacted], Scottish Environment Link
- [redacted], Scotland's International Development Alliance
- [redacted], RSPB Scotland
- [redacted], 2050 Climate Group
- [redacted], Just Transition Partnership
- [redacted], Keep Scotland Beautiful
- [redacted], Scottish Youth Parliament
- [redacted], Scottish Youth Parliament ([redacted])
- [[redacted], Scottish Catholic International Aid Foundation
- [redacted], Scotland Malawi Partnership

Official support:

- Kersti Berge – Director of Energy and Climate Change
- Dave Signorini – Director for Environment and Forestry
- Phil Raines – Joint Deputy Director, Domestic Climate Change Division
- [redacted], Policy Adviser, Domestic Climate Change Division (notetaker)

Note

- FM opened the meeting and thanked all those in attendance for their time.
- FM delivered opening remarks, noting the following: the visual demonstration of climate breakdown apparent in recent events in Hawaii, Pakistan, and Malawi; the wake up call provided by the President of Malawi's comments about Tropical Storm Freddie; the expected UN declaration of July as the hottest month on record; [redacted]; his intention to attend COP28; a commitment to continue the global leadership initiated by the previous FM; that the latest emissions data shows progress, and also how far is still to go; importance of climate obligations, particularly on just transition with respect to the energy

transition; the importance of energy security and the link with Scotland's renewable capabilities; desire for attendees to leave the meeting reassured that SG will continue to pursue climate commitments.

- FM asked attendees to consider the following points in their contributions: how we take people with us on environmental and climate issues – noting the use of climate issues as culture war dividing issues.
- MM echoed the points made by the FM, and added remarks on the following: SG is clear eyed about scale of climate and nature crisis, and what needs to be done; hope that eNGOs felt engaged with the ongoing CCP process through the various fora they were linked into; she highlighted the importance of JT plans in outlining how action should be taken.
- FM noted that SG is willing to work with other UK political parties, and highlighted importance of encouraging sensible positions from those parties in light of upcoming general election, before opening the floor to attendees.
- LB thanked FM for invitation and made points on the following: the importance of FM attending COP28; **[redacted]**; the importance of the Just Transition Commission (JTC) [of which he is a member], questioning whether another fund should be created to focus on land and agriculture issues without the NE Scotland focus; the desire of many farmers and businesses to understand SG climate action and how they can engage with that.
- MR agreed with LB's comments and made the following points: SCCS tried to achieve consensus across society; importance of spotlighting good behaviour; the positive reputation Scotland holds among international community, how this can be leveraged to encourage ambition from international partners – e.g. by delivering on climate targets; noted that Keep Scotland Beautiful have launched climate literacy courses that are being well received – going on to note the importance of education in promoting climate action; the need to reengage young people, noting that the climate strikes have pushed progress and changing sentiments across business and society at large.
- MMcG thanked attendees for bringing up young people's voices, noting that the activism of young people is largely responsible for pushing climate issues up the agenda. She made the further points: the priorities of Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) include inclusion of youth voices in climate debate particularly around JTPs, CCP, and the CE bill; that 'fast fashion' was a crucial issue for SYP, and they would like to see more work on textiles in SG priority; the importance of upskilling in the pursuit of a just transition.
- **[redacted]**. She went on to make a point about comms and asked attendees their thoughts on including messaging around threats of inaction as well and benefits of action.
- MC made points on the following: **[redacted]**.
- BW made points on the following: the positive global impact of Scotland's action on loss and damage, and how this has been a source of pride for those who are aware of it; **[redacted]**.
- BF made points on the following: acknowledgment of global schools partnerships of the importance of education, upskilling and carbon literacy to climate action; the need to be more direct with marketing and ensure we speak to those who could be influenced; the need to encourage positive action from

business who might feel reluctant to address climate issues in case they were criticised.

- SB made points on the following: President Chakwera of Malawi had publicly praised Scotland's loss and damage funding and has a great desire to provide a platform for Malawian youth to contribute to conversation; that Scotland Malawi Partnership stands ready to provide a bridge that will allow Malawian youth voices to be heard at COP28 and beyond.
- FM stated that he is keen for attendees to advise SG on what could be done to amplify global south voices, asked that colleagues get together and provide some advice.
- JL echoed points about youth involvement in climate conversation, and made the further points: that young people are especially concerned with amplifying marginalised voices, and that work should be done to identify those voices; another key priority for young people is green skills/jobs agenda, noting the importance of this across the whole economy; on MM's point re threat of inaction, that young people are principally motivated by the threat of inaction as they see their futures as being at risk, but that such messaging can be difficult across wider society.
- MCr made points on the following: **[redacted]**; the capacity of the public sector to drive change, and the need to develop this e.g. with a publicly owned energy company taking a stake in renewable energy; the recommendation at municipal level for trusted or publicly owned companies to take part in retrofit activities; that expectations of private companies should be developed, for e.g. that if they are given money/subsidies they should be obliged to provide a JT plan.
- FG made points on the following: that SIDA had conducted research on feminist approach to global affairs including a section on climate change; that the SG business pledge should be revised to oblige greater action on the part of businesses; that the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development bill should oblige public bodies to deliver on the climate agenda; that SG should take opportunities to learn from global south partners.
- DL made points on the following: the importance of highlighting positive actions e.g. in sustainable farming; the need to have honest conversations with people like farmers to encourage changes in practices; on Just Transition Plans, the need to make sure land and ag subsidies are more fairly distributed, e.g. could funding be weighted towards nature friendly farming.
- AM made points on the following: that eNGOs had published a letter to party leaders encouraged renewed commitment to climate action; that land and agriculture should be the focus of further attention for climate action; the need to use public money for nature and land use used more productively.
- The FM noted common themes from comments around use of public money, the incentivisation of positive actions, and the disincentivising of negative ones. Also noted the need to recognise the strength of forces working against progress on climate issues. Noted a consultation underway on biodiversity, and questioned how we get ahead of the conversation - eg. looking at benefits for climate, nature, economy, job creation etc.
- MM welcomed points on supporting government communications and actions from LB and noted that she was open to suggestions for how best to communicate on these issues.

- MR made points on the following: that SCCS have developed a manifesto that he would deliver to the FM at the end of the meeting; the need to communicate tactically, and educate people where necessary; that an opportunity was missed around the Citizens Assembly – notably around misunderstanding what caused members to change their minds and support climate action.
- MC questioned the inclusion of NETs and CCUS in the CCP, noting concerns around research and whether technologies can be relied upon.
- **[redacted]**. FM went on to note SCCS proposals for a further discussion ahead of COP28, stating that while those proposals might not be feasible in full, some form of conversation should take place including Ministers, wider stakeholders and a hybrid element to allow for international attendees if appropriate. He noted that he would like to discuss climate financing with attendees, and also noted that he would be willing to facilitate a discussion between eNGOs and energy companies if that would be valuable.
- FM thanked attendees for their time and closed the meeting.

**Note of meeting
Wednesday 2 August 2023
Talent Attraction Programme**

Attendance:

[redacted]

Note of discussion:

[redacted]

FIRST MINISTER - CALL WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SCOTLAND

16.30-17.00, 8 AUGUST 2023

By MS Teams

Attendees

- Humza Yousaf MSP, First Minister
 - Sir Iain Livingstone QPM, Chief Constable of Scotland

 - Chris Mackie, Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
 - [redacted], Police Division, Scottish Government (note)
-

Note of meeting

- The call provided the First Minister with an opportunity to mark the Chief Constable's retirement and to thank him for his outstanding leadership and contribution to policing in Scotland.

- In particular, the First Minister noted some of the events that Police Scotland had managed in recent years, notably the successful policing of the UN Climate Change Conference in 2021, which was the largest international summit ever hosted in the UK; and the major and very public policing operation following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth in 2022. Perhaps above all, the policing of the unprecedented peacetime powers during the Covid-19 pandemic which were widely acknowledged to have been undertaken in a proportionate manner. In all these areas, and others, Police Scotland had risen to the challenge, with the Chief Constable consistently providing strong leadership.

- He observed that the Chief Constable should feel a sense of deep personal pride that he is handing over leadership of Police Scotland at such a time of strength and continuing improvement. The broader leadership team is strong and stable, which gives him confidence in the organisation.

- The Chief Constable thanked the First Minister for his remarks and for taking the time to meet with him before his retirement. He said he had always greatly appreciated and valued the relationship with Scottish Government Ministers and officials, which was highly productive, while respecting the different roles and the operational independence of the Chief Constable. These relationships had been particularly important during the months of the pandemic where Police Scotland had worked closely with officials across the organisation to explore and understand the impacts on policing and society of the Covid public health regulations.

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

- He added his personal note of thanks to Mr Yousaf, and thanked the First Minister for the personal letter he had sent him.
- The First Minister invited Sir Iain to reflect on his experience as Chief Constable and on opportunities and challenges for the future. The Chief Constable said that he considered the single national service to have been a monumental triumph of public sector reform. He also reflected on matters of governance which had been transformed in recent years, with organisations working together to ensure that the policing landscape is functioning as was intended. There has been huge progress in this respect.
- He noted the underlying stability of Police Scotland, a major strength that had been tested and proven in severe times such as Covid and other events. He noted the increased level of support among the public for the police during the time of the pandemic.
- Sir Iain said that he was grateful to Ministers for their understanding around the changing nature of policing, and the policing mission in Scotland, where the focus is on improving the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities. As Chief Constable he had placed an emphasis on social justice and cohesion and he strongly advocated and expected that this should continue to be the position of Scottish policing. The FM and Chief Constable agreed that the nature of policing is always changing, and that the Chief Constable must have the space and flexibility to address new situations.
- Sir Iain emphasised the important focus on the culture of Police Scotland, and the need to address racism, homophobia and misogyny wherever they appear. He noted that these are matters that all organisations are having to address. FM thanked the Chief Constable for the work he had undertaken over the years to tackle discrimination and thanked him again for the statement he had made to the Scottish Police Authority on 25 May. He noted that that the Chief had been clear that he was not claiming that individual officers and staff were racist or sexist but that the organisation had structural and procedural barriers. He considered it to be a moment of real leadership - recognition is the first step to addressing issues. The Chief Constable reported that he had received many messages of thanks and congratulation following his statement. He accepted that the messages were complex and that people had needed time to properly absorb the nuances, but he felt that his statement had mobilised debate and empowered colleagues.
- He welcomed the appointment of Jo Farrell as the new Chief Constable, and noted the strong team of DCCs and ACCs in place to support her. DCC Taylor will lead the organisation on an interim basis before Ms Farrell takes up post in October.
- Sir Iain concluded by noting that he would in future be honoured to contribute to Scottish public life in any capacity, and the First Minister said he was very grateful for this kind offer. He wished the Chief Constable the very best for his retirement and for any future endeavours he undertakes.

The Promise

Note of Meeting between First Minister and the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise and officials

3 August 2023

Teams

13:30 – 14:30

Attendance:

First Minister

Ms Don – Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping The Promise

Gavin Henderson – Deputy Director Keeping The Promise

[redacted]– Head of Keeping The Promise

[redacted]– Deputy Private Secretary First Minister

[redacted]– Private Secretary Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise

Introduction

- Following general introductions Ms Don provided a brief update on her reflections since coming into role and her enthusiasm to lead the work underway across Scotland to Keep The Promise.
- This included a discussion around the profile of The Promise and how we may work with partners to ensure that awareness and understanding is better and wider spread.

Matters Discussed

1. **Update on present status of activity to Keep the Promise and reflections** [The Promise Oversight Board's second annual report](#) published in June

Broad discussion on the recently published annual report, recognising that a good level of positive work is underway across Scotland – both nationally and locally. Recognising also that there is a need to maintain and in some areas accelerate progress. [redacted].

Linked to this, the work to be led by Fiona Duncan, as Independent National Advisor for The Promise, to develop Plan 24-30 will be key in setting the direction for the next stage of activity. It was noted the opportunity for this to be undertaken in partnership and to provide a single shared vision for directing the change required.

An update on the **Whole Family Wellbeing Investment** and cross portfolio work underway, led by DFM. Noted that further advice is being developed on the future funding of the programme including on the development of an investment strategy – which was a key ask identified in the Promise Oversight Board report.

2. **The Verity House Agreement**

The need to ensure that progress toward keeping The Promise is tracked and reported is key. The Verity House agreement provides an opportunity for joint consideration of monitoring and reporting with local government colleagues and this should be a key area of discussion as we work together. The commitment to deliver on the Independent Care Review sits equally at the local and national level and this provides clear scope for consideration of collective monitoring and reporting progress. The opportunity to link work to measure progress to the development of Plan 24-30 was noted.

FM stated that it is essential that clear metrics for recording, monitoring and reporting progress are developed as soon as possible. This should include ability to map and review activity that is underway at the local level across Scotland.

FM requested that an update on progress on monitoring and reporting was provided in due course including a timescale of where we aim to get to and by when.

3. Engagement opportunities with the care experienced communities and development of a communications & engagement plan

The opportunity to get out and see projects and activity across Scotland was noted and the development of a good communications and engagement plan to support this would be helpful. Including identifying key strategic points in the diary for the First Minister to be engaged – including Care Experience week. The FM is attending the Who Cares? Scotland Summer Camp this weekend.

FM stated that he is keen that other Cabinet Secretaries are involved in visits to help build the cross portfolio connection to the work underway. The forthcoming Programme for Government also provides an opportunity for the cross portfolio connections to be made and FM expressed that he was keen to see The Promise well referenced and articulated across the PfG.

[redacted].

Conclusion

- FM closed the meeting by welcoming the update on activity and thanking Ms Don for the positive early engagement in the role.
- The next meeting will take place in three months, date to be agreed.

Note of Meeting – 30 August 2023, 16:00-16:30, MS Teams

Oral Briefing on Programme for Government 2023-24

Attendees

First Minister

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

[redacted], National Advisory Council on Women and Girls Co-Chair

[redacted], National Advisory Council on Women and Girls Co-Chair

Scottish Government Officials

Alison Byrne, Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights

[redacted], Gender Equality Team

[redacted]

[redacted], National Advisory Council on Women and Girls Secretariat

Main Discussion Points

The First Minister welcomed attendees and explained the purpose of the meeting to give the National Advisory Council on Women and Girls (NACWG) Co-Chairs the headlines of the Programme for Government (PfG).

- Anna thanked the First Minister for taking the time to brief the Co-Chairs on the PfG.
- Talat reflected that there is a hope among the participation panel that this PfG would deliver on their priority areas. They would also like to see how the priorities set out by the Scottish Government would translate into policy delivery on the ground.
- The First Minister mentioned the Verity House Agreement which sought to create a better relationship with local government and help to deliver local services in the community. [redacted].
- The First Minister said this PfG would be an important landmark for this government.

Detail of PfG

- The First Minister said this PfG would be explicitly anti-poverty and pro-growth with regards to purposeful growth of the economy. It would particularly focus on child poverty and understanding the impact on women.
- The government is seeking to address many of the areas which have a disproportionate effect on women and girls and this is reflected across portfolios.
- The First Minister and Deputy First Minister outlined the relevant headlines of the PfG such as:
 - Taking forward the NACWG recommendations to drive forward action to tackle intersectional gender inequality
 - Introducing the Human Rights Bill and inviting the Scottish Parliament to bring back the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill for reconsideration

- Presenting an entrepreneurship package building on work completed by Ana Stewart and Mark Logan, particularly looking at supporting women from specific backgrounds in entrepreneurship
 - Ensuring momentum around the Equally Safe Strategy and the ambitions for Equally Safe Fund, as well as committing to bringing forward legislation to criminalise misogynistic conduct
 - Commitments around reforming the criminal justice system, particularly in areas of high importance women and girls
 - Commitments related to women in custody and using a more holistic model to help with rehabilitation and reduce reoffending
 - Developing a gender strategy for agriculture and fund practical training opportunities for women
 - Prioritising early learning and childcare (ELC) as a key focus of the PfG and it includes a commitment to work with Local Government and other partners to develop the local infrastructure and services needed to provide childcare from nine months to the end of primary school in specific communities in six local authority areas. Learning from this will be used going forward to inform future development. There is also a commitment around making it easier to access and pay for childcare using a digital service.
 - Uplifting pay for childcare workers, in alignment with social care workforce, recognising that there is a predominantly female workforce and progress in these areas will be important
 - Expanding childcare provision for 0-2 year olds, as well as empowering parents
 - Expanding workforce, which is predominantly women and therefore helping women into employment
 - Internationally, developing a new programme to support inclusive education for the most marginalised eg. girls and learners with additional support needs
 - Providing women and girls fund in partner countries to advance gender equality
 - On abortion, continuing to work with Gillian MacKay on her Member's Bill to establish safe access zones and reviewing abortion law to identify potential proposals for reform to ensure abortion is considered as a healthcare matter
- The First Minister said that, in his statement, he will discuss promoting positive masculinity and the responsibility of men in addressing their own behaviours and understanding that this causes many of the issues women and girls face. He reflected that it was important to understand how young men are being driven towards ideas of toxic masculinity and stated he would like to play a leadership role in this.
 - The First Minister outlined why he was unable to provide a draft copy of the PfG for the Co-Chairs to review due to confidentiality issues and the changing nature of PfG up until publication. The Co-Chair accepted this.
 - Talat asked for more information about the inclusion of NACWG's approach to intersectional equality and asked if it was a commitment or part of the

narrative throughout the PfG. She also asked if there was anything in the PfG about unpaid care.

- The Deputy First Minister stated that the commitment around the NACWG was a placeholder to signal there is more work to be done to ensure intersectional equality was considered across the Scottish Government.
- The First Minister asked if there were particular ways in which the Scottish Government can demonstrate intersectional equality and be more explicit around this idea, and if it could be teased out more in PfG.
- On unpaid care, the First Minister said they were looking to reopen independent living fund.
- The Deputy First Minister said that the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) steering group was looking at unpaid care and they would be making recommendations soon. She said that not all Scottish Government work is included in PfG and that the work of the MIG is ongoing and recommendations will influence work on unpaid care. She offered to make sure the Co-Chairs were kept up to date on developments in this area.
- **[redacted]**.
- Anna welcomed the commitment on ELC and particularly around pay as this was the first substantive recognition of the undervaluing of work being done almost exclusively by women in childcare. She reflected that the focus on pay was important and the Co-Chairs were looking forward to seeing the detail on this. Anna said it was particularly important to reflect gender inequality in economy, particularly with the gaps in the National Strategy on Economic Transformation (NSET) around care economy so this commitment was welcome. Anna really welcomed placeholder commitment to further develop the Scottish Government's approach to considering intersectional gender equality.
- On entrepreneurship, Anna understood that there was a gendered focus within NSET on entrepreneurship but said there needed to be a joining of the dots around the gendered view of the economy as a whole.
- The First Minister reiterated that the PfG would not repeat everything that is ongoing in the Scottish Government.
- The First Minister informed the Co-Chairs that if there was anything further that the Scottish Government wanted to flag to them, this would be done through officials.
- Talat stated that it was important to highlight in PfG that there were policies that could have an intersectional equality lens applied to them effectively to show how this has been considered throughout the PfG and officials were to pick up with Talat on this point.

Please see below note of meeting on 17th July to discuss Phase 3 of the Learning Estate Investment Programme.

Attendees

First Minister

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

Sam Anson, Deputy Director WID

Daniel Hinze, Deputy Director, IID

[redacted]

[redacted], SFT

Sean McGivern, SpAd

Callum McCaig, SpAd

The First Minister (FM) opened the meeting by thanking officials for the advice and options sent on 13th July for Phase 3 of the Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP). **[redacted]**.

[redacted].

[redacted].

[redacted].

[redacted].

Agreed Outcomes:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

FIRST MINISTER PRE-MEET WITH SFE FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (FISGAD) - READOUT

28 AUGUST 2023 (13:00 – 13:30)

OFF-SEN: READOUT	
Meeting	First Minister meeting with Scottish Financial Enterprise (SFE) to discuss the Financial Services Growth and Development Board (FISGAD) - Scotland's industry leadership group for the financial services sector.
When	Monday 28th August 2023 13:00 – 13:30 (Teams)
Attendees	Humza Yousaf, MSP – First Minister (FM) [redacted], SFE ([redacted]) (JM) [redacted], SFE (SB) [redacted], SFE (SM) Andy Hogg – Deputy Director, Investment and Financial Services (AH) [redacted], Team Leader, Financial Services (KM)
Readout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FM thanked SFE for meeting with him today ahead of the FISGAD meeting in September and confirmed he is looking forward to taking up his role as co-chair of the forum. He stated that he is keen to hear from John and Sandy how FISGAD is working, what has gone well and what can he do going forward to ensure it is working effectively to deliver practical actions for government and would welcome their honest and frank feedback. • SB provided some background on the SFE strategy and its alignment with FISGAD including the topics covered in the 4 meetings held since its launch in 2022. SB noted that there was some heavy focus on the economic impacts of COVID and the cost of living crisis on businesses and individuals across these meetings which was necessary and valuable. This has meant, however, that the group has not yet found its normal operating rhythm. Going forward SFE feel it would be beneficial for FISGAD to take a more focussed approach by targeting 2 main themes for discussion at each meeting. • JM commented that the sector finds this engagement with SG extremely beneficial and if it did not already exist they would ask for it to be implemented recognising the contribution the sector makes to the economy and the shared interests between the sector and government. Previous versions of this forum felt more like reporting to government and there has been a positive shift to be more focussed and action orientated. • FM agreed that this is what he wants to see from this engagement and the importance of understanding the barriers and what is required to support the growth of the sector and ensure it maintains its world leading reputation. FM referenced a recent conversation with [redacted] at Phoenix which included a discussion on workforce challenges being faced by the sector and the importance of understanding what is in SG's gift to address this. FM also noted SG's shared interest in other SFE priorities including net zero and sustainability including the trillions of money circulating and the financial services sector's role in attracting investment into Scotland, infrastructure and the importance of working with other sectors to achieve our ambitions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JM agreed that these are key topics. Migration is key to ensure we have the people to work in key growth areas like AI and data analytics as well as green and sustainability skills and the role of universities and colleges to provide these skills. Infrastructure including housing is also at the core of ensuring we create the right social environment and the topic of housing was covered extensively at the recent sector dinner attended by Cabinet Secretary Gray. • [redacted]. A benchmarking exercise was undertaken in 2022 (shared at the first FISGAD meeting) to identify what Scotland can learn from other financial centres. [redacted]. • FM asked JM and SB if there is any representation missing in the FISGAD membership, for example, is there value in adding a member to represent the universities? • JM said that they are continually reviewing the membership and there is some value in academia being represented either as a permanent member or by exploring opportunities for individuals from other sectors joining meetings in an advisory capacity for specific topics. • SB confirmed that [redacted] from SE and [redacted] from the City of London have recently been added to the membership which recognises the important role of SE and the relationship with the City of London, highlighting the benchmarking results showing how other global centres, for example Boston’s relationship with New York, have leveraged similar positions successfully. • FM noted that it is positive to see that understanding this holistically, and the connections for example with housing and education, is already underway and therefore it is important that other ministers are aware of the outputs from work in the sector to understand their portfolio interests. FM also highlighted the importance of cross-sector and cross-party involvement on key issues to achieve unanimity through cooperation and collaboration. • SB confirmed that the agenda for September’s meeting will include an overview of the work completed so far on their growth strategy ahead of it’s launch in October alongside financial inclusion and wellbeing of individuals and the economy which will provide the government an opportunity to identify specific asks of the sector to further support this. • FM confirmed that this agenda aligns with what is coming out in the next PFG and SG priorities. <p>END</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG officials in the Financial Services team to ensure relevant engagement with Ministers on cross-portfolio interests.

**Clyde Mission Migration Meeting
28 August 2023**

Attendees

Name	Role/ Organisation
First Minister Humza Yousaf MSP	First Minister, Scottish Government
Councillor Susan Aitken	Leader of Glasgow City Council
Councillor Owen O'Donnell	Leader of East Renfrewshire Council
Councillor Gordan Low	Leader of East Dunbartonshire Council
Councillor Martin Rooney	Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council
Councillor Maurice Corry	Provost, Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Robert Brown	Chair, Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, South Lanarkshire Council
Kevin Rush	Director of Regional Economic Growth, Glasgow City Region
Colette Keaveny	Communication and Marketing Manager, Glasgow City Region
Stephen White	Head of Community Wealth Building and Clyde Mission, Scottish Government
Jack Middleton	Special Advisor, Scottish Government
[redacted]	Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister, Scottish Government
[redacted]	Policy Advisor, Scottish Government

- Councillor Aitken welcomed attendees and the First Minister.
- Councillor Aitken noted that the Clyde Mission will transition today from Scottish Government leadership to Glasgow City Region and Argyll and Bute leadership along with a substantial funding package.
- Further that local authorities will work with the Scottish Government on spending for greatest impact on the city region.
- The Clyde Mission is important to Scotland e.g., it is a national priority in NPF4.
- The City Region has the greatest untapped development opportunities in Europe, and it still has a lot of vacant and derelict land – the equivalent of 20 SEC campuses.
- This vacant and derelict land can be transformed to provide economic and social benefit as well as to help achieve Net Zero and provide jobs.
- The City Region is well placed to drive this, and the transition of Clyde Mission is a big step forward in recognising the city region's capacity and potential to do more.
- **[redacted]**.
- Further – in keeping with the Verity House agreement, SG wants to devolve power to local authorities.
- The First Minister recognised the success of Clyde Mission to date including the transformation seen in Govan with new Clyde Mission funded shop fronts.

- The First Minister said he was keen to see sustainability as part of development and pointed to the Govan Old Church and its use of Clyde Mission funded heat pump technology as an example.
- The First Minister noted the huge opportunities along the Clyde and the next step of this being the migration of the Clyde Mission.
- Councillor Rooney voiced support for Clyde Mission transition and that acting with the whole river in mind makes sense.
- Councillor Rooney highlighted areas of vacant and derelict land and development in west Dunbartonshire including Dumbarton Harbour, Bowling Harbour and the Exxon Site and Queen's Quay Energy Centre respectively.
- The First Minister highlighted the importance of heat decarbonisation in Glasgow and the City Region and that important lessons can be learned to benefit the rest of the country.
- Councillor Aitken added that the City Deal is only a decade old and when it started heat decarbonisation wasn't being discussed.
- Councillor Brown shared he is on the Clyde Gateway board and highlighted Shawfield contamination and £50m of investment needed for remedial work in order to enable economic regeneration and posited that funding may be too restrictive to do this.
- First Minister noted Cllr Brown's comments on this matter.
- Councillor Corry discussed Argyll and Bute being split with rural and urban areas and issues including housing affected by the greenbelt as well as several projects including the Helensburgh Peer Hub which requires finance. Argyll and Bute are working with Peel Ports but that any support from Clyde Mission would be helpful.
- Councillor Low highlighted the river Kelvin and its pivotal role in nature-based solutions and the need for Clyde Mission masterplan to link in with other strategies.
- Councillor O'Donnell noted thanks to the Glasgow City Region PMO for sharing best practice particularly with heat networks and that Glasgow City Region is a great asset and council areas are all keen to work collaboratively.

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Minister	First Minister (FM)
Date	17 August 2023
Type of engagement	Introductory meeting
Attending officials	[redacted]
Who	[redacted]
Key Points	[redacted]
Action points	[redacted]
Comment	[redacted]

Wednesday 26 July 2023 @1545hrs at Saint Andrew's House

Meeting between:

Humza Yousaf - First Minister (FM) and
Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton - Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of
Scotland (SFF)

Also present:

[redacted]– Principal Clerk to the Moderator (FS)
[redacted]– Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer (DB)
[redacted]– SG Faith and Belief Team (Official Support) (DP)

Fair pay for Social Care Campaign

[redacted]. Their work is a vocation and vital to provision of social care. **[redacted]**.
FM complemented Crossreach on the work they do and reassured the meeting that
this area is a significant priority for him. There could be no recovery of the NHS
without proper social care. **[redacted]**.
FS said CofS understood the complexities. 86% of the workforce are women and
mostly non-unionised.

[redacted].

Climate + Targets

SFF started by thanking the SG for their commitment on loss and damage at
COP26. She asked about the climate conference planned for later this year.
FM recognised the poorest in the world suffer the most health issues. He has had
visits to the global south with SCIAF and others. It was great to see the work of faith
communities. The Scottish Malawi partnership was a good example.
He said he was keen to hear voices of the global south prior to COP28 and keen to
see what else SG could do on the global stage for loss and damage.
SFF commented on good work done by ex-Moderator Gordon Cowans in Jamaica
on these issues and offered to send FM information which FM said he would be
pleased to see.
FS commented that on a recent visit to South Sudan, they were very complementary
about SG funding and even small amounts were welcome.

FM – will keep faith voices involved in climate discussions

Religious Persecution

FM raised the issue of religious persecution and said he was always content to use
his voice to raise issues around this area.
FS said that following the St. Margaret's Declaration there was a need to understand
shared areas rather than differences.

Jewish/Christian Glossary

FM asked for further information on the glossary and its background. SFF gave a brief background to the document which was borne out of a historic rift between CofS and the Jewish community. FS stated that it was a real commitment from CofS and was a model that could be used for other faiths.

FS asked the FM what his vision for faith communities was.

FM said it was about not keeping faith communities in silos, and there were three areas that he wanted to highlight:

- 1) To make sure faith communities are involved and to look at how best to do this
- 2) Faith communities should not feel they are unable to express their faith. Their voice should not be lost.
- 3) This summer he will be working on how best to go forward and would welcome inputs from faith groups.

FS mentioned the SG Faith and Belief Engagement Strategy and complemented the strategy and F&B team on what was very positive work.

SFF useful to learn from each other and danger is when one faith thinks they have the answer.

There followed a brief discussion around toxicity in political debates and social media. SFF said there was also a need for a role in their own organisation.

FM stated that if CofS sees value of input by SG in improving things he's happy to be involved.

Mainstreaming

DB referred to the Engagement Strategy and asked how improvements in internal progress/literacy could be monitored.

Action – FM asked F&B Team look at the best way to progress this.

DB highlighted that CofS also needed to improve its political literacy and he would consider the best way to involve SG.

1. The First Minister met H.E. Vadym Prystaiko, Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK, on 18 August. The head of the Ukrainian consulate in Edinburgh, Andrii Kuslii, was also present. The Ambassador had requested the meeting as part of his farewell tour, having recently been recalled.
2. **[redacted]**. The FM praised him for being a strong voice for Ukraine through Russia's illegal and barbaric invasion. The UK and Scotland were amongst Ukraine's greatest allies, which was no accident given the Ambassador's interventions, which the FM wanted recognised on record. He also praised the Ukrainian Consulate's efforts and cooperation SG colleagues. The Ambassador was grateful. **[redacted]**.
3. The Ambassador thanked the FM for Scotland's support for displaced Ukrainians. The FM said the Ambassador and his team had been very helpful, especially around moving people from the boat. The FM praised AUGB and noted that further funding was in the pipeline to help Ukrainians settle and succeed in Scotland. The Ambassador praised SG colleagues for their problem-solving approach, always seeking solutions to support Ukrainians.
4. The Ambassador had two ideas for next steps. First, housing. **[redacted]**
5. Second, schooling. Some 30-40,000 Ukrainian children had arrived in the UK since last year. 15 new Ukrainian schools had since opened and existing schools had expanded rapidly. It was important that these children were also educated in the Ukrainian language and system, so they can reintegrate on return to Ukraine. **[redacted]**.
6. **[redacted]**.
7. In closing, the FM reiterated that Ukraine was fighting for all of Europe, for our values and freedom. The international community must remain steadfast. The Ambassador would always be welcome in Scotland.

[redacted].

First Minister meeting with Australian High Commissioner – 9 August

[redacted]

FIRST MINISTER MEETING WITH THE SCOTCH WHISKY ASSOCIATION, 3 AUGUST 2023

Attendees

Humza Yousaf, First Minister
[redacted], Scotch Whisky Association (SWA)
[redacted], SWA
[redacted]
[redacted], Food and Drink Division, Scottish Government

Minutes

Introduction

FM welcomed MK and GL to the meeting.

MK thanked FM for meeting and for his support on the business reset. The industry wanted to work with Government to deliver in areas like the economy, sustainability and improvements for local communities. FM said he and other Ministers were keen to work with partners on delivery of outcomes. He was impressed with the work being done by the whisky industry, for example on sustainability and the Made to be Measured responsible drinking campaign.

[redacted].

Alcohol marketing

[redacted]. He said that Government would take time to consider the consultation responses and arrange further roundtables with interested parties before coming to any conclusions about next steps. He was clear, however, that children in particular needed to be protected from alcohol marketing which was currently too accessible. [redacted].

MK commented that this suggested there was space for a common sense and pragmatic approach to the issue. [redacted]. He added that the SWA had already worked with Government on areas like advertising on social media, and proxy purchases.

[redacted]. He said that Government and industry had a shared objective of reducing harmful alcohol use but the industry thought targeted activity was important.

International activity

FM asked about new market opportunities for Scotch Whisky. He and other Ministers were interested in leading delegations to deepen existing markets and open up new ones.

The SWA were keen for Ministers to be involved in market development activity. **[redacted]**. GL identified Mexico as an important development opportunity. He pointed out that China was a big spirit market and now also getting involved in whisky production. The SWA were keen to ensure appropriate standards of production in China.

FM suggested that the SWA speak to the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture. He said his officials would liaise on any forthcoming visits that might be of interest to the industry. He also asked the SWA to provide a paper setting out the position on international markets and opportunities.

Actions – SWA to contact Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and provide a paper for FM on international markets and opportunities.

Action – SG to liaise with SWA, as appropriate, on relevant foreign visits.

Sustainability

[redacted]. His ask was that Government help the various parties, such as whisky and other industries, agriculture, haulage, bottlers etc., to coalesce to deliver on Scope 3 emissions. **[redacted]**. FM was content to consider this since it was imperative to continue to make progress on climate change.

Action – Food and Drink officials to liaise with SWA on plans for partnership working on sustainability prior to the 8 September SWA Council meeting.

FM said that he would like to visit a distillery to highlight what they were doing on sustainability. He was already due to visit Johnnie Walker in Princes Street, Edinburgh on 15 August to do a Holyrood Sources podcast.

Action – Food and Drink officials to liaise with FM's office and SWA and set up a distillery visit.

Minimum unit pricing (MUP)

[redacted]. Industry views were as important as others.

The SWA said that the target should be risky behaviours and a whole market approach that avoided unintended consequences for industry. They wanted partnership working and a recognition of ever-increasing costs for the industry including from taxes. **[redacted]**.

SWA Council meeting, 8 September

The Council meeting on 8 September would be held at the SWA HQ at Quartermile or at the Johnnie Walker Experience. Whisky company chief executives were keen to meet FM and hear about his vision for Scotland, the economy, sustainability etc.

Scotland Food and Drink Strategy

FM thanked the SWA for their contribution to the Scotland Food and Drink Strategy and then thanked everyone for their attendance.

First Minister Meeting with Adrian Gillespie, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise

Monday 14th August 2023

In attendance

First Minister, Humza Yousaf

[redacted], Scottish Enterprise

Gregor Irwin, DG Economy

Callum McCaig, SpAd

[redacted], Deputy Private Secretary

[redacted], SE Sponsor Team (Minutes)

Introduction

First Minister (FM) welcomed **[redacted]** (AG) to the **[redacted]**. FM also congratulated AG on the performance of SE in 2022/23.

[redacted].

AG mentioned that it would be useful to bring leaders in the economic development space together to discuss opportunities and challenges. FM indicated he would consider attending.

Re-Positioning of SE and Corporate Plan

AG explained that a re-positioning of SE was required to reflect economic challenges and opportunities whilst also focusing on what SE can bring that will add value and be transformational. International footprint, innovation and attracting and making investment are where SE can deliver transformational change. Mangata at Prestwick Airport is a key example of this – SE has invested in this as well as providing wider support as this is a key project that will help Scotland take the space sector forward.

[redacted]. Developing supply chain, skills and investment infrastructure will be key to delivering Energy Transition outcomes.

The Innovation Mission aims to drive scaling up of businesses to support transformation. The Productivity Mission aims to drive the economy to high value jobs, with higher salaries and better living standards.

Ultimately, the Corporate Plan is about positioning SE as the National Agency for Economic Transformation. AG invited the FM to consider being involved in the launch of the Strategy.

[redacted].

Traditional Forms of Business Support

[redacted]?

AG responded that the Business Support Partnership provides a website with 400 schemes of support available. [redacted]. AG confirmed this will be a period of change, support will not cease or dramatically change overnight.

Energy Transition

FM noted that Scotland is best placed to benefit from energy transition, but there are two key challenges: supply chain and workforce. [redacted].

[redacted].

FM commented on the groups, task forces and panels that had been set up, which were now coming together and moving towards implementation or recommendations. It is important for this work to be joined up and for effective collaboration to take place. [redacted]

FM noted that the areas of focus for the Corporate Plan seem like the right ones to prioritise.

[redacted].

Hydrogen

[redacted].

[redacted].

GlobalScot

GlobalScot provides a real opportunity to support attracting inward investment. [redacted].

Supporting the Work of the FM

[redacted].

FM stated that he was keen to play his part to make Scotland the location of choice for Energy Transition. FM noted he was keen to deepen success in established markets, support work to develop emerging markets and work across business and Universities.

AG noted that the inward investment pipeline is looking strong and this year the same number of projects may be supported but these will generate a greater cumulative impact.

GI noted that on de-risking, SE can support this on both finance and policy issues.

FM said that it is important for work to be as joined up as it can be and to work smartly in line with the ethos of Team Scotland. [redacted].

FM drew the meeting to a close and stated that he was keen to have regular catch ups with AG.

Meeting between the First Minister and [redacted]– Thursday 6 July 2023, 3.30-4.15pm

Attendees:

Humza Yousaf – First Minister;
[redacted], Iman Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University;
[redacted], Tara Holding;
[redacted]– Teacher at Doha British School; and
[redacted] (supporting official).

[redacted] were also in attendance.

- The First Minister (FM) welcomed **[redacted]** (AA) and his son to Scotland and thanked **[redacted]** (NA) for the introduction to AA via his constituency network.
- AA presented FM with a copy of his book 'Mecca to Medina, a Photographic Journey of the Hijrah Route,' outlining the Hijrah route and identifying landmarks and locations where verses of the Qur'an were revealed.
- AA outlined the methodology used to develop the book, including field expeditions, and utilisation of GPS technology.
- FM noted the scale of work undertaken by AA to map the Hijrah route. He highlighted the importance of preserving history and heritage, and the contribution of AA to make this accessible beyond an academic audience and to people of all faiths and none.
- FM suggested the Edinburgh Book Festival may be a good opportunity for AA to present his work to a wider audience and offered that his Private Office follow up with details of the 2024 event in due course.