

**Annex A: Document 5 p. 10**

**Bute House Agreement Implications**

36. The BHA commits to work with the Scottish Green Party to implement education reform. [redacted s.30(b)(ii) (free and frank advice)].

**Annex B: Document 2, page 3**

From: Redacted

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:56 PM

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>

Cc: Sam Anson <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Director of Learning

<DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>; Redacted

<Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted

<Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Advice - centre for teaching excellence

Hi Clare

Sorry for the delay in getting this to you. I hope it's helpful and I'm happy to provide more info as required.

Thanks

Redacted

[out of scope]

**Annex C: document 14, page 32**

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 18 October 2023 16:20

To Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW: follow up on Centre of Teaching Excellence announcement - The Herald

Thanks Redacted – [redacted s.30(b)(ii) (free and frank advice)]

[redacted s.30(b)(ii) (free and frank advice)]

Any thoughts?

**Annex D: document 14, page 32**

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 4:16 PM  
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW: follow up on Centre of Teaching Excellence announcement - The Herald

Hi Redacted,

I've just pulled together the below from the statement on Sunday, hopefully it's helpful:  
[redacted s.30(b)(ii) (free and frank advice)].

“The centre will be developed in partnership with teachers and professional associations as part of ongoing work to reform Scotland’s education system.

“Next steps for the creation of the Centre of Teaching Excellence will be announced in due course, after engagement with teachers and professional associations.”

[redacted s.29(1)(a) (policy formulation)] .

Cheers,  
Redacted

**Annex E: document 15, page 37**

Document 15 – Ministerial communications on news release  
[redacted s.30 (b)(ii) (free and frank advice)]

**Annex F: document 2, page 3**

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 11:48 AM  
To: Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Cc: Sam Anson <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: Advice - centre for teaching excellence

Hi Clare

Didn't get very far with [redacted s.29(1)(a) (policy formulation)].  
[out of scope].

Redacted

Redacted | Head of the Education Workforce Unit | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government

Tel: Redacted | Email: [Redacted@gov.scot](mailto:Redacted@gov.scot)

## **Annex G: Document 8**

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 5:03 PM  
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Redacted <redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Jackie Mcallister <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: For review: News Release - Centre of Teaching Excellence

thanks all

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 5:02 PM  
To: **Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot**; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>  
Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Jackie Mcallister <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: For review: News Release - Centre of Teaching Excellence

Thanks **Jeanette** – this has been issued - Centre of Teaching Excellence

Redacted

News | Communications Team Leader  
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications  
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh  
Mobile: Redacted | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9029  
[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

From: [Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 4:59 PM

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; Michael McHugh <Michael.McHugh@gov.scot>  
Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Jackie Mcallister <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: For review: News Release - Centre of Teaching Excellence Redacted/Redacted

sorry for delay - good to issue now thanks

[Jeanette](#)

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 2:43 PM

To: [Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot); Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>  
Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Jackie Mcallister <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>  
Subject: Re: For review: News Release - Centre of Teaching Excellence

Thanks [Jeanette](#) - we'll keep an eye out for it.

---

From: [Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 2:30:39 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>;



Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Jackie Mcallister <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: For review: News Release - Centre of Teaching Excellence

Ms Gilruth has made small amend. Sean or I will give nod for when to issue later this afternoon.

thanks

JC

Centre of Teaching Excellence

Education Secretary announces plans as part of wider reform.

Plans for a new national centre to ensure excellence in teaching across Scotland have been announced by Education Secretary Jenny Gilruth.

The Centre of Teaching Excellence will support research and innovation in teaching practice for all children and young people, with the aim of making Scotland a world-leader in teaching practice.

The centre will be developed in partnership with teachers and professional associations as part of ongoing work to reform Scotland's education system.

Education Secretary Jenny Gilruth said:

“Excellent learning and teaching must be the foundation of all that we do in Scottish education.

“I want to ensure that all of our hard-working teachers are supported and empowered in our classrooms.

“That is why, as part of the education reform agenda, we will establish a new Centre of Teaching Excellence, making Scotland a world-leader in new approaches to learning and teaching.

“Co-designed with our teachers and professional associations, the Centre of Teaching Excellence will put Scotland at the forefront of innovative research in teaching practice.

“We will use the centre to work together with Local Authorities in our shared, national mission to close the attainment gap and deliver truly excellent learning and teaching to all of our children.”

Background:

Next steps for the creation of the Centre of Teaching Excellence will be announced in due course, after engagement with teachers and professional associations.

Draft Tweet (to issue next week, date tbc)

Plans are underway for Scotland to have its own Centre of Teaching Excellence as part of ongoing work to reform education.

Read more (arrow) link to NR

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 1:13 PM

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Jackie Mcallister <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: For review: News Release - Centre of Teaching Excellence  
Redacted

Ms Gilruth is at conference this weekend and unable to look at anything until this evening.

Grateful if this could go on spad clearance as per current arrangements.

Thanks

Redacted

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From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 9:22:58 am

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Jackie Mcallister <Jackie.Mcallister2@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>

Subject: For review: News Release - Centre of Teaching Excellence

PO/ Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

CC for info

PO/ Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans

PO/ Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise  
As above

Grateful if you can advise if the Cab Sec is content with the news release below on the Centre of Teaching Excellence. The plan is for this to issue to media after 16:30 today. SpAds and officials are content with the release.

I've also included the tweet that we're planning to issue on social media next week – this approach has been agreed with SpAds.

Best,

Redacted

Centre of Teaching Excellence  
Education Secretary announces plans as part of wider reform.

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The Centre of Teaching Excellence will support research and innovation in teaching practice for all children and young people, with the aim of making Scotland a world-leader in teaching practice.

The centre will be developed in partnership with teachers and professional associations [redacted s.29(1)(a) (policy formulation)]. as part of ongoing work to reform Scotland's education system.

Education Secretary Jenny Gilruth said:

“Excellent learning and teaching must be the foundation of all that we do in Scottish education.

“I want to ensure that all of our hard-working teachers are supported and empowered in our classrooms.

“That is why, as part of the education reform agenda, we will establish a new Centre of Teaching Excellence, making Scotland a world-leader in new approaches to learning and teaching.

“Co-designed with our teachers and professional associations, the Centre of Teaching Excellence will put Scotland at the forefront of innovative research in teaching practice.

“We will use the centre to work together with Local Authorities in our shared, national mission to close the attainment gap and deliver truly excellent learning and teaching to all of our children.”

Background:

Next steps for the creation of the Centre of Teaching Excellence will be announced in due course, after engagement with teachers and professional associations.

Draft Tweet (to issue next week, date tbc)

Plans are underway for Scotland to have its own Centre of Teaching Excellence as part of ongoing work to reform education.

Read more (arrow) link to NR

Redacted

News | Communications Team Leader

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: Redacted | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

**Annex H: Email seeking Cabinet Secretary clearance of response to media enquiry about Centre for Teaching Excellence**

**From:** [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Fri 20/10/2023 14:51

**To:** [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise

<MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and

Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>;

[redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks

<Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Graeme

Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>;

[redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot

Hi,

Ms Gilruth is content to clear [out of scope].

Thanks,

[redacted s38(1)(b)]

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**From:** [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2023 2:25:59 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise

<MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and

Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern

<Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Director of Learning

<DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>;

[redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>; redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FOR CAB SEC VIEW: follow up on Centre of Teaching Excellence announcement - The Herald

Afternoon PO/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills,

Apologies for the short notice on this – [redacted s38(1)(b)] has given us a follow up question on the Centre of Teaching Excellence announcement from Sunday. The journalist has given us a 3pm deadline for our response on this piece.

He is looking to find out if Parliament was informed of this policy in any way before it was announced at SNP conference.

I've copied in lines below, which policy colleagues and SpAds are content with.

Grateful if PO can advise if Ms Gilruth is content with the suggested response.

Thanks,

[redacted s38(1)(b)]

## **PROPOSED RESPONSE**

### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

“The Education Secretary will update Parliament on education reform later this year.

“The Centre of Teaching Excellence will be developed in partnership with teachers and professional associations as part of the Scottish Government’s ongoing reform work.”

## **QUERY**

Got another question on the CTE policy.

Was parliament informed of this policy in any way before it was announced at the SNP conference? If so, can you please tell me how parliament was informed so that I can check that with them? This is a piece for the weekend so would need something back by 2/3pm today please.

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**[redacted s38(1)(b)] (he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Mobile: 07[redacted s38(1)(b)]

St. Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

**From:** [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 5:39 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Graeme Logan <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
Lisa Bird <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills  
<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FOR CAB SEC AWARENESS: follow up on Centre of Teaching Excellence announcement - The Herald

Afternoon PO/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills,

*CC: Minister for HE, FE and Veterans and Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise,*

For Ms Gilruth's awareness – The Herald approached us with a follow up query on the Centre of Teaching Excellence announcement made on Sunday.

The journalist asked:

- Who was consulted on the plans for a Centre of Teaching Excellence?
- Which bodies will it replace?
- How much will it cost to establish the new body?
- How long will it take to establish the new body?

Comms and policy colleagues agreed to revert the journalist to the background note of the release we issued on this announcement on Sunday. I've copied these in below.

Thanks,

[redacted s38(1)(b)]

## **REISSUED LINE**

### **For info**

Next steps for the creation of the Centre of Teaching Excellence will be announced in due course, after engagement with teachers and professional associations.

### **QUERY**

Hello and thanks for dealing with this for me. As it's an explanatory piece rather than some news reporting I don't necessarily need a big formal comment to each of these questions and in most cases just the information would be absolutely fine. If you prefer to provide that on an unattributed basis that's not a problem and if you also wish to include an actual comment then feel free to send that through as well. As I say the piece is very much just going to be framed around trying to explain what this actually means - the nuts and bolts type of things I suppose.

The first issue is the surprise nature of the announcement. The EIS, and individuals I have spoken to in teacher education at universities, have said that the government did not discuss this with them beforehand. Did the government discuss this with anyone beforehand and if so who? I imagine discussions would have had to have taken place at least the GTCS and presumably with at least the head of education Scotland but I would appreciate clarification on that point, especially as the way in which this has been made public has been raised with me.

I'd also be keen to know where the idea came from? I'm assuming Jenny Gilruth didn't wake up one morning and decide this is a good idea. Have submissions come from outside organisations and/or individuals? Has expert opinion been sought? Given that this wasn't really on anyone's radar, I've had several people raising concerns about the origins of the new policy.

Q: With whom had the policy been discussed before it was announced?

Q: The government says it wants to work in partnership with teachers, and Jenny Gilruth has spoken of wishing to reset the relationship with the profession. Is a unilateral announcement like this the sort of thing that teachers can expect to see as part of that process?

People also want to know where exactly this new body will sit within the structures of Scottish education, particularly in lights of the fact that we've just had big formal reviews and this policy seems to have kind of come out of nowhere. We already know that inspection functions are going to be removed from Education Scotland and we're told the SQA is going to be replaced. One concern that's been raised with me is that what we're going to end up with here is just an extra organisation, an extra quango, in Scottish education. It seems to me there are two likely possibilities, since we know that inspection is going to be in its own body and we know that qualifications are going to sit with another body, so: either this new organisation is effectively just going to replace the remainder of Education Scotland or it is going to operate alongside Education Scotland. If it's the latter then that would suggest pedagogy and classroom practice would be in remit of the new body while curriculum and maybe some other things stay with whatever Education Scotland turns into? But a concern there is that separating teachers from the material that they teach, by having different bodies for pedagogy and curriculum, is a regressive idea? There is also the question of how a body focused on teaching practice would interact with (or would it replace?) the GTCS, which regulates teachers on the basis of their practice. I think it's important to know therefore exactly what we're talking about in terms of this new formal organisation in Scotland and its relationship to the existing bodies, most particularly the GTCS Education Scotland, HMIE and the SQA.

Q: Will the Centre of Teaching Excellence replace one or more of the GTCS, EdScot, HMIE, SQA, or will it become an additional body in Scottish education?

Money is, apparently, very tight just now, but something like what is being proposed surely costs money. The government has not yet delivered the cut to contact time that was promised, and teachers are increasingly vocal about the impact of it tightened spending and resources on the education they can provide. College lecturers still don't have a pay deal. That being the case, some might question the



value of yet another initiative when other, perhaps more important issues, remain outstanding.

Q: How much will it cost to establish the new body, and how long will it take? How much will it cost to run each year?

I think all that should give me what I need to put together a decent explainer for readers, and am happy to discuss any of it if that helps.

-----

**[redacted s38(1)(b)] (he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Mobile: 07[redacted s38(1)(b)]

St. Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG