

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 8:59 PM
To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government
<CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
<cabsecfornze@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government
<CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted];
David Signorini <David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Anne Aitken
<Anne.Aitken@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Kate
Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>;
Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: NRF and request for meeting - PA

Thanks for your patience – Cab Sec has cleared the lines for her interests also.

Take care

[redacted] (she/her)
Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy – Gillian Martin
MSP
Scottish Government | St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG | [redacted] |
CabSecforNZE@gov.scot



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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 8:16 PM

To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government
<CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
<cabsecfornze@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government
<CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted];
David Signorini <David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Anne Aitken
<Anne.Aitken@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Kate
Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>;
Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted].

Subject: RE: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: NRF and request for meeting - PA

Hi Craig

Ms Robison is content to clear for her part.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government –
Shona Robison MSP**

The Scottish Government | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel. [redacted]

Mob. [redacted]

Email. CabSecFLG@gov.scot

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 3:58 PM

To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

<CabSecFLG@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot> ;

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <cabsecfnze@gov.scot>; First Minister

<FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross

Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh

<Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local

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

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG

Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Communications Duty Box

<CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>; David Signorini <David.Signorini@gov.scot>;

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Education

& Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Director of Environment &

Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Anne Aitken <Anne.Aitken@gov.scot>; Ellen

Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; Alison Taylor

<Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Orlando Heijmer-mason <[\[Mason@gov.scot\]\(mailto:Mason@gov.scot\)>; \[redacted\]; Deputy Director Nature Division <\[DDND@gov.scot\]\(mailto:DDND@gov.scot\)>;](mailto:Orlando.Heijmer-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

[redacted]

Subject: RE: For clearance: Municipal Journal, letter to local authorities

Hi [redacted]

Ms Robison is content.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government –
Shona Robison MSP**

The Scottish Government | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel. [redacted]

Mob. [redacted]

Email. CabSecFLG@gov.scot

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 5:14 PM

To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

<cabsecfornze@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>;

First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government

<CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Ellen Leaver

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

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Communities

<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Duty Box

<CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>; [redacted]; David Signorini

<David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>;

David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: Reactive lines to take - COSLA letter / BBC / Scotsman

Thank you [redacted]!

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 5:00 PM

To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

<cabsecfornze@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>;

First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government

<CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Ellen Leaver

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

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Communities

<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Duty Box

<CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>; [redacted]; David Signorini

<David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>;

David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: Reactive lines to take - COSLA letter / BBC / Scotsman

Hi [redacted]

Much appreciated.

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted];
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Duty Box <CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>; [redacted]; David Signorini <David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: Reactive lines to take - COSLA letter / BBC / Scotsman

Hello all,

Thanks for copying us in [redacted], unfortunately Ms Martin has a personal appointment in the morning so will be unable to undertake this bid.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government
<CabSecFLG@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 4:01 PM

To: [redacted]; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; First Minister
<FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
<cabsecfornze@gov.scot>; [redacted];

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government
<CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Ellen Leaver
<Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Communities
<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Duty Box
<CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>; [redacted]; David Signorini
<David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>;
David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: Reactive lines to take - COSLA
letter / BBC / Scotsman

[redacted],

On the back below and in addition, Cab Sec has asked if Gillian Martin would
alternatively be available due to the environment perspective.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government
<CabSecFLG@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 4:00 PM

To: [redacted]; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; First Minister
<FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
<cabsecfornze@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; First Minister
<FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
<cabsecfornze@gov.scot>; [redacted];

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government
<CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Ellen Leaver
<Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Communities
<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Duty Box
<CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>; [redacted]; David Signorini
<David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>;
David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government
<CabSecFLG@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: Reactive lines to take - COSLA
letter / BBC / Scotsman

[redacted],

The Cab Sec is unavailable for a pre record thus evening as she is travelling and at an event this evening. As for GMS, can officials confirm why cosla not leading this? If required, I can ask the Minister is he could step in on this occasion but can we confirm re cosla first.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 1:11 PM

To: [redacted]; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <cabsecfornze@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Duty Box <CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>; [redacted]; David Signorini <David.Signorini@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: Reactive lines to take - COSLA letter / BBC / Scotsman

Hi [redacted],

Cab Sec is content.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 5:43 PM

To: pabarrett@pkc.gov.uk; Euan.Jardine@scotborders.gov.uk;
jon.molyneux@glasgow.gov.uk; douglas.reid@east-ayrshire.gov.uk;
cllr.david.ross@fife.gov.uk; paulf.steele@cne-siar.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>;
First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>;
[redacted]

Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Councillors

Please find attached correspondence from Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government. This revised letter includes one minor edit to clarify the position on replacement of capital funding in 2025/26.

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:02 PM

To: pabarrett@pkc.gov.uk; Euan.Jardine@scotborders.gov.uk;
jon.molyneux@glasgow.gov.uk; douglas.reid@east-ayrshire.gov.uk;
cllr.david.ross@fife.gov.uk; paulf.steele@cne-siar.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>;
First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Subject: Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Dear Councillors

Please find attached correspondence from Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Unit Head, Ministerial Private Office
The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: [redacted] | **M:** [redacted] | **Email:** [redacted]

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:05 PM
To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Louise Macdonald <Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Neil Rennick <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox <DGScottishExchequer@gov.scot>; Chief Financial Officer <cfo@gov.scot>; Director for Local Government and Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Orlando Heijmer-mason <Orlando.Heijmer-mason@gov.scot>; Alison Taylor <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Anne Aitken <Anne.Aitken@gov.scot>; Donald Henderson <Donald.Henderson@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Alasdair Black <Alasdair.Black@gov.scot>; Heather Darling <Heather.Darling@gov.scot>; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; SGLD Head of Economy and Social Protections <SGLD_Head_of_Economy_and_Social_Protections@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <cabsecfornze@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: LG Pay - Submission - Decision on funding options - 6 August 2024

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team [in line with SG records management policy](#).

Thanks v much all. Cab Sec is content for her part but she does want to stress that she would expect these sums of money to be brought back next year and for plans for the flood prevention and nature restoration projects to be progressed. She has noted a question - is there an acceptance that given money is being taken out of progressing flood prevention schemes, should there be flooding in any LA which has reserves, that they will use those reserves rather than using the NZE portfolio to pay for any flood damage? As she notes we do not have those resources unfortunately.

Thanks v much

[redacted] (she/her)
Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy – Gillian Martin
MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG | [redacted] |
CabSecforNZE@gov.scot



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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:45 AM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Louise Macdonald <Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Neil Rennick <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox <DGScottishExchequer@gov.scot>; Chief Financial Officer <cfo@gov.scot>; Director for Local Government and Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Orlando Heijmer-mason <Orlando.Heijmer-mason@gov.scot>; Alison Taylor <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Anne Aitken <Anne.Aitken@gov.scot>; Donald Henderson <Donald.Henderson@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Alasdair Black <Alasdair.Black@gov.scot>; Heather Darling <Heather.Darling@gov.scot>; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; SGLD Head of Economy and Social Protections <SGLD_Head_of_Economy_and_Social_Protections@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <cabsecfornze@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: LG Pay - Submission - Decision on funding options - 6 August 2024

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team [in line with SG records management policy](#).

[redacted] / [redacted],

Cab Sec has noted and is agreed with FM comments.

Many thanks
[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary | Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Shona Robison MSP | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | M: [redacted] | E: CabSecFLG@gov.scot

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:11 AM

To: [redacted]

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Louise Macdonald <Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Neil Rennick <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox <DGScottishExchequer@gov.scot>; Chief Financial Officer <cfo@gov.scot>; Director for Local Government and Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Orlando Heijermason <Orlando.Heijermason@gov.scot>; Alison Taylor <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Anne Aitken <Anne.Aitken@gov.scot>; Donald Henderson <Donald.Henderson@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Alasdair Black <Alasdair.Black@gov.scot>; Heather Darling <Heather.Darling@gov.scot>; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; SGLD Head of Economy and Social Protections <SGLDHeadofEconomyandSocialProtections@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <cabsecfornze@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot> First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: LG Pay - Submission - Decision on funding options - 6 August 2024

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team [in line with SG records management policy](#).

[redacted],

The First Minister was grateful for the latest advice. Given the imperative to avoid industrial action, which will if it happens bring disruption to communities and services, the FM reluctantly agrees to the flexibilities that are proposed and the undertaking that funds will be replaced in future years. [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

The FM is supportive of the handling arrangements and would ask that the intensive dialogue with Local Government is continued in the days ahead. The FM is aware that SG is taking forward dialogue with TUs and that should be fed to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government as a key element in the handling of dialogue with COSLA. [redacted – Section 30(b)(ii)]

The FM is happy to discuss this during the course of today, if required.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] (he/him)

Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[redacted] | FirstMinister@gov.scot

Shona Robison MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

COSLA Political Group Leaders
Cllr Katie Hagmann, COSLA Resources
Spokesperson

Copy to COSLA Presidential Team

By email.

13 August 2024

Dear Councillors

Thank you for our meeting on Wednesday 7 August to discuss the local government pay negotiations. As discussed in our meeting, the statements by the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer have reset expectations across the public sector workforce. I also highlighted that the UK Government have not indicated any additional funding in year for local government in England, therefore we do not expect any consequentials for this. There is no doubt that we are in an extremely challenging and uncertain financial position.

Therefore in that context the funding I am able to offer to councils in Scotland to support local government pay, is at the limits of what I deem to be affordable, alongside some extremely difficult choices to release existing capital funding for this purpose.

I have been acutely mindful of the pressing timeframe to agree a revised pay offer for the Scottish Joint Council (SJC) with a view to averting damaging industrial action, and the impact on people's lives and on trust in public services such action has. Therefore while I have acknowledged that there are two bargaining groups within the local government workforce, I have made clear my view that the package I am offering at this time is intended to support a pay offer for the SJC only. Further discussions will need to take place, including the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, to progress negotiations in the SNCT.

I welcome that the package of flexibilities and funding assurances that I outlined on 7 August has enabled COSLA Leaders to agree a revised offer for the SJC workforce, and I am pleased that all three Unions have agreed to consult their members on this revised offer.

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It is disappointing that Unison have chosen to recommend that their members reject the offer, and that they continue to ballot the non-teaching school workforce on industrial action. I trust that councils and COSLA will be doing all they can to ensure that individuals understand what the pay offer means for them, and I hope that this strong offer will be accepted in due course.

I can confirm that I am willing to make a total of £77.5 million funding available to support an overall envelope of 4.27%. This funding offer is conditional on the pay offer being accepted by Unions and their members.

Funding Package from the Scottish Government

The funding package I am offering is as follows.

In the current financial year, the Scottish Government will commit to providing flexibility over the following elements of existing funding, and support councils to deploy their capital switching capacities to utilise this:

- £5 million Capital Funding from the Nature Restoration Capital Funding recently agreed by Settlement and Distribution Group – Edinburgh Process Strand, acknowledging that this will mean a delay to those programmes;
- £26 million Capital Funding from the Flood Risk Management Programme, noting that it is understood by COSLA that councils may not need to draw down this amount in 2024-25 to be able to progress schemes as some of this funding has been profiled by local authorities for spend in future years; and
- £2 million Capital funding to be released on the implementation of SCP-aligned expansion of Free School Meals to P6 and P7 by agreeing on restructuring of capital spend which can be achieved to create this small saving, while not substantively delaying progress on the planned expansion.

I will also make available an additional £10 million in new capital funding to local government through a delay in a programme for digital devices through the Connecting Scotland programme. This is not a decision we have taken lightly.

It is recognised that the capital funding in instances would need to be replaced as additional capital funding in 2025-26. None of these decisions have been easy and we will work with councils to consider and look to mitigate the impact wherever possible.

We will however require early and final assurance from relevant local authorities through COSLA, that the stated level of capital funding from the flood risk management programme can be managed using councils' enhanced end-year flexibility and that redirection of this portion of the funding at this time will not impact on councils progressing with their flood prevention schemes as planned.

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Finally, I will make available further additional revenue funding of £34.5 million in 2024-25 as general revenue grant. **This will provide the total of £77.5 million in 2024-25 to support the improvement to the pay offer for the SJC.**

I also provide my assurance that this full amount will be provided as additional General Revenue Grant from 2025-26 on a recurring basis.

This additional envelope demonstrates the value which the Scottish Government places on the local government workforce and enables an attractive and much improved offer to be made for the workforce to consider.

Conclusion

I thank you again for our discussions on 7 August and for the intensive work which has taken place over the past two weeks. I am grateful for the work of local government officers with my officials to arrive at this outcome.

I am pleased that the Trade Unions have agreed to consult their members on this offer and suspend strike action during this period, and I hope that the workforce will agree to accept it.

These are all painful decisions, and the funding I am committing to, both this year and for future years, will not be without difficult choices for the Scottish Government over the coming months and years.



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COSLA Political Group Leaders
Cllr Katie Hagmann, COSLA Resources
Spokesperson

Copy to COSLA Presidential Team

By email.

14 August 2024

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