

ANNEX B

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1. Correspondence relating to a bid from Go Radio on Erasmus

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 6:02 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Thanks very much. Mr Dey is content to [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)] decline.

Kind regards
[redacted – s.38(1)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)] | Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don's Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: Dey G (Graeme), MSP <Graeme.Dey.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 5:53 PM
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

[redacted – s.29(1)(d)]

Sent from my iPhone

On 27 Aug 2024, at 17:40, MinisterHFEV@gov.scot wrote:

Forwarding to MSP account. [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[Deputy Private Secretary | Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

MOB: [redacted – s.38(1)] St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Ms Gilruth's Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 1:24 PM

To: Graeme Dey <Graeme.Dey@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

Please see below, would you like to accept or decline the bid?

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 1:22 PM

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills
<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

Afternoon PO/Minister for HE/FE and Veterans,

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise,

Go Radio has asked to interview Mr Dey on the subject of rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme. This comes off the back of comments made by the Minister during an interview with Scotland on Sunday, which published over the weekend. Here is the article for the Minister's awareness - How an SNP minister plans to lobby Labour to re-join £12bn European exchange scheme (scotsman.com)

The interview can be conducted remotely, and the journalist is looking to speak with the Minister either today or tomorrow.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Grateful if PO can advise if the Minister is content to accept or decline.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

MR DEY BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PRERE-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	Go Radio	Any time today or tomorrow (27/8 or 28/8)	Pre-record (remote)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	Rejoining Erasmus plus	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

I'm [redacted – s.38(1)] from the Go Radio newsroom in Glasgow. I've seen you speak about the benefits of the UK rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme. I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a pre-recorded interview to talk about your views on this?

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**
 Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot
 Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]
 St. Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
 <image001.jpg>

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 1:22 PM
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

Afternoon PO/Minister for HE/FE and Veterans,

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise,

Go Radio has asked to interview Mr Dey on the subject of rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme. This comes off the back of comments made by the Minister during an interview with Scotland on Sunday, which published over the weekend. Here is the article for the Minister's awareness - How an SNP minister plans to lobby Labour to re-join £12bn European exchange scheme (scotsman.com)

The interview can be conducted remotely, and the journalist is looking to speak with the Minister either today or tomorrow.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Grateful if PO can advise if the Minister is content to accept or decline.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

MR DEY BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	Go Radio	Any time today or tomorrow (27/8 or 28/8)	Pre-record (remote)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	Rejoining Erasmus plus	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

I'm [redacted – s.38(1)] from the Go Radio newsroom in Glasgow.

I've seen you speak about the benefits of the UK rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a pre-recorded interview to talk about your views on this?

[redacted – s.38(1)] (he/him) | **Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 9:32 AM

To: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR SPAD VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

Morning Sean/SpAds,

Go Radio has asked to interview Mr Dey on the subject of rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme. This comes off the back of comments the Minister made during an interview with Scotland on Sunday over the weekend.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Information on how this bid will be carried out is limited for now – we've tried to contact the journalist for further information. It is likely that this bid will be conducted remotely. We will confirm in due course.

Grateful for views on this please.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

MR DEY BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PRERE-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	Go Radio	TBC	Pre-record	[redacted – s.38(1)]	Rejoining Erasmus plus	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

I'm [redacted – s.38(1)] from the Go Radio newsroom in Glasgow.

I've seen you speak about the benefits of the UK rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a pre-recorded interview to talk about your views on this?

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
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gov.scot

From: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 1:11 PM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)] @nrscotland.gov.uk; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig

<Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR SPAD VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

Put this to the minister, [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:30 PM
To: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR SPAD VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

The journalist has advised that she would like to do this interview remotely either today or tomorrow.

I've updated the handling below.

Grateful for views please.

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**
Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot
Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]
St. Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG



From: [redacted – s.38(1)]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 9:32 AM
To: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR SPAD VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on Erasmus - Go Radio

Morning Sean/SpAds,

Go Radio has asked to interview Mr Dey on the subject of rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme. This comes off the back of comments the Minister made during an interview with Scotland on Sunday over the weekend.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Information on how this bid will be carried out is limited for now – we’ve tried to contact the journalist for further information. It is likely that this bid will be conducted remotely. We will confirm in due course.

Grateful for views on this please.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

MR DEY BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	Go Radio	Any time today or tomorrow (27/8 or 28/8)	Pre-record (remote)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	Rejoining Erasmus plus	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

I'm [redacted – s.38(1)] from the Go Radio newsroom in Glasgow.

I've seen you speak about the benefits of the UK rejoining the Erasmus plus exchange programme.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a pre-recorded interview to talk about your views on this?

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba
 gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @thisisgo.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:02 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Graeme Dey interview bid on Erasmus

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Apologies I popped the bid in on Sunday and often struggle to get through on the weekend.

I was hoping to speak to Graeme today or tomorrow if possible over a zoom interview.

Kind regards,
[redacted – s.38(1)]
Go Radio

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot <[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 9:28:02 AM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @thisisgo.co.uk>
Subject: Graeme Dey interview bid on Erasmus

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Thanks for sending across an interview request for Mr Dey. In future, we would ask that you contact the media enquiries line in the first instance to ensure that your request gets picked up sooner.

Can I ask when you're looking to do this interview?

My phone number is below if you need to call.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
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gov.scot

2. Correspondence relating a bid from the Herald on Higher and Further Education

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 5:36 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - Mr Dey sit-down interview - the Herald

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

[redacted – s.38(1)]
Communications Team Leader | Education & Skills
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh.

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

gov.scot/news



From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 5:33 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - Mr Dey sit-down interview - the Herald

[redacted – s.38(1)]

Mr Dey is not content to accept this bid. I will share his feedback separately.

Thanks
[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)] | **Deputy Private Secretary | Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**
MOB: [redacted – s.38(1)] | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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 Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 4:59 PM
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - Mr Dey sit-down interview - the Herald

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

The [redacted – s.38(1)] Herald has contacted comms seeking a sit-down interview on behalf of the paper with Mr Dey. It would be [redacted – s.38(1)], depending on timing), who would conduct the interview.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

We've discussed with SPADs who suggest we put this to the minister for consideration.

Grateful if you can let us know if Mr Dey is minded to undertake this Herald bid??

Many thanks [redacted – s.38(1)]

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	RECOMMENDATION	OTHER DETAILS
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							(IF REQUIRE D)
GD	The Herald	Tbc	Sit- down, print	[redacted – s.38(1)] / [redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE portfoli o wide	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

BID

Hope things are good with you and that you can help me with something.

We've been trying for a while to get a sit-down with Graeme Dey, but with absolutely no luck. Is this something we can sort/discuss?

From: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 4:17 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Cc: Claire Jamieson <Claire.Jamieson@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>;
Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and
Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; Adam Reid
<Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>; [redacted
– s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]
@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills
<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR SPAD VIEW - Mr Dey sit-down interview - the Herald

Put it to the minister.

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Stuart Greig
<Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills
<DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; Adam Reid
<Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>; [redacted
– s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]
@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills
<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR SPAD VIEW - Mr Dey sit-down interview - the Herald

Hi Sean,

Just for awareness, the Herald [redacted – s.38(1)] has been chasing on this one.

Obviously given that we now have an agreement on the colleges dispute (subject to EIS ballot), this may provide an opportunity for the minister to undertake this bid.

Grateful for a view before we progress this to PO.

Many thanks [redacted – s.38(1)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR SPAD VIEW - Mr Dey sit-down interview - the Herald

Hi Sean,

The [redacted – s.38(1)] Herald has contacted comms seeking a sit-down interview on behalf of the paper with Mr Dey. It would be the education corr James McEnaney, (or perhaps Garrett Stell, depending on timing), who would conduct the interview.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Are you content for us to put this bid to the minister [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Many thanks [redacted – s.38(1)]

WH O	OUTL ET	TIM E	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEW ER	TOPIC S	RECOMMENDAT ION	OTHER DETAILS (IF REQUIRE D)
GD	The Herald	Tbc	Sit-down, print	[redacted – s.38(1)] / [redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE portfolio wide	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	Pending resolution of colleges dispute

BID

Hope things are good with you and that you can help me with something.

We've been trying for a while to get a sit-down with Graeme Dey, but with absolutely no luck. Is this something we can sort/discuss?

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @newsquest.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 3:57 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Subject: Re: The Herald

[redacted – s.38(1)]

Just picking up on this. Any progress?

Thanks.

[redacted – s.38(1)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot <[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: 20 August 2024 10:38
To: [redacted – s.38(1)]<[redacted – s.38(1)] @newsquest.co.uk>
Subject: RE: The Herald

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)] good to hear from you.

I'm just back from leave, so will look into this and come back come back to you,

Cheers [redacted – s.38(1)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @newsquest.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:30 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Subject: The Herald

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Hope things are good with you and that you can help me with something.

We've been trying for a while to get a sit-down with Graeme Dey, but with absolutely no luck. Is this something we can sort/discuss?

Thanks,
[redacted – s.38(1)]

s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on HE/FE and Reform - Scotsman

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Mr Dey is content to accept.

Mr Dey is due to be in Edinburgh on **Thursday 15 August** and has availability from **15:00 onwards** so would be able to undertake this interview in person then if this is suitable.

Many thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)] **Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP**
The Scottish Government

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

Mob: [redacted – s.38(1)] | **Email:** MinisterHFEV@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 11:32 AM

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Shirley Laing <Shirley.Laing@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on HE/FE and Reform - Scotsman

Morning PO/Minister for HE/FE and Veterans,

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise,

The Scotsman has submitted a bid to interview Mr Dey on a number of topics in the HE/FE sectors and the ongoing reform work. This will include:

- Education reform
- Future of HE/FE funding
- Industrial relations in the sectors
- Scottish replacement for Erasmus

The journalist has indicated that he can do this interview in person or remotely and is open to carrying it out over any dates during recess.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)] Comms can discuss an appropriate date with the journalist if Mr Dey wishes to accept.

Grateful if PO can advise if Mr Dey is content with the suggested approach.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

INTERVIEW BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEW ER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	The Scotsman	Any time during recess	N/A (for print)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE and Reform	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

As previously discussed, I was wondering if it would be possible to put a bid in for an interview with Graeme Day to discuss various issues relating to universities and colleges in Scotland.

I'd hope for it to be wide-ranging, covering things like education reform, the future of higher and further education funding, industrial relations, the Scottish replacement for Erasmus etc.

Preferably in person but remote would not be a problem either.

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @jpress.co.uk>

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 1:44 PM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>

Subject: Re: SG//Mr Dey interview

Just me I think [redacted – s.38(1)]

On Mon, 12 Aug 2024 at 12:23, <[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot> wrote:

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Hope you're well!

Just double checking – is it just going to be yourself that's coming along on Thursday? Let me know if you plan to bring someone else (i.e. a photographer) and we can look to security clearance sorted too.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @jpress.co.uk>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 12:32 PM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>

Subject: Re: SG//Mr Dey interview

Sounds good to me, thanks [redacted – s.38(1)]

On Fri, 9 Aug 2024 at 11:26, <[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot> wrote:

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Just to update on the interview bid for next Thurs – should be fine for St Andrews House, if that works for you? Just submitted a form there to get you access to the building – let me know if there's any issues from your end.

I'll keep you posted!

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 12:20 PM
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Cc: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Shirley Laing <Shirley.Laing@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on HE/FE and Reform - Scotsman

Afternoon [redacted – s.38(1)]

To confirm – the journalist is happy to do the interview at 3pm on Thursday 15 August if that is still suitable for Mr Dey?

The journalist has also asked to sit down with the Minister for 40 minutes – is Mr Dey content with that timing?

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on HE/FE and Reform - Scotsman

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Mr Dey is content to accept.

Mr Dey is due to be in Edinburgh on **Thursday 15 August** and has availability from **15:00 onwards** so would be able to undertake this interview in person then if this is suitable.

Many thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

**Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP
The Scottish Government**

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

Mob: [redacted – s.38(1)] | **Email:** MinisterHFEV@gov.scot

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 11:32 AM

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>;

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[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>;
 Communications Education & Skills
 <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on HE/FE and Reform - Scotsman

Morning PO/Minister for HE/FE and Veterans,

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise,

The Scotsman has submitted a bid to interview Mr Dey on a number of topics in the HE/FE sectors and the ongoing reform work. This will include:

- Education reform
- Future of HE/FE funding
- Industrial relations in the sectors
- Scottish replacement for Erasmus

The journalist has indicated that he can do this interview in person or remotely and is open to carrying it out over any dates during recess.]

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Grateful if PO can advise if Mr Dey is content with the suggested approach.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

INTERVIEW BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEW ER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	The Scotsman	Any time during	N/A (for print)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE and Reform	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

[redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Shirley Laing <Shirley.Laing@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR SPAD VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on HE/FE and Reform - Scotsman

Morning Sean/Davie and SpAds,

The Scotsman has submitted a bid to interview Mr Dey on a number of topics in the HE/FE sectors and the ongoing reform work. This will include:

- Education reform
- Future of HE/FE funding
- Industrial relations in the sectors
- Scottish replacement for Erasmus

The journalist has indicated that he can do this interview in person or remotely and is open to carrying it out over any dates during recess (apart from next week).

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Grateful for your views on the approach above.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

INTERVIEW BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEW ER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	The Scotsman	Any time during recess (apart from w/c 15 July)	N/A (for print)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE and Reform	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

As previously discussed, I was wondering if it would be possible to put a bid in for an interview with Graeme Day to discuss various issues relating to universities and colleges in Scotland.

I'd hope for it to be wide-ranging, covering things like education reform, the future of higher and further education funding, industrial relations, the Scottish replacement for Erasmus etc.

Preferably in person but remote would not be a problem either.

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: Dey G (Graeme), MSP <Graeme.Dey.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 12:13 PM

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

The journalist has indicated that he can do this interview in person or remotely and is open to carrying it out over any dates during recess.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Comms can discuss an appropriate date with the journalist if Mr Dey wishes to accept.

Grateful if PO can advise if Mr Dey is content with the suggested approach.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

INTERVIEW BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	The Scotsman	Any time during recess	N/A (for print)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE and Reform	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

As previously discussed, I was wondering if it would be possible to put a bid in for an interview with Graeme Day to discuss various issues relating to universities and colleges in Scotland.

I'd hope for it to be wide-ranging, covering things like education reform, the future of higher and further education funding, industrial relations, the Scottish replacement for Erasmus etc.

Preferably in person but remote would not be a problem either.

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)] @gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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

<image001.jpg>

From: Graeme Dey <Graeme.Dey@gov.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 6:56 PM

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Mr Dey interview bid on HE/FE and Reform - Scotsman

Mr Dey	The Scotsman	Any time during recess	N/A (for print)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE and Reform	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	
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QUERY

As previously discussed, I was wondering if it would be possible to put a bid in for an interview with Graeme Day to discuss various issues relating to universities and colleges in Scotland.

I'd hope for it to be wide-ranging, covering things like education reform, the future of higher and further education funding, industrial relations, the Scottish replacement for Erasmus etc.

Preferably in person but remote would not be a problem either.

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba
 gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 4:00 PM

To: Graeme Dey <Graeme.Dey@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: MINISTERIAL BRIEFING: Mr Dey Scotsman interview on HE/FE and Reform 15 August

Please see briefing for interview with The Scotsman on Thursday

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot >

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:52 PM

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)] Team Leader (TRS) International Higher Education | Enabling the Economy: Skills Division| Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU
 E: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot
 Telephone/Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]
 The Scottish Government - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

[MINISTERIAL BRIEFING FOR THE SCOTSMAN INTERVIEW]

What	Interview with the Scotsman’s [redacted – s.38(1)] on Higher and Further Education and Post-16 Education Reform.
Where	Scottish Parliament, 2N.12
When	Thursday 15 August, 3pm – 3.40pm.
Key Message(s)	<p>Post school Education and Skills Reform Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have established a Post School Education and Skills Reform programme to act on what reviews (the Withers Review, and SG’s Purpose and Principles report) told us about the need for change to ensure our post school learning and education system is fit for the future. • The aim is for our education and skills system to work as a single system which is easy to navigate, taking collective responsibility to better support and improve the provision for people moving towards and within the labour market. <p>•</p> <p>Future of HE/FE Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the incredibly challenging financial circumstances facing government, we are investing over £1 billion into Scotland’s universities. • The funds available to colleges at the start of 24-25 financial year are expected to be very similar to the funds invested by colleges in the 23-24 financial year • As we approach a new fiscal period, I will continue to highlight the college and university sector’s value in Scotland, albeit against a backdrop of ongoing and considerable fiscal limitations. <p>Industrial relations in the sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I expect employers and trades unions to work together to reach settlements which are both fair and affordable, without the need for further industrial action. • I expect students to be appropriately supported by their institutions throughout this period of industrial action, and to receive timely information about the impact of any

	<p>disruption on their studies and the options available to them.</p> <p>Scottish Education Exchange Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government is committed to addressing one of the most damaging consequences of Brexit for our colleges and universities – the fact that UK students can no longer take part in the Erasmus+ Programme.
Why	This interview will provide an opportunity to expand on the Post-16 Education reform agenda.
Supporting official	Comms will provide support.
Briefing contents	<p>Annex A: Background and Hot Topics Annex B: Post school Education and Skills Reform Programme Annex C: Future of Higher and Further Education Funding Annex D: Institutional assurance and sustainability Annex E: Industrial relations in the College Sector Annex F: Industrial relations in the University Sector Annex G: Scottish Education Exchange Programme</p>

ANNEX A BACKGROUND TO INTERVIEW AND HOT TOPICS

Background

The Scotsman submitted a bid to interview you on a number of topics in the Higher and Further Education sector and the ongoing Post school Education and Skills Reform Programme. The suggested topics include:

- Post school education and skills reform programme (Annex B)
- Future of HE/FE funding (Annex C and D)
- Industrial relations in the sectors (Annex E and F)
- Scottish Education Exchange Programme (Annex G)

The interviewer is [redacted – s.38(1)]

Hot Topics

University of Edinburgh financial sustainability and recruitment freeze – Top Lines

- It is for individual universities, as autonomous institutions, to make decisions around appropriate staffing levels and how to manage this.
- I would expect the University to adhere to Fair Work principles. This includes meaningful consultation and constructive dialogue with staff affected by any such proposals, and the expectation that compulsory redundancies should only be considered as a last resort, after all other cost saving measures have been fully explored.
- Ensuring our institutions are on a sustainable trajectory is at the heart of our considerations to reform the post-school system, so that the significant investment we are making delivers the best outcomes for learners, the economy and society.

[redacted – s.30(b)(i)]

ANNEX B POST SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SKILLS REFORM PROGRAMME

Top Lines

- We have established a Post School Education and Skills Reform programme to act on what reviews (the Withers Review, and SG's Purpose and Principles report) told us about the need for change to ensure our post school learning and education system is fit for the future.
- The aim is for our education and skills system to work as a single system which is easy to navigate, taking collective responsibility to better support and improve the provision for people moving towards and within the labour market.
- We outlined to Parliament that the Scottish Government will lead on the development of new national skills planning processes, simplifying the funding body landscape, improving the careers advice offer and taking a central role in the development of apprenticeships.
- I wrote to the Education, Children and Young People Committee on 25 June 2024 to update on post school reform, outlining our response to the Withers Review. Post School Reform 25 June 2024 (parliament.scot)

We are working to a 10 year timescale for reform

- Scottish Ministers are committed to a ten-year Programme of public service reform. Education and Skills Reform is one of the first and one of the largest programmes to get underway.
- Our 10-year transformation programme to reform the post-school education and skills system builds on the knowledge that there is a strong relationship between level of qualification and socio-economic advantage, however defined.
- The phasing of this 10-year programme means major deliverables will be achieved throughout. The inter-connectedness of the system, and the overall length of the programme, mean that the detail of future phases will emerge over time from our work in collaboration with colleagues across SG and external stakeholder
- Detail is clear on Phase 1 (from 2024-26), and work is well underway. There are currently five interconnected live strands of work, all moving at different paces – some are already in delivery, some completing planning, some in the discovery phase.
- In June we launched a major consultation on simplifying funding for universities, colleges and apprenticeships, as well as student support, to help take forward one of the most significant recommendations of James Withers' independent review of the skills delivery landscape.

We are committed to supporting our communities and providing a system which is equipped for the future

- By reshaping the post-school education and skills landscape, we will support the next generation to thrive by ensuring our young people have access to skills and learning opportunities that enable them to successfully enter the world of work.

- It will also support adult learners, including parents, to enter, sustain and progress in work; critical given that income from employment is a key driver in our work to tackle child poverty.
- Our reform is a key part of the NSET skilled workforce programme, and will better equip the post-school system to address workforce upskilling and reskilling requirements and better recognition of prior learning
- Our reforms will enable the system to better address reskilling requirements to help deliver workforce for just transition to net zero
- The Reform programme will support the delivery of high quality public services – removing duplication of functions and delivering enhanced efficiency, allowing more of the total investment to be directed towards users: institutions, research, learners and employers
- We are engaging with new UK government and exploring their post school and skills policies to identify opportunities to work together

Simplification of Funding Body Landscape

Top Lines

- We can improve outcomes for learners and employers and be more efficient by simplifying this funding body landscape.
- It is important to be clear that steps to simplify the funding body landscape are not a commentary on the performance of existing public bodies.
- The Withers Review and the Purpose and Principles built on extensive consultation across the system and were clear that wider improvements to the system like more flexible funding models, parity of esteem across provision pathways and greater equity in student support could not be achieved within current structures.
- The options being pursued provide an opportunity to amend existing legislation (2005 Act) to specify what we want our post-school funding landscape to deliver in future – building on the best of what our current system has to offer.
- We have carefully considered all options for structural change and have a shortlist of options for further development.
- These are;
 - Business as usual which is considered as a baseline;
 - Responsibility for all provision, including apprenticeships, within the SFC and responsibility for all student support within SAAS;
 - Responsibility for provision and student support within the SFC – resulting in a single funding body.
- Some of these changes require legislation. We are consulting on these options via a public consultation which launched Tuesday 25 June. The consultation will run for 12 weeks.

Our proposals to bring responsibility for securing and funding all apprenticeships together within the Scottish Funding Council would help facilitate different and more transparent ways of delivering them.

- Under our proposals, the post-school system would be easier for learners to navigate and help people to access the skills and training that employers need.
- Apprenticeships play a vital role in giving young people a pathway into a rewarding career that provides them with the tools to support our future economy.

More young people understand the benefits of apprenticeships and the valuable work-based learning they provide.

- Apprenticeships are a key way for employers to invest in their workforce, providing the skills the economy needs both now and in the future.
- Our priority is to ensure that apprenticeships are of high quality and lead to sustainable employment opportunities characterised by Fair Work, and integrate green skills to aid our transition to net zero.

Our proposals to bring student support together in one place, within either SAAS or SFC, helping to make the system fairer and easier to navigate for learners.

- Bringing all student support into one place would allow for a more standardised approach to the distribution of student support funding across further and higher education.
- It provides the opportunity to introduce parity across the support packages and enhance the learner experience for those progressing from further education to higher education.

ANNEX C FUTURE OF HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Top Lines - Current University Funding

Despite the incredibly challenging financial circumstances facing government, we are investing over £1billion into Scotland's universities.

- The Scottish Government has shown its long-term commitment to Scotland's universities by investing over £1bn every year in Scotland's university sector, since 2012/13.
- In taking tough decisions around Budget 2024-25 we sought to minimise the impact on frontline allocations for learning and support for students.
- Many of the savings made were in demand-led areas, for instance in certain areas of student support, where demand was lower than forecast.
- As autonomous institutions, universities have the key role in mitigating financial pressures and external risks.

Universities are autonomous institutions, and the Scottish Government does not intervene in internal institutional matters.

- Universities are responsible for their own admissions policies but should consider their long-term stability by actively diversifying their international student intake and seeking alternative funding sources.
- It is for universities themselves to decide how best to use their capital spending to maintain their estate.
- We recognise the range of financial challenges universities are managing and have sought to minimise the impact on frontline allocations for learning and support for students.
- Ensuring universities are on a sustainable trajectory is at the heart of our considerations to reform the post-school system, so that the significant investment we are making delivers the best outcomes for learners, the economy.
- While universities have the key role in mitigating their own financial pressures and external risks, the Scottish Government and SFC are engaging with the university sector on an ongoing basis on financial sustainability risks and universities developing their own mitigation strategies.

The Scottish Government recognises the crucial role that our universities play in the provision of post-school education and skills.

- Universities provide a broad spectrum of high-quality education to a wide range of learners with different backgrounds, experience, and levels of prior attainment; giving them the opportunity to achieve their potential and obtain degrees from world recognised institutions.
- Our universities have a positive impact in their regions as anchor institutions, making a strategic contribution through their partnerships with schools, colleges, employers, local communities as well as other private and public sector organisations.

We remain committed to the principle that access to university should be based on the ability to learn and not the ability to pay.

- Never will tuition fees be imposed on Scottish students, saddling them with tens of thousands of pounds in tuition fee debt.
- Our commitment to free tuition means that Scottish students studying in Scotland do not incur additional debt of up to £27,750, and average student loan debt for Scottish students is the lowest in the UK.
- Despite having around about 8% of the UK population, we have less than 4% of the total student HE debt in the UK.
- The latest data shows since this policy was put in place, the number of Scottish students entering full-time first-degree courses at university has increased by 31%, with record numbers of students from our poorest communities as a result of the Scottish Government's commitment to widening access to university.

Top Lines – Lack of University Places for Scottish Students

There is no evidence that there are not enough places available for Scottish students at Scottish institutions.

- We are seeing record numbers of young people aged 19 and under securing university places, including record numbers from our poorest communities.
- There will always be a competitive element in how universities award places to students based on their own entry requirements.
- The university entry system is competitive and grades-based; not every student is able to attend their first choice of university or course.
- Neither new students from the rest of the UK, nor international students, are able to access funded places which have been set aside for eligible Scottish students.

Top Lines - Current College Funding

Against a challenging backdrop of financial pressures across the public sector, a priority has been to protect as far as possible investment in the college sector.

- In simpler terms, the funds available to colleges at the start of 24-25 financial year are expected to be very similar to the funds invested by colleges in the 23-24 financial year.
- While SFC will now work with the sector to translate the 24-25 budget into specific college allocations, we anticipate those allocations to be very similar to the core funding colleges received and are investing in 2023-24.
- It is the responsibility of each college to manage its operations in line with the budget provided through SFC's published funding allocations. However, we recognise the challenge colleges face, having historically been granted the flexibility of utilising a capital budget for resource expenditure.
- SG and SFC are reporting progress with discussion through the Tripartite Alignment Group and are looking for support from the college sector to consider what it can also do to alleviate the position in the short, medium and longer term.
- In previous years the SFC has been able to maintain some internal flexibility within its budget allocation to support a shift of funding from capital to

resource budget to meet specific needs of an institution, without the need for Scottish Government to process a formal revision of its budget.

- There has not been any 'change of policy' in colleges utilising their capital budget for resource expenditure but rather a lack of flexibility to accommodate switching capital to resource.
- SG and SFC are reporting progress with discussion through the Tripartite Alignment Group and are looking for support from the college sector to consider what it can also do to alleviate the position in the short, medium and longer term.
- While the colleges operational budget is £58.660 million lower than the comparable published 2023-24 budget, a number of in year savings have been taken in demand-led areas of spend.

College Tripartite Alignment Group/Sector Flexibilities

Background

- The Tripartite Alignment Group was established to develop a collaborative approach between SG, SFC and Colleges Scotland to:
 1. improve understanding of the financial flexibilities already offered by SFC; and
 2. discuss whether further flexibilities would be helpful.
- The Group was originally intended as a short life working group but will continue for as long as it proves to be of value to all parties.
- To date, the main areas of focus have been college asset disposals, credit flexibilities and cost methodology.
- Proactive work remains ongoing by the Group to identify and implement workable flexibilities that will help ease colleges' financial pressures while ensuring accountability for public funds.
- The Group first met in July 2023 and has met on seven occasions, with the last meeting on 1 May - the Minister last attended on 13 January. The Group is next due to meet on 5 September 2024 which the Minister will attend.

Top Lines - Asset disposals

- Following advice from the sector on the assets that are likely to become available for disposal, the Cabinet Secretary announced at the Colleges Scotland annual conference on 24 April 2024 that we will embed changes so that colleges can retain a significant proportion of value of any sale to invest locally.
- The sector has indicated a preference for a 70/30 split, with this important step recognising the balance that needs struck between national needs and critical local investment needs.
- Further clarity is currently being sought by officials regarding the use of money across financial years and advice will then be sent to the Minister at the earliest opportunity with a new process hoped to be in operation from summer 2024.
- This is a good example of the merits of such a collaborative approach and the opportunities it generates to identify and implement workable flexibilities that will help ease colleges' financial pressures while ensuring accountability for public funds.

Top Lines - Future areas of focus College Tripartite Alignment Group

- Following consultation with Group members, and ahead of the next Group meeting on 5 September, a letter was sent from the Minister to all Group members on 8 August confirming the three areas of focus going forward:
 - Bespoke funding arrangements between the SFC and colleges
 - Alternative funding streams
 - Exploring potential alternative models of capital funding (MIMs/PPP)

ANNEX D

INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Background

- In a report published in January 2024, the SFC noted that colleges continue to operate in an extremely tight fiscal environment. The sector forecasted an adjusted operating deficit of £27.2m for 2022-23 with 92% of colleges forecasting adjusted operating deficits in this year, with 68% projecting continued deficits over the subsequent 3 years.
- In a report published in January 2024, the SFC noted that Universities and Higher Education Institutions continue to operate in an extremely tight fiscal environment. The indicators show an underlying operating surplus across Scottish higher education for 2022-23, albeit a significant decrease on the previous year's figure.
- But the aggregate masks more challenging financial situations at a number of universities, with five reporting underlying deficits in 2021-22 and up to ten projecting operating deficits in the following three years.
- Despite the vagaries of international recruitment, universities in Scotland are increasingly reliant on overseas fee income to remain financially sustainable and to support other areas, such as research which can be loss-making.

Top Lines

- As we approach a new fiscal period, I will continue to highlight the college and university sector's value in Scotland, albeit against a backdrop of ongoing and considerable fiscal limitations.
- As we move into an ever-tightening financial climate, the risk of institutional instability increases, it is SFC's role to monitor the institutional landscape, to ensure sustainable and coherent provision and to engage with institutions as needed.
- The SFC increase their engagement with institutions where they are concerned about any risks in finance, governance or performance.
- With public finances at their most strained since devolution, the sectors require college boards and university courts that demonstrate inventive and robust leadership to tackle these issues effectively.
- College boards must continually reassess operational models and explore avenues for cost reduction and revenue maximisation in this demanding climate.
- The SFC remains available to offer support, as necessary.
- The SFC has proposed modifications to the college funding model to provide short-term relief to colleges and has expressed plans to revamp the funding model for future sustainability. Additionally, we are engaging with the Colleges

Tripartite Alignment Group to address potential obstacles for colleges, including issues related to asset disposal- this Group has already shown good examples of the merits of a collaborative approach between the Scottish Government, the SFC and Colleges Scotland.

Decision on cuts to courses or curriculum

- As colleges operate independently of Government, it is for them to decide on the shape of their curriculum, taking into account the needs of the region and communities they serve.
- The Scottish Government is committed to supporting colleges in their delivery of an offering to learners that is rooted in a robust understanding of local needs, as well as regional and national priorities.
- Colleges continue to adapt to regional needs and offer a wide range of qualifications for those looking to enhance their skills and qualifications.
- I expect any students affected by changes to their course provision to be fully supported by their college, including receiving timely information about the impact of any disruption to their studies and options available to them.

- As universities are autonomous organisations operating independently of Government, it is for them to decide on the shape of their curriculum, taking into account the needs of the learners, economies and communities they serve.

Purpose/Vision for Colleges

Background

- Colleges Scotland and other bodies, such as Audit Scotland, have asked for clarity on Scottish Government priorities for the college sector - this has arisen from a historic context where Scottish Government set and supported a national target for FTE places (116k) to help predominantly young people affected worst by the economic crash in 2008.
- AY 2020-21 was the last year of the FTE target after it did not feature in the SNP manifesto or PfG.
- The 116k FTE target was perceived as unhelpful by the sector as it focused activity towards full-time courses, whereas colleges felt that learners needed to be able to access learning options that best suited their needs, such as part-time options. Colleges also felt that the target created perverse incentives where high-demand courses were used to support delivery against the 116k target, irrespective of learner, employer or regional economic needs.
- Over time, there have been a range of additional (often implicit) asks of colleges to diversify their offering, with colleges providing for a wide variety of learners from school pupils, to ESOL, apprentices, CLD, Gaelic speakers and specialist higher education.
- This is a highly complex system and Ministers' view has been that the people who are in the best position to balance the nuanced demands of both the economy, the local community and the learners are the colleges. Yet we can continue to ensure that our systems do not place barriers in the way of accountability, flexibility and alignment.

Top Lines

- We acknowledge and value the major strengths in the vast diversity of provision delivered by our colleges, and we would not wish to constrain this.
- Our colleges serve as pivotal institutions within their communities, strategically enhancing local economies through collaborative efforts with schools, universities, and businesses.
- Individually and collectively colleges provide a vast range of curriculum and qualification choice and specialist practice development.
- In this vein, I have dedicated my efforts to advocating for the sector.
- It is right that colleges identify a strategic plan and curriculum that most closely serves the social and economic needs of their own region; delivering the most appropriate learner offer throughout life, including through upskilling and reskilling, whether full-time, part-time or a tailored mix, taking account of the diverse needs of their learners.
- We acknowledge and value the strong leadership offered by senior college leaders and boards as they respond and meet their regions' social and economic needs.
- However, the right funding and accountability structures must be in place to ensure that colleges are empowered to deliver a balanced curriculum and can evidence the outcomes and value they deliver.
- We welcome detailed and evidenced views of colleges on blockages or inefficiencies in the current system that prevent them developing and delivering flexibly against their mission.
- We are working to maximise the impact of public funding - the first step in this - is one of most significant structural recommendations of both the Withers Review and the Purpose and Principles to streamline funding of the post-school system.

College's contribution to Widening Access

Top lines

- We must not overlook the important role Scottish colleges provide in delivering Higher Education.
- Scottish Funding Council (SFC) data show that if you include Scottish Colleges, 20.3% of all full-time Undergraduate HE entrants were from the 20% most deprived areas in 2021-22.
- Over 24% of colleges' Scottish-domiciled entrants to HE courses came from the 20% most deprived areas in 2021-22
- Articulation from college to university is a key route into degree level study for many learners from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- In 2021-22, around 46% of students from deprived areas enrolling in university for the first time entered university via articulation from college.
- Through our work on the Learner Journey we continue to work with colleges and universities to improve the opportunities for college students to articulate into all our universities.
- Figures covering the 2022-23 academic year will be published the SFC Report on Widening Access, 2022-23 at the end of September 2024.

ANNEX E

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WITHIN THE COLLEGE SECTOR

College Sector Industrial Relations - Top Lines

- I expect employers and trades unions to work together to reach settlements which are both fair and affordable, without the need for further industrial action.
- I expect students to be appropriately supported by their institutions throughout this period of industrial action, and to receive timely information about the impact of any disruption on their studies and the options available to them.
- The focus of government and institutions is to ensure that affected students do not miss out on opportunities to continue on their student journey.
- I have previously written to colleges and universities, asking institutions to take all necessary steps to support students affected by industrial action.

Resulting Boycott – Top Lines

- Although it is the right of Trade Unions to take such industrial action, I am of course concerned by the impact that industrial action is continuing to have on students.
- I will continue to urge both sides to negotiate and reach a timely conclusion to the negotiations, bringing an end to industrial action and enabling students to have their just reward for their hard work and ensuring they can progress in their learner and professional journeys.
- I expect institutions to put in place appropriate mitigations to minimise disruption to students.

Support For Those Affected by The Resulting Boycott – Top Lines

- The Scottish Government has remained closely engaged with key stakeholders, including the SQA, College Employers Scotland, Universities Scotland, UCAS and SDS to ensure that mitigations are in place for students awaiting their SQA results, or seeking to progress from college to university.
- Any students concerned about the impact of industrial action on their SQA results or ability to progress onto the next stage of their learning should speak to their college or training provider in the first instance.
- Colleges are ready to give students advice, tailored to their specific qualifications, and will be able to support them as they take the next steps on their learning journey.

Background – Industrial Action

- On 12 February 2024, EIS-FELA began a programme of continuous ASOS, including a resulting boycott, over concerns about pay and job security.
- This industrial action and ASOS ran from 12 February until 28 June.

Current Position – Industrial Action

- On 22 July 2024, following an EIS-FELA ballot, Scotland's college lecturers voted in favour to continue with industrial action over pay and job security.
- The renewed mandate allows for a continuation of the ASOS, including the resulting boycott, as well as further strike action across the sector.
- UK law requires industrial action mandates to be renewed every six months.

- On 5 August EIS-FELA announced that college lecturers voted to take two more weeks of further strike action across Scotland's college sector in dispute over pay and job security. Strike dates from 20-22 August & 27,29 and 30 August.
- EIS-FELA will consider further action at a special meeting of the EIS Executive w/c 12 August, with additional action set to be scheduled in the near future, should no satisfactory pay offer emerge within the coming weeks.

Current Position – EIS-FELA Strike Dates (across all colleges)

- Tuesday 20 August, Wednesday 21 August, Thursday 22 August.
- Tuesday 27 Tuesday, Thursday 29 August and Friday 30 August.

Current Position – Resulting Boycott

- College Employers Scotland (CES) provided the Scottish Government with information on the impact of the resulting boycott across the section and mitigations in place on 1 July 2024.
- CES commented this data “indicates a broadly stable or improving picture across the college sector”.
- Officials are working with the CES to monitor the situation and will seek regular updates to ensure action is being taken to support students.

Resulting Boycott - Mitigations

- CES provided information on a range of mitigations in place across the sector, with the following action being taken:
 - Staff and timetable adjustments to maximise opportunities for student course completion and staff to assess and issue results.
 - Arrangements in place with universities for progressing students; moving conditional offers for next level courses to unconditional offers.
 - Plans to communicate with students, local authorities, employers and university partners; liaising with SQA HNQ team to conclude all activity where possible.
 - Cross sector support and flexibility in place to enable students to continue with their learner journey and deeming staff for not completing results.
 - Dedicated mailboxes for all communications related to results and progression, and to update action plan by Executive.

College Governance and Workforce Engagement – College Sector Pay Dispute

Top Lines

- I expect employers and trades unions to work together to reach settlements which are both fair and affordable, without the need for further industrial action.
- Fair Work must be the guiding principle to promote fairer work practices for staff within the higher and further education sector.
- I meet regularly with trade unions and employers, urging both sides to continue to negotiate and reach a settlement.
- I expect every effort to be made, in consultation with trade unions, to protect jobs.

Background

- The pay dispute between College Employers' Scotland (CES) and EIS-FELA remains ongoing, with EIS-FELA securing a renewed mandate for strike action

and action short of strike – including the continuation of the resulting boycott – on 22 July 2024.

- Industrial action will therefore continue into the next academic year.
- The employers have offered a full and final four year pay offer of £5,000 over three years (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) and a 3% rise for 2025/26. EIS-FELA have rejected this offer and have not agreed to CES' request that the pay offer be put to members for a vote.
- In response to the resulting boycott, a number of colleges have communicated to staff they will reduce pay (“deem”) where lecturers do not input students’ results into college systems. [redacted – s.30(b)(i)]
- Officials continue to work with CES to ensure appropriate mitigations are in place to support students impacted by industrial action.
- Support staff trade unions voted in favour of accepting the employers’ full and final three year pay offer earlier this year.

Current Position - Pay Negotiations

Support Staff

- UNISON: On 31 May UNISON members voted to accept the employers full and final three year pay offer.
- Unite: On 7 February 2024 Unite members voted to accept the full and final offer on the table. Further to this, on 31 May, Unite accepted the improved position and commitment to no compulsory redundancies in the sector.
- GMB: GMB members also voted to accept the deal on the table.

Lecturing Staff

- The employers have offered a full and final four year pay offer of £5,000 over three years (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) and a 3% rise for 2025/26.
- EIS-FELA have rejected this offer and have not agreed to CES' request that the pay offer be put to members for a vote.
- On 9 August, the National Joint Negotiating Committee met to discuss the lecturer’s pay negotiations, with the focus on exploring other options to break the impasse such as appointing a mediator and or re-considering settling on a three-year deal.

College Governance and Workforce Engagement – College Sector Workforce Planning

Top Lines

- I recognise the concerns within the college sector with regard to workforce cuts and I expect college management and trade unions to work together to reach the right decisions and ensure workers are treated fairly.
- I expect this to include a carefully considered and appropriate standard notice period to enable full consultation with staff and trade unions, and to create the time and space to exhaust all options of redeployment.
- It is not for the Scottish Government to involve itself in operational decisions relating to staffing matters within colleges.
- Compulsory redundancies should only be considered as a last resort after all options have been fully explored.

- Ultimately, it is for each individual college to make these decisions, but the Scottish Government is clear that Fair Work must be their guiding light.

Background

- Exit schemes, such as settlement agreements, voluntary severance schemes, and early retirement (in the context of an exit scheme) within the college sector, are subject to scrutiny by the Scottish Funding Council.
- This is part of the accountability regime underpinned by the Financial Memorandum, which in turn reflects the SPFM guidance.
- Scotland's colleges and the SFC must comply with the SPFM guidance to make robust decisions, when considering exit schemes.
- Colleges are not subject to Public Sector Pay Policy and therefore are not formally covered by Scottish Ministers' No Compulsory Redundancy commitment. However, there is an expectation that all parts of the public sector, including colleges, will seek to avoid compulsory redundancies.
- Scotland's Fair Work approach expects that employers, workers and trade unions should work together to reach the right decisions and ensure workers are treated fairly. Therefore, we expect unions and colleges to work together to resolve issues round pay, terms and conditions.

[redacted – s.30(b)(i)]

College Governance and Workforce Engagement – Review of Regional Strategic Bodies within Glasgow and Lanarkshire college regions

Top Lines

- I announced on 17 June that the Scottish Government launched a consultation with proposals to reform the Glasgow and Lanarkshire regional strategic bodies. The consultation will close on 20 September.
- I have been clear that any future changes will strengthen oversight and accountability of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire colleges, while continuing to support regional coordination of curriculum planning and provision of streamlined learner pathways.
- The Scottish Government will work closely with the sector to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to support any changes, should the consultation support reform of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire regional strategic bodies.
- I, along with my Officials, will continue to engage with the sector to ensure that the consultation is as visible as possible and that all interested parties are able to submit their responses.

Background

- Advice went to Scottish Ministers in March and April with options to proceed with reform of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire Regional Strategic Bodies and to improve regional planning opportunities across these regions.
- On 16 May, the Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans announced in Parliament that the Scottish Government will proceed to undertake a consultation on the future of the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board

and The Lanarkshire Regional Strategic Board, with the preferred option being to dissolve both.

- On 17 June, the Scottish Government launched a consultation to consider the future of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire Regional Strategic Bodies on 17 June and it closes on 20 September 2024.
- The consultation has been promoted through Scottish Government engagement with stakeholders, via social media and communications to stakeholders.

Current Position

- Officials plan to hold in-formal consultation engagement sessions with trade unions, student representatives, and college staff and students before the consultation closes.
- Officials will continue to promote the consultation via social media, stakeholder engagement and sectoral communications where possible.

College Governance and Workforce Engagement – Trade Union Education Centre (City of Glasgow College)

Top Lines

- The Scottish Government values trade unions as they provide a strong and effective voice for Scotland's workers.
- Operational decisions on course delivery are a matter for individual colleges who are best equipped to assess how they can deliver a curriculum that meets the needs of learners, employers and the economy.
- The Scottish Government has no locus to intervene in operational matters of this nature.
- The Scottish Government understands that the College is working alongside the STUC, TUC and EIS to find ways to put the TUEC on a more sustainable financial future.
- I recently wrote to the Principal, Dr Paul Little, to encourage continued constructive dialogue between the College and its trade union partners.
- I also expect that Fair Work principles are embedded across the college sector and every effort must be made to protect jobs.

Background

- The Scottish Government was first alerted to the potential closure of the Trade Union Education Centre (TUEC) in May 2024 by EIS-FELA.
- The future of the TUEC has been under review as part of the College's annual Performance Review of all courses. The College's position is that the Centre is no longer viable on its current footing, with low uptake of courses in recent years and underfunding of courses by those putting delegates forward, leading to operational costs exceeding income.
- Officials understand that no final decision has yet been made and the College is still consulting on the matter. Following a recent meeting between the Principal, STUC, TUC and EIS, the parties are working together to find ways to put the Centre on a more sustainable financial future.
- The College states it will offer staff the option of redeployment, with appropriate upskilling or reskilling support, or voluntary severance.

ANNEX F INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SECTOR

Background - University of Edinburgh – Financial sustainability and recruitment freeze

- On 12 August The Scotsman reported that a memo has been sent to staff by Edinburgh University’s Principal, suggesting that the University’s running costs had risen from £90m per month in 2020 to £100m per month in 2024, while its workforce had grown by c.750 full-time equivalent staff in the last year.
- To address financial sustainability concerns, the memo suggests that the university will “implement significant constraint on new and replacement staff recruitment for the foreseeable future”, with new staff appointments only to be made in “exceptional circumstances when roles are critical to the university’s mission”.
- In response, UCU’s Edinburgh University branch committee has said it is still seeking greater transparency from university management on the rationale for the scope and placement of budget cuts. While reassured by university management that there are no planned redundancies, the UCU are concerned that its members on casualised contracts are at greater risk of losing work, while permanent staff across academic and professional services roles continue to face increasing workloads.

[redacted – s.30(b)(i)]

Top Lines

- It is for individual universities, as autonomous institutions, to make decisions around appropriate staffing levels and how to manage this.
- I would expect the University to adhere to Fair Work principles. This includes meaningful consultation and constructive dialogue with staff affected by any such proposals, and the expectation that compulsory redundancies should only be considered as a last resort, after all other cost saving measures have been fully explored.
- Ensuring our institutions are on a sustainable trajectory is at the heart of our considerations to reform the post-school system, so that the significant investment we are making delivers the best outcomes for learners, the economy and society.

Background - Robert Gordon University (RGU) and UNISON

- The University’s UNISON Aberdeen Universities branch announced on 27 May 2024 that it had submitted a formal statement of no confidence in the University Executive team, which was delivered to the Principal.
- The statement highlighted concerns among staff regarding RGU’s financial management and ‘lack of collaborative decision-making’. Concern was also expressed that compulsory redundancies had not been ruled out, given RGU’s stated intention to reduce jobs by 220. UNISON therefore urged RGU to engage with staff representatives and give a clear guarantee of no compulsory redundancies.

Top Lines

- It is for individual universities, as autonomous institutions, to make decisions around appropriate staffing levels and how to manage this.
- As Robert Gordon University's Financial Transformation Project proposals are progressed, I would expect the University to adhere to Fair Work principles. This includes meaningful consultation and constructive dialogue with staff affected by any such proposals, and the expectation that compulsory redundancies should only be considered as a last resort, after all other cost saving measures have been fully explored.

Background - UCU criticism of St Andrews University decision to remove Rector

- On 8 August UCU wrote to Mr Dey to raise their concerns about the recent decision by the University of St Andrews to discharge the current Rector, Ms Stella Harris, from her role as President of the University' Court, and as a charity trustee.
- UCU have asked for the Minister's views and assurances that the Scottish Government supports freedom of speech.

Top Lines

- Ministers are aware of the decision taken by the Court of the University of St Andrews, following a report by Lady Ross, to discharge the Rector from the role of President of Court and as a charity trustee.
- This is a matter for the University, as an autonomous institution, and its governing body.
- The Scottish Government fully supports individuals' rights to freedom of expression, and believes universities to be places where freedom of expression should always be promoted and fostered, but this should be done in a courteous and respectful manner.

Background - UCU position on Scottish Teachers Pension Scheme

- On 23 November 2023, the University and College Union (UCU) and Universities Scotland (US) wrote a joint letter to DFM, setting out the following:
 - a) Concerns that Scottish HEIs in the STPS will not receive any funding support towards increases in their STPS costs following conclusion of the 2020 valuation, and that existing funding support following the 2016 valuation will fall away.
 - b) UCU/US acknowledge that it is unlikely that there will be a fully-funded solution from the UK Government which would create Barnett consequential for the Scottish Government.
 - c) UCU/US have asked SG to commit to continuing the additional resources made available following the 2016 valuation, and taking action to support the sector in meeting any new costs arising from the 2020 valuation.

[redacted – s.30(b)(i)]

Top Lines

- HM Treasury has confirmed that, for devolved administrations, the Barnett formula will apply in the usual way, as was the case in 2019.

- Scottish Ministers will make decisions on funding allocations in due course, once Barnett consequential amounts are confirmed.
- Officials are working with HM Treasury to confirm when Barnett consequentials across all unfunded public service pension schemes will be known.

ANNEX G

SCOTTISH EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

*The Scottish Education Exchange Programme **Test and Learn Project 2024/25** (Year 2) opened for applications on 31 July 2024.*

Top Lines

- The Scottish Government is committed to addressing one of the most damaging consequences of Brexit for our colleges and universities – the fact that UK students can no longer take part in the Erasmus+ Programme.
- The UK Government replacement – the Turing Scheme – is much less effective. It helps fewer students, it does not help staff at all, and it does not enable overseas students to come to Scotland.
- We are working with the UK Government and stakeholders on the shortfalls of the Turing Scheme and ways to address those.
- In 2023-24, the Scottish Government funded a test and learn project to re-establish some of the opportunities Erasmus+ provided, which the Turing Scheme does not.
- The test and learn project was developed with partners and demonstrates the value we continue to place on enabling young people and staff to study and live abroad.
- The test and learn project won't be able deliver the full benefits of the Erasmus+ programme – it's currently much smaller in scale – but will support student and staff exchanges and help develop stronger partnerships between educational institutions.
- Year 2 of the Test and Learn project delivers on the Scottish Government's PfG commitment and the collective ambitions of the International Education Strategy.
- Scottish Government officials worked with Scottish colleges and universities, building on the learning from year 1 to develop year 2 of the programme.
- The application window closes on 15 September. An update on the allocation detail will be provided to the committee later in the autumn.

The Test and Learn year 2 budget of £400k was agreed with the sector as part on ongoing budget discussions.

- In 2023-24 the original budget was up to £1m,
- Applications from across the sector totalled £300k.
- All applications meeting the scoring criteria received full funding.
- Setting a budget of £400k for 2024-25 provides a 33% increase on total funding awarded in 2023-24.

Background

- In Year 1, 23 applications were received, 20 were awarded funding totaling £298k, 2 did not meet the funding criteria and 1 application withdrew.
- The sector were critical of the project timeline in 2023-24, they will have an additional 3 months to undertake projects in 2024-25.
- Feedback from institutions who participated in Year 1 was positive. Institutions reported being able to:
 - re-establish strategic partnerships previously lost as a result of the loss of Erasmus+.

- develop new international partnerships with priority markets,
- improve education experiences and outcomes for disadvantaged groups.
- On 18 June 2024, you approved the allocation of £400K to Year 2 of the Test and Learn Project, the Cabinet Secretary gave her approval on 31 July 2024.
- Officials are scoping options to undertake an independent, external evaluation of years 1 and 2 of the Test and learn project.

Youth Mobility – Population and Migration

Top Lines

- The European Commission's proposals for a youth mobility agreement with the UK are welcome, and it is critical to maximise opportunities for young people to live, work, study and learn in the EU.
- The Scottish Government welcomes the benefits youth mobility brings. As well as offering positive life experiences for our young people, we welcome the diversity and economic contribution young people bring when they come to Scotland.

Background

- On 18 April 2024, The EU Commission proposed to the EU Council that it open negotiations with the UK Government on youth mobility.
- In a statement issued on 18 April, the EU's executive said it would ask Member States on the EU Council for permission to negotiate an EU-wide agreement with the UK Government. Maroš Šefčovič, the European Commission vice-president in charge of relations with the UK, stated: "The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union has hit young people in the EU and the UK who would like to study, work and live abroad particularly hard. Today, we take the first step towards an ambitious but realistic agreement between the EU and the UK that would fix this issue. Our aim is to rebuild human bridges between young Europeans on both sides of the Channel."
- This new mandate would limit the scope of the agreement to 18-30 year olds and the length of stay to four years, with no route to permanent settlement. However, the proposal goes significantly beyond other UK youth mobility schemes including no quota, the right to bring dependants, access to home status for university tuition fees, and waiving the immigration health surcharge.
- Polling by YouGov shows strong public support in Scotland for a youth mobility agreement with the EU, with 75% in favour and 10% opposed.
- Scottish Ministers very much support the EU Commission's proposals and would welcome an EU-UK youth mobility agreement.
- In a statement to parliament on 30 July, the Labour government committed itself to reducing net migration and continuing many of the Conservative's immigration policies. The statement made no mention of youth mobility.

Advanced Learning and Skills Overview

Overview

Scotland has a highly educated population – with higher tertiary education levels amongst adults (25-64) than the EU and OECD average...

In 2022, with 57.9%, Scotland had a higher percentage of the population aged 25-64 with tertiary education compared to the rest of the UK (53.1%), EU 25 average (37.7%) and OECD average (40.4%).
Source: OECD, February 2024

...and we educate over half a million students each year...

In 2022-23, there were 292,240 enrolments at Scottish universities, while there were 248,907 students enrolled at colleges in Scotland in 2022-23.
*Source: HESA Student statistics, August 2024
SFC College statistics, March 2024*

...in our 19 Universities and 26 colleges, which also employ around 69,000 staff.

In 2022-23, there were 26,745 academic staff and 28,435 non-academic staff at universities, and 14,147 staff at colleges.
*Source: HESA Staffing data, February 2024
SFC College Staff, March 2024*

Participation of Young people

Over 9 out of 10 school leavers are in positive destinations...

92.8 per cent of 2022-23 school leavers were in a positive follow-up destination. A decrease from 93.5% in 2021-22.
Source: SG follow-up leaver destinations, June 2024

...with record numbers of young people securing university places, as at SQA results day...

As at SQA results day 2024, a record 15,710 Scottish domiciled applicants, 18 year olds, secured a place at a Scottish provider. Including record numbers from the most deprived areas.
Source: UCAS Acceptance Statistics, SQA results day

...and increasing numbers of young people starting modern apprenticeships...

Latest full year Modern Apprenticeship statistics show there was a 3% increase in 16-19 year old MA starts in 2023-24 compared to the previous year, with 10,130 young people beginning an MA.
Source: SDS Modern Apprenticeships, May 2024

...resulting in record high levels of participation amongst 16-19 year-olds.

The 2023 Annual Participation Measure shows that 94.3% of 16-19 year olds were participating in employment, education or training. This is the highest rate recorded since the series began in 2016
Source: SDS Annual Participation Measure, Aug 2023

Learning and Training Opportunities

Overall, we have record numbers entering university...

In 2022-23, there were 131,560 entrants at Scottish universities, up from 103,570 (+27.0%) in 2006-07.
Source: HESA Student Statistics, August 2024

...with the third highest levels of Scots entering Full-time first degrees (behind covid years)...

Since 2006-07, the number of Scottish Domiciled fulltime first-degree entrants has increased by over 26%, to 32,705 in 2022-23
Source: HESA Student Statistics, August 2024

...with increasing enrolments at college.

In 2022-23 we had 329,920 enrolments at Scottish colleges, an increase of 2% on 2021-22.
Source: SFC: College Statistics, Mar 2024

Widening Access

Scots from deprived areas have increased by over a third since the CoWA...

Between 2016-17 to 2022-23 Scottish-domiciled full-time first-degree entrants increased by 34% from 28,885 to 32,705.
Source: HESA Student Statistics, August 2024

...with almost half of these students articulating from college...

In 2021-22, 45.6% of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas progressed from a college course.
Source: SFC Report on Widening Access, July 2023

... with colleges giving those with the greatest barriers to learning the opportunity to fulfil their potential...

In 2022-23, over a quarter (26.6%) of learning hours were delivered to students with a declared disability, 7.0% to those with care experience and 16.0% to those from most deprived areas.
Source: SFC College Statistics, March 2024

... while universities also have record numbers of entrants from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In 2021-22, we had record numbers of Scottish-domiciled entering full-time first-degree courses with care experience (545), with a recorded disability (5,890), being a career (1,250) or Estranged (770) and increased diversity in terms of sexual orientation.
Source: SFC Report on Widening Access, July 2023

Support for Learners

We provide free tuition to around 120,000 students annually....

Since 2012-13, we have provided free tuition to around 120,000 eligible students in full-time HE each year.
Source: SAAS, August 2023

...with total HE student support of over £1 billion...

SAAS data shows we have provided over £1 billion in support, including loans, bursaries and grants and tuition fees, for the fourth year in a row.
Source: SAAS, August 2023

...meaning students in Scotland have the lowest debt in the UK...

On entry into repayment in 2024, Scottish students had the lowest loan balance in the UK. (Scotland £16,680, NI £25,730, Wales £37,360, England £48,470)
Source: Student Loans Company (SLC), June 2024

Destinations

[redacted – s.38(1)]**Working Hours – Mon to Thurs, Full Time & Fri, 8.30am – 12pm**

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 12:22 PM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen

<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>;

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Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Mr Dey is content to accept.

Mr Dey is due to be in Edinburgh on **Thursday 15 August** and has availability from **15:00 onwards** so would be able to undertake this interview in person then if this is suitable.

Many thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP

The Scottish Government

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

Mob: [redacted – s.38(1)]| **Email:** **MinisterHFEV@gov.scot**

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

INTERVIEW BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEW ER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	The Scotsman	Any time during recess	N/A (for print)	[redacted – s.38(1)]	HE/FE and Reform	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

QUERY

As previously discussed, I was wondering if it would be possible to put a bid in for an interview with Graeme Day to discuss various issues relating to universities and colleges in Scotland.

I'd hope for it to be wide-ranging, covering things like education reform, the future of higher and further education funding, industrial relations, the Scottish replacement for Erasmus etc.

Preferably in person but remote would not be a problem either.

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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

<image002.jpg>

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 8:27 AM

To: Graeme Dey <Graeme.Dey@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: MINISTERIAL BRIEFING: Mr Dey Scotsman interview on HE/FE and Reform 15 August

s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MINISTERIAL BRIEFING: Mr Dey Scotsman interview on HE/FE and Reform 15 August

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)],

There has been an update to the SFC Chief Executive Recruitment Top Lines – Annex A, P.3. [eRDM link](#)
I've pasted the detail below for ease of comparison and have attached an updated file for your records.

[redacted – s.30(b)(i)]

Updated lines:

SFC Chief Executive Recruitment – Top Lines

- The recruitment of SFC's Chief Executive is a matter for SFC and its board.
- This will give SFC the opportunity to ensure a wide and competitive field of candidates is considered.
- Re-running the campaign will allow candidates who previously applied as well as candidates who may not have applied for the first recruitment campaign to apply.

Kind regards,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)] **Team Leader (TRS) International Higher Education | Enabling the Economy: Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government**

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot

Telephone/Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

The Scottish Government - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:52 PM

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

4. Correspondence relating to a bid from BBC Drivetime on HESA stats

From: Dey G (Graeme), MSP <Graeme.Dey.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:26 PM
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - HESA data international students - BBC

Content with lines

Sent from my iPhone

On 8 Aug 2024, at 14:21, MinisterHFEV@gov.scot wrote:

Noted, will pass on to Comms. Are you content for lines below to be issued?

From: Dey G (Graeme), MSP <Graeme.Dey.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - HESA data international students - BBC
Sorry. Not possible given i am tied up on family business then
Sent from my iPhone

On 8 Aug 2024, at 14:17, MinisterHFEV@gov.scot wrote:

Content to undertake Drivetime bid and for lines to be issued?

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:06 PM
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Peter Whitehouse <Peter.Whitehouse@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - HESA data international students – BBC

PO Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans,
 We've been approached by BBC Radio Scotland Drivetime asking to interview Mr Dey today about the HESA stats published this morning. We have also received a separate but related enquiry from a BBC journalist about the HESA stats focussing on the rise in international students. The journalist is pointing out that sector leaders say international student numbers are expected to fall in the coming years which could then damage universities' broader funding position - given this fee income this group generates. The bid will also focus on this aspect of the stats.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

We would also recommend sending the lines below, which policy and SPADs are content with, to the BBC journalist who is doing an item on this.
 Is Mr Dey content to undertake the Drivetime bid and for the lines below to be issued??

Many thanks [redacted – s.38(1)]

BID

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PRE-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	BBC Radio Scotland Drivetime	Today – 4.40pm	Live	[redacted – s.38(1)]	HESA stats	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	

RESPONSE.

Minister for Higher and Further Education Graeme Dey said:

“These figures show record numbers of non-EU international students studying in Scotland. This is particularly welcome in the face of a UK Government immigration system which has sought to reduce the number of international students.

“International students play an incredibly positive economic, social and cultural role in Scotland – they add to the diversity of our communities, enrich the learning experience and support local businesses and jobs. Earlier this year we published Scotland’s first International Education Strategy which sets out how we will work with the sector to continue to attract international students to study here.

“These positive figures come in the same week as the latest UCAS statistics which show record numbers of Scottish students have secured places at Scottish universities this year – including record numbers of those from our most deprived communities getting into university.”

Background

The latest UCAS statistics for the 2024 cycle published this week show that the number of international students accepted at Scottish universities for undergraduate courses, at this stage in the process, has increased by 3% to 3,480 this year.

ENQUIRY

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)]

Grateful for your time - if you could get me a line on this it would be great.

The number of international students studying at Scotland’s universities was at a record high in the academic year 2022-23, making up nearly 30% (28.7%) of the total.

The latest data shows the biggest proportion by far continues to come from China – over 20,000 students – but thousands more came from India, the US and Nigeria. The number of Scottish students gaining places is also at a record high – with free undergraduate tuition for them made possible by the high fees that overseas students contribute.

The body that represents universities has warned of a drop off in those arriving from abroad **since** 2023, and says the sector’s future finances are at serious risk as a result.

Some academics say this over-reliance on income from international students is not sustainable – and both UK and Scottish governments need to reconsider the whole model of funding higher education.

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/08-08-2024/sb269-higher-education-student-statistics/location>

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)]

Senior Media Manager [redacted – s.38(1)]

The Scottish Government | www.gov.scot

5. Correspondence relating to a bid from the Herald on Higher and Further education

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans

Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:40 PM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

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s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

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s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher Education,

Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Colleges interview bid - The Herald

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)],

Mr Dey is [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)] to decline the bid.

Many thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

**Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP
The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Mob: [redacted – s.38(1)] **Email:** MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:19 AM
To: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW: Colleges interview bid - The Herald]
Morning PO/Minister for HE, FE and Veterans,

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise,

The Herald has asked to interview Mr Dey as part of a week-long feature they are doing on colleges from next Monday.

The journalist would like to cover a range of topics related to colleges with the Minister – including the current financial situation, ongoing strike action and benefits that colleges have for communities.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)].

To add - it has also been suggested that [redacted – s.38(1)] conduct the interview. If the Minister wishes to do the bid, we would suggest that it is only accepted on the basis that the interview is a one-on-one only.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

INTERVIEW BID

We'd like to again ask for an opportunity to interview Mr Dey.

When I did a much smaller series on colleges earlier in the year I asked first for a chance to interview Mr Dey and was denied. I then asked for written responses to questions from the minister or a comment from the minister, but received neither. You'll know that we also asked about an interview more recently but were told no, despite us offering to work entirely on his schedule.

I'm sure [redacted – s.38(1)] has already walked through the gist of our series. We believe that it would be incomplete without hearing directly from the government minister who oversees the sector, and providing him an opportunity to discuss the importance of colleges and how to tackle the challenges they are facing.

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Dey	The Herald	Early w/c 29 April – any time	For print	[redacted – s.38(1)] / [redacted – s.38(1)]	Colleges	[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]	Journalists say the interview will last around 45 mins to an hour

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:14 PM

To: Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR SPAD VIEW: Colleges interview bid - The Herald

Afternoon Sean,

The Herald has asked to interview Mr Dey as part of a week-long feature they are doing on colleges from next Monday.

The journalist would like to cover a range of topics related to colleges with the Minister – including the current financial situation, ongoing strike action and benefits that colleges have for communities.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

It has been suggested that [redacted – s.38(1)] conduct the interview. We would only accept on the basis that the interview is a one-on-one.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

INTERVIEW BID

We'd like to again ask for an opportunity to interview Mr Dey.

When I did a much smaller series on colleges earlier in the year I asked first for a chance to interview Mr Dey and was denied. I then asked for written responses to questions from the minister or a comment from the minister, but received neither. You'll know that we also asked about an interview more recently but were told no, despite us offering to work entirely on his schedule.

I'm sure [redacted – s.38(1)] has already walked through the gist of our series. We believe that it would be incomplete without hearing directly from the government minister who oversees the sector, and providing him an opportunity to discuss the importance of colleges and how to tackle the challenges they are facing.

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him) | Media Manager (Education & Skills)**

Email: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

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



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6. Correspondence relating to a bid from the Herald on Higher and Further education

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:59 PM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot >

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - Interview bid - the Herald

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)],

Thanks for this.

Mr Dey [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)] interview bid to be declined.

Many thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP

The Scottish Government

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

Email: MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:53 PM

To: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW - Interview bid - the Herald

PO Minister for Higher Education, Further Education & Veterans,

We've been approached by [redacted – s.38(1)] of the Herald with a request for a sit down interview with Mr Dey specifically on colleges.

[redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

Many thanks [redacted – s.38(1)]

BID

Outlet	Journalist	Minister	Bid detail	Timing
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The Herald	[redacted – s.38(1)]	Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veteran	A sit-down interview on Scotland's college sector.	By the 19 April
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[redacted – s.38(1)]
Senior Media Manager [redacted – s.38(1)]
The Scottish Government | www.gov.scot

From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Interview request

Thanks – [redacted – s.38(1)] / [redacted – s.38(1)] can you look at this for us please? When you speak with [redacted – s.38(1)] can you also remind him how to contact comms.

[redacted – s.38(1)]
Communications Team Leader | Education & Skills
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh.

Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)]

gov.scot/news



From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Interview request

Morning Comms,

Grateful if the team can take this forward, please.

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

[redacted – s.38(1)] **(he/him)**

Private Secretary to Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP

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

Mob: [redacted – s.38(1)] **Email:** MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot

The Minister's preferences can be found **here**.

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:43 AM

To: Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans
<ministerhefev@gov.scot>

Subject: Interview request

Good morning.

I am getting in touch from The Herald newspaper to submit a formal request to interview the Minister for Higher and Further Education.

We would like to carry out an in-person interview to discuss the current situation with the college sector in Scotland and are keen for this to happen before the 19th of April. We are happy to be flexible about locations and dates for the interview in order to fit it into the minister's no-doubt busy schedule.

I am available either at this email address and at the telephone number below if someone could please get in touch with me to arrange this.

Thanks in advance,

[redacted – s.38(1)]

Journalist & author

[redacted – s.38(1)]