

[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>[redacted]
38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily
Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For Clearance - Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh
Jazz Bar closure - The Herald -

Thanks [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Mr Lochhead is content to clear.

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary

Office of Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism
and Trade

MinisterSBITT@gov.scot

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 244 1577 |

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

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] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:56 PM

To: Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade

<MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero
and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution,
External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture,
Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]

38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>[redacted]
38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily
Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For Clearance - Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh
Jazz Bar closure - The Herald -

Thanks, [redacted] 38(1)(b)]. Bringing in additional points on that – below – from a
recent similar query. Would the Minister be content with these additions?

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister
for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:14 PM
To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Small
Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>; Cabinet
Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy
<CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs &
Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International
Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>[redacted]
38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily

<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]
<[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily
Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted]
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: For Clearance - Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh
Jazz Bar closure - The Herald -

Hi [redacted] 38(1)(b)], PO
CC Culture Ministers for awareness

The Herald have asked for comment on the Lib Dem release below regarding the recent closure of The Jazz Bar in Edinburgh, which they use to criticise Scottish Government support for businesses in general.

We've agreed the following response with Policy and SpAds. Grateful for Mr Lochhead's clearance, please.

Draft Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is acutely aware of the huge pressures facing businesses, with Brexit, Covid-19, the UK Government’s mini-Budget, and the cost of living crisis - including high energy prices - being key factors. - of all kinds and continues We continue to offer our support and backing to business within our limited devolved powers and resources.

“This financial year, Scotland will have the lowest non-domestic rate for properties worth up to £100,000, ensuring over 95% of non-domestic properties in Scotland are liable for a lower property tax rate than anywhere else in the UK. Scotland also has a package of reliefs worth an estimated £685 million including the UK’s most generous Small Business Bonus Scheme offering up to 100% relief to eligible properties.

“The Scottish Government has increased culture sector funding by £15.8m to almost £200 million this financial year, as the first step to achieving the First Minister’s commitment to invest at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.”

Query:

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Embargo: Tuesday 16th April, 00:01

Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP has today criticised the SNP-Green Government for failing to do enough to support Scotland's hospitality and culture sectors, as he tabled a motion on the closure of the Edinburgh Jazz Bar.

Last week, it was announced that The Jazz Bar, an iconic music venue in Edinburgh, will close after almost 20 years. Founded in 2005, the venue played host to a huge variety of musicians and was an integral part of the city's music community.

The venue's website indicated that the cost of living crisis and operational challenges "proved too much" to carry on running.

Mr Cole-Hamilton said:

"The Jazz Bar's closure will cut deep into the heart of the city's cultural landscape, while delivering a huge blow for all those in the music community.

"The SNP love to masquerade as advocates for Scottish culture, but, in reality, we have seen far too many cultural venues and initiatives, such as the Screen Machine and the Edinburgh Filmhouse, coming under increasing threat on their watch.

"By slashing the culture budget, cutting money from local government and failing to support businesses with the cost of living, SNP and Green ministers are unleashing a rising tide of pressure for our culture and hospitality sectors.

"I want to see the Scottish Government investing for the future to preserve Scotland's proud musical, artistic and literary history, and working with the UK Government to help ease the strains on businesses struggling to stay afloat. If they do not, I worry we could see many more businesses facing the same fate as The Jazz Bar."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

You can read more about the closure of The Jazz Bar here

In September last year, the Scottish Government reimposed a £6.6 million budget cut on Scotland's chief culture body, Creative Scotland. You can read more about that here. The body is still facing a funding blackhole of more than £50 million.

The full text of Mr Cole-Hamilton's draft motion submitted to the Chamber Desk is as follows:

That the Parliament deeply regrets that the iconic Edinburgh Jazz Bar is to close after almost 20 years; understands that the venue was a cornerstone of Edinburgh's music community, hosting many great musicians and championing live music in Scotland for almost two decades; acknowledges that it faced a number of difficult challenges, including the impact of the cost of living crisis; commends the vision of its founder, Bill Kyle; further commends Mr Kyle's wife Mary Ann and daughter Edith for maintaining the business after his passing; urges

Grateful for views on the below draft response to a query from The Herald regarding the recent closure of The Jazz Bar in Edinburgh, prompted by a press release and motion from the Scottish Liberal Democrats (query below).

The below response has been drafted in coordination with the Culture comms desk and reflects both SG support for small businesses and cultural organisations more broadly.

Policy colleagues are content. Grateful for views by 17:30 if possible please, apologies for the tight turnaround:

Draft Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is acutely aware of the huge pressures facing small businesses of all kinds and continues to offer support and backing within its limited devolved powers and resources.

“This financial year, Scotland will have the lowest non-domestic rate for properties worth up to £100,000, ensuring over 95% of non-domestic properties in Scotland are liable for a lower property tax rate than anywhere else in the UK. Scotland also has a package of reliefs worth an estimated £685 million including the UK’s most generous Small Business Bonus Scheme offering up to 100% relief to eligible properties.

“The Scottish Government has increased culture sector funding by £15.8m to almost £200 million this financial year, as the first step to achieving the First Minister’s commitment to invest at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.”

Query:

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Embargo: Tuesday 16th April, 00:01

Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP has today criticised the SNP-Green Government for failing to do enough to support Scotland's hospitality and culture sectors, as he tabled a motion on the closure of the Edinburgh Jazz Bar.

Last week, it was announced that The Jazz Bar, an iconic music venue in Edinburgh, will close after almost 20 years. Founded in 2005, the venue played host to a huge variety of musicians and was an integral part of the city's music community.

The venue's website indicated that the cost of living crisis and operational challenges "proved too much" to carry on running.

Mr Cole-Hamilton said:

"The Jazz Bar's closure will cut deep into the heart of the city's cultural landscape, while delivering a huge blow for all those in the music community.

"The SNP love to masquerade as advocates for Scottish culture, but, in reality, we have seen far too many cultural venues and initiatives, such as the Screen Machine and the Edinburgh Filmhouse, coming under increasing threat on their watch.

"By slashing the culture budget, cutting money from local government and failing to support businesses with the cost of living, SNP and Green ministers are unleashing a rising tide of pressure for our culture and hospitality sectors.

"I want to see the Scottish Government investing for the future to preserve Scotland's proud musical, artistic and literary history, and working with the UK Government to help ease the strains on businesses struggling to stay afloat. If they do not, I worry we could see many more businesses facing the same fate as The Jazz Bar."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

You can read more about the closure of The Jazz Bar here

In September last year, the Scottish Government reimposed a £6.6 million budget cut on Scotland's chief culture body, Creative Scotland. You can read more about that here. The body is still facing a funding blackhole of more than £50 million.

The full text of Mr Cole-Hamilton's draft motion submitted to the Chamber Desk is as follows:

That the Parliament deeply regrets that the iconic Edinburgh Jazz Bar is to close after almost 20 years; understands that the venue was a cornerstone of Edinburgh's music community, hosting many great musicians and championing live music in Scotland for almost two decades; acknowledges that it faced a number of difficult challenges, including the impact of the cost of living crisis;

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure - The Herald - 16:40

Hi [redacted] 38(1)(b)],

This is fine for NDR interests.

Thanks,
[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 3:38 PM
To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR POLICY INPUT: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure - The Herald - 16:40

Hi there,

For views by 16:40

Grateful for views on the below draft response to a query from The Herald regarding the recent closure of The Jazz Bar in Edinburgh, prompted by a press release and motion from the Scottish Liberal Democrats ((query below).

The below response has been drafted in coordination with the Culture comms desk and reflects both SG support for small businesses and cultural organisations more broadly.

Draft Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is acutely aware of the huge pressures facing small businesses of all kinds and continues to offer support and backing within its limited devolved powers and resources.

“This financial year, Scotland will have the lowest non-domestic rate for properties worth up to £100,000, ensuring over 95% of non-domestic properties in Scotland are liable for a lower property tax rate than anywhere else in the UK. Scotland also has a package of reliefs worth an estimated £685 million including the UK’s most generous Small Business Bonus Scheme offering up to 100% relief to eligible properties.

“Scottish Ministers have increased culture sector funding by £15.8m to £196.6m this financial year, as the first step to achieving the First Minister’s commitment to invest at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.”

Query:

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Embargo: Tuesday 16th April, 00:01

Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP has today criticised the SNP-Green Government for failing to do enough to support Scotland's hospitality and culture sectors, as he tabled a motion on the closure of the Edinburgh Jazz Bar.

Last week, it was announced that The Jazz Bar, an iconic music venue in Edinburgh, will close after almost 20 years. Founded in 2005, the venue played host to a huge variety of musicians and was an integral part of the city's music community.

The venue's website indicated that the cost of living crisis and operational challenges "proved too much" to carry on running.

Mr Cole-Hamilton said:

"The Jazz Bar's closure will cut deep into the heart of the city's cultural landscape, while delivering a huge blow for all those in the music community.

"The SNP love to masquerade as advocates for Scottish culture, but, in reality, we have seen far too many cultural venues and initiatives, such as the Screen Machine and the Edinburgh Filmhouse, coming under increasing threat on their watch.

"By slashing the culture budget, cutting money from local government and failing to support businesses with the cost of living, SNP and Green ministers are unleashing a rising tide of pressure for our culture and hospitality sectors.

"I want to see the Scottish Government investing for the future to preserve Scotland's proud musical, artistic and literary history, and working with the UK Government to help ease the strains on businesses struggling to stay afloat. If they do not, I worry we could see many more businesses facing the same fate as The Jazz Bar."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

You can read more about the closure of The Jazz Bar here

In September last year, the Scottish Government reimposed a £6.6 million budget cut on Scotland's chief culture body, Creative Scotland. You can read more about that here. The body is still facing a funding blackhole of more than £50 million.

The full text of Mr Cole-Hamilton's draft motion submitted to the Chamber Desk is as follows:

That the Parliament deeply regrets that the iconic Edinburgh Jazz Bar is to close after almost 20 years; understands that the venue was a cornerstone of Edinburgh's music community, hosting many great musicians and championing

live music in Scotland for almost two decades; acknowledges that it faced a number of difficult challenges, including the impact of the cost of living crisis; commends the vision of its founder, Bill Kyle; further commends Mr Kyle's wife Mary Ann and daughter Edith for maintaining the business after his passing; urges the Scottish Government to do everything in its power to support other cultural institutions like The Jazz Bar to allow them to continue operating.

Thanks,

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

[redacted] 38(1)(b)] | **Communications: News (Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy)**

Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

Email chain 4

Hi all

Just consulted with Culture officials about add-on lines and they've agreed the following:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We will continue to work with the culture sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and do everything within our limited devolved powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges.

"Scottish Ministers have increased culture sector funding by £15.8m to £196.6m this financial year, as the first step to achieving the First Minister's commitment to invest at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29."

Many thanks

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:33 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

[redacted] 38(1)(b)],

I agree this is a business support story and we'll pick up. Do you want to contribute a line on culture funding, given that (oddly) is the line of attack?

[redacted] 38(1)(b): Could you take a look please. If you point [redacted] 38(1)(b) in the right direction, she should be able to handle.

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:20 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]< [redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Hi [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Please see below Liberal Democrats NR that the Herald are looking for reactive comment on – is this for your desk or ours?

It heavily references culture given it is a Jazz Bar, but essentially it is a business that has closed due to cost pressures.

Please let us know if it is for us to take on or for Wellbeing Economy.

Many thanks

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: Media Team - Scottish Liberal Democrats <media@scotlibdems.org.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2024 13:46

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@heraldandtimes.co.uk>

Subject: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Embargo: Tuesday 16th April, 00:01

Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP has today criticised the SNP-Green Government for failing to do enough to support Scotland's hospitality and culture sectors, as he tabled a motion on the closure of the Edinburgh Jazz Bar.

Last week, it was announced that The Jazz Bar, an iconic music venue in Edinburgh, will close after almost 20 years. Founded in 2005, the venue played host to a huge variety of musicians and was an integral part of the city's music community.

The venue's website indicated that the cost of living crisis and operational challenges "proved too much" to carry on running.

Mr Cole-Hamilton said:

"The Jazz Bar's closure will cut deep into the heart of the city's cultural landscape, while delivering a huge blow for all those in the music community.

"The SNP love to masquerade as advocates for Scottish culture, but, in reality, we have seen far too many cultural venues and initiatives, such as the Screen Machine and the Edinburgh Filmhouse, coming under increasing threat on their watch.

"By slashing the culture budget, cutting money from local government and failing to support businesses with the cost of living, SNP and Green ministers are unleashing a rising tide of pressure for our culture and hospitality sectors.

"I want to see the Scottish Government investing for the future to preserve Scotland's proud musical, artistic and literary history, and working with the UK Government to help ease the strains on businesses struggling to stay afloat. If they do not, I worry we could see many more businesses facing the same fate as The Jazz Bar."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

You can read more about the closure of The Jazz Bar here

In September last year, the Scottish Government reimposed a £6.6 million budget cut on Scotland's chief culture body, Creative Scotland. You can read more about that here. The body is still facing a funding blackhole of more than £50 million.

The full text of Mr Cole-Hamilton's draft motion submitted to the Chamber Desk is as follows:

That the Parliament deeply regrets that the iconic Edinburgh Jazz Bar is to close after almost 20 years; understands that the venue was a cornerstone of Edinburgh's music community, hosting many great musicians and championing live music in Scotland for almost two decades; acknowledges that it faced a number of difficult challenges, including the impact of the cost of living crisis; commends the vision of its founder, Bill Kyle; further commends Mr Kyle's wife Mary Ann and daughter Edith for maintaining the business after his passing; urges the Scottish Government to do everything in its power to support other cultural institutions like The Jazz Bar to allow them to continue operating.



This e-mail has been sent to andrew.learmonth@newsquest.co.uk because you're subscribed to our press releases, you can [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

Sent with Mailjet. Published and promoted by Scottish Liberal Democrats, 4 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5DR

Advertising: All advertising is accepted subject to our terms and conditions of advertising which can be found here <https://www.newsquest.co.uk/terms-of-advertising>

Editorial: All content submitted, or licenced, to Newsquest is accepted pursuant to our Contributor Terms and Conditions <https://www.newsquest.co.uk/contributor-terms>

This document is private and confidential.

All property, copyright and other rights in it and its contents belong to Newsquest Media Group Limited.

It must not be read, copied, disclosed or otherwise used without Newsquest's

authorisation. Newsquest may exercise its legal rights and remedies in the event of any such unauthorised use.

Newsquest Media Group Limited.

Registered in England, number 01676637. Registered office: 1st Floor, Chartist Tower, Upper Dock Street, Newport, South Wales NP20 1DW.

Email chain 5

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b) <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 3:01 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b) <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b) <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Thanks

That looks fine to me

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

[redacted] 38(1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government | [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b) <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:57 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b) <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b) <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Hi [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

I agree that makes absolute sense – just trying to whittle it down a wee bit.

How does this look?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We will continue to work with the culture sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and do everything within our limited devolved powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges.”

“Scottish Ministers have increased culture sector funding by £15.8m to £196.6m this financial year, as the first step to achieving the First Minister’s commitment to invest at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.”

Many thanks

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:55 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

I think we should refer to the £100m commitment as well as Mr Cole Hamilton refers to culture funding cuts.

Thanks

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

[redacted] 38(1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government | [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:53 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Thanks [redacted] 38(1)(b)] – I think the final line is strong enough as an add-on to the Wellbeing Economy lines that are currently being prepared and will be provided in reaction to the NR (will give you visibility of those):

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We will continue to work with the culture sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and do everything within our limited devolved powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges.”

Grateful if you can confirm content with that line.

Kind regards

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:50 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

How about the following:

“High inflationary pressures as a result of Brexit and the war in Ukraine, combined with an Autumn Statement that prioritised a tax cut over providing the investment Scotland needs in services and infrastructure, have made this the most challenging Budget to be delivered under devolution. Despite this, Scottish Ministers have increased culture sector funding by £15.8m to £196.6m this financial year, as the first step to achieving the First Minister’s commitment to invest at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.

“We will continue to work with the culture sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and do everything within our limited devolved powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges.”

Thanks

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

[redacted] 38(1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government | [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:47 PM

To: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] 38(1)(b)] <[redacted] 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Hi again [redacted] 38(1)(b)] and Lisa

Hope you're both well. We've fielded an enquiry from the Herald asking for reactive comment to the Lib Dems NR about the closure of the Edinburgh Jazz Bar.

Essentially this is a business issue, which is why the response will be led by the Wellbeing Economy desk, but I wanted to potentially add in a line or two about culture because that is the core issue the Lib Dems are shining the spotlight on, so thought the lines issued on Friday for the theatre in Peebles could be applicable.

Grateful for your views – please let me know if content.

Many thanks

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Draft lines

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government understands that it is a challenging time for the culture sector. “We will continue to work with the culture sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and do everything within our limited devolved powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges.”

Many thanks

[redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Enquiry (from the Herald)

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Contact: [redacted] 38(1)(b)]

Embargo: Tuesday 16th April, 00:01

Scottish Liberal Democrats table motion on Edinburgh Jazz Bar closure

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP has today criticised the SNP-Green Government for failing to do enough to support Scotland's hospitality and culture sectors, as he tabled a motion on the closure of the Edinburgh Jazz Bar.

Last week, it was announced that The Jazz Bar, an iconic music venue in Edinburgh, will close after almost 20 years. Founded in 2005, the venue played host to a huge variety of musicians and was an integral part of the city's music community.

The venue's website indicated that the cost of living crisis and operational challenges "proved too much" to carry on running.

Mr Cole-Hamilton said:

"The Jazz Bar's closure will cut deep into the heart of the city's cultural landscape, while delivering a huge blow for all those in the music community.

"The SNP love to masquerade as advocates for Scottish culture, but, in reality, we have seen far too many cultural venues and initiatives, such as the Screen Machine and the Edinburgh Filmhouse, coming under increasing threat on their watch.

"By slashing the culture budget, cutting money from local government and failing to support businesses with the cost of living, SNP and Green ministers are unleashing a rising tide of pressure for our culture and hospitality sectors.

"I want to see the Scottish Government investing for the future to preserve Scotland's proud musical, artistic and literary history, and working with the UK Government to help ease the strains on businesses struggling to stay afloat. If they do not, I worry we could see many more businesses facing the same fate as The Jazz Bar."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

You can read more about the closure of The Jazz Bar [here](#)

In September last year, the Scottish Government reimposed a £6.6 million budget cut on Scotland's chief culture body, Creative Scotland. You can read more about that [here](#). The body is still facing a [funding blackhole of more than £50 million](#).

The full text of Mr Cole-Hamilton's draft motion submitted to the Chamber Desk is as follows:

That the Parliament deeply regrets that the iconic Edinburgh Jazz Bar is to close after almost 20 years; understands that the venue was a cornerstone of Edinburgh's music community, hosting many great musicians and championing live music in Scotland for almost two decades; acknowledges that it faced a number of difficult challenges, including the impact of the cost of living crisis; commends the vision of its founder, Bill Kyle; further commends Mr Kyle's wife

Mary Ann and daughter Edith for maintaining the business after his passing; urges the Scottish Government to do everything in its power to support other cultural institutions like The Jazz Bar to allow them to continue operating.



This e-mail has been sent to andrew.learmonth@newsquest.co.uk because you're subscribed to our press releases, you can [click here to unsubscribe](#).

Sent with Mailjet. Published and promoted by Scottish Liberal Democrats, 4 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5DR

Advertising: All advertising is accepted subject to our terms and conditions of advertising which can be found here <https://www.newsquest.co.uk/terms-of-advertising>

Editorial: All content submitted, or licenced, to Newsquest is accepted pursuant to our Contributor Terms and Conditions <https://www.newsquest.co.uk/contributor-terms>

This document is private and confidential.

All property, copyright and other rights in it and its contents belong to Newsquest Media Group Limited.

It must not be read, copied, disclosed or otherwise used without Newsquest's authorisation. Newsquest may exercise its legal rights and remedies in the event of any such unauthorised use.

Newsquest Media Group Limited.

Registered in England, number 01676637. Registered office: 1st Floor, Chartist Tower, Upper Dock Street, Newport, South Wales NP20 1DW.

[BLANK]

[BLANK]

[BLANK]