BRIEFING FOR CABINET SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
SCOTLAND V POLAND Football Match
24 March 2022

Key message	The Scottish Government supports the Scottish FA and the Polish FA in staging this match to support the people caught up in the conflict in Ukraine
What	Ministers have no formal role during the event.
Why	The First Minister, Mr Yousaf and Mr Gray (separate brief) are attending this friendly match which has been arranged to raise money to support people caught up in the current conflict in Ukraine. Following the cancellation of the Poland v Russia Qualifier and the postponement of the Scotland v Ukraine, both scheduled for 24 March, this match has been arranged with £10 of every ticket going towards the relief effort.
Who	Rod Petrie, Chair, Scottish FA Ian Maxwell, Chief Executive, Scottish FA Mel Young, Chair, **sport**scotland Lucinda Rivers, Head of UNICEF in Scotland Mr Kamil Bortniczuk, Polish Minister for Sport and Tourism Mr Łukasz Lutostański, Polish Consul General Mr Michał Lubiński, Polish Consul
Where	Hampden Park, Glasgow, G42 9BA
When	Thursday 24 March 2022 Reception from 7pm Kick-off 2000
Likely themes	Condemnation of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Commend the Scottish and Polish footballing authorities for staging this match to raise funds for the people of Ukraine
Sensitivity	Scottish FA have highlighted that there have been some "Stop Oil Protests" which have taken place and that some protesters have tried to disrupt games by cuffing themselves to the goalposts. Scottish FA working with Police Scotland and company providing Stewarding.
Media	No comms planned, however you may wish to tweet your experience of any Ukraine-focused activity at the match.
Supporting official	[redacted – personal information], Head of Active Scotland

Attached documents	**Annex A:** Summary Page **Annex B:** Football Brief **Annex C:** FMQ Note on Russia and Ukraine **Annex D**: Poland brief **Annex E:** UNICEF brief **Annex F**: biographies

ANNEX A

SUMMARY PAGE

Event Programme

There is some flexibility regarding timings, however a proposed programme is:

18:45	Met by [redacted – personal information].
19:00	Informal engagement with fellow guests; opportunity for food and beverages.
19:45	Move to stadium seats in preparation for the match.
20:00	Kick off.
20.45	Half time food and drinks served.
21:50	Match ends; further opportunity for informal discussion with stakeholders.
22:00-23:00	Departure.

Key Attendees

- First Minister
- Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
- Rod Petrie, President, Scottish FA
- Ian Maxwell, Chief Executive, Scottish FA
- Mel Young, Chair, sportscotland
- Lucinda Rivers, Head of UNICEF in Scotland
- Mr Kamil Bortniczuk, Polish Minister for Sport and Tourism
- Mr Łukasz Lutostański, Polish Consul General
- Mr Michał Lubiński, Polish Consul
- Ukrainian representatives TBC

Lines to Take

UKRAINE

- I commend the Scottish FA for its approach to supporting the people of Ukraine through the donation of ticket sales to Unicef's response in Ukraine.
- At this time of crisis we must do everything possible to show solidarity with Ukraine and with my additional responsibilities I will endeavour to ensure a swift and focussed Scottish Government response to the needs of the Ukrainians who seek sanctuary in our country.

SG – SFA RELATIONSHIP

- Scottish Government would like to work with the Scottish FA to maximise the benefits of football participation and football events for the people of Scotland.
- Following the submission of an Expression of Interest to UEFA to host EURO 2028, I welcome continued close collaboration with the Scottish FA as we further assess the costs and benefits.

ANNEX B

FOOTBALL BRIEF

Scotland vs Ukraine

- The World Cup play-off semi-final match, which was scheduled for 24 March, is under consideration for the first international window in June, however there is no guarantee that it will go ahead.
- Irrespective of whether this match is played, the Scottish FA is faced with a fixture pile-up issue which it is actively working through with UEFA.

Scotland v Poland International Friendly

- Scotland will face Poland in a friendly at Hampden Park on Thursday March 24, with £10 from every ticket sold going towards UNICEF's Ukraine emergency fund.
- The match replaces the World Cup play-off semi-final against Ukraine, which has been postponed until June due to the ongoing war.
- Poland was also due to play their semi-final that day but will instead travel to Glasgow after FIFA threw opponents Russia out of the tournament as a sanction for the invasion.
- Scotland will also face the loser of Austria or Wales, who meet in Cardiff, in an away friendly five days later.
- Poland was last in Scotland for a Euro 2016 qualifier, with Robert Lewandowski scoring a last-minute goal in a 2-2 draw in October 2015. The scoreline was identical when the nations met in Warsaw earlier in the same campaign.
- Poland are 28th in the FIFA rankings, 12 places above Scotland (40th).

World Cup Qualification

Scotland reached the play-offs after finished 2nd in Group F of the European Qualifiers.

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Denmark	10	9	0	1	27
Scotland	**10**	**7**	**2**	**1**	**23**
Israel	10	5	1	4	26
Austria	10	5	1	4	16
Faroe Islands	10	1	1	8	4
Moldova	10	0	1	9	1

Results

Scotland 4:0 Faroe Islands
Israel 1:1 Scotland
Scotland 2:2 Austria
Austria 0:1 Scotland
Scotland 1:0 Moldova
Denmark 2:0 Scotland
Faroe Islands 0:1 Scotland
Scotland 3:2 Israel
Scotland 2:0 Denmark
Moldova 0:2 Scotland

UEFA EURO 2028

- The Scottish Government is content to provide the in principle support required to allow the Scottish FA to submit an Expression of Interest for a joint bid with the rest of the UK and Republic of Ireland to host EURO 2028.
- We will continue to work with partners on the detailed analysis of tournament feasibility following the provision of bid technical information by UEFA, in advance of the decision whether a formal bid is submitted
- The Scottish Government recognises the scale of opportunity hosting EURO 2028 represents. Importantly, I understand that the Scottish FA considers UEFA a flexible major

event partner and consistent in attempting to plan and implement tangible benefits for host associations, cities, and nations.
- Scottish Government support is contingent upon implementing a considered programme of activity around EURO 2028 that supports our efforts against National Outcomes.

Background Information

sportscotland investment and support into Scottish Football

Strategic context

- The Scottish FA (SFA) is in year 2 of a 4 year investment cycle 2020-24.
- sportscotland's relationship with the Scottish FA is seen as continually improving on operational levels with partnership working strong across key areas of the business including development, communications, and coaching.

Investment

- sportscotland no longer invests performance funding, following the decision by the Scottish FA to opt-out of receiving performance support from sportscotland. sportscotland investment into high performance was previously targeted at the women's game.
- sportscotland is investing up to £1,313,000 into the Scottish FA in 2021-22. sportscotland's current development investment (£1,313,000) covers activities focused on growth of the women's game including participation and performance development outcomes.
- sportscotland investment trend in the Scottish FA:
  - 2021-22: £1,313,000
  - 2020-21: £1,313,000
  - 2019-20: £1,325,000
  - 2018-19: £1,295,000
  - 2017-18: £1,325,000

Covid-19 and Scottish FA

- The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had a significant impact on the sport and leisure sector in Scotland. Local and national partners had to adapt their businesses to deal with the crisis, as they planned and prepared for the safe return to sport and physical activity in line with the Scottish Government route map.
- The SFA furloughed over 90 employees in 2020, and in December 2020, announced 18 redundancies. Professional game losses due to lack of spectator income over the 2020-21 season were estimated to total over £62 million. The Scottish FA secured investment (grant and loan) directly from Sottish Government to offset a proportion of these losses.
- The Scottish FA responded well to the challenges of COVID-19, supporting their workforce with a range of digital education and development opportunities consistently delivered.
- Throughout the majority of the pandemic, a considerable amount of football activity was able to continue, due to the outdoor focus of the game and the professional exemption given by Scottish Government to Tiers 1-7 of the Men's game and Tier 1 & 2 of the Women's game.
- The National Stadium Hampden Park was acquired by the Scottish FA in August 2020. No events were held there during the pandemic, which placed substantial financial pressure on its subsidiary company.

ANNEX C

UKRAINE FMQ

TOP LINES

I condemn Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Scotland stands for democracy, human rights and the rule of law at home and abroad.

- We offer our unqualified support for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.
- We stand in solidarity with eastern European countries whose proximity to Russia and experience of the Soviet Union means we should listen to them when they advise us how to address President Putin's violent expansionism.
- On displaced people, the UK Government's chaotic and confusing approach, which seeks to provide an administrative solution to a humanitarian crisis, is unacceptable.
- The UK Government must support individuals and families to come to the UK and provide them with reassurance about their rights to enter, and stay here in safety.
- While we understand that migration requires a level of control to deter and prevent abuse, we must cooperate with international partners wherever possible, and provide rapid and appropriate support to those who need it.
- There is widespread and compelling evidence that the Russian Federation has committed war crimes and gross violations of human rights in Ukraine.
- I welcome the fact that the International Criminal Court has initiated investigations, and that legal action is also being pursued in the International Court of Justice and in the European Court of Human Rights.
- The Scottish Government is bringing together key partners, like COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council and Police Scotland, to coordinate plans and address the practical challenges of resettling Ukrainians here.
- Given the gravity, and urgent nature of the situation, Neil Gray has been appointed Minister with specific responsibilities for displaced people from Ukraine who will be arriving in Scotland and need support to rebuild their lives.
- Neil is working closely with various Cabinet Secretaries, including Angus Robertson and Shona Robison, to ensure our response to this unprecedented crisis is co-ordinated across Government.

HUMANITARIAN AID

We are taking practical steps to help Ukraine.

- The Scottish Government has committed to £4 million in humanitarian aid to help provide basic humanitarian assistance, including in health, water and sanitation, and shelter for those fleeing Ukraine.
    - £1M of this has been allocated to the British Red Cross and SCIAF, both members of our standing Humanitarian Emergency Panel;
    - £2M for Ukraine via the DEC appeal launched in Scotland; and
    - the final £1M has been allocated to UNICEF, to support work providing life-saving services and support families, including children with disabilities.
- I encourage anyone who can to give monetary donations, if they can, to help people in Ukraine.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

We are working with the Ukrainian government to provide medical supplies from stocks we hold, and are coordinating with other UK nations to ensure that these supplies get to where they are needed as quickly as possible.

- The Scottish Government has so far sent four consignments of medical supplies to Poland for onward transport to Ukraine totalling 119 pallets valued at around £1.75m.
- Our fourth consignment of 40 pallets arrived safely in Ukraine on Tuesday evening and included bandages, blood containers and other priority items.

PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

We are committed to providing assistance to Ukraine to support the humanitarian effort, including providing medical treatment where urgently needed.

- We are working closely with Health Boards and clinical experts with input from the Managed Service Network for Children and Young People with Cancer, and have identified some capacity to treat some children with cancer on arrival from Ukraine.

PRIVATE DONATIONS

The Scottish Government has created a website to help Scots to provide humanitarian support making donations in a safe and effective way

The website is ready.scot/humanitarian

- We would like to thank the people of Scotland for the huge groundswell of solidarity and support they have shown for the people of Ukraine.
- While many people have very generously donated goods to help, charities are finding that it is the speed of delivery that is vital to respond to the humanitarian crisis at this time.
- That is why they are currently asking for cash donations as a priority, which is the quickest, safest and most direct way to help.
- It means charities can flexibly provide whatever is needed, source things locally to where the point of need is, and transport them quickly. It also allows volunteers to concentrate on the response, rather than sorting and transporting donations.
- We understand not everyone is in a position to give money right now, and if you have items to contribute, perhaps consider ways to turn them into cash to donate – such as holding a sale or selling online.
- To donate please visit the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) which brings together 15 leading aid charities from across the UK to raise funds quickly and efficiently. There are also two leading Scottish charities, SCIAF and MercyCorps, who are running fundraising appeals.

PREPARING TO RESETTLE DISPLACED PEOPLE

Community Sponsorship 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme:

- **16 Mar:** As at 3pm (16 Mar) 138,000 people had registered interest in HfU.
- **14 Mar**: Michael Gove formally announced scheme offering individuals and businesses with UK households £350pm to open homes for at least 6 months to Ukrainians fleeing war. There will be no cap on numbers, and refugees will be granted 36 months of leave to remain. Local councils to be given £10,500 per refugee.
- **13 Mar**: Scottish and Welsh FMs wrote to UK PM requesting 'super sponsorship' of 'at least a proportionate share' of total number, with an initial proposal of 3,000 Ukrainians for Scotland.

Ukrainian Family Scheme:

- **16 Mar:** UKG granted 6,100 visas on the scheme. 45,800 applications were opened, 25,000 submitted. Of these, 11,300 were made at a visa application centre, with 7,100 confirmed for processing, and 1,200 outstanding.
- **10 Mar**: Home Sec announced that eligible Ukrainians with a valid passport can complete visa application to the Scheme online, with biometrics taken on arrival in the UK. Application centres across Europe now focusing on helping those without passports.

Background: Home Office estimates ~50-60k Ukrainians live in UK, meaning around 100k refugees would seek to use the scheme Family Scheme.

- Since initial 1 Mar announcement of scheme the definition of eligible 'family members' has been expanded to include wide range of extended family.
- They will be able to stay for up to three years and must be joining a family member in the UK who is either a British national; has settlement status; or refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK.
- Ukrainians currently in the UK on a visa are not classed as having settlement and cannot sponsor their family members to come to the UK.

Background: Dnipro Kids

15 Mar: SG received reports of Dnipro Kids (DK) organisation seeking to bring ~50 children and some adults from 5 sites in Ukraine. They may be able to get transportation from Poland to London on Thur. Officials are working on accommodation, and DK has been offered places in Perthshire and the Borders. Intention is to stay temporarily and then go to a permanent location ideally in Edinburgh. All of the above is subject to permission from UKG which the organisers are seeking.

With the UNHCR estimating over 3 million people have already fled Ukraine, I want Scotland to play its full part in welcoming those seeking sanctuary from war.

- The UK should follow the example of countries like Ireland by waiving all visa requirements for any Ukrainian nationals seeking refuge in the UK.
- If the UK Government can arrange biometrics from inside the UK for some of the people arriving through the Family Scheme, they can offer it to all those in need.

The UK Government should follow the EU's example by waiving all visa requirements for any Ukrainian nationals seeking refuge in the UK, as well as mirroring the European Union's the temporary protection directive.

- EU guidelines approved on 3 March on the use of temporary protection directive demonstrate how a high level of security checks can be maintained while removing bureaucracy for those in need. I urge the UK to follow their lead.
- The UK Government's response to this humanitarian crisis has been chaotic and contradictory. I am extremely concerned at the mixed messages that are being sent out to people desperate to navigate their way to the UK.

- While I appreciate the need to remain vigilant of security threats, this should not prevent the UK from putting in place measures that balance those concerns with the desperate needs of the people of Ukraine – as our friends in Ireland and across the EU have done.

The UK Government is pretending that their offer to Ukrainians is akin to the generous offer made by the EU. That is simply not the case:

- The Refugee Council's head of Advocacy Andy Hewlett said on Sunday that the UK Government could [QUOTE] *"easily put in a system whereby you waive all visa requirements for Ukrainians – to enable Ukrainians to travel freely to claim asylum, and have their decisions fast tracked within a matter of days".*
    - Sadly, as Andy Hewlett also rightly pointed out [QUOTE] *"that runs counter to all of the government decisions around refugee and asylum policy over the last five or six years, which has been all about deterring people from trying to come to the UK".* (Al Jazeera, 13 Mar)
- Iryna Terlecky, a board member of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, said on Sunday (13 Mar) [QUOTE]: *"I think if you talk to anybody who's had experience of the UK Asylum system, through the Syrian, through the Afghan crises, they would all say the same thing. Which is, a very much better, faster and more compassionate system is needed"* (Al Jazeera, 13 Mar). .
- As the Children's Commissioners for Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland said in an open letter (on 9 Mar) [QUOTE]: *"The protection of civilians, particularly the 7.5 million children in Ukraine, must be prioritised in the UK Government's response to the conflict."*
- French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said (on 7 Mar) the UK response to the crisis was [QUOTE] "*completely unsuitable*", demonstrating a "*lack of humanity*".
- Sabir Zazai, Chief Executive of the Scottish Refugee Council said (on 6 Mar) [QUOTE]: "*This crisis demands a response from the UK that matches the gravity of the situation and the desire from the public to act. Sadly, we are falling far short… While European Counties are acting in step with the gravity of this crisis, the UK is lagging behind.*"

DNIPRO CHILDREN

We have been in contact with Dnipro Kids about their plans to bring a group of children from Ukraine to Scotland.

- We are engaging with the Home Office to try to resolve any outstanding issues. It is important that any actions taken are in the best interests of the children.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

Scotland has a proud history of welcoming displaced people and people seeking asylum from all over the world and we must all stand ready to offer refuge and sanctuary, where necessary, for those who may be displaced.

- Scottish local authorities are willing to support displaced people but need adequate funding, support and partnership processes in place.
- All 32 Scottish local authorities participated in Syrian Resettlement and welcome more than 3,300 displaced people into their communities.

This is of course a personal decision for every household.

- Anyone seeking to offer a home to those fleeing the war will need to be sure they understand what they are being asked to offer – taking into account their own circumstances, family and caring responsibilities, and housing arrangements."

We must ensure lessons are learnt from the Afghanistan resettlement schemes, to provide rapid and appropriate support to those who need it.

- The UK Government should address lengthy delays in the matching process, which has resulted in significant costs (with properties set aside to support Afghans lying empty, and develop further practical detail for resettlement.
- We are bringing together key partners, such as COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council and Police Scotland, to ensure effective coordination of plans to address the practical challenges that resettling those coming to Scotland will need.
- UK Ministers should drop the Nationalities and Borders Bill, that would effectively criminalise people from Ukraine (or elsewhere) entering the UK to seek asylum.

UK MUST WAIVE VISA REQUIREMENTS

In our joint letter to the UK Government (13 Mar), the Welsh Minister for Social Justice and I have made clear that the community sponsorship scheme does not go far enough to support Ukrainian nationals seeking refuge in the UK.

- I reiterate my call for the UK Government to waive all visa requirements for Ukrainian nationals and put people, not processes, first.
- The Scottish Government is deeply concerned that the Sponsorship Scheme will be slow and cumbersome, and lack proper support and safeguarding.
- It is unclear why the UK has opted for a community sponsorship scheme instead of a resettlement route and I hope the decision is not driven by financial frugality.

Scottish Refugee Council Chief Executive Sabir Zazai said this week [QUOTE]: "*The government must invest in its own compassion, not the public goodwill."*

- Mr Zazai said [QUOTE]*: "None of these schemes could be an alternative for the rights that people have under the refugee convention to seek sanctuary and for the state to help them rebuild lives in safety and dignity". (National, 13 Mar)*

Robina Qureshi, of the Positive Action in Housing charity has warned that only lifting visa restrictions will prevent Ukrainian displaced people being forced to take boats, often run by human traffickers, to reach the UK.

- Ms Qureshi expressed concern the Homes for Ukrainians scheme is a "gimmick".
- She said [QUOTE]: *"How will UK families be able to open their homes to Ukrainians fleeing war when the UK itself has not lifted visa restrictions on refugees entering the country? The problem is not a lack of hosts. There are skilled and experienced hosting networks up and down the country with thousands of hosts."* (13 Mar, Scotsman online)

If the UK Government will not waive visa requirements, it is critical that this scheme works efficiently and effectively, allowing people to come to the UK as quickly as possible.

The requirement to have people matched with an individual sponsor before they are allowed entry to the UK will delay their progress. That is why the Scottish and Welsh Governments have offered to become 'super sponsors'.

- By acting as initial 'super sponsors' we can allow large numbers to come to our respective nations quickly – with an initial commitment to 3,000 in Scotland, and ultimately, at the very least, a proportionate share of all who come to the UK.
- Working with partners, the Scottish Government would arrange the provision of accommodation, safeguarding and access to services as we have done successfully to offer wraparound support to displaced people in the past.
- Once they are here, and accommodated temporarily, we will then work with local partners to match people with longer term accommodation, including from members of the public who are volunteering rooms, and put in place safeguarding and support services – but while we do all of this, people will be safely here.

CO-ORDINATION OF EFFORT IN SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government is best placed to work with local partners to ensure any arrangements in place are safe, sustainable, and offer true sanctuary for those fleeing war.

- We are bringing together key partners, such as COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council and Police Scotland, to ensure effective coordination of plans to address the practical challenges that resettling those coming to Scotland will need. The Scottish Government has held a series of meetings with partners in recent days to plan for the arrival of displaced people.
- We are absolutely committed to playing our full part in responding to this crisis, as we did with the Syrian Resettlement Programme – which saw all 32 local authorities in Scotland participate and welcome more than 3,300 refugees into their communities.

We must also ensure that we learn the lessons from the Afghanistan resettlement schemes in order to provide rapid and appropriate support to those who need it.

- The UK Government should address lengthy delays in the matching process, which result in significant costs due to properties set aside to support Afghans lying empty, and develop further detail about how resettlement works in practice.
- The Scottish Government is keen to support people now, and we will press the UK Government for further detail that did not emerge this week.
- It is fantastic so many Scots have offered to open their home as part of the UK Government's sponsorship scheme.
- We do have concerns that the matching process may be slow and we are looking for further information on the approach to safeguarding. That is why we have proposed the Scottish Government act as a 'super sponsor' for the scheme in Scotland.

SG FUNDING FOR SRC AND 'JUSTRIGHT' SUPPORT

We have also provided £1m funding to help the Scottish Refugee Council upscale their capacity to help individuals arriving from Ukraine.

- The funding will allow the SRC to recruit additional staff ahead of an increase in requests for support.

The Scottish Government is also committing £36,000 to support a Ukraine Advice Scotland service, delivered by JustRight Scotland, a charitable organisation funded by human rights lawyers.

- This will offer free, confidential legal advice to Ukrainians and their family members who are seeking safety in Scotland.
- We are determined to do everything in our power to give people arriving from Ukraine the warmest welcome possible from the very start. We will need organisations such as SRC and JustRight Scotland, as well as the support of the people of Scotland, to do just that.

The UK Government's response to this humanitarian crisis has been chaotic and contradictory. I am extremely concerned at the mixed messages that are being sent out to people desperate to navigate their way to the UK.

- While we don't yet have control over how those forced to flee Ukraine are offered refuge in Scotland we can do everything in our power to give them the warmest welcome possible when they do arrive.
- We must stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and provide them with practical support, aid and refuge.
- Scotland has always played its part in providing sanctuary to those fleeing conflict and persecution. We stand ready to do so again

The UK Government must provide access to data on Scottish and Welsh offers of accommodation from the Homes for Ukraine online portal.

- This will allow the devolved governments to assume responsibility for matching displaced people to accommodation, including public sector, private sector and voluntary sector accommodation.
- We are also seeking further information about the intended process for due diligence and checks, including potentially collaboration with the Disclosure and Barring Service in England & Wales that might expedite enhanced checks.
- It is also essential that:
    - all arrivals to the UK have access to Public Funds,
    - arrivals are exempted from the Habitual Residence Test for accessing Universal Credit, and
    - a per-head tariff (similar to the Afghan and Syrian schemes) is provided to the Welsh and Scottish Governments for the provision of integration support.

The UK Government must provide clarity on the funding position as soon as possible, as we are currently supporting capacity building for this work.

- Scotland's local authorities can and must play a vital role in supporting refugees seeking sanctuary in our communities, both in the provision of accommodation and in access to services. This must be properly funded by the UK Government.

UKRAINIANS WITH FAMILY TIES TO THE UK

The expansion of the eligibility criteria for the Ukraine Family scheme is welcome – however, Ukrainians currently in the UK on a visa should also be able to sponsor family to come here.

- If the UK can arrange biometrics from inside the UK for this limited group of people, they can offer it to all those in need.
- In the midst of conflict it is neither reasonable nor morally acceptable to expect individuals to go through bureaucratic processes.
- The introduction of a digital application system is also welcome. However, the process still requires visa applications to be made before travel to the UK and is only open to a limited group of family members of settled UK residents.
- The UK Government should follow the example of countries like the Republic of Ireland by waiving all visa requirements for any Ukrainian nationals seeking refuge in the UK.
- Whilst we accept that migration requires a level of control to deter and prevent abuse, we must cooperate with international partners wherever possible, and provide rapid and appropriate support to those who need it.

SANCTIONS AND DIVESTMENT

15 Mar: UKG announced further sanctions on Russia that broadly brings the UK sanctions regime in line with the EU.
15 Mar: UK Economic Crime Act received Royal Assent.
14 Mar: House of Lords passed Economic Crime Bill.
9 Mar: MSPs voted on LCM for UK Economic Crime Bill. Lab's Michael Marra had an amendment stating that the Register of Overseas Entities (ROE) rules should apply to all land owned and registered in Scotland regardless of when acquired.
7 Mar: MPs passed the Bill ahead of Lords' consideration up to 14 Mar.

- The Bill will set up a register of overseas entities and their beneficial owners, and require overseas entities who own land to register in certain circumstances. It includes other provisions for unexplained wealth orders and sanctions.
- Campaigner Andy Wightman criticised Scottish provisions that: would see the ROE only cover purchases since Dec 2014; and the length of the timescale for compliance (12 mths) with the Scottish Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land.

SANCTIONS

We fully support the application of severe sanctions against Russia because of their aggression against Ukraine – but they should be stronger and swifter.

- We are urgently taking advice and working on the maximum possible action we can take within our powers against individuals and entities identified as having close links with the Russian regime.
- I welcome the UK Government's announcement of further economic sanctions this week (15 Mar), including the sanctioning of 370 new targets. This appears to now bring the UK sanctions regime broadly in line with the EU, US and Canada.
- We understand that the new raft of sanctions also removes 'Most Favoured Nation' status for Russia, and bans the export of luxury products.
- We should continue to examine where we can strengthen sanctions on individuals with links to Presidents Putin's regime – the EU has acted faster and more broadly than the UK Government in this.
- We welcome the steps taken by several Scottish exporters who have done the right thing and severed links with Russia, and we call upon others to do the same where it is safe to do so.

For any sanctions to be meaningful they will also have an impact on the many countries and economies that are imposing them. However, any price paid here is significantly less than that being paid by the people of Ukraine.

The Scottish Government is identifying any links to Russia in its own activities and deal with them, consistently with our agencies

- Scottish Government officials and agencies have been given a clear instruction that, within the powers available to us, we should stop discretionary payments and contract awards to Russian-owned companies and organisations, including entities with Russian operations.
- Guidance on how to achieve this specifically in relation to procurement will be sent to public bodies soon.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT AND FARM PAYMENTS

Farm payments, which were raised in this chamber on 3 March, are an area where current legislation does not give Scottish Ministers discretion.

- Officials have been asked urgently to work up options for addressing that gap.

- The individual who was mentioned is in the chamber not currently on the published UK, EU or US sanctions lists.
- The Scottish Government and Registers of Scotland have conducted a thorough review of those owning land in Scotland and in receipt of agricultural support payments, which has not identified any individual or business on the UK sanctions list.
- The main annual farm payments in respect of scheme year 2021, including payments under the Scottish Rural Development Plan, are nearly complete.
- Applications for scheme year 2022 will be invited later this month, but payments will not start until Autumn 2022 at the earliest and can be stopped if appropriate provisions are in place.
- From 1 April, Scotland's Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land (RCI) goes live. This will allow the public to view information on people and entities, including those from overseas, who have control over decision making in relation to land through their relationship with, or control of, the landowner.
- We are also looking into companies in other sectors with links to Russia, to check for any possible connections to the sanctions regime.

UK ECONOMIC CRIME ACT

The Scottish Government fully supports any measures that target the wealth and assets of the Russian regime and its backers.

- The Scottish Government has worked with the UK Government on the Economic Crime Bill, including the Legislative Consent Memorandum that was passed in this chamber with unanimous cross-party support last week (9 Mar).

UK ECONOMIC CRIME ACT – UNEXPLAINED WEALTH ORDERS

The Act will further strengthen the Unexplained Wealth Order provisions in the Proceeds of Crime Act.

- The provisions will help enforcement authorities to more effectively counter illicit financial activity from Russia (and elsewhere) and to seize illegally obtained assets of those who seek to support the Russian regime.
- Unexplained Wealth Orders are a powerful investigatory tool to require individuals whose assets are disproportionate to their known legitimate income to explain the sources of their wealth.
- Decisions on if, and when, to apply for an UWO need to be based on the specific circumstances of each case, and are a matter for the Civil Recovery Unit.
- These measures complement the economic sanctions imposed by the UK against Russia which target the Russian economy.

UK ECONOMIC CRIME ACT – REGISTER OF OVERSEAS ENTITIES

The Economic Crime Act establishes a Register of Overseas Entities (ROE) and their owners, to support law enforcement efforts to tackle illegal activities such as money laundering.

- The new Register will apply to any legal entity that is governed by the law of a country other than the UK.
- The overseas entity must take reasonable steps to identify and register any beneficial owners in relation to the entity.
- Without the necessary registration, an overseas entity will be unable to buy or sell property registered in the Land Register after 8 December 2014, or register title to property in Scotland after the Register comes into force.

LCM ON 2014 DATE FOR REGISTER OF OVERSEAS ENTITIES

All parties across the Parliament supported the Labour amendment to the Legislative Consent Motion consenting to the Economic Crime Bill.

- The decision to capture within the ROE only property registered in Scotland after 8 December 2014 was determined by the UK Government
- Our understanding is that they did this because that was the date that new land registration requirements came into effect in Scotland. Before that date, it was not mandatory to record whether an entity was registered overseas in Scotland
- The UK Government consultation was carried out on the basis of a 2014 date.
- We support the sentiment of Labour's amendment of extending provisions as far back in time as practicable and therefore backed the amendment.
- We will be taking some constructive steps forward, to shed light on property ownership in Scotland, without relying on the UK Government; we will soon introduce our own Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest (RCI) in land, which will apply to all land and property no matter when acquired.

The UK Act includes an 6-month transitional regime for overseas entities currently holding land in the UK, including Scotland, that are captured by the requirement to register on the ROE.

- UK Ministers agreed to shorten an initially proposed 18 month transition regime to six months, to provide a quicker, clearer picture of the ownership of UK property.

The UK Government developed the legislation several years ago, but it did not feature in recent Queen's Speeches; quite why is for UK Ministers to explain.

- Because of this, the passage of this legislation, including arrangements for commencement, had to be rushed through. While that is clearly regrettable, we are making every effort to ensure Westminster delivers effective measures to tackle money launderers from Russia or elsewhere.
- The proposals for the Register have been under discussion since 2017. BEIS's consultation was on the basis of the 2014 date and did not consider removing it. A draft Registration of Overseas Entities Bill was published in July 2018.
- We engaged with UKG on the proposals and in the pre-legislative scrutiny process back in 2018 and 2019, but the Bill did not complete its Westminster parliamentary process – since when we have further engaged with Westminster on the progress needed.

REGISTER OF CONTROLLED INTERESTS

Transparency is critical – and on top of the ROE arrangements in the UK Act, next month (April) we will launch our Register of Controlled Interests in land (the RCI), which we have been developing using devolved powers since 2016.

- This Register will improve transparency by making publicly available, information about all those who have a controlling interest in land – those who ultimately make decisions about the management or use of land, even if not the registered owner. This will include Overseas Entities and Trusts, together with very much larger numbers of domestic entities owning property in Scotland
- The purpose of our Register focuses on transparency of land ownership which is a devolved matter – rather than money laundering and corruption which are reserved, and dealt with in the UK Bill.
- The Scottish Parliament unanimously endorsed the regulations to introduce a Register of Controlled Interests in land in February last year following extensive consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny.
- The Register will be operational from 1 April – with criminal penalties for knowingly giving false information, or failing to give information to the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland, coming into force 12 months later.
- We initially consulted on a six month transition period before offences become applicable, however the then Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform Committee of this Parliament recommended 12 months as more appropriate.
- The complex, technical regulations needed to deliver the Register took time to develop and were subject to super-affirmative procedure. Work on regulations was paused in the pandemic, postponing the Register's introduction by one year.

ROLE OF REGISTERS OF SCOTLAND

Registers of Scotland is working, together with colleagues across UK and Scottish Government to ensure the sanctions regime is effective as regards land and property in Scotland.

- The Registers has advised that it is so far not aware of any individual/entity subject to sanctions that has a property interest (ownership or lease) in Scotland, but it will continue to scrutinise the sanctions list on an ongoing basis.

SCOTTISH LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS

Powers to impose stricter regulation on individuals registering companies in Scotland through Scottish Limited Partnerships are reserved. We have consistently urged the UK Government take action against the misuse of SLPs for money laundering activity.

- In 2018, the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) acknowledged that while thousands of British businesses used SLPs and limited partnerships legitimately, research showed they had been exploited in complex money laundering schemes, including one that used 100 SLPs to move up to $80bn out of Russia.
- The UK Government says it recognises the continuing need to offer the Limited Partnership as a business entity, including in its Scottish form, but in 2019 it indicated it would take action to limit potential misuse, while ensuring they remain attractive for legitimate business use, including as an investment vehicle.

The Finance Secretary has responded to Lord Callanan (UK Government Minister at BEIS) acknowledging both the case for urgent reform of Scottish Limited Partnerships, alongside the need to ensure we retain the practical benefits that SLPs offer to legitimate businesses.

- The recent UK Government white paper on 'corporate transparency and register reform' (published 28 Feb), acknowledges that the current framework has been manipulated in recent years – particularly in the use of anonymous or fraudulent 'shell' companies and partnerships – and that further reforms are needed to ensure the framework is fit for purpose.

- The current UK Government position appears to achieve a balance between the need for reform with the desire to retain the practical benefits of SLPs for legitimate business purposes.
- UK Government says it does not have fixed timescales for legislation at this time but is expecting to legislate in the coming months.
- Scottish Government officials continue to engage with BEIS counterparts on the White Paper.

DIVESTMENT

On 3 March the Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Economy issued an open letter to Scottish businesses and business organisations asking them to review operations for links and connections to Russia, however indirect, and for them to severe those.

- We know that everyone wants to do the right thing here.
- Businesses across Scotland are doing that right now, and we would encourage them to continue to do it at pace, and with due regard for the safety of any employees or individuals you may work with.

I made clear to the oil and gas companies I met with on 28th February that they should divest any interests they have in Russia, and I commend those who already have taken action.

- Of those present, BP, Shell and Equinor have announced they are exiting their Russian interests and TotalEnergies announced that it will make no new investments in Russia.
- Many businesses have already shown commendable leadership in divesting their interests in Russia. We support these decisions and would encourage all Scottish businesses to follow their example.
- The Scottish Government and our economic agencies, will not support trade and investment activity with Russia.
- We will, of course, support businesses as they adapt to remove links with Russia.

SCOTWIND AWARD OF LEASE OPTIONS

Crown Estate Scotland made the decisions on the companies to be awarded the status to develop projects around the coast. In early March an initial check of applicants did not uncover any Russian ownership or registration.

- Crown Estate Scotland have confirmed they have taken a further step of seeking formal, written assurance from all applicants and project partners involved in each of the 17 applications that they will adhere to the relevant sanctions regime.
- Project partners are subject to sanctions imposed by the state in which they are registered.
    - UK registered entities will need to confirm they adhere to UK sanctions.
    - Entities registered in another state will need to confirm that they adhere to the sanctions imposed by that state.
- If Crown Estate Scotland do not receive sufficient assurance, it will take appropriate action.
- Crown Estate Scotland have asked applicants for details of any Russian or Belarussian interests and steps that are being taken to divest of those interests.
- One of the winning ScotWind bidders, Scottish Power Renewables, has partnered with Shell – who announced it is selling its 27.5% stake in the Sakhalin-2 scheme operated by the Russian majority state-owned Gazprom corporation.
- Another winning bidder in the recent ScotWind round, BP offloaded its 19.75% stake in the Russian state-owned oil firm Rosneft.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION SCHEMES

The Scottish Government has no involvement in local authority pension funds, which are clearly a matter for individual councils.

- We all have a moral duty right now to consider what else we can do to limit the damage in Ukraine by using all available and safe levers.
- Any business based here – including public and private pension funds – still investing in or active in Russia should be aware that in a globalised economy, business has a moral responsibility to play its part and to make clear that aggressor states will not benefit from international trade and investment.
- There is little justification, moral or financial, for continuing to hold shares in Russian companies, many of which are now subject to international sanctions.

FOOD PRODUCTION, SUPPLIES AND PRICES

15 Mar: Media reported UKG announcements to impose tariffs on some Russian imports, incl fertilisers, cereals, oil seeds and whitefish. *Scottish Farmer* reported that fertiliser hit £1k per tonne and suppliers are pausing/stopping sales.
13 Mar: NFUS Pre. Martin Kennedy told BBC *Sunday Show*: *"The energy prices have soared that much just now that dramatic increase in input costs is going to have massive implications on our ability to produce food… paying more for food was something no-one in the industry wants to see, but that it may be necessary to prevent faster, more damaging inflation in the future"*.
11 Mar: Germany to allow over 1m hectares of greening agricultural land to enter production.
8 Mar: NFUS wrote to Cab Sec Rural Affairs & Environment requesting temporary suspension of Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) requirements, and specifically the fallow and margins options under Greening.

- **8 Mar**: Scottish Environment LINK and WWF(S) wrote to Cab Sec RA&E opposing NFUS request regarding suspension of EFAs.

8/9 Mar: Media reporting (BBC and Herald) reported that Ukraine and Russia are both major exporters of basic foodstuffs and crop production there is being hit, driving up food prices. Herald say Scots farmers could face 200% cost rises.

We are obviously concerned about the price and supply of food and how both might be affected as a result of this terrible situation. We are liaising and engaging with key sectors and stakeholders to monitor issues closely.

- The Ukraine is a major producer of cereals (wheat, barley and maize) and oilseeds/vegetable oil (mainly sunflower).
- Historically the UK imports relatively small amounts of wheat and barley from the Ukraine – its biggest import is maize (approximately 30% of the total amount of maize that the UK imports) and the majority of that is used in animal feed.
- The impact of energy price rises, particularly on fertiliser production, is yet another pressure that is adding to price inflation on food production, alongside, for example, fuel, transport, labour and materials.
- Many growers will already have in stock, or, on order, sufficient fertiliser for 2022, although continued disruption to supply or manufacture could have a significant impact for crop year 2023.
- This would arise as a result of the ongoing conflict directly affecting global supply of fertiliser, with the compounding effect of shortages of raw materials for fertiliser production and/or if energy prices remain high.

We are urgently considering how action taken against Russia will impact on the availability of whitefish and whitefish produce in Scotland and the UK - though there is no doubt there may be issues.

- Clearly we support what the UK Government is doing in this area. It is the right approach – the international community is united on this, and we fully support the application of sanctions against the Russian Federation because of its illegal invasion of and unprovoked aggression towards Ukraine.
- However, we are also alert to the potential significant adverse effect on Scotland's white fish processors.

We have previously made clear our commitment to providing support to Scottish exporters and businesses affected by this situation.

- The Scottish Government has raised the specific needs and interests of our fish processors with Defra Ministers and made clear the need for them to provide support for businesses – including potentially providing some sort of furlough for workers who might be affected.

We are closely observing fertiliser markets and the geopolitical events affecting them.

- We are engaging regularly with stakeholders and the other UK administrations to understand the impacts on Scottish farmers and to identify mitigations.
- The Scottish Government recognises the importance of domestic fertiliser production to Scotland's farming and food production industry, which is why the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & Islands has continually raised the issue of ensuring continued supply to the UK Government.
- We are pleased that an agreement has been reached by the CO2 industry so that the CF Fertilisers plant at Billingham can remain open for now. However, we continue to press for a long term solution.
- We also see opportunities to include more nitrogen-fixing crops in our pasture and arable rotations to reduce our requirements for nitrogen fertilisers and we will be considering how to encourage wider use of nitrogen-fixing crops as we continue to develop the National Test Programme.
- I would therefore urge all farmers to take up the Programme's Track 1 offer, supporting soil sampling and analysis, and nutrient management plans, as soon as it becomes available this spring.

NFUS CALL FOR SUSPENSION of GREENING ECOLOGICAL FOCUS AREA RULES (8 March)

This government is clear in its commitment to supporting farmers and crofters to produce more of our food more sustainably – but it is important that we maintain and enhance nature, and not scale back our efforts

- The approach from the NFUS advocating a temporary shift away from environmental measures on farm land towards food production is understandable
- However, there are a number of considerations for any change to current Greening rules, not least that any such change for this payment year could delay the opening of the application window – potentially causing delay to basic payments and that would impact on all farmers and crofters
- Any change clearly needs careful consideration.
- There is already flexibility in the rules that allows farmers to apply them according to their own circumstances. For example farmers could choose other options to fallow, such as green crop cover or catch crops – and government officials will work with the industry to promote these flexibilities.
- There is a discussion to be had about how we find practical solutions to the need to produce more of our own food more sustainably, while safeguarding nature.
- Events in Ukraine, as tragic as they are, do not lessen the adverse global impacts on our climate or biodiversity – indeed they only strengthen the case to do more.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NATO

7 Mar: Media reported Ian Blackford insisting Trident should be axed precisely because of the "threat to the world from nuclear weapons".
6 Mar: Rear Admiral John Gower, ex-submarine commander told Sunday Times moving Faslane subs would boost Russia and leave the West exposed.
27 Feb: Pres Putin said he had ordered Russian deterrence forces, including nuclear weapons on "special alert" in response to what he described as NATO "aggression". US called it "totally unacceptable", and NATO's chief described it as "dangerous" and "irresponsible".
Background:
Russia has the world's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons, though NATO allies have a collective nuclear stockpile that is more powerful.
NATO has an enduring commitment to nuclear disarmament and has worked with allies to reduce nuclear stockpiles.
However, NATO policy is clear – they will remain a nuclear alliance as long as there are nuclear weapons in the world, but will do so at the lowest possible level, consistent with deterrence and defence obligations, with an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional forces.

The threat from Russia marks a dangerous escalation in the invasion against the Ukraine and sets a threatening rhetoric as the conflict deepens.

- While the move does not mean Russia intends to use the weapons, Vladimir Putin has issued a clear threat against Ukraine and the rest of the world.
- Nuclear weapons are morally, strategically and economically wrong. They are indiscriminate and devastating in their impacts; their use would bring unspeakable humanitarian suffering and widespread environmental damage.

We support worldwide nuclear disarmament as we firmly believe that a world without nuclear weapons is safer for us all.

- Although NATO remains a nuclear alliance, and will do so until there are no nuclear weapons in the world, we support their longer term ambitions of nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation which all play an important role in preserving peace.

The Scottish Government's position is clear – we firmly oppose the threat, use and possession of nuclear weapons.

- We are committed to pursuing the safe and the complete withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Scotland.
- An independent Scotland allows us to achieve this aim and unite with world allies in working towards nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear weapons do not provide a meaningful deterrent to the threat of terrorist attacks or prevent acts of war from adversaries.

- Rather than making repeated and damaging cuts to conventional military forces and capabilities and to the aid budget, the UK Government would do better to reverse its decisions to increase its stockpile of warheads and spend £41bn on replacing Trident.

NATO MEMBERSHIP

An independent Scotland would seek membership of NATO – this is consistent with our view that we will be a non-nuclear state.

- The majority of NATO's members do not have nuclear weapons. Only three of them do - France, United States and the UK.

- It is worth pointing out that only nine of the 195 countries in the world have nuclear weapons. So being a non-nuclear weapon holding country is the norm in the world, it's not the exception.
- I defy anybody to look at the world right now and tell us that nuclear weapons are making the world safer.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS AND 'PRO PUTIN PROPAGANDA'

Any attempt to repeat the twisted rhetoric and disinformation of Russian authorities about their brutal and wholly unjustified actions in Ukraine is unacceptable.

- As autonomous bodies, universities are solely responsible for internal matters such as complaints made or disciplinary action taken against staff and students.
- I will continue to encourage all institutions to review their operations for links and connections to Russia, however indirect, and for them to sever those.
- We have already been in touch with all Colleges and Universities and welcome the action that institutions have taken to date. We will stay in close contact with Principals on this issue.

RUSSIAN CITIZENS IN SCOTLAND

Scotland stands together with all those in the international community who oppose this illegal war, whether they are in Russia, Belarus, here in Scotland, or elsewhere in the world.

- The quarrel is with President Putin and his cronies, not with the people of Russia, nor the Russian or Belarussian communities who live and work in Scotland.
- We have written to the Russian Ambassador to condemn President Putin's action in the strongest possible terms.
- Police Scotland have engaged directly with both Ukrainian and Russian communities to provide reassurance and to encourage them to report any concerns so Police Scotland can work with communities to address these.
- Universities Scotland have confirmed that institutions are reaching out to both Ukrainian and Russian students with offers of support.

SCOTTISH CITIZENS IN UKRAINE

We are in touch with FCDO on outstanding consular cases affecting Scots in Ukraine.

- The FCDO Ukraine Travel Advice has been updated to advise that while the UK Government retains a diplomatic presence in Ukraine, it can no longer provide consular assistance in person due to the deteriorating security situation.
- Scottish Government officials are in regular contact with the FCDO's consular teams so we can support inquiries from residents of Scotland concerned about family and friends in Ukraine.
- The FCDO will continue to provide 24/7 consular support. Anyone needing consular assistance should call the FCDO on 01908 516 666 or +380 44 490 3660. The FCDO does not disclose detail on individual consular cases.
- SEAN CUSICK - The FCDO has told confirmed that Mr Cusick, his wife and pets are in Krakow and has made contact with the FCDO's team on the border.

We fully understand the strength of feeling for those wishing to support the Ukrainians following the Russian invasion.

- An estimated 100 people from Scotland have signed up to support the fight against Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, according to the Consulate of Ukraine based in Edinburgh.
- However, we advise people to follow FCDO travel advice – which is not to travel to Ukraine. Those currently in Ukraine are advised to leave as soon as they can.

- FCDO travel advice also makes it clear that travelling to Ukraine to fight, or to assist others engaged in the conflict, may amount to offences against UK legislation and could lead to prosecutions.

TRAVEL TO RUSSIA

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office strongly advises that all British Nationals, if their presence in Russia is not essential, to consider leaving by remaining commercial routes.

- This is due to the lack of available flight options to return to the UK, and the increased volatility in the Russian economy.

ANNEX D

POLAND COUNTRY PROFILE

Head of State – President Andrzej Duda (since August 2015, re-elected 2020)
Prime Minister –Mateusz Morawiecki (since December 2017)
Foreign Minister –Zbigniew Rau (since August 2020)
Government composition – Law and Justice (PiS) [right wing populist party] and United Poland [conservative]
Ambassador to the UK – HE Piotr Wilczek (since February 2022)
UK Ambassador to Poland – HMA Anna Clunes (since September 2020)

Internal country politics

- PiS is a conservative right-wing party, descending from the Solidarity anti-communist movement. PiS won the parliamentary election in October 2019 and secured enough seats for a parliamentary majority. In July 2020 Andrzej Duda, backed by PiS, was re-elected as President of Poland after an extremely close and often aggressive campaign which highlighted the deep polarisation of Polish society.

Hot topics

- The legitimacy of Poland's Constitutional Tribunal has been the subject of domestic debate since 2015. On 7 May 2021 the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Polish Constitutional Court rulings involving controversially appointed judges do not constitute a "tribunal established by law. Warsaw's long-running confrontation with Brussels escalated dramatically on 7 October 2021 when Poland's Constitutional Tribunal ruled that the country's constitution takes precedence over some EU laws.
- On 14 July 2021 the European Court of Justice (CJEU) issued interim measures suspending the Disciplinary Chamber of Poland's Supreme Court. On 15 July 2021, the CJEU ruled that the Polish disciplinary regime for judges, including the Disciplinary Chamber, was incompatible with EU law and on 27 October 2021 CJEU has ruled that Poland must pay daily fines of €1 million until Warsaw agrees to comply with the CJEU ruling. **The fine is the highest daily penalty the CJEU has put on an EU member state in its history.**
- The CJEU ruled in February 2022 that Brussels can cut funding to countries that violate rule-of-law standards. The European Court of Justice found that the new rule of law conditionality mechanism, which seeks to protect the EU budget from violations by member states, was legally solid and compatible with the union's treaties. The decision will allow the European Commission to begin procedures leading to the imposition of penalties.

Recent Ministerial engagements

- Polish Consuls General have regularly attended Ministerial briefings for the Consular Corps
- 30 October 2020: Mr Russell had a phone call with Danuta Hübner, MEP
- 4 February 2020: Ms Hyslop met with Ambassador Arkady Rzegocki in London.
- 24 November 2019: Mr Macpherson attended Polish Independence Day concert.
- 07 November 2019: Aileen Campbell visited Auschwitz concentration camp with schoolchildren as part of a project to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust

EU Citizens' Rights

- Scotland is proud of the contribution of Polish citizens to our country. Since 2016 we have consistently advocated strongly with the UKG for more protections and support for EU citizens.
- Despite the ending of free movement, we will do all we can to attract and welcome EU citizens who choose to make Scotland their home
- Since 2019, we have provided over £1 million to community organisations to help EU citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).
- We continue to deliver an advice service, in partnership with Citizens' Advice Scotland, to support EU citizens making late applications to the EUSS.

Warsaw hub

- We are committed to strengthening Scotland's international relationships, presence and voice, particularly in the wake of Brexit.
- Establishing a Scottish Government Office in Warsaw will help us promote Scotland's expertise, values and reputation in the Central European region.
- Work to attract investment by our offices both at home and overseas has helped increase foreign direct investment into Scotland by 6% in 2020, compared to a 12% fall across the UK as a whole.
- The new presence is likely to focus on people-to-people links, policy exchange, support for trade and investment and cultural cooperation across the central European and Baltic regions.

Cultural links to Poland

- A memorial to a Polish war hero who made his life in Scotland after his home country fell to communism was unveiled in Edinburgh on 3 November 2018. A life-sized bronze statue of General Stanislaw Maczek sitting on a bench was placed in the courtyard of the City Chambers on the Royal Mile. General Maczek, who was commander of the 1st Polish Armoured Division, was appointed by Winston Churchill to protect the Scottish east coast from invasion during the Second World War.
- On 4 November 2018 at St Mary's RC Cathedral in Edinburgh, a plaque was unveiled at a jubilee Mass to thank the Scottish people for their hospitality to all those who on British soil fought and nurtured the idea of an independent Poland.
- **Polish Great Map of Scotland** was unveiled on 12 April 2018 - the newly-restored Great Polish Map of Scotland and the launch of the 3D model of the map developed by Historic Environment Scotland. This unique landmark which celebrates Scottish/Polish relations has been brought to life digitally to highlight the many cultural and historical connections between the two nations.
- **Wojtek the Bear** On 7 November 2015, a statute of a Polish Soldier and Wojtek the Bear was unveiled in in Princes Street Gardens. Alongside there is a 4m length bronze pictorial depicting the journey of the soldiers to Scotland.

March 2022

ANNEX E

UNICEF BRIEF

Lucinda Rivers – UNICEF SCOTLAND

Lucinda has worked for Unicef in Scotland since early 2014, initially to support their fundraising activity around the 2014 Commonwealth Games Partnership and later in 2014 she was responsible for setting up Unicef's first office in Scotland. As the Head of Unicef in Scotland, her role is to develop /implement a fundraising strategy for Unicef's work and to advocate for children in Scotland.

Prior to working for Unicef UK, Lucinda worked for Action for Children to develop and implement a fundraising strategy and she established a Foundation for an individual to support people affected by cancer which raised over £3m to build two Maggie's Centres.

Her career has included roles in fundraising, communications and advocacy across a number of sectors including the corporate sector, institutions and governments. Lucinda was brought up in London and spent many years working there and prior to moving to Scotland, she worked in Dublin with the Irish Government on their major events programme. When she moved here, she supported SG to establish EventScotland and in 2012, she returned to London briefly to work at the Olympic Games, managing a number of media centres.

On a personal basis, Lucinda has a particular interest in promoting the rights of forcibly displaced (refugee and migrant) children and is working with a family on a voluntary basis to ensure their rights are being upheld. She is also a mother of a teenage girl and tries to uphold her rights every day!

<u>SG International Development relationship with UNICEF - ID</u>

UNICEF is an existing partner of the Governments of Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda, and has supported the supply and management of vaccines and the routine immunisation programmes for decades. Therefore:

- Dec 2020: SG gave UNICEF £2M grant to assist with their support of the 3 SG African partner country governments COVID-19 response - supporting Malawi, Zambia & Rwanda to implement their COVID-19 national response plans, incl helping those governments to prepare for COVID-19 vaccination rollout.
- Feb 2022: SG gave UNICEF £1.5M to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics in Malawi, Zambia & Rwanda –
  - Rwanda - 6.5 million vaccine syringes in Rwanda; and
  - Malawi/Zambia - UNICEF will also work to provide information about, and build confidence/acceptance of, the COVID-19 vaccines at community level– a vital part of the programme which could reach ten million people in total. The funding will also help strengthen Malawi/Zambia's national health systems through the provision of oxygen supplies, procuring oxygen generation plants and strengthening vaccine storage infrastructure – initiatives that will create a sustained impact for both the COVID-19 response, the routine immunisation programme and the treatment of respiratory illnesses for years to come.

<u>SG International Development relationship with UNICEF - Ukraine</u>

- The Scottish Government has committed to £4 million in humanitarian aid for Ukraine to help provide basic humanitarian assistance, including in health, water and sanitation, and shelter for those fleeing Ukraine.
  - £1M of this has been allocated to the British Red Cross and SCIAF, both members of our standing Humanitarian Emergency Panel;

- £2M for Ukraine via the DEC appeal launched in Scotland; and
- the **final £1M was allocated to UNICEF**, to support work providing life-saving services and support families, including children with disabilities.

Other SG relationships with UNICEF

Unicef works closely with the Scottish Government to fulfil their mandate to uphold the UNCRC in Scotland and to promote their work to embed the UNCRC into practice in services for children (including Rights Respecting Schools Award and Baby Friendly Award in maternity units). In 2018, it is a priority for Unicef to work with Together to campaign to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots Law.

BIOGRAPHIES

Rod Petrie, President, Scottish FA

Rod Petrie is the President of the Scottish FA, having previously served as second vice-President and first vice-President until his appointment in 2019. He has served on various Scottish FA committees since 1998. He became a director of Hibernian FC in 1996 and between 2004 and 2019 he was Chairman of the club. He was also a director of the Scottish Premier League between 2003-2011. He is a qualified chartered accountant and trained with Ernst & Young.

Ian Maxwell, Chief Executive, Scottish FA

Ian Maxwell was appointed Chief Executive Officer on 1 May 2018, replacing Stewart Regan. Ian – previously Chief Executive of Partick Thistle and a player at a number of clubs – is a popular figure at all levels of the game.

Mel Young, Chair, **sport**scotland

Chairman of **sport**scotland – the national agency for sport in Scotland. **sport**scotland sees a country where sport is a way of life, at the heart of society, making a positive impact on people and communities.

Mel is passionate about the role of sport in changing the world for the better. He believes that the values which underpin sport can bring communities together and create a positive culture for society. Sport in itself is inspiring and there are hundreds of stories about how high-performance athletes have encouraged the wider community to get involved.

President of the Homeless World Cup, which he co-founded in 2003. Under his leadership, the organisation has expanded all over the world and now has partners in 75 countries, touching the lives of over 100,000 homeless people every year – more than one million people in the last decade.

Previously, co-founded multiple publications, including The Big Issue in Scotland. He is the former President and Honorary President of the International Network of Street Papers which he co-founded. He was also co-founder of Senscot (Social Entrepreneurs Network Scotland). He is a former member of the World Economic Forum Sports Agenda Council and former non-executive director of Glasgow Life.

Mel has five honorary degrees from Scottish universities, and was awarded the Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award from the United States Sports Academy in 2016. In 2017, he was awarded an MBE.

Kamil Bortniczuk - Minister for Sport and Tourism, Polish Government

Mr Bortniczuk was born on 11 June 1983, he graduated International Studies at the University of Wrocław and of Law at the University of Gdańsk. He also completed postgraduate studies in European Funds. He was a member of Prime Minister Beata Szydło's team of advisors responsible for matters related to European funds. He was also the director of the office of the Minister of Science and Higher Education. Member of Polish Parliament since 2018, in 2019-2020 served as the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy.

Łukasz Lutostański – Consul General of Poland, Edinburgh

(name pronounce: woo-cash)

He holds a PhD in Management Sciences and a Master's degree in Law from the University of Warsaw. He started his diplomatic career in 1998 as a trainee within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Lutostański served as the Secretary in the Public and Cultural Diplomacy Department. Between 2012 and 2016 Mr Lutostański served as the Consul General in Manchester. Upon his return he briefly worked in the Diplomatic Academy before being appointed Deputy Director at the Crisis Operational Centre within the Consular Department (2017-2018), Director of Public and Cultural Diplomacy Department (2018-2019) and Director of Consular Department (2019-2021). He speaks fluent English and Russian and loves mountains, sailing and cycling. He is married and has two children.