

Ministerial Event – Attending Viaplay Cup Semi Final

Venue – Hampden Park

Date – 4th November 2023

Minister(s) in attendance – Mr Gray, Cab Sec Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

Supporting Officials – [Redacted – personal information] , Active Scotland

Note of meeting / Key Points

- A number of key football stakeholders and other parties were present. Engagement was informal rather than a meeting format with a specific agenda. Mr Gray met and spoke to the following:
- Nicky Reid, CEO of the SPFL Trust, who briefly explained the work of the Trust in communities
- Mark Fleming, Head of Sports Chaplaincy in Scotland, who set out for the Cab Sec the work of sports chaplaincy in providing pastoral and mental support to athletes, and explained their significant growth in Scotland in the last 10 years
- Robbie Clyde, CEO of Scottish Golf, with whom he discussed the significant role golf can play in helping to attract business and inward investment
- Dave Cormack, Aberdeen FC Chairman, with whom he discussed the potential for a meeting to discuss business issues.
- Ian Maxwell, SFA Chief Executive, with whom he discussed the developing strategic partnership between the SFA and the Scottish Government, and the contribution football can make to the wellbeing economy.

Ministerial Event – Scottish Cup semi-final

Venue – Hampden Park, Glasgow

Date – 20 April 2024

Minister(s) in attendance – Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Supporting Officials – [Redacted – personal information], Active Scotland;

Note of meeting / Key Points

- There was no formal meeting or agenda, but rather informal engagement amongst the guests.
- The Cabinet Secretary met with SFA President Mike Mulraney who described the current work of the Scottish FA as regards looking to deliver significantly increased investment into the sport, particularly at grassroots level, and the impact which football clubs can have as anchor organisations in their local communities delivering a wide range of social benefits.
- The Cabinet Secretary also discussed with the President and various SFA officials the forthcoming European Championships in Germany and the opportunities this presented in terms of business engagement and sport diplomacy. The discussions also touched on the joint work ongoing as regards the tackling of pyrotechnic misuse and the developing partnership work between the SFA and Scottish Government
- The Cabinet Secretary also met with former Aberdeen Chairman Stuart Milne and discussed his recent business experiences

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| <p>MEETING during Mental Health Awareness week to Aberdeen to see the work of Aberdeen FCFT and partners.</p> <p>The Changing Rooms Extra Time Funding was announced as part of this event.</p> | |
| Minister | Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care |
| Type of engagement | Various visits with Charity partners including 2 round table events, a school visit, media event, a one to one meeting with Billy Watson, CEO of SAMH and attending the Aberdeen v Livingston Football Match |
| Date | Wednesday 15 th May 2024 |
| Key points | <p>SAMH Funding Announcement (involving press)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Gray announced funding for 2024/25 of 100k to CRET, - Northsound, Press and Journal and BBC were present, - [redacted – personal information] (SG Comms) led the media handling <p>SAMH Roundtable with participants of the CRET Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Gray had the opportunity to spend time with 4 participants of the CRET programme and hear firsthand the positive impact it has had on not only their lives but the people around them. <p>Lunch with Billy Watson, CEO of SAMH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAMH believe there are other applications of the Changing Room model and are keen to keep in touch with SG as they collect more evidence of impact - SAMH want to see employment considered as a health outcome. There are good local examples but there needs to be a more consistent national approach. Mr Gray advised some work is happening and he'll seek an update from Cab Sec economy. - Billy Watson asked if there was any opportunity to introduce a degree of conditionality in sports funding to SGBs – to require more focus on mental health work. Explore a potential roundtable, with SGBs to find out more about what they're doing. - SG work on digital health is going well but aware of possible issues around digital exclusion. - Billy Watson asked if there was scope for a strategy for Scotland's mental health – more holistic, focused on social determinants, drawing in others within and outwith SG and |

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| | <p>MH sector. More about the nation than the system. Mr Gray was open to receiving a proposal from SAMH.</p> <p>St Machar Academy Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Gray met with Olivia Reid (Headteacher) to learn about the school and it's surroundings, - Mr Gray then joined in with Mindset session, which is run by AFC Coaches, - This programme focuses on student's mental health, providing knowledge and tools. <p>.SPFL Trust Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants of four of the SPFL Trust programmes were present at the roundtable attended by MR Gray in the afternoon, - The conversation focussed on how each of the different programmes have positively impacted confidence, physical and mental health, - SPFL Trust also highlighted that each of their programmes were free, removing any barriers for participation. <p>Aberdeen FC v Livingston FC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Gray was a guest of the AFCCT at the Aberdeen FC v Livingston FC, - Whilst there Mr Gray met with Barry Douglas who is the Sports Chaplain at AFC to discuss how the Sports Chaplaincy support the mental health of elite footballers across Scotland. |
| <p>Comments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The theme of the day was Mental Health and how important it is for people in communities to have a support network and access to support, - The programmes highlighted on the day showed how partners were making this happen and having a positive impact across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, - Throughout the discussion access to these programmes was a topic and Mr Gray was interested to understand how participants accessed these programmes, - Preventative care was also a theme throughout the day. |
| <p>Attending official</p> | <p>[redacted – personal information – Active Scotland [redacted – personal information – Active Scotland [redacted – personal information] – Mental Health [redacted – personal information] – Communications Team</p> |

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Ministerial Event – European Championships qualifier: Scotland v Georgia

Venue – Hampden Park Glasgow,

Date – 20 June 2023

Ministers in attendance – Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for the Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy [Note: Mr Gray attending in place of Cab Sec Health, Michael Matheson]

Supporting Officials – [redacted – personal information], Active Scotland

Note of meeting / Key Points

- A number of key football stakeholders and other invited guests were present
- Engagement was informal rather than a meeting format with a specific agenda.
- The match was delayed by around 90 minutes due to very heavy rainfall and a waterlogged pitch.
- The Minister spoke with the SFA President and Chief Executive on a range of issues including Scotland's excellent start to the campaign and the potential for business engagement in Germany on a wide range of issues should Scotland manage to qualify for the finals.
- He also met senior SFA officials who described their recent meeting with Mr Matheson and the discussion on the developing work around the proposed strategic partnership and how it could contribute to multiple portfolio outcomes, including for the wellbeing economy.

Ministerial Event – Nations League – Scotland v Portugal

Venue – Hampden Park, Glasgow

Date – 15 October 2024

Minister(s) in attendance – Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care

Supporting Officials – [redacted – personal information], Head of Active Scotland;

Note of meeting / Key Points

- There was no formal meeting or agenda, but rather informal engagement amongst attendees.
- The Cabinet Secretary met with Scottish FA President Mike Mulraney who described the current work of the Scottish FA on facilities investment and areas for potential collaboration between the Scottish FA and the Scottish Government.
- The Cabinet Secretary also met with Ian Maxwell to discuss a number of issues relating to Scottish Football including the development of the strategic partnership between the SFA and the Scottish Government and the potential of hosting the Women's Champions League Final.
- The Cabinet Secretary spoke with Callum Beattie from the SPFL about current restrictions on the consumption of alcohol within football stadia in Scotland and the work the Scottish Government are undertaking in relation to alcohol advertising.
- The Cabinet Secretary also had brief discussions with Phillipe Clement, Manager of The Rangers FC and Anas Sarwar, Leader of Scottish Labour.