

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Sent: 28 February 2025 11:32
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting 4 - 23 January 2025 - Minutes - UPDATE

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

Good morning [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

DFM is content with the below amendment for the New Deal for Business Group Meeting to better reflect one of the points discussed in relation to the budget.

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – Kate Forbes MSP

Leas-Rùnaire Priobhaideach don Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

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

E: DFMCSEG@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2025 16:08
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting 4 - 23 January 2025 - Minutes - UPDATE

Good afternoon [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

We've updated the minutes of the New Deal for Business Group Meeting to better reflect one of the points discussed in relation to the budget. Nothing of substance has changed but I wondered if you could advise if DFM would need to approve the change before we update the published minutes.

This is the original section of the minutes:

In relation to the £62 million support for regeneration of local and small economies by the enterprise agencies, it was highlighted that most small business members don't see how this assists them as they don't qualify for rates relief or fit the client profile of the Enterprise Agencies.

It has been changed to the following:

- With the exception of small hospitality businesses (who have had rates relief extended to them), it was highlighted that it is difficult for many small businesses to immediately see what the Budget meant for them. The additional support being made available to enterprise agencies may not assist many small businesses who do not fit into their categories of support. DFM highlighted regeneration funding which has been expanded to £62 million, will invest in local and small communities across Scotland and may assist small businesses.

I'd be grateful if you could advise on how we should proceed with this matter.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Strategic Relationships Manager

Strategic Relationships Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

My working pattern is 9-5, Mon-Fri



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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Sent: 07 February 2025 10:25

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Frances Pacitti <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Judith Young <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gary Cox <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lorraine King <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting 4 - 23 January 2025 - Minutes

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

Good morning [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

DFM is content with the meeting note.

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – Kate Forbes MSP

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

E: DFMCSEG@gov.scot

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

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

Sent: 30 January 2025 13:17

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Frances Pacitti <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Judith Young <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gary Cox <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lorraine King <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting 4 - 23 January 2025 - Minutes

Good afternoon [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Please find enclosed a readout from the fourth quarterly meeting of the New Deal for Business Group: <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A51590511/details>

Should you require anything further, please do let me know.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] **Strategic Relationships Manager**

Strategic Relationships Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

My working pattern is 9-5, Mon-Fri



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

Sent: 28 February 2025 14:05

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

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions -UPDATE REQUESTED FROM FSB - AGREEMENT TO PUBLISH

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

DFM has agreed the update to the minutes from the NDBG Meeting (attached for information).

Could you arrange for the published version to be replaced/updated with these updated minutes: [Ministerial Meeting - DFM - NDBG Meeting - Fourth Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out \(A51590511\)](#)

We agreed that we should incorporate the following text:

Errata

An errata was published on 12th February 2025 in the section of the of the minutes covering the Budget discussion. The point relating to the regeneration funding has been updated to better reflect the content of the discussion.

If you need anything more on this, please do let me know.

Thanks for your help

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Strategic Relationships Manager

Strategic Relationships Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

My working pattern is 9-5, Mon-Fri



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

Sent: 24 February 2025 15:47

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

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions -UPDATE REQUESTED FROM FSB

The suggested wording looks fine.

I'd suggest messaging PO to get their advice. It might be fine just to do it and inform DFM it has been done (reassuring that nothing of substance changes as a result).

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 24 February 2025 15:28

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

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions -UPDATE REQUESTED FROM FSB

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

This is the wording used for the NDBG report:

Errata

An errata was published on 6th July 2023 at PDF page 26. Stephen Montgomery has been added to the Subgroup membership, Barry White and Elaine Wilson have been removed.

The pdf and html have both been updated within the document to reflect these changes.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]– what's your views on using the following wording for our minutes:

Errata

An errata was published on 12th February 2025 in the section of the of the minutes covering the Budget discussion. The point relating to the regeneration funding has been updated to better reflect the content of the discussion.

Also, just to clarify, do we go ahead with updating the published version now or do we request DFM's agreement before doing so?

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Strategic Relationships Manager

Strategic Relationships Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

My working pattern is 9-5, Mon-Fri



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

Sent: 24 February 2025 14:46

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

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions -UPDATE REQUESTED FROM FSB

We could use wording like was used here: [New Deal for Business Group: progress report and recommendations - gov.scot](#) although that was for a report.

We've had the situation a few times before, but from memory not for readouts that were published (I think).

I think there are 2 options:

1. We could let members know when we circulate papers for meeting on 26 March, or
2. IF we do a final NDBG newsletter we could highlight that the online readout has been amended.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | New Deal for Business Policy Team Lead

New Deal for Business Delivery Unit | Business and Better Regulation

Directorate | Directorate General Economy | Scottish Government |

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

Mob: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] [@gov.scot](#)

I am working remotely and am available by email or MS Teams

[Please note: I am sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect a response outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or at the weekend]



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

Sent: 24 February 2025 14:39

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] [@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)] [@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions -UPDATE REQUESTED FROM FSB

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

I spoke to [redacted S.38(1)(b)] earlier as she's been in a similar situation before with minutes. She suggested that we update the published minutes – she's going to give me a form of words to include in it. We will also send the revised minutes to DFM and Poonam to make them aware of the slight updates and, of course, we'll contact [redacted S.38(1)(b)] to make her aware.

I'm not sure what we do about the other members, we could send the updated minutes with the agenda for the next meeting – what's your thoughts?

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] **Strategic Relationships Manager**

Strategic Relationships Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

My working pattern is 9-5, Mon-Fri



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

Sent: 24 February 2025 14:25

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

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions -UPDATE REQUESTED FROM FSB

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

Just a small addition below.

Is the plan to issue an updated set of minutes in the coming days, or will we send the revised version ahead of the final NDBG?

Cheers

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 24 February 2025 13:55

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

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions -UPDATE REQUESTED FROM FSB

Hi there,

I've been tinkering with the wording in the minutes in response to [redacted S.38(1)(b)]'s feedback.

The readout currently states: In relation to the £62 million support for regeneration of local and small economies by the enterprise agencies, it was highlighted that most small business members don't see how this assists them as they don't qualify for rates relief or fit the client profile of the Enterprise Agencies.

I have suggested the following wording to address Stacey's concerns:

- With the exception of small hospitality businesses (who have had rates relief extended to them), it was highlighted that it is difficult for many small businesses to immediately see what the Budget meant for them. The additional support being made available to enterprise agencies may not assist many small businesses who do not fit into their categories of support. DFM highlighted regeneration funding which has been expanded to £62 million, will invest in local and small communities across Scotland and may assist small businesses.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] and [redacted S.38(1)(b)] – since you worked with me on the minutes, can you advise if you are happy with these suggested changes? I have included the link to the full minutes for ease: [Ministerial Meeting - DFM - NDBG Meeting - Fourth Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out \(A51590511\)](#)

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Strategic Relationships Manager

Strategic Relationships Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

My working pattern is 9-5, Mon-Fri



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From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** [@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 21 February 2025 17:30

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** [@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

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

Subject: FW: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

If you haven't done so already, please can you correct the minutes for the meeting on 23 Jan as suggested by **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** below. Once you have agreed the right form of words with **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** and **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** then with **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**, please can you arrange for the updated version to be uploaded to the NDBG webpage and confirm that with **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**?

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | New Deal for Business Policy Team Lead

New Deal for Business Delivery Unit | Business and Better Regulation

Directorate | Directorate General Economy | Scottish Government |

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

Mob: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** | email [\[redacted S.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)

I am working remotely and am available by email or MS Teams

[Please note: I am sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect a response outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or at the weekend]



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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@fsb.org.uk>

Sent: 20 February 2025 17:19

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; New Deal for Business <NewDealforBusiness@gov.scot>

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

Subject: Re: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions

Thanks [redacted S.38(1)(b)] - and also for your very prompt response as always.

Appreciate that and apologies again for not coming back sooner with the clarification.

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

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 5:14:31 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@fsb.org.uk>; NewDealforBusiness@gov.scot <NewDealforBusiness@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions

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

Many thanks for bringing that to our attention and please accept my apologies for the error. We'll get the readout amended and ensure the online version is correct, too.

Hope you are well.

Thanks again.

All the best

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | New Deal for Business Policy Team Lead

New Deal for Business Delivery Unit | Business and Better Regulation

Directorate | Directorate General Economy | Scottish Government |

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

Mob: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

I am working remotely and am available by email or MS Teams

[Please note: I am sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect a response outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or at the weekend]



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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@fsb.org.uk>

Sent: 20 February 2025 17:08

To: New Deal for Business <NewDealforBusiness@gov.scot>

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

Subject: Re: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions

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

Thanks for sending the readout on - and apologies for not coming back to you sooner to correct the comments I made re the Budget. I was prompted to do so yesterday, when they were referred to in the Economy Committee's evidence session on New Deal.

Two separate points I made seem to have been conflated. My first comment was that outside of small hospitality businesses (who have had rates relief extended to them), it was difficult for our members to immediately see what the Budget meant for them. DFM then went onto mention the additional support made available for enterprise agencies, which is when I made a separate point about our members often not fitting into the categories of support made available by these agencies. I believe it was at this point the DFM then mentioned the regeneration funding; therefore my comments weren't in response to a discussion about that funding, given they came before it was mentioned.

Appreciate if these clarifications could be made - and happy to provide any further clarification as required.

Best wishes

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 21 February 2025 09:53

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@fsb.org.uk>; New Deal for Business <NewDealforBusiness@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions

Thanks for making me aware of this. I was trying to unpick the versions to see what was originally in the note but I can't seem to open versions 1 or 2 of the minutes (which is very frustrating). I will speak to [redacted S.38(1)(b)] on Monday to agree how we take this forward.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | **Strategic Relationships Manager**

Strategic Relationships Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

My working pattern is 9-5, Mon-Fri



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

Sent: 20 February 2025 17:15

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@fsb.org.uk>; New Deal for Business
<NewDealforBusiness@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions

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

Many thanks for bringing that to our attention and please accept my apologies for the error. We'll get the readout amended and ensure the online version is correct, too.

Hope you are well.

Thanks again.

All the best

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | New Deal for Business Policy Team Lead
New Deal for Business Delivery Unit | Business and Better Regulation
Directorate | Directorate General Economy | Scottish Government |
5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU**

Mob: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** | email: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot**

I am working remotely and am available by email or MS Teams

[Please note: I am sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect a response outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or at the weekend]



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From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@fsb.org.uk**>

Sent: 20 February 2025 17:08

To: New Deal for Business <NewDealforBusiness@gov.scot>

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

Subject: Re: NDBG - Quarterly Meeting - 23 January 2025 - Read Out and Actions

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Thanks for sending the readout on - and apologies for not coming back to you sooner to correct the comments I made re the Budget. I was prompted to do so yesterday, when they were referred to in the Economy Committee's evidence session on New Deal.

Two separate points I made seem to have been conflated. My first comment was that outside of small hospitality businesses (who have had rates relief extended to them), it was difficult for our members to immediately see what the Budget meant for them. DFM then went on to mention the additional support made available for enterprise agencies, which is when I made a separate point about our members often not fitting into the categories of support made available by these agencies. I believe it was at this point the DFM then mentioned the regeneration funding; therefore my comments weren't in response to a discussion about that funding, given they came before it was mentioned.

Appreciate if these clarifications could be made - and happy to provide any further clarification as required.

Best wishes

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]