

FOI RELEASE FOR CASES: 202500467478, 202500467505 and 202500467506

Document 1

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 23/10/2024 10:52
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Purely to keep you in the loop – [redacted]’s going to look at this for our interests.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 October 2024 10:48
To: [redacted] [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

Apologies for the email out of the blue.

Getting in touch as we have received a proposal in from Reach Advocacy seeking to become ‘commissioned’ by the Scottish Government to deliver advocacy and human rights training.

They have identified their proposal as impacting on Social Security – specifically they feel that there is demand and need from the social security workforce to receive advocacy and rights training

Is your unit able to assess the aspects of this funding proposal which touch on Social Security and identify if it meets any essential activity or criteria?

I am more than happy to speak to you or your colleagues about this and provide some more context.

The original email and proposal is here: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

This proposal comes off the back of a letter the organisation sent to the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy seeking funding, to which the Minister replied, advising the organisation to lay out exactly on what basis they are seeking funding for.

(link to micase is here: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk))

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 10:12 AM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi all

Just checking – are you best to assess this from the social security perspectives outlined in the proposal as well or should I be referring this to other colleagues more closely involved in social security policy?

Attaching the link again here for ease: Reach_Scot Gov Business Proposal 2024 15.10.24 DMCC details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 11:40 AM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

Just following this up.
Let me know if any times next week suit you best to discuss this?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 8:45 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thanks [redacted]

I am free Monday between 10:30am and 2pm, Tuesday AM and Wednesday all day next week if anything suits yourself?

Others, please feel free to suggest a time if you wish to speak to me about this.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 5:16 PM

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your email. Bringing in [redacted], team lead for independent advocacy in the NCS.

It would be helpful to get more context about this request. When would be good to speak?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] Advocacy, Access and Models of Care – Unit Head

My usual hours are 8.30am-4.30pm.

I can be contacted on [redacted] or via Microsoft Teams

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 5:01 PM

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted], [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted],

Can I ask that you review and assess this and provide me with an answer as to whether meets any essential activity or commitments for your workstreams by **5th November**?

Let me know if that timeline doesn't work for you.
Happy to speak about this if anybody wants more context.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 4:00 PM

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thanks for adding us in [redacted].

[redacted],

Social Care and National Care Service Development Directorate

For Human rights and equality I'm adding in [redacted] who is currently on leave and returns 21 October, and her two colleagues in her absence, [redacted] and [redacted].

For Advocacy, I'm adding in [redacted]

Grateful if colleagues now added in can review and consider below – thank you.

[redacted] | **Business Manager**

Directorate Support Unit | Social Care and National Care Service Development | Scottish Government

DSU Shared Mailbox: SCNCSBMU@gov.scot | Directorate SharePoint site:

Directorate Home Page



From: [redacted] > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 3:48 PM

To: [redacted]; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Mental Health <DirectorofMentalHealth@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],

I've copied in the office or lead for all three of Ms Todd's portfolios who can advise on who is best placed to advise from each.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Private Secretary

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

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

E-mail: MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 2:48 PM

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

<MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hello [redacted]

Thanks for highlighting.

Yes, aware this has come through.

We will engage with relevant policy teams for them to assess as well.

Is there a team within Miss Todd's portfolio which deals with advocacy, human rights, and equalities that we should be liaising with?

Likewise, can private secretaries for Cab Sec for Social Justice and Minister for Children, Young People, and The Promise highlight relevant policy teams within your portfolios that we should be liaising with?

This request is seeking funding for advocacy, human rights and equalities training commissioning.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]; **On Behalf Of** Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 2:42 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi both,

I just wanted to pass this on for awareness. I think this relates to MiCase - View Case 414335 which was a response issued from Ms McKelvie to Mr McCabe.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] (she/her)
Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport –
Maree Todd MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Email: MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot

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From: Derek McCabe <derekmccabe@reachadvocacy.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 1:48 PM
To: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy 2024 <MinisterforDAP2024@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Dear Scottish Ministers,

I am writing to give you an update on the development of our proposed business case to you.

Earlier in the year we wrote you seeking your support for Reach Advocacy Ltd being commissioned to deliver our qualification and education on advocacy and human rights/equalities. We have now completed the development of the proposed business case, ensuring this speaks individually and collectively to each of your specific legislative, policy frameworks and key goals on advocacy, advocacy qualification and a human rights-based approach. I will upload the proposal to the Officers identified in the response we from the Minister for Drug and Alcohol, Christine McKelvie MSP.

We look forward to hearing from your representatives in the near future.

Yours Faithfully

Derek McCabe

Derek McCabe CEO

SQA Centre 3018814

Phone: 01236 700009

Website: www.reachadvocacy.net



Document 2

From: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>; [redacted]
; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
; [redacted]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Sent: Tue 29/10/2024 10:25
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Deputy Director - Drugs Policy
Deputydirectordrugspolicy@gov.scot
Subject: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Hi all

Thanks to those who have already been able evaluate, asses, and provide their unit's thoughts on this so far.

I have put together the response form Drugs Policy Division based on our assessment, and will reply to the organisation on 6th November.
(If you wish to see our assessment I can provide this to you).

If you wish to provide input from your policy area, please add to this document and I will include in my response.

If the organisation wish to receive feedback or understand the assessment in any further detail regarding specific policy areas, they will be directed to individual policy areas/Ministerial mailboxes.

The draft response link is here with highlighted individual areas to be addressed:
Draft Proposal Response - October 2024 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Thanks

[redacted]

Document 3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 31/10/2024 16:29
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
CC: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hi [redacted],

I have had a look at this. To answer your question, embedding the CoR means getting services understanding and using a HRBA, and as 'embedding a human-rights based approach' is one of their key themes, there is an intersection here, but not one that on its own would merit such an amount of funding! I have highlighted the aims that would intersect with our work, but this is a project, whereas for the amount of money REACH are requesting I'd imagine there would need to be a strategic, portfolio wide request/buy in...

Just give me a shout if anything else needed.

AB

[redacted] | **Drugs Policy Division** | Scottish Government | 3 E St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 8:24 AM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Subject: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hi all

Please see attached Reach Advocacy's proposal to become a 'commissioned organisation'.
Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

This comes off the back of their letter to the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy in Spring asking to become 'commissioned', to which they received a Ministerial response advising that they liaise with officials "*..to lay out exactly on what basis Reach Advocacy would be seeking additional funding for, over and above what the organisation is currently receiving from the Corra Foundation.*"

For context, Reach Advocacy were funded by Scottish Government in 23/24 to deliver their advocacy practice award to 30 candidates and to deliver their human rights based 1 day workshops to 350 individuals.
Corra Foundation now fund Reach with £480,000 to continue this training until 26/27.

Can I please ask that you review this proposal and assess if it meets any essential activity or commitments for your workstreams.

Please can you provide a response to me by **Tuesday 5th November**. Let me know if that date is not possible.

To summarise aims and objectives related to Drugs and Alcohol Policy, Reach are seeking £3,205,457 for 24/25 – 29/30 in the following format:

Table 1 REACH Proposed Costs for Commissioned Services			
	Total Staff Costs	Management and Building Costs	Total
2024/25*	520,800.00	48,000.00	568,800.00
2025/26	536,424.00	56,640.00	593,064.00
2026/27	552,516.73	58,339.20	610,855.93
2027/28	569,092.23	60,089.38	629,181.61
2028/29	586,164.95	61,892.06	648,057.01
2029/30	603,749.94	63,748.80	667,498.74

Their aims are:

- *Reach will support Scottish Government and the Ministerial departments to meet key strategic goals on the delivery of accredited advocacy training.*
- *Reach will increase the provision of our accredited advocacy award to target people who can benefit from vocational education.*
- *Reach will increase the availability of Human Rights Based education workshops to meet key strategic goals in community participation and meaningful participation.*
- *Reach will train frontline staff on a range of applied human rights-based workforce methodologies and approaches.*
- *Reach will continue to offer and develop executive level human rights and equalities, based duties, rights and responsibilities workshop training.*
- *Reach will create a national membership forum for human rights advocates and social justice groups.*
- *Reach will secure independent research on its activities and its own evaluation and performance systems.*
- *Reach will contribute to the national strategies mitigating harm occurring from cultural and systemic practices identified in ‘deaths of despair’ and ‘deserts of rights’*

Their objectives are:

- *Reach will graduate 60 candidates from the Advocacy Practice Award (SCQF Level 7) per year.*
- *Reach will deliver the Diploma in Human Rights Advocacy Practice.*
- *Reach will deliver 60 human rights-based workshops per year, to approximately 900 participants.*
- *Reach Assessor staff will achieve the CPD Qualification: L&D9DI Assess Workplace Competence Using Direct and Indirect Methods.*
- *Reach Internal Verification staff will achieve the CPD Qualification: L&D11 Internally Monitor and Maintain the Quality of Assessment.*
- *Reach will institute a membership based National Forum of Human Rights Advocates.*
- *Reach will support the identification of regional human rights advocates to contribute to the National Forum.*
- *Reach will continue to develop its human rights and advocacy partnerships and stakeholder engagement across the four populations.*
- *Reach will achieve 'Investors in People' Accreditation.*
- *Reach will achieve 'Investors in Wellbeing' Accreditation.*
- *Reach will offer working placements to undergraduate and post graduate students studying human rights, law, policy or other related subjects.*
- *Reach will make available volunteer and community engagement programs to enhance education activities.*
- *Reach will use independent researchers to evaluate programmes and customer engagement activities*

[redacted]

Document 4

From: [redacted]
Sent: Fri 18/10/2024 10:08
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
CC: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Thanks [redacted]

I have been liaising with the other portfolio areas and have asked them to provide a response to me by the same date (5th November).
I will be able to pick again with them next week to ask about any progress on individual teams assessing.

I will keep you updated in correspondence with other teams if that suits you?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 9:57 AM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for sending our way.

The proposal states that this work would be across four government areas, therefore it is not solely for drugs policy to consider. Appendix 5, page 55 states that “*Due to the intersectional and intertwined nature of our work across populations, I will circulate the same request to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise and the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport.*”

Do you know if this proposal has been submitted to the other SG areas (Mental Health, Children and Young People and Social Security) or forwarded for views?

It would be helpful to know where it's sitting in the other SG areas before starting the assessment and making any recommendations.

Best Wishes
[redacted]

Document 5

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 24/10/2024 16:16
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
CC: [redacted]; Deputy Director - Drugs Policy
<Deputydirectordrugspolicy@gov.scot> [redacted]
Subject: Draft Response and Pre-Assessment of Reach Advocacy Proposal

Hi all

Regarding the recent proposal we received from Reach Advocacy I have conducted a pre-assessment of this as per the Saltire guidance.

Reach wrote to the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy in May 2024 asking to make ***“Reach a commissioned advocacy training body, delivering [it’s] SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award’.***

In response, they received a Ministerial Response asking them to ***“liaise with officials to lay out exactly on what basis Reach Advocacy would be seeking additional funding for, over and above what the organisation is currently receiving from Corra foundation.”***

For context, Reach have referred to this within their proposal as an agreement that ***“Reach would submit a proposal to be considered as a commissioned human rights and advocacy training and education body across four departments.”***

Please see their proposal here: Reach_Scot Gov Business Proposal 2024 15.10.24 DMCC details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

A number of other portfolio areas were identified within this proposal, and I have cascaded the proposal for their consideration by **5th November**. My intention is to provide a response to Reach from Drugs Policy Division, and ask that Policy Officers from the other identified portfolio areas insert their contribution before I submit back to Reach.

It is not my intention to further chase other Division’s Policy Officers; Ministerial Private Offices and relevant Policy Officers are aware of the proposal and can assess and contribute as per their own division’s protocol, but I will include any responses I receive.

Additionally, I state that Reach get in touch with relevant portfolio areas if they wish to seek any further clarification on individual parts of the reply.

Please see draft response from Drugs Policy Division here: Draft Proposal Response - October 2024 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

The assessment from Drugs Policy Division is this should not be funded.

Please see assessment here: Pre Assessment - October 2024 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

This however does not mean that other portfolio areas may not be interested in funding the project.

I should note though, that Reach is asking for funding from the Scottish Government as an organisation and has not identified what proportion of this funding they are seeking from respective portfolio areas.

Can I ask that you review this, and confirm if you are content with the assessment from mission strategy perspective and the proposed approach to have other portfolio areas contribute and reply **and** can I ask if this response should come from the drugsmissondelivery mailbox on behalf of the division? This is just a thought, happy to take your advice on that if the mailbox is not intended to be used in this context.

[redacted]

Document 6

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 04/11/2024 09:59
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
CC: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 6:35 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hi [redacted],

Many thanks for sight of this and for your request for comments.

I have read through the proposal and also the new grant checklist you have completed and agree with the assessment which has been made and offer the following:

- None of what we do regarding the MAT standards is covered under any primary legislation.
- The current funding structure and what they are currently commissioned to do, serves the purposes for implementation of MAT 8 – implemented by April 2025 and sustained by April 2026.
- On implementation of MAT going forward and moving into business as usual (for 2026 onwards), for advocacy training, I would see this being for services themselves to commission – whether that is through individual ADP or 3rd sector commissioning for staff or through other NHS services commissioning for their staff. Their current funding would ease into this as they have corra funding in place until 2026/27.
- On reading the staff they wanted to reach, I agree as detailed in the checklist, regarding concerns regarding the scale up and how this would be achieved. There is reference made to how many GPs there are, however there is only a small proportion of GP's who currently provide alcohol and drug services so this may not be comparable with regards to the audience trying to target.

[redacted] has commented below and I have nothing else to add to those comments, and for info, [redacted] also commented separately to myself/[redacted] before going off on leave, but there is nothing else to add to our comments.

I hope this is helpful.

Cheers,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Delivery & Support Unit | Drugs Policy Division | Population Health Directorate | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | ✉ [redacted]

I am currently working from home, but can be contacted via email.

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 11:20 AM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hey [redacted],

Had a scan through the business case and I don't think this does really meet any of the MAT teams specific essential activities.

Captured a few things below that hopefully make sense.

- Whilst it does obviously mention the concept of increasing awareness on MAT 8 and linking it in with human rights etc it isn't really stating anything new that isn't already underway.
- Progress is being made around MAT 8 (as you know being the lead) and I don't think this highlights any new methods or proposals that isn't already being done or considered going forward.
- The workshop it mentions too relating to offering more training – we already actually fund pretty similar things throughout the division anyway, not just relating to MAT but we did recently find the NES Trauma Training proposal (slightly different but same idea).
- In terms of the implementation of MAT Standards, we already work with such a wide range of stakeholders, not just the standard CFOs (SDF SRC etc) but HIS and PHS receive a large amount of funding to do MAT specific related work, and both do a fair bit of work which REACH mention in their proposal on a bit of a wider scale.
- The direction of the MAT Standards is naturally shifting too given the deadline of implemented by 2025 is approaching and then sustained by 2026 so whilst they mention the success of their workshop they provided to local areas over the last 3 years – that isn't something we would really be looking to continue going forward as all areas should be in a different position regarding their overall progress and plans to sustain post 2026.

- And this is just my own thoughts, but they of course are only focusing on Standard 8 which does then potentially open up the flood gates for people to question why only standard 8 is getting this type of funding and attention etc, which could then potentially mean more stakeholders getting in touch with proposals for other standards that we likely wouldn't be looking to endorse/fund.. (maybe im overthinking that though, but just a thought).

Copying in rest of team if they think I've maybe missed anything but hopefully that all makes sense.

Let me know if it doesn't though and can happily have a chat etc if needed.

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted] | **Delivery & Support Unit | Drugs Policy Division**
Scottish Government | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 12:33 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hi [redacted]

My advice would be to use the grant pre-assessment and assessment criteria on Saltire and indicate if this meets any of your team's specific activities which are essential.

I have completed an assessment for Drugs Policy generally as per the Workforce Team and Mission Strategy team here: [Pre Assessment - October 2024 details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

Essentially, the work that would impact on Advocacy and Workforce would be duplicated and therefore it does not pass pre – assessment.
But, please, feel free to conduct your own assessment based on any MAT essential activities.

Hope this helps?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 12:00 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hey [redacted]

This is probably a daft question, but when you ask for us to assess and provide input, do you just want our general thoughts on what we think?

[redacted – information not within scope]

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | **Delivery & Support Unit | Drugs Policy Division**

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 12:49 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: FW: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hi [redacted]

Please see attached.

Can the MAT team assess and provide input please

[redacted]

[redacted]

Drugs Policy Division | Health Improvement | Population Health Directorate | Scottish Government



Document 7

Title: Reach Proposal

I have been through the proposal and my assessments are as follows.
(There is a summary of the business case on page 41)

Background:

- It is a well written, comprehensive document, written by a well-regarded professional organisation.
- They are already funded through COSLA for providing advocacy training, but are looking for an additional approx. £3m over 4 years for infrastructure and staff costs.
- This additional funding will be to provide more specialist training in human rights based advocacy, to people who want vocational training, involving people with L&L experience, opportunities for undergraduates and to front line workers, whilst increasing workshops in the community and creating a forum.
- They are clear the courses would be independently evaluated, though there would be internal verification of the quality of the assessments.
- They foresee this work contributing to 4 different areas of SG; Children & Young People, Alcohol & Drugs, Welfare and Mental Health, meeting the government objectives of workforce development in providing a rights based approach, whilst giving human and economic advantages.
- MAT is mentioned on page 16 and 19/20, quoting the Benchmarking Report, that we need to ensure ‘...services are compliant on a human rights approach when designing and delivering services’.

But:

- The learning materials would remain the intellectual property of Reach Advocacy Ltd.
- The operation will be built over several years.
- Full implementation of all frameworks won't happen until year 2.
- Recruitment of people with 'high levels of expertise' could take time and they talk about staff competencies taking 1 to 2 years to build.
- They say they have developed the business case with knowledge of the current budget constraints, but compared quotes to other organisation's costs and feel its good value.
- They are asking for financial commitment up to 2030 which we obviously can't give, even for next year, and definitely not after 2027.
- As SG have delayed the Human Rights bill and Stigma Action Plan, I'm not sure this would be seen as a priority, and however eloquently put by Reach, this project can't solve all that ails Scottish society by itself.

Document 8

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 23/10/2024 15:15
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
CC: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice

Thanks for sending on [redacted], and hi [redacted],

Had a quick look at the link and I'm not entirely clear if the proposal is to provide advocacy training for Social Security Scotland's agency staff, or for the staff currently providing advocacy through the Independent Social Security Advocacy Service (alongside the other gov areas named)? If it's the former I can't really comment, Social Security Scotland have their own L&D division and deliver their own training.

If it's the latter, that's a small number (think there's currently around 55 advocates) and they already get advocacy training which is provided by our delivery partner Voiceability, who hold the contract to the Independent Advocacy Service until 2026. They're entirely independent to SG/SocSecScot, and so whilst we set the Advocacy Standards (as set out in law), they are responsible for the operational side of their own L&D.

And indeed, I don't quite understand what the training itself is meant to be – is it training on *how to be* an advocate? If it's for Social Security Scotland, then I wouldn't have thought they'd need that, given our statutory obligation (as quoted in the proposal!) is for advocacy to be delivered independently of Social Security Scotland. Though I can't comment on the Human Rights angle.

Clearly I'm a bit confused, maybe a quick call would be easier? My diary should be up to date if you want to pop something in ☺

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] (she/her)

[Supporting Access to Social Security](#) | [Social Security Policy Division](#) | [Scottish Government](#) |



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:18 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thanks [redacted]

Much appreciated.

[redacted], let me know if you want to discuss this further or if you can assess from Social Security perspective.

I am hoping to collate assessments by 5th November.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:15 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],

I'm copying in my colleague [redacted] who I think leads on advocacy for social security purposes.

Best,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 10:48 AM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

Apologies for the email out of the blue.

Getting in touch as we have received a proposal in from Reach Advocacy seeking to become 'commissioned' by the Scottish Government to deliver advocacy and human rights training.

They have identified their proposal as impacting on Social Security – specifically they feel that there is demand and need from the social security workforce to receive advocacy and rights training

Is your unit able to assess the aspects of this funding proposal which touch on Social Security and identify if it meets any essential activity or criteria?

I am more than happy to speak to you or your colleagues about this and provide some more context.

The original email and proposal is here: [Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

This proposal comes off the back of a letter the organisation sent to the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy seeking funding, to which the Minister replied, advising the organisation to lay out exactly on what basis they are seeking funding for.

(link to micase is here: [Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#))

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 10:12 AM

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi all

Just checking – are you best to assess this from the social security perspectives outlined in the proposal as well or should I be referring this to other colleagues more closely involved in social security policy?

Attaching the link again here for ease: [Reach_Scot Gov Business Proposal 2024 15.10.24 DMCC details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

Thanks

[redacted]

Document 9

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 17/10/2024 08:17
To: [redacted]

Hi

If you need anything from me for this please let me know. Happy to join you in a meeting or to contribute once you've found out a bit more about it.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Embedding Rights and Equalities Team Lead

Embedding Rights and Equalities | Directorate for Social Care and National Care Service Development | Scottish Government



Document 10

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wed 23/10/2024 10:18

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

CC: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

You'll need social security colleagues too, copying in [redacted] in my team in case he has names (the contacts we previously had have both recently moved).

[redacted]

Document 11

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 24/10/2024 16:42
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
CC: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Noted, thanks for that.

Have a great evening.
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:41 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

It covers both areas [redacted].

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Advocacy, Access and Models of Care – Unit Head

*My usual hours are 8.30am-4.30pm.
I can be contacted on [redacted] or via Microsoft Teams*

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:40 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Not a problem, thanks for that [redacted].

For clarification, is this response on behalf of just the Advocacy, Access, and Models of Care unit or does this include the Rights and Accountability unit?

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:37 PM

To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],
We don't have a generic email address so I would be happy for Reach to either use the Ministerial mailbox or contact me directly.
Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Advocacy, Access and Models of Care – Unit Head

*My usual hours are 8.30am-4.30pm.
I can be contacted on [redacted] or via Microsoft Teams*

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:35 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thanks [redacted]

I can include this within the response I send to Reach.

In the event that Reach wish to seek any further clarification on the assessment is there generic mailbox I can direct them to or will I direct them to the Ministerial mailbox?

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:30 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],

Reducing the couple list to just colleagues in the Rights and Accountability Unit and the Independent Advocacy team.

While we would be interested in any learning to embed human rights in training for advocates, this proposal does not meet our objectives. My Unit – Advocacy, Access and Models of Care – currently sponsors the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA), the membership body for independent advocacy organisations in Scotland, which provides training, information and advice to its members on a number of areas including human rights. My understanding is Reach Advocacy is not a member of SIAA.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Advocacy, Access and Models of Care – Unit Head

*My usual hours are 8.30am-4.30pm.
I can be contacted on [redacted] or via Microsoft Teams*

Document 12

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 28/10/2024 11:19
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
CC: Human Rights Office HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: For views by 01/11: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hello, confirming that I have added in some reflections and [redacted] will look at this too before 1 Nov deadline.

While it is great to see interest in this area, the proposal does not have a strong link to our priority outcomes for implementation work in the short term and I have noted some wider questions around need and additionality.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

--

[redacted]
Head of Human Rights Implementation & International Policy
Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights
[redacted] | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 4:26 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Human Rights Office ; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: For views by 01/11: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

This would more be one for the implementation team to comment on. I presume we will not be funding work for the first person who asks!

T

[redacted] | Head of Human Rights Strategy and Legislation Unit | Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights

[redacted] | [redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 11:12 AM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: For views by 01/11: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi All,

Reach Advocacy wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice in May 2024 seeking funding to deliver advocacy training and education to groups, organisations, and individuals. The Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy replied on 28 May asking Reach Advocacy to set out their case for additional funding to deliver this project. Both letters attached.

Reach Advocacy have now followed up with their proposal. The proposals sets out its aims and deliverables on pages 26-27, and asks for just over £3.7m over a 6 year period from the SG to deliver this project. The Drugs Policy Team are coordinating a response across the SG and have asked for views by 5 November so they can respond.

Please could you review and share any thoughts on the proposal in the below link by **Friday 1 November**. We can then feed our views back to the Drugs Policy Team so they can consider responses and decide how to progress.

 Human Rights Division.docx

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 11:43 AM

To: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

Certainly.

The original email and proposal can be found here: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

This is an ask for additional funding.

They are currently receiving funding via Corra Foundation which is outlined in the proposal.

[redacted]

From: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 11:11 AM

To: [redacted]

Cc: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],

Could you send over a copy of the business case/proposal Derek refers to in his 15 October email? I see the Minister's response also references Reach Advocacy have already got grant funding in place for the next couple of years, do you know if the proposal being referenced is included in these grants, or if the ask is for additional funding?

I can get in touch with our human rights implementation teams once we have the additional information.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 3:09 PM

To: [redacted]; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],

I'd go to Human Rights team, copied, in the first instance for us!

R

[redacted] (she/her)

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

M: [redacted] E: CabSecforSJ@gov.scot

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

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From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 2:48 PM

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hello [redacted]

Thanks for highlighting.
Yes, aware this has come through.

We will engage with relevant policy teams for them to assess as well.
Is there a team within Miss Todd's portfolio which deals with advocacy, human rights, and equalities that we should be liaising with?

Likewise, can private secretaries for Cab Sec for Social Justice and Minister for Children, Young People, and The Promise highlight relevant policy teams within your portfolios that we should be liaising with?

This request is seeking funding for advocacy, human rights and equalities training commissioning.

Thanks

[redacted]

Document 13

Human Rights Division

- Budget - How would this be split across SG teams involved if we do progress?
- Leads to discuss with procurement whether this is a grant/contract and if other organisations should have opportunity to bid for this work.
- Unclear how this proposal sits alongside and adds value to existing provision
- On need, the indicators used to demonstrate this are mostly general population-wide data (on care experience, custody, poverty, drug and alcohol deaths and the numbers of staff employed in relevant services). The proposal provides some limited insights on their existing training programme being oversubscribed, but it is not clear why developing Reach as a nationwide training and membership body is the preferred solution to this

- There are risks in SG commissioning this nationally given the already complex and highly competitive landscape for advice and advocacy – suggest seeking a view from [redacted]'s team

- Reach already receive SG funding via Challenge Fund, Innovation Fund and Improvement Fund – suggest reviewing annual accounts to see if have a diversity of funders in place for activities or if primarily depend on SG grants

- The proposal does not have a strong link to our priority outcomes for implementation work in the short term – Ministers have committed to taking forward action to advance human rights now and lay the groundwork for future Bill introduction. Over the next period we will prioritise actions outlined by SNAP2 and learning from UNCRC implementation.

- Does REACH work with Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance? We've worked with SIAA throughout the Bill development to date, and although current proposals do not align with SIAA's view of advocacy needing to be independent for human rights breaches, it would be good to understand the relationship between the two organisations.

Document 14

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 21/10/2024 11:58
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
CC: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Hello [redacted],

Following up on our discussion on Friday.

As the proposal requires input from four policy areas, suggest that the best approach would be for the four divisions to review for their interests (Drugs Policy, Mental Health, Children and Young People and Social Security).

The first step in SG Grants Framework guidance includes pre assessment which includes a new grant proposal checklist. Whilst this is a comprehensive list, there are two key requirements that are of significance for drugs policy:

Additionality: The extent to which the grant will avoid displacing or duplicating funding from other sources.

Exit strategy/sustainability: What would be the scenario in the event of funding being discontinued at the end of the period. This may include funding activities from other sources or discontinuing activities that have run their course.

REACH was successful in the last round of the Improvement Fund, with Corra awarding funding totalling £480k over three years; 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. Please see financial table below.

It's unclear what proportion of funding is related to each policy area, and why there is an additional funding request to deliver against Drugs Policy division objectives. The proposal indicates that SG will wholly fund REACH, which is not sustainable. The KPIs are over three years, not 6. It is unclear why this is the case.

Per the proposal, "Reach has graduated over 93 candidates and delivered HRBA workshops to over 1000 participants over the last 4 years". Also adding here that SG funded this project in 2023/24 totalling £192k which has been excluded from the proposal. Current Corra funding is:

- To deliver training to increase the number of Human Rights-Based Advocates, and support locality-based teams with the incorporation of MAT standards.
- To deliver Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) workshops to at least 350 individuals. **[Presumed to be over three years. Confirm with Corra]**
- To delivery Advocacy Practice Award to at least 30 candidates. **[Presumed to be over three years. Confirm with Corra]**

The objectives in the proposal are unclear in how they align to each of the policy areas. There seems to be a significant scale up with no path on how that will be achieved and assumed to be equal across all four areas (see KPI section).

Consideration of how realistic this is for drugs policy as this project has been delivered in the drugs and alcohol area for a minimum of four years.

For example, four years for 93 candidates to graduate from Advocacy Practice Award and to deliver HRBA workshops to over 1000 participants. However, the proposal states that will increase to 60, 70 then 80 candidates and 900 participants **per year** (between 60 and 80 workshops per year). A review of the 2023/24 end of year grant report and Corra will be able to provide any interim reporting that will be useful on where REACH is in terms of delivery for 2024/25.

Overall, the evidence base provided in the proposal does not point towards this level of interest and for the reasons mentioned above this presents some risk in terms of delivery and achieving the desired outcomes. Although there is a risk section in the proposal, these are not associated to the project. At this stage, I would also flag value for money as a key consideration as without clarification of how the project will be scaled up and a sound evidence base of demand, it's not possible to determine if additional drugs policy funding is required over the next three years. In addition, there are several objective specific to REACH as an organisation that do not align to project delivery

Table: Confirmed Corra funding and additional funding request

Corra Funding		Additional Funding requested
Financial Year	Grant	
2023-24 (Indicative)	£0	
2024-25 (Indicative)	£180,000	568,800
2025-26 (Indicative)	£160,000	593,064
2026-27 (Indicative)	£140,000	610,856
Sub Total		1,772,720
2027/28		629,182
2028/29		648,057
2029/30		667,499
Sub Total		1,944,737
TOTAL	£480,000	3,717,457

Next Steps

For drugs policy to complete the pre-assessment check, I would ask REACH to clarify:

- What proportion of funding is aligned to each policy area?
- How is the funding requested for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 different to the funding Corra have indicated? Why is the total funding being requested more in the first three years?
- What sustainability plans do REACH have in place?
- Can the aims and objectives be SMART and aligned to each policy area? Why are KPIs over three years and not 6 years?
- How will the project be scaled up and what is the timeline to achieve this?

These are the key areas, however, a thorough review of the proposal against the new checklist will be necessary before proceeding.

This initial review excludes the current enhanced spend controls in place and if approval was granted for this proposal, health finance would also need to confirm before advising the organisation.

Hope this is helpful and please let me know if you require any additional information.

Best Wishes
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 9:38 AM

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Funding Request - Reach Advocacy Request to Become Commissioned

Thanks [redacted]

All very helpful.

[redacted]

Document 15

Title: Reach Advocacy 2024 Funding Proposal Draft

Dear Mr McCabe

Policy Officials from within Scottish Government's Drugs Policy Division considered your recent Business Case proposal.

Your Business Case has also been circulated to the relevant portfolio areas reporting to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise and the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport to consider against their priority outcomes. We anticipate that these policy areas will be in contact in due course to advise you on your request for support from within their areas.

Drugs Policy Officials considered the potential value of your proposal to the National Mission to reduce drug deaths and improve lives. Whilst officials shared your view that a rights based approach should underpin service delivery across the country; the most appropriate way to achieve this is through exploration of alternative sources of funding. Local areas should ensure that appropriate training is being commissioned and this is one avenue worthy of further exploration. Such an approach, as previously advised, would not only support increased demand but would diversify income and enhance organisational sustainability.

We are unfortunately therefore unable to support your recent submission for additional National Mission funding.

Scottish Government recognises the value of the work undertaken by REACH and are hopeful that existing CORRA funding will allow you to increase project activity and long term sustainability.

Regards

Document 16

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 16/10/2024 10:11
To: Derek McCabe <derekmccabe@reachadvocacy.net>
CC: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Good morning Derek

I am sending a response as acknowledgment of receipt of this proposal.

I note the length of the document and will be back in touch when the appropriate policy areas and have been able to dedicate time and resource to consider if this meets any essential activities and commitments.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

From: Derek McCabe <derekmccabe@reachadvocacy.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 1:52 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Dear [redacted] and [redacted],

Please find attached our Business Case and proposal to Scottish Government.

I send this to you as the Officers identified in the letter from the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy, Christina McKelvie MSP/BSA (28 May 2024). The response identifies the Minister also acts on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, and the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise.

In line with the assurances, I received from Alison Byrne, Deputy Director, Drugs Policy, I ask that Scottish Government Civil Servants treat our Business Case with Confidence, respecting our Intellectual Property across the range of business development areas contained in the proposal. We ask that this read by Scottish Government Officials only for the purpose of considering the proposed business case for commissioning Reach Advocacy Ltd.

Once you have established the Officials who will assess our case, can you inform me with their details, the Ministerial Department they represent and the legislation or policy framework they utilise for this process.

Yours Faithfully

Derek McCabe

Derek McCabe CEO

SQA Centre 3018814

Phone: 01236 700009

Website: www.reachadvocacy.net



Document 17

From: [redacted] on behalf of; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Sent: Wed 23/10/2024 17:22
To: [redacted]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

I have received the following feedback from DCAF colleagues:

The interest seems to sit in the Human Rights area, so that would be the Team identified earlier in the email string. We believe that [redacted] is head of Human Rights Policy.

There are some areas that have specific Human Rights focus, such as Health, that does not apply to Ms Don-Innes' area.

The only suggestion was to take the request to DG offices such as Communities and/or Health etc to see if it could be better addressed that way.

I hope this is helpful but please let me know if you require further information.

Kind regards
[redacted]

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise - Natalie Don-Innes MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Mobile: [redacted] | Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

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

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thank you [redacted]

Appreciate your help

[redacted]

From: [redacted]; **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:59 PM
To: [redacted]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

I've followed up now and will let you know as soon as I receive a response.

Kind regards
[redacted]

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise - Natalie Don-Innes MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Mobile: [redacted] | Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

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

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:42 PM
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

I have yet to receive a response from the DCAF.
Can you perhaps follow up or pass on the details of the team please?

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Drugs Policy Division | Health Improvement | Population Health Directorate | Scottish Government



From: [redacted]; **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 9:29 AM
To: [redacted]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA
Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for the clarification there! Luckily I had simply put the request out so my misinterpretation will not affect the response from our officials anyway.

Hop you have a fab weekend too
[redacted]

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise - Natalie Don-Innes MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Mobile: [redacted] | Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

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See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 9:27 AM
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA
Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thanks [redacted]

Not a problem.

Just to note, Reach already deliver an SQA accredited training package – this is a request to receive more funding to deliver the training to more people.

If officials could assess and let me know their thoughts anyway that would be great.
Thanks for the heads up about other appropriate Ministers this might relate to.

Have a good weekend

[redacted]

From: [redacted]; **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 9:15 AM
To: [redacted]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted]

Apologies, I had missed the request. I've passed on the email now so you should receive a response from any appropriate teams in DCAF shortly. I'm not sure we would be the most relevant Minister though as it's a request for registration as a training provider so may be more appropriate for Mr Dey or M Gilruth.

Kind regards
[redacted]

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Mobile: [redacted] | Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

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

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 9:09 AM

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Good morning

Apologies if you have responded and I haven't picked up on it.

Can you please link me to the team/individuals within your portfolio area who would be responsible for assessing this proposal for funding?

Reach Advocacy are seeking funding to become commissioned to deliver advocacy and human rights training.

The link to their email and proposal is here: Substance Misuse: National Support: Advocacy: 2021-2026 - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 3:26 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Thank you [redacted], much appreciated

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 3:09 PM
To: [redacted]; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Cc: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award

Hi [redacted],

I'd go to Human Rights team, copied, in the first instance for us!

R

[redacted] (she/her)
Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice
M: [redacted] E: CabSecforSJ@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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

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Document 18

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 04/11/2024 13:37
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
CC: [redacted]; Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Hi [redacted],

I have run this by the Deputy Director for Equalities Division and she has confirmed that she is content with the response and there is nothing to be added from her area's perspective to the lines already provided by Human Rights colleagues.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:14 AM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted], [redacted], apologies for the very late add to this, and apologies for the very close deadline – I need a response by **6th November** (Wednesday).

We received a proposal from Reach Advocacy (email and proposal can be found here):

Request for Reach Advocacy Ltd to be commissioned to deliver our SQA Approved Advocacy Practice Award details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

They have asked that their funding request to be considered by Cab Sec for Social Justice.

[redacted] has helpfully provided an assessment of the proposal and included a paragraph within the response I will send back to Reach (draft is here):

Draft Proposal Response - October 2024 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

[redacted] has suggested that your teams may want to consider this.

Happy to discuss this over a call if helpful?

Thanks

[redacted]

From: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 10:29 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: FW: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Hi [redacted],
(Copying [redacted] as per OOO)

I've added a paragraph to the response from the Human Rights Division and asked [redacted] to clear this by COP on Monday.

I see the response has a heading for the Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights Directorate. Think it would be good to ask [redacted] or [redacted] in the EIHR Directorate business support team to send round the equality and inclusion teams to consider. That way the response could include wider EIHR views on top of our Human Rights Division input.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 October 2024 10:25
To: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Deputy Director - Drugs Policy <Deputydirectordrugspolicy@gov.scot>
Subject: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Hi all

Thanks to those who have already been able evaluate, asses, and provide their unit's thoughts on this so far.

I have put together the response form Drugs Policy Division based on our assessment, and will reply to the organisation on 6th November.
(If you wish to see our assessment I can provide this to you).

If you wish to provide input from your policy area, please add to this document and I will include in my response.

If the organisation wish to receive feedback or understand the assessment in any further detail regarding specific policy areas, they will be directed to individual policy areas/Ministerial mailboxes.

The draft response link is here with highlighted individual areas to be addressed:
Draft Proposal Response - October 2024 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Thanks

[redacted]

Document 19

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 04/11/2024 13:50
To: [redacted]
CC: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

[redacted],

Thanks for this, done a wee re-jig so how about something like: "The Social Security Policy Division is not in a position to comment on the proposal on behalf of Social Security Scotland; the executive agency manages its own training and learning. In line with your request this proposal has not been shared with Social Security Scotland."

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] (she/her)
Supporting Access to Social Security | Social Security Policy Division | Scottish Government | [redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:39 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Thanks [redacted]

Happy to include in the response.

I can include something along the lines of "Social Security Policy Division do not advise on learning, training or development for Social Security Scotland; this is managed by the agency itself. In line with your request this proposal has not been shared with Social Security Scotland."

Does that suit?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:25 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Hi [redacted],

As per my original email, I'm still a bit unclear on what the proposal from Reach actually entails. However, to again confirm, it would not be for us in Social Security Policy to advise on training or learning and development in Social Security Scotland, as this is managed in the agency itself.

In terms of your response therefore, I'm afraid I'm not in a position to contribute. However, I know that Reach asked for the proposal to be 'read by Scottish Government Officials only' so perhaps it would suffice to confirm that as per their request, this proposal has not been shared with Social Security Scotland?

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] (she/her)
Supporting Access to Social Security | Social Security Policy Division | Scottish Government | [redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:25 AM
To: Human Rights Office <HumanRightsOffice@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Deputy Director - Drugs Policy <Deputydirectordrugspolicy@gov.scot>
Subject: Reach Advocacy Proposal Response

Hi all

Thanks to those who have already been able to evaluate, assess, and provide their unit's thoughts on this so far.

I have put together the response from the Drugs Policy Division based on our assessment, and will reply to the organisation on 6th November. (If you wish to see our assessment I can provide this to you).

If you wish to provide input from your policy area, please add to this document and I will include it in my response.

If the organisation wishes to receive feedback or understand the assessment in any further detail regarding specific policy areas, they will be directed to individual policy areas/Ministerial mailboxes.

The draft response link is here with highlighted individual areas to be addressed:
Draft Proposal Response - October 2024 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Thanks

[redacted]

Document 20

Title: Draft Proposal Response October 2024

Dear Mr McCabe

Scottish Government Policy Officials have considered your recent business case proposal.

Drugs Policy Division

Drugs Policy Officials considered the potential value of your proposal to the National Mission to reduce drug deaths and improve lives. Whilst officials shared your view that a rights based approach should underpin service delivery across the country; the most appropriate way to achieve the desired capacity increase is identified as through exploration of alternative sources of funding. Local areas should ensure that appropriate training is being commissioned. It is assessed that such an approach, as previously advised, could not only support increased demand but would diversify income and ensure organisational sustainability.

Unfortunately we are therefore unable to support your recent submission for additional National Mission funding.

Your proposal has also been circulated to the relevant portfolio areas reporting to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise and the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport to consider against their priority outcomes.

Individual policy areas to provide assessment.

- **Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice**

Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights

Scottish Ministers have committed to taking forward action to advance human rights now and lay the groundwork introduction of a future Human Rights Bill. We share Reach's views around the importance of human rights based approaches and have supported this work through a number of cross-cutting Scottish Government funds as the proposal outlines. Over the next period we will be prioritising actions outlined by SNAP2 and are therefore unable to proceed further with this proposal.

- **Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise**

- **Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport**

Directorate for Social Care and National Care Service Development - Advocacy, Access and Models of Care Unit and Rights and Accountability Unit

The Advocacy, Access and Models of Care Unit within the Social Care and National Care Service Development Directorate currently sponsors the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA), the membership body for independent advocacy organisations in Scotland, which provides training, information and advice to its members on a number of areas including human rights. While we would be interested in any learning to embed human rights in training for advocates through the work you have set out, the main route through which we meet our objectives in relation to advocacy and human rights is through our work with SIAA.

Social Security – Cross Cutting Policy Unit

The Social Security Policy Division is not in a position to comment on the proposal on behalf of Social Security Scotland; the executive agency manages its own training and learning. In line with your request this proposal has not been shared with Social Security Scotland.

Scottish Government recognises the value of the work undertaken by REACH and are hopeful that your existing CORRA funding will allow you to increase project activity and long term sustainability.

Regards

Document 21:
Title: Pre Assessment October 2024

Requirement	Guidance
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<p>Statutory authority</p>	<p>Identify the legislative provision under which grant funding will be provided. The Scottish Ministers' power to undertake an activity giving rise to expenditure should be clearly defined in statute.</p> <p>The organisation believe the legislative provision includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 • Fairer Scotland Duty (2018) • The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 • The Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015 • The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 • Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act (2013) • The Children 's Hearing (Scotland) Act (2011) • The Patient Rights (Scotland) Act (2011) • Guidance on Looked after Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 • Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 • Education (additional Support for learning) (Scotland) Act (2004) • The Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 <p>However, the organisation does not provide robust evidence or rationale for how their proposal will assist in achieving aspects outlined in the above legislation.</p> <p>The organisation highlights "...In addition, the Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act (2011), Section 122 highlight the need for a national qualification in advocacy.". This does not appear to reflect the legislation, section 122 of the legislation states:</p> <p>'(1)This section applies where a children's hearing is held in relation to a child by virtue of this Act.</p> <p>(2)The chairing member of the children's hearing must inform the child of the availability of children's advocacy services.</p> <p>(3)The chairing member need not comply with subsection (2) if, taking account of the age and maturity of the child, the chairing member considers that it would not be appropriate to do so.</p> <p>(4)The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision for or in connection with—</p> <p>(a)the provision of children's advocacy services,</p> <p>(b)qualifications to be held by persons providing children's advocacy services,</p> <p>(c)the training of persons providing children's advocacy services,</p> <p>(d)the payment of expenses, fees and allowances by the Scottish Ministers to persons providing children's advocacy services.</p> <p>(5)The Scottish Ministers may enter into arrangements (contractual or otherwise) with any person other than a local authority, CHS or SCRA for the provision of children's advocacy services.</p> <p>(6)Regulations under this section are subject to the affirmative procedure.</p> <p>(7)In this section, "children's advocacy services" means services of support and representation</p>
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	<p>provided for the purposes of assisting a child in relation to the child's involvement in a children's hearing.</p>
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<p>Rationale</p>	<p>It is important that you can describe the rationale for and benefits of the grant that you are planning to make and the problem or situation that it aims to support or address. This will help you to ensure that the grant recipient will be clear what outcomes they should be monitoring and will enable better evaluation once complete.</p> <p>There is a rationale for facilitating rights based advocacy and human rights training.</p> <p>MAT Standard 8 identifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should be confident that the advocacy services have a good understanding of problematic drug use and recognised treatments. • Staff should have training to understand the role of independent rights-based. • advocacy and have access to rights-based and health inequalities training. <p>Equalities and Human Rights is a cross cutting priority of the National Mission. Additionally, 'Advocacy is available to empower individuals' is identified under the National Mission outcome of 'Quality of life is improved by addressing multiple disadvantages'.</p> <p>However, there is not a rationale for funding this project. The organisation is currently receiving funding from Corra Foundation to deliver awareness workshops to 350 individuals and the Advocacy Award to at least 30 candidates per year. This would lead to duplicate funding for the first three years of the proposed project in relation to the drugs and alcohol aspects of this proposal.</p> <p>There are no clear outcomes outlined in this project beyond the initial three years. This assessment will detail this in more depth in the 'outcomes', 'monitoring and evaluation', and 'aims and objectives; sections.</p>
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<p>Aims and objectives</p>	<p>A new grant proposal should be able to demonstrate (in high-level terms) that there is a clearly identified need for the funding. It should outline the proposal's SMART objectives, and their fit with higher-level ministerial policy objectives.</p> <p>The organisation outlines it's aims and objectives, with some of the objectives being clear and SMART, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach will graduate 60 candidates from the Advocacy Practice Award (SCQF Level 7) per year. • Reach will deliver 60 human rights-based workshops per year, to approximately 900 participants. • Reach will use independent researchers to evaluate programmes and customer engagement activities. <p>However the aims and many of the objectives are not SMART.</p> <p>The organisation seeks funding for 6 years, however the expected outputs and deliverables are only estimated by the organisation for the first 3 years of the project.</p> <p>It is often difficult to understand how the aims and objectives explicitly relate to Drugs and Alcohol Ministerial policy objectives.</p>
<p>Options</p>	<p>Detail the range of options considered for achieving the <u>SMART objectives</u> and explain why the preferred option has been selected.</p> <p>N.A – it is recommended that this proposal is not approved.</p>

<p>Target group</p>	<p>Identify the grant's target group(s) - where appropriate.</p> <p>There is a clear target group identified by the organisation, and they have conducted secondary data analysis to identify the scope of the target groups as:</p> <p>Children Policy Area: Staff & Child-Client Data The approximate numbers of child related staff: Child Social workers – 5,916 Child-minding – 3,998 Child Care/residential workers – 5,690 Education (Early learning centres, primary & secondary schools) 53,400 Total Staff – 69,004</p> <p>Drug & Alcohol Policy Area: Staff & Adult-Client Data The approximate number of staff directly linked to Drug & Alcohol: Drug and Alcohol service staff – 3,768 General Practitioners – GP’s – 5, 195 Total staff – 8,963</p> <p>The approximate numbers of mental health (adult) related staff: Mental Health Nurses- 6,500 Mental Health support staff – 2,900 General Practitioners – GP’s – 5, 195 Psychologists – 1,571 Psychiatrists – 538 Total Staff – 22,620</p> <p>Social Security Policy Area: Staff & Adult-Client Data The approximate numbers of social security related staff: Social Security- 1,9156 Job Centre Scotland – 9,0206 Total Staff – 10,935</p>
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<p>Delivery partners</p>	<p>Identify any partners involved in the delivery process, their roles and responsibilities and the control framework governing the relationship with any third parties.</p> <p>Currently, the organisation is funded by Corra to deliver the drugs and alcohol aspects outlined in this project until 2026/27.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>Detail projected funding from the Scottish Government, the period of funding and the budget from where it would come. Also provide details of match funding and leverage.</p> <p>The organisation outlines that it seeks funding across four ministerial portfolio areas: Alcohol and Drugs; Mental Health; Children and Young People; and Social Security. It does not outline how this would be divided. For purposes of this assessment it is assumed that this would require a 25% split between each portfolio area.</p> <p>It should be highlighted that the organisation is seeking to receive 100% of its operational funding from this proposal.</p> <p>This is not an option Drugs Policy Division would approve.</p>

<p>Additionality</p>	<p>The extent to which the grant will avoid displacing or duplicating funding from other sources.</p> <p>This funding will directly duplicate funding which is already being received by the organisation via Corra Foundation to deliver drugs and alcohol policy objectives. The organisation has recognised this independently in their proposal:</p> <p><i>'We recognise successful commissioning of Reach Advocacy Ltd can impact on our existing arrangement with the Corra Foundation. The existing funding arrangement with Corra is presented in the table below, extracted from the agreement between the Corra Foundation and Reach Advocacy Ltd, dated 31st of May 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Financial Year Deadline for claim Payment</i></p> <p><i>2023-24 (Indicative) 31 March 2024 £0.00</i></p> <p><i>2024-25 (Indicative) 31 March 2025 £180,000.00</i></p> <p><i>2025-26 (Indicative) 31 March 2026 £160,000.00</i></p> <p><i>2026-27 (Indicative) 31 March 2027 £140,000.00</i></p> <p><i>TOTAL £480,000.00'</i></p> <p>It should be noted that the organisation did receive £192,000 in 2023/24 from Scottish Government to deliver the drugs and alcohol aspects of this proposed project.</p>
<p>Subsidy control</p>	<p>Grants with the potential to distort competition should be assessed in relation to Subsidy controls.</p> <p>Although the organisation is not the only organisation which delivers Advocacy and Human Rights training, the organisation is seeking to deliver their own SQA accredited award. It is not believed that this would distort competition. However, a full assessment should be conducted in the event of the organisation's proposal being taken forward for consideration.</p>

Fair Work First	<p><u>Fair Work First</u> is the Scottish Government’s policy for driving good quality and fair work across the labour market by applying specific criteria to grants (other funding and contracts), being awarded by and across the public sector. Fair Work First is applicable to all employers. New grant applicants should provide a statement committing to the Fair Work First criteria, and this should be signed by the appropriate worker or trade union representative. A new grant proposal should consider the relevance of the Fair Work First criteria to the organisation, and how they would meet related objectives through the course of the grant. It is a requirement for grant recipients to pay at least the real Living Wage and provide appropriate channels for effective voice to their workforce. If an application is successful, you should agree milestones for each of the Fair Work First criteria.</p> <p>The organisation has included a statement of compliance with Fair Work First principles.</p>
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<p>Outcomes</p>	<p>Articulate the expected outcomes (direct/indirect effects on the target group) and indicators that measure their achievement within an overall timeframe.</p> <p>The organisation outlines the outcomes of the Advocacy Award, however does not explicitly link how these will meet Scottish Government outcomes.</p> <p>Across pages 27 – 39 the organisation states it’s aims, objectives, and anticipated outputs and deliverables. However, it is difficult to fully understand how these are clearly aligned to Scottish Government outcomes or priorities.</p> <p>In Appendix 3 of the proposal the organisation states a number of Scottish Government priorities across the National Performance Framework, National Mission to Reduce Drug Related Deaths and Harms, Mental Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan, Foundations of the Promise, and Social Security Charter but does not explicitly indicate how it will contribute to these outcomes.</p> <p>The timeframe is unclear with objectives only stated for years 24/25, 25/26 and 26/27.</p>
<p>Evidence base</p>	<p>The proposal should be based on the best available evidence. Evidence should demonstrate poor outcomes under the status quo; the expected benefits and costs of the proposal; and the delivery options. Areas covered should include, as appropriate; economic impacts, social impacts, and environmental impacts.</p> <p>The organisation provides limited evidence of demand for their project. The organisation is currently delivering training outlined in this proposal on a smaller scale and does not provide evidence as to how increasing training will lead to more successful outcomes. It is not assessed that this will deliver more positive outcomes for Scottish Government than the status quo.</p>

Value for money	<p>overall costs, benefits and impacts should be taken together to demonstrate that the proposal provides value for money relative to the 'do nothing' option. In addition the relevant <u>Accountable Officer</u> must be able to defend the preferred option as providing value for money - within a <u>Best Value</u> regime - regarding the implementation of ministerial policy objectives.</p> <p>It is not possible to assess any value for money as there are no objectives, deliverables, or outputs identified for the project's lifespan.</p>
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<p>Risk assessment</p>	<p>The <u>risks</u> and uncertainties associated with the proposal e.g. the possibility that intended outcomes are not achieved and the risk that unintended and undesired outcomes may result. Risks to delivery chains/funding - including third party risks - must also be addressed with the overall aim of protecting the Scottish Government's interests.</p> <p>It appears the organisation is seeking 100% of its operational costs to be covered. Drugs Policy Division would not support this.</p> <p>The organisation outlines that it will deliver one day workshops to 900 per year and will deliver the Advocacy Award to 60 individuals per year. For 2024/25 this would mean an upscaling of delivering workshops to 650 additional individuals and upscaling of delivering the Award to 30 more individuals, as per the objectives set by Corra Foundation's funding. It is assessed that this would not be possible due to time restriction and workforce capacity.</p> <p>The organisation has not outlined any clear evidence of demand for its service. It estimates the number of individuals in each workforce area: 'Children Policy', 'Drugs and Alcohol Policy', 'Mental Health Policy' and 'Social Security Policy' but does not provide evidence of how it will reach this workforce, nor how much demand they have specifically from these areas.</p> <p>The organisation does however indicate that it 'has 281 individuals on record as having expressed an interest in accessing our qualification and training, as well as 150 candidate placement requests from organisations such as ADP Boards, NHS, Medical Doctors (GP's), and public and private sector organisations'. This is not assessed as meeting the demand for the amount of funding or project upscaling they identify in their proposal.</p> <p>There is a clear risk that the organisation is reliant on one source of funding, and not diversifying their income. Scottish Government clearly outlined in April 2023 that any expansion of work would need to clearly identify sustainability. It is understood that Corra Foundation stipulate</p>
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	<p>this within their current funding for the organisation.</p>
<p>Monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>Plans for monitoring and evaluation should be in place from the outset. Monitoring is primarily about data collection and should focus on key milestones. The evaluation plan should include some sense of what will transpire following the conclusion of the funding period together with the expected outcomes and the indicators that will be used to assess their achievement. Interim evaluations should be considered.</p> <p>For Drugs and Alcohol, the organisation does not clearly outline how it will monitor and evaluate the project, other than stating ‘Reach will use independent researchers to evaluate programmes and customer engagement activities.’</p> <p>The organisation has only provided expected outputs and deliverables and KPIs for years 2024/25, 2025/26, and 2026/27 for which they already receive funding for, albeit not to the same sum as outlined in their proposal. There are no outputs, deliverables, or KPIs indicated for the rest of the project identified.</p> <p>This in turn makes it difficult for the Division to understand how it will monitor and evaluate the anticipated outputs and deliverables of the project.</p>

<p>Exit strategy/ sustainability</p>	<p>What would be the scenario in the event of funding being discontinued at the end of the period. This may include funding activities from other sources or discontinuing activities that have run their course.</p> <p>There is no indication as to what the organisation’s exit strategy is or sustainability process in the event that funding is discontinued, or at the end of the 6 year period in which they identify. This is compounded by Corra Foundation’s condition for their current funding that they ensure project sustainability.</p> <p>Corra Foundation explicitly outlines within their grant offer letter to the organisation for current funding:</p> <p><i>‘As this award is close to the entire organisation’s turnover, the grant size decreases over the life of the award to steadily decrease reliance on this funding.</i></p> <p><i>The panels recommend that the organisation improves its financial planning and diversifies sources of income.</i></p> <p><i>This award is made subject to the following condition being met: Within the first year of this grant, a senior member of staff and at least one Trustee will undertake training in financial management.’</i></p> <p>Regarding post 2026 funding, the Drugs Policy Division concludes that “Confirmed funding beyond 2026 would be highly unlikely, and equally not strategic”. The Division has not agreed to any substantive funding post 2026 and has not agreed a concept for what commissioned organisations would look like post 2026.</p>
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Consultation	<p>Finance colleagues must be consulted on all new grant proposals - or any other proposals with financial implications - and their views must be recorded in submissions to Ministers. The views of stakeholders and potential delivery partners should also be obtained and reflected in advice to Ministers. The support of Analytical Services divisions should be sought in preparing new grant proposals and/or - where required - Pre Expenditure Assessments (PEAs). Internal Audit Division should be consulted on the proposed control regime following approval of the grant proposal.</p> <p>N.A Drugs Policy Division finance officers have conducted pre-assessment.</p> <p>Their assessment concludes:</p> <p>Overall, the evidence base provided in the proposal does not point towards this level of interest and for the reasons mentioned above this presents some risk in terms of delivery and achieving the desired outcomes. Although there is a risk section in the proposal, these are not associated to the project. At this stage, I would also flag value for money as a key consideration as without clarification of how the project will be scaled up and a sound evidence base of demand, it's not possible to determine if additional drugs policy funding is required over the next three years. In addition, there are several objective specific to REACH as an organisation that do not align to project delivery.</p>
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1. SMART objectives

Specific - objectives and targets should be precise and concrete enough not to be open to varying interpretations.

Measurable - objectives and targets should define a desired future state in measurable terms, so that it is possible to verify whether the objective or target has been achieved or not. Such objectives and targets are either quantified or based on a combination of description and scoring scales.

Accepted - if objectives and target levels are to influence behaviour, they must be accepted, understood, and interpreted similarly by all those who are expected to take responsibility for achieving them.

Realistic - objectives and target levels should be ambitious - setting an objective that only reflects the current level of achievement is not useful - but they should also be realistic so that those responsible for delivery see them as meaningful.

Time-dependent - objectives and target levels remain vague if they are not related to a fixed date or time period.

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From: Drugs and Alcohol Workforce Team <drugsandalcoholworkforce@gov.scot>
Sent: Wed 06/11/2024 10:08
To: Derek McCabe <derekmccabe@reachadvocacy.net>
Bcc: [redacted]
Subject: Reach Advocacy Commissioning Request

Dear Mr McCabe

Scottish Government Policy Officials have considered your recent business case proposal.

Your proposal has also been circulated to the relevant portfolio areas reporting to the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise and the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport to consider against their priority outcomes.

Drugs Policy Division

Drugs Policy Officials considered the potential value of your proposal to the National Mission to reduce drug deaths and improve lives. Whilst officials shared your view that a rights based approach should underpin service delivery across the country; the most appropriate way to achieve the desired capacity increase is identified as through exploration of alternative sources of funding. Local areas should ensure that appropriate training is being commissioned. It is assessed that such an approach, as previously advised, could not only support increased demand but would diversify income and ensure organisational sustainability.

Unfortunately we are therefore unable to support your recent submission for additional National Mission funding.

Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights

Scottish Ministers have committed to taking forward action to advance human rights now and lay the groundwork introduction of a future Human Rights Bill. We share Reach's views around the importance of human rights based approaches and have supported this work through a number of cross-cutting Scottish Government funds as the proposal outlines. Over the next period we will be prioritising actions outlined by SNAP2 and are therefore unable to proceed further with this proposal.

Directorate for Social Care and National Care Service Development - Advocacy, Access and Models of Care Unit and Rights and Accountability Unit

The Advocacy, Access and Models of Care Unit within the Social Care and National Care Service Development Directorate currently sponsors the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA), the membership body for independent advocacy organisations in Scotland, which provides training, information and advice to its members on a number of areas including human rights. While we would be interested in any learning to embed human rights in training for advocates through

the work you have set out, the main route through which we meet our objectives in relation to advocacy and human rights is through our work with SIAA.

Social Security – Cross Cutting Policy Unit

The Social Security Policy Division is not in a position to comment on the proposal on behalf of Social Security Scotland; the executive agency manages its own training and learning. In line with your request this proposal has not been shared with Social Security Scotland.

Scottish Government recognises the value of the work undertaken by REACH and are hopeful that your existing CORRA funding will allow you to increase project activity and long term sustainability.

If you wish to ask any further questions on this regarding specific policy areas please contact the relevant Ministerial mailboxes.

Kind Regards