

DOCUMENTS 202500473126

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 27 August 2024 15:57

To: Minister for Employment and Investment <ministerei@gov.scot>; [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Background Information for Tomorrow's Meeting with Edinburgh International Book Festival

Importance: High

Dear Minister Arthur and Team,

Please find attached the background information in preparation for tomorrow's meeting with [redacted – s.38(1)(b)], the Director of the Book Festival, and Board members [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s.38(1)(b)].

Best regards,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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LETTER TEXT:

FAO: Minister for Employment and Investment, Tom Arthur MSP

27 August 2024

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 29 November 2024 14:12
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Hello,

Thanks to Frank for your time earlier this week.

It would be get the proposed meeting in the diary - [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] is now back from leave so will be able to help get that sorted out. Noted that it would be helpful for us to articulate our specific need in context of lots of demand at present. We'd be pleased to discuss this further.

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

Thanks again for all your time on this, I appreciate you have many other fish to fry, and we look forward to seeing you post budget.

With best wishes,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 November 2024 13:52
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Could we find some time for a further discussion on this, perhaps after the budget is announced on Wednesday next week if that could work? We would like to bring in [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]who is our finance business partner, to bring his expertise to the figures you have provided and consider next steps.

We would be very happy to come to you or have you in St Andrews House to meet in person if that would work for you.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 20 November 2024 17:15

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

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Re: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 20 November 2024 15:53

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

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)][redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 20 November 2024 15:44

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

Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Thank you for this.

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]Thanks again, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 19 November 2024 09:37

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

Subject: Re: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Please see an updated paper and figures as requested outlining our current position.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Best wishes,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 15 November 2024 15:49
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Thank you, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]. That would be much appreciated.

All the best, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 15 November 2024 12:38
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)],

Thanks for this.

The BG money was explicitly for support of:

The schools programme, schools Gala Day, children's and young people's programme and the travel subsidy fund. None of this activity was economic - all was offered free of charge with the exception of the general children's programme - it is priced at £6 a ticket though so very heavily subsidized.

We can certainly provide the financials as requested. [redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

We'll endeavour to get those to you by the beginning of next week.

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:59 PM

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

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)], all

Just to follow on from my earlier email as we've now spoken to our subsidy control colleagues. Some questions came out of that discussion which it would be good to get your input on.

First, on the Baillie Gifford funding was this ring-fenced for any specific activity, that is, would the funding you have requested from SG to mitigate its loss be ring-fenced?

The reason we ask is that if any SG support was for non-economic activity then it could largely remove subsidy control issues from considerations. Schools programmes, community engagement, for example, could in theory be considered non-economic. If that funding was for non-economic activity then our primary concerns would be about availability of budget, which of course still presents significant challenges, but removing subsidy control considerations would simplify the questions we need to work through.

If SG funding was going to support economic activity then we would need to understand whether EIBF had received any public money in the last three years that would be considered Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) which would in turn affect permissible levels of funding.

It would also be helpful to understand more about your budget projections. Thank you for sending through those from your MYF application, but as I understand it these reflect a situation before the 2024 festival and before your relationship with Baillie Gifford ended. We have been looking at those alongside the information you sent previously including your projected run down of your reserves over 2025. [redacted – s.33(1)(b)]It would be helpful to have updated figures reflecting that position. We recognise a big unknown is the MYF process, so reflecting different scenarios depending on the outcome of that would be extremely helpful – perhaps standstill, 100% and somewhere in between. Finally, how those different scenarios then affect the position of your reserves would be helpful to include in the projections.

We are asking for these figures as, regardless of whether any support would be considered a subsidy or not, we need to ensure that public funds are not (in the language of our subsidy control colleagues) 'over-compensating' an organisation and that they reflect the minimum amount needed. You have stated in conversations that this is the case, but seeing these projections would help us to understand this in greater detail.

To re-emphasise, at this stage we are trying to understand the art of the possible and that includes both legal and budgetary considerations. We will move these processes on as quickly as we can.

Thanks again, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 14 November 2024 09:31
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

We have another conversation with our subsidy control colleagues later today to go through the various considerations around your request from their perspective. That should inform what is possible in terms of next steps.

We note your upcoming meeting dates and will come back to you as quickly as we can. I wouldn't want to make any promises in terms of timeframes, but understand the need for clarity and completely acknowledge the additional challenges introduced by the MYF process.

We'll be back in touch as soon as we can.

All the best, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 11 November 2024 11:52
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Thanks for being in touch. Good to know there are still things potentially moving off-camera..

Do you have any idea of the timeframe?

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]Any info you'd be able to provide in an advance of that date would be enormously helpful.

Thank you,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 3:49:48 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Dear all

A quick update so you're not completely in the dark. Thank you for sharing the documents.

We are taking advice from our subsidy control colleagues on what may or may not be do-able with this and we'll be back in touch once we have their input. Their assessment of whether support from SG would be classed as a subsidy will determine next steps, but is important in determining the art of the possible here.

If there are any further updates from your side they would be helpful to know.

Many thanks, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 14 October 2024 18:00
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: FW: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)] is on leave but asked me to send over our Multi-Year Funding application – strategic plan and summary budget.

Do come back to us if you'd like any further information, or this doesn't quite give you what you need.

All best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 2:11:51 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Hi EIBF colleagues

Just to follow up the conversation we had on 24 September. As I remember you were going to send some further background on your financial projections for the coming years and your MYF application. Maybe these were one and the same thing, but any further background you could share would be very helpful to see.

Many thanks, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 5:03 PM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang; Shona Riach

Subject: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

When: 24 September 2024 10:00-11:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

All

As per email exchanges – follow up conversation to the meeting with Mr Arthur on 28 August.

If there are specific issues you would like to include on an agenda let us know. From our perspective, we hope to get more into the detail of the financial issues you outlined.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 25 November 2024 14:40

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

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Re: SG-EIBF follow up discussion

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

That's great, thanks.

Is there any scope for a discussion before December 5th and our board meeting
[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

I appreciate you'll all be extremely busy around the budget but we could try for towards the end of this week or Monday / Tuesday of next if that was possible for you? Happy to come to St Andrews house of course.

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Edinburgh International Book Festival

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 20 February 2025 11:42

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>;

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: EIBF documentation

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Thanks for providing this information, just wanted to acknowledge receipt. Upon reading this morning it, across the board, appears to be exactly what will be helpful for getting an agreement from Mr Arthur, further to our meeting last week.

To say we are mindful of the definitive Board meeting you have first week of March for your budget this year, alongside papers going out for that during the middle of next week. We are working towards that timescale, both in terms getting what we need to sorted for submitting to the Minister and hopefully getting an agreement.

We'll stay in touch.

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 19 February 2025 18:42

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>;

Cc:[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: EIBF documentation

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] Frank,

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

With best wishes,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 May 2025 11:31

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>;

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Fw: Edinburgh International Book Festival - Scottish Government support

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

I just wanted to forward on this email again in case there was any issue with the setting of our grant? I wasn't clear from your email why budget setting for this FY would impact us.

Is there anyone else can progress this before next week?

The key issues for us are around receiving the funds asap as we go into our most expensive time of the year; and in relation to any media announcement SG would want to make. As per my email last week we have our programme launch announcements on 10 and 11 June and we need to get the comms timeline really clear, especially if there are EXPO announcements within that timeframe too. We'd expect to have the formal grant letter if not the grant itself before the announce.

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 March 2025 18:13
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>;
Subject: Edinburgh International Book Festival - Scottish Government support

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

I email further to our conversation earlier, your original proposal submitted to Scottish Government last year, and the conversations we have had over recent months.

Reflecting all of the above, I can confirm the Minister has agreed that a one off grant of £300,000 is to be provided to the Edinburgh International Book Festival. As per your proposal this would be provided ring-fenced to deliver your Schools Programme.

Prior to Ministerial agreement this request was discussed with our subsidy control officials who are content that your proposal complies with subsidy control requirements. I'd also want to emphasise Creative Scotland have been very supportive to us throughout this process.

With that in mind we can move to the practicalities of providing the funding, We can begin the process of drafting a grant letter to you and everything to follow after that, if you can bear with us on this point that would be appreciated, particularly as we are just about at our financial year end.

Alongside the practicalities will be the communication aspect. As we've discussed we would be looking to proactively announce this funding. My colleague in SG's Comms Team [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] is fully up to speed and happy to work with your

Head of Marketing as we discussed, if you can link them up that would be appreciated.

I appreciate you will want to share this news with your Board, just beyond that for now if you can ensure this is not shared more widely than is needed to. It will allow us to ensure the above is able to effectively be put into place by our comms colleagues.

Thanks and speak soon.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 02 June 2025 07:09

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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

Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Morning all,

Thanks so much for taking the time to meet on Friday.

As discussed, we are looking into the option of engaging with one of the services/schools for a ministerial moment, so do let us know when you have a date in mind, I will cross ref with our clash calendar and then we can hopefully get the ball rolling!

All the best and speak soon,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Date: Thursday, 29 May 2025 at 14:22

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SG grant to EIBF announcement

That works for me if [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]can also make that time?

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 29 May 2025 13:43
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc:[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Thanks [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]shall we say 10.30am?

Best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Thursday, 29 May 2025 at 13:15
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hello!

I'm afraid I'm not available but very happy for [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] to debrief me after you've spoken.

Huge thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2
Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 12:30:39 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Brilliant, I can make any time work before 2pm tomorrow so will pass over to [redacted – s.38(1)(b)].

Best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Thursday, 29 May 2025 at 12:29
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]– if you guys are around tomorrow, is there any time before 2pm that might suit?

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 27 May 2025 15:15
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

I hope this finds you well, and apologies for not having managed to make this meeting happen yet!

Do you have any availability at all this week?

Best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Date: Thursday, 8 May 2025 at 16:49

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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

Subject: RE: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Yes please – I've attached a couple of different options depending on your brochure need.

[attachments out of scope]

Next Tues at 3pm works for me, adding [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]to check they can make that as well.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 08 May 2025 16:40

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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

Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

One pressing thing is accreditation in the brochure. Would the SG expectation be we would carry a logo or other recognition (this would be separate and in addition to credits for Creative Scotland funding and the specific EXPO lines).

We're on brochure deadlines here so if we could just get that aspect nailed and then aim for a call early next week?

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 10:59:00 AM

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

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

Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hi all, I am afraid I have an event from 2pm tomorrow, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]perhaps you and I can catch up after, or alternatively I can do 3pm on Tuesday next week?

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

On 8 May 2025, at 10:55, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] wrote:

Hello!

I could do Friday afternoon at 3pm for a call?

Thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 May 2025 11:46

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Thanks for putting us in touch [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]– Friday afternoon clear for me if that works for you all?

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]**Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications**

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]| Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

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[<image001.png>](#) [<image002.png>](#) [<image003.png>](#) [<image004.png>](#) [<image005.png>](#) [<image006.png>](#)

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 07 May 2025 11:38
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Thanks very much for the intro and [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]lovely to e-meet you.

Given that time is of the essence, shall we try and arrange a quick chat this week?

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]what's your availability looking like on Friday?

Best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Wednesday, 7 May 2025 at 11:33
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: SG grant to EIBF announcement

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

I'm connecting you with our director of brand and audiences [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] and PR lead, [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] to move forward with comms for the grant we're gratefully receiving from SG.

Our challenge is we have not yet received the grant letter or the funds but we are pursuing this.

Still worth getting the comms conversation in motion I think as we are running into other comms announcements (our own programme launch on 10 and 11 June) and the EXPO announcements which are hopefully also imminent.

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Russell Bain
Sent: 21 May 2025 11:55
To: .[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Letter from Russell Bain

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Please find attached letter from Russell Bain, Deputy Director in the Scottish Government's Directorate for Culture and External Affairs.

Many thanks,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)] | Global Affairs and Policy Unit | International Futures Division
Directorate for Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh



LETTER TEXT:

Directorate for Culture and External Affairs
International Futures Division

Russell Bain



E: Russell.Bain@gov.scot

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Director and CEO

Edinburgh International Book Festival

121 George Street

Edinburgh

EH2 4YN

21/05/2025

Dear [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

I write in advance of your audit meeting on Friday and to follow on from your original funding proposal submitted to Scottish Government last year, and the conversations you have had with Scottish Government colleagues in recent months.

To confirm in writing, the Minister for Employment and Investment, as lead Minister for decisions on funding the Edinburgh International Book Festival, has agreed a one-off grant of £300,000 is to be provided to the Edinburgh International Book Festival during this financial year (2025/26). As per your proposal this would be provided ring-fenced for your organisation to deliver your Schools Programme.

Prior to ministerial agreement, this request was discussed with subsidy control officials who are content that your proposal complies with subsidy control requirements. I'd also want to emphasise Creative Scotland have been very supportive to us throughout this process.

We are currently working through the due diligence process with colleagues in our finance division which must be completed ahead the funds being released. The process is progressing and will happen as soon as possible. Until this has concluded we are not able to issue you with the grant offer letter and make arrangements for the transfer of the funding to you.

To assure you also, this is not happening in isolation with your grant, it is part of the same due diligence process that the EXPO funding programme is going through, as well a number of other funding commitments across both the culture portfolio and other portfolios within the Scottish Government.

In the meantime, I hope that final preparations for your 2025 programme launch are going well and we will be back in touch with you as soon as possible.

Kind Regards

Russell Bain

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 13 June 2025 10:21
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: SG update

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

If you are happy to then I'm equally happy if you want to bring both [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s.33(1)(b)] up to speed - in confidence - on this. Key part of this one off support is giving you that platform to build from it, so in advance of the announcement what you feel is going to put you in the best place to utilise it, we'll support. I spoke to [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] on Wed for just a general catch up so can just say we've spoken and this follows on from that.

Once we get things into place, funding released by Cab Sec Finance, and a date confirmed for an announcement I'll make sure [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] at CEC gets the details in advance, that part can be left with us.

Thanks and I'll be back in touch as soon as possible.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 12 June 2025 15:05
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: SG update

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Great, thanks for keeping us updated.

Obviously we've had a few enquiries around our funding during our launch so we've been vague and only said in broad terms we've been grateful for increased support from Scottish Government and Creative Scotland. It will be good to be able to be clear about it.

I can discuss directly with [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] We'd also make [redacted – s.33(1)(b)] aware, as a major supporter, and a couple of specific benefactors who like to hear how this aspect of our work is going too.

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 11 June 2025 16:22

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: SG update

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

I wanted to give you an update on the SG funding, we are just awaiting Ministerial sign off to release a package of culture funding from our overall portfolio allocation which includes the EXPO fund and also the one off funding. I'm hopeful it'll be fairly imminent on both Expo and the one off funding and then we can release the actual funding to you, as soon as I have more I'll let you know. As you know our respective comms teams are lining things up in the meantime.

Particularly conscious in making sure we position this announcement in the best way we can for both yourselves and within the broader sector. It would be helpful to know from your perspective if there's anyone to bring up to speed before an announcement is made public that you would want to do.

To let you know I met [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] at CEC last week for a catch up and – confidentially – made him aware this was happening soon. I've also spoken to [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] at FE and, without going into specifics, said to them confidentially also that we are working with you on a specific funding piece – would be one to make aware before the announcement is made which I'm happy to. We

obviously have worked closely with Creative Scotland on this so they are fully aware too.

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 24 June 2025 19:39

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] **Subject:** Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)], I think that works well, thank you.

Best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Date: Tuesday, 24 June 2025 at 19:34

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: Catch up - tomorrow

Many thanks [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]– have suggested amend in red below just to clarify that point (drawing on [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]'s programme intro), if that works for you?

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s.25(1)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 24 June 2025 18:50

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Apologies for the slight delay, and of course. Over 5000 school children are anticipated to attend the festival this August and will enjoy a range of events while on site, some of these free - like in the Discovery Zone which features a range of interactive events, from lessons in mending

clothes to writing letters and making postcards - and others ticketed. And for the events with the £4 ticket price attached, teachers and librarians can for free tickets for pupils whose families are unable to cover ticket costs.

Happy to grab a chat if helpful.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Tuesday, 24 June 2025 at 18:17
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi all - just had a call from [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] querying the Over 5000 to benefit from free events intro, and where this number has come from, given the £4 fee for tickets unless teachers and librarians apply?

Can you clarify ASAP? Release is due to go at 10 tomorrow but I can't put anything out until we've got clarity on this.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 4:43:34 PM
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] understood, thank you, and thanks for your patience!

In which case yes, if you could please link to this <https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/about-us> that would be great.

And with that I can confirm we are happy with the release, so it can go to [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Monday, 23 June 2025 at 15:54
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Catch up - tomorrow

Length aside we also have to consider tone, given it's a government release – so anything written in a PR-sense will need editing (in a way that likely makes it not exciting or engaging).

If your boiler plate already exists online I would say simplest to just to link reporters to that.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 23 June 2025 15:30

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] thanks for clarifying – would there be space to include a single / couple of paragraphs in place of what's in there (the 'About Edinburgh International Book Festival' section) currently?

And noted on timings, thank you.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Date: Monday, 23 June 2025 at 15:04

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: Catch up - tomorrow

Thanks [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] – assuming you mean the bit in background, we can't include something of that length in our general release but will include link to the Schools Programme page, if there's another link to information about the festival or media/press page I can add that as well. Otherwise happy to email boilerplate to [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] separately (making clear it's on your behalf) if you like.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 23 June 2025 14:56

To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Juts to say we have a final version of our boilerplate we would like included, and aiming to get this to you asap! Apologies if this comes to you slightly after 3pm.

In the meantime, could you confirm what timings are for this, is this going to [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] on Wednesday?

Best,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Monday, 23 June 2025 at 13:18
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Catch up - tomorrow

Thanks [redacted – s.38(1)(b)], added some of that in.

Hopefully Google doc has updated and you're seeing what I'm seeing – if so I would ask for any final comments by 3pm today.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 23 June 2025 05:40
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Further to the below I have a short para similar to that for the Children's programme if helpful:

Across four days the programme champions creativity, diversity, and curiosity with more than 60 in-person and livestreamed events. Highlights include appearances by favourites like How to Train Your Dragon author Cressida Cowell, award-winning storyteller Frank Cottrell-Boyce, and inspiring voices such as Omar Sharif and Joseph Coelho. Alongside author talks and creative workshops, there's a whole world to discover in the Discovery Zone, packed with free, hands-on activities for all ages.

Best,

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Friday, 20 June 2025 at 16:42
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Great – here are some suggestions –

Cressida Cowell – event info: learn some epic writing and drawing tips from Cressida as she shares her secrets, chats about what inspires her, and reveals some exclusive behind the scenes stories from the new live action film based on her smash-hit book series.

Joseph Coelho – Children's Laureate with a focus on ancient myths, storytelling, and narrative power - *The Boy Lost in the Maze* - supports literacy, cultural studies, and myth

Omar Sharif – event: From the Streets to Success - Real-life story addressing gang culture, resilience, and decision-making – PSHE and wellbeing.

Maisie Chan - event: Blast to the Past - Introduces WWI themes through fiction – ideal for History curriculum.

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Friday, 20 June 2025 at 15:12
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Catch up - tomorrow

Thanks [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] – yes, happy for you to suggest a couple of names that you think would be good to highlight.

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 20 June 2025 14:44
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] – the children’s programme and the school’s programme are 2 different things.

This is a link to the schools programme which may well be useful to include in your press release - https://learning.edbookfest.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/PP_EIBF_Schools-Brochure-2025-VFINAL_APPROVED-v3UPDATED.pdf

There are various names in the event listings there – would you like us to go through and suggest a few?

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Friday, 20 June 2025 at 13:44
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Catch up - tomorrow

Thanks [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] – on this bit:

The programme explores a variety of curriculum-led topics with some of the best authors, illustrators and thinkers writing for children and young people today.

Are there any names we could reference? E.g.

This year’s children’s programme will also include more than 100 exciting events for young readers, including from legendary children’s authors such as Michael Rosen, Jacqueline Wilson, and How to Train Your Dragon’s Cressida Cowell. There are also dozens of free, drop-in events, including the return of the popular Are You Sitting Comfortably? and Bookbug storytimes, a chance to go wild with National Museums Scotland, and the opportunity to meet beloved characters including Pikachu, the Gruffalo, and Supertato.

[Edinburgh International Book Festival announces Repair as theme for 2025 programme that puts it at the heart of the cultural conversation | Creative Scotland](#)

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 20 June 2025 13:26
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hello all,
Here is the google doc press release with our feedback in it. Please do let me know if you have questions around any of it.
[redacted – s.33(1)(b)] We'll also share a selection of images as discussed.

Thanks
[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Date: Thursday, 19 June 2025 at 18:16
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Thanks [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Here's a Zoom link:

Any problems at all, please just pop me a line. Otherwise, look forward to chatting to you tomorrow.

Best wishes,

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 19 June 2025 14:59
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

Thanks for the quick reply – that time works for us.

Yes that would be great, feel free to send a zoom link over.

Speak to you then.

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 19 June 2025 14:27
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Re: Catch up - tomorrow

Hello [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

A chat would be great, thank you for the offer.

At our end, we all look free from 1-2pm tomorrow, so if you could let us know your preferred time in that slot, that would be great.

We'd be happy to set up a Zoom link if that would be useful?

Thanks and best wishes,
[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 13:22
To: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Catch up - tomorrow

Hi [redacted – s.38(1)(b)]

I know there's been a few emails and various parts of proposed comms activity being arranged at the moment, could we see with all that in mind if there's a moment we can all chat through what's there, what is to be put in place and how – for all of us – we can do it in the way which works best, especially around this one-off funding announcement?

From diaries here [redacted – s.38(1)(b)] & I look pretty free anytime from 12:00-14:30 tomorrow if there's a time that suits?

Thanks

[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]
