

## Doc 1

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

**Sent:** 06 May 2025 09:10

**To:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

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

**Subject:** RE: Engagement Opportunity - Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

Hi [redacted – 38(1)(b)],

Now all confirmed in calendar, for the passes can you send them to Parliament room T4.04, but only if they will arrived on the Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Also Think [redacted – 38(1)(b)] will also be attending as PS support.

Regards,

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Private Secretary to Jenni Minto MSP

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

1E.10 | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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

**Sent:** 02 May 2025 15:36

**To:** Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

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

**Subject:** RE: Engagement Opportunity - Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

Thanks [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

### **12:45pm – 6pm excluding travel.**

It's a sit down meal from 1pm so the Minister would need to be at Hampden Park for about **12:45pm**. Assuming no extra time the game will finished 4:50pm or so, followed by trophy presentation. The Minister should be able to get away for about **6pm** once the traffic has calmed slightly.

Extra time and penalties would add a good 45 minutes to the departure time, if the match ends in a draw [redacted – 30(b)(ii)]

**Could you confirm where you want the Minister's President's Suite and Car Park passes sent to please.**

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

**Sent:** 02 May 2025 15:21

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>;

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

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

**Subject:** RE: Engagement Opportunity - Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

Hi all

Confirming Ms Minto can go to this.

[redacted – 38(1)(b)] – grateful if you can share details with [redacted – 38(1)(b)] so they can be added to her diary.

Thanks

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**Private Secretary**

**The Scottish Government**

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

0131 244 [redacted – 38(1)(b)], [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

**Sent:** 02 May 2025 09:29

**To:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

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

**Subject:** RE: Engagement Opportunity - Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

Hi [redacted – 38(1)(b)],

Mr Gray send his apologies but he will not be able to on this occasion, but feels there should be ministerial representation if possible. I understand Ms Todd is also unavailable so I have copied in Ms Minto's PO for their consideration.

Thanks,

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil Gray MSP**

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | E: CabSecHSC@gov.scot | T: [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

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

**Sent:** 23 April 2025 15:25

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>;

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

<MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

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

**Subject:** Engagement Opportunity - Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

PS/Mr Gray

PS/Ms Todd

The SFA has sent in an invitation to attend the Scottish Cup final on 24<sup>th</sup> May. The FM will be attending the Scottish Women's Cup final on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. Would Mr Gray or Ms Todd wish to attend the men's final between Aberdeen and Celtic on the Saturday? **An early response would be extremely helpful in allowing the SFA to plan for the event, given demand will be extremely high.**

While there is no official role for Ministers, the event provides a good opportunity to engage with the football authorities and other invited stakeholders on current issues.

Full briefing and official support would of course be provided.

Thanks

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Mob: [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@scottishfa.co.uk>

**Sent:** 23 April 2025 15:08

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

**Cc:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@scottishfa.co.uk>

**Subject:** Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

Hi [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Below is the information for the Scottish Cup Final (Men's). If you can let me know if anyone from the Government wants to attend; it is a sit down meal so we will be limited on what we can do last minute on this one and we are expecting a full lounge also so any help would be appreciated.

Cheers

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 23 April 2025 10:16

**Subject:** Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

**Aberdeen FC vs Celtic FC**

Men's Scottish Cup Final

24 May 2025 ko 3pm

Hampden Park


The President would like to invite you and a guest to the President's Lounge for the Scottish Cup Final.


If you could respond via the link below, I would be grateful.


I attach additional information and the deadline for responding is Tuesday 6 May 2025.

Kind regards

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]  
Head of Business Support  
Scottish Football Association

 +44 141 616 [redacted – 38(1)(b)] |  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

 [redacted –  
38(1)(b)]@scottishfa.co.uk

 Hampden Park, Glasgow, G42 9AY,  
Scotland



[www.scottishfa.co.uk](http://www.scottishfa.co.uk)

## Doc 2

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

**Sent:** 20 May 2025 11:32

**To:** Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

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

**Subject:** RE: Engagement Opportunity - Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

Hi [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Briefing attached for Saturday. We do not yet have a note of who the Minister will be seated beside at lunch and during the game. We expect to get this on Thursday and can update the brief at that point.

If the Minister's passes do not arrive by Thursday lunchtime, please let us know so we can make alternative arrangements.

FYI the FM is attending the women's cup final on the Sunday.

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

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Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

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Mob: [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Doc 3

**ENGAGEMENT TITLE: MEN'S SCOTTISH CUP FINAL 2025**

<b>Date and Time of Engagement</b>	Saturday 24 May 2025  1245-1800 (approx.)  Match is due to finish around 1645 (unless there is 30 minutes extra-time and penalties in the event of a draw), following which there will be the trophy presentation. There will be severe congestion around the stadium for a time after the event.
<b>Where</b>	Hampden Park, Letherby Drive, Glasgow, G42 9BA
<b>Who</b>	Mike Mulraney, President, Scottish FA Ian Maxwell, CEO, Scottish FA Leslie Gray, Vice-President, Scottish FA Neil Doncaster, SPFL Members of the Celtic FC Board Members of the Aberdeen FC Board
<b>Key Purpose / Message</b>	<i>Recognise the significant impact of football in supporting the nation's health and in delivering positive outcomes for their local communities.</i>
<b>Top Facts / Figures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football is Scotland's number 1 sport, with over 2,500 clubs spread across the country.</li> <li>• Currently there are over 150,000 registered players, with a further 50,000 coaches and volunteers.</li> <li>• If we also include the number of recreational participants, parents, fans, and influencers in the local community, the Scottish FA estimates that football clubs' impact on more than 900,000 people on a weekly basis</li> </ul>
<b>Sensitivities</b>	Football Banning Orders & Pyrotechnics Alcohol at football grounds Investment in facilities
<b>Media Handling</b>	Although the match will attract considerable media attention, the President's function is a non-media event
<b>Suggested tweet</b>	Suggest any supportive tweet be pre-match, wishing both sides luck for the final
<b>Official Support</b>	[redacted – 38(1)(b)], Head of Active Scotland Mob: [redacted – 38(1)(b)]
<b>Dress code</b>	Business attire [redacted – 30(b)(i)]
<b>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival</b>	[redacted – 38(1)(b)] will meet the Minister on arrival

<b>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/parking arrangements</b>	The Minister will receive a parking pass with clear instructions – it will either be for the underground car park or the main Hampden car park
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#### **Briefing Contents**

<b>Annex A</b>	Event programme
<b>Annex B</b>	Summary Page
<b>Annex C</b>	<p>Key Topics (football):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power of Football</li> <li>• Equality &amp; Diversity in Sport</li> <li>• FBOs and Pyrotechnics</li> <li>• Sectarianism</li> <li>• Alcohol at football</li> <li>• Cashback</li> <li>• Facilities</li> <li>• FIFA Women's World Cup</li> <li>• School Age Childcare Investment</li> </ul>
<b>Annex D</b>	Attendees and Biographies

**Programme**

- 1245 Minister to arrive and met by [redacted – 38(1)(b)] who will guide the Minister to the President’s Suite.  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)] will introduce the Minister to key stakeholders.
- 1300 A seated lunch will be served.  
Sitting at the same table as the Minister will be:  
Tbc
- 1445 Guests will be asked to take their match seats in the Directors box.  
The Minister will be seated next to tbc
- 1500 Kick-off
- 1545 Half-time – refreshments will be available. Further engagement opp.
- 1600 Second-half
- 1645 Full-time (unless there is extra time and penalties)
- 17:10 Trophy presentation
- 17:45 Minister is free to leave, although there will be severe congestion around the stadium for some time following the end of the event.

### Summary Page

The Scottish FA and SPFL regularly invite Ministers to key football matches, particularly international games and domestic cup semi-finals and finals.

Aberdeen will play Celtic in this years cup final. Aberdeen beat Hearts 2-1 in their semi-final while Celtic beat St Johnstone 5-0.

Celtic are the defending Champions having won the last two Scottish Cups and lead the way on 42 Cup wins, having also won in 6 of the last 8 seasons. Aberdeen have won the cup 7 times with the last win in 1990, although they were runners-up in 2017 where they lost to Celtic 2-1.

Both the men's and women's Scottish Cup competitions are sponsored by Scottish Gas.

### Agenda

This is an event rather than a meeting so there is no set agenda. The format pre-match and at half-time will be informal engagement, and the Minister will have the opportunity to speak with the Scottish FA President, Chief Executive and senior staff before and during the match.

The Scottish FA may be likely to engage the Minister on:

- Our joint work with football on tackling pyrotechnics and disorder, and football banning orders
- The proposed hosting of the 2035 FIFA Women's World Cup
- Their plans for facilities investment across the country.

The SPFL will also be in attendance and may engage the Minister regarding their proposals to reintroduce alcohol into football stadia

### Sensitivities

#### FBOs, Disorder and Pyrotechnics

In the 2025 Programme for Government, the Scottish Government has committed to hold a consultation on reviewing the legislation on football banning orders. Pyrotechnic misuse is the key issue concerning the football authorities, Scottish Government and Police Scotland. **Annex C section 3** includes our current lines on reviewing Football Banning Orders and pyrotechnics misuse.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, after the end of the Dundee Utd vs Aberdeen league game which Utd won, Aberdeen player Jack MacKenzie was injured after being hit by part of a stadium seat thrown from the Aberdeen fans section of the ground. The incident is being investigated by Police Scotland and the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) have already publicly commented that they expect there to be sanctions following their match delegate's report. The SPFL has already issued sanctions – in the form of reduced ticket allocations - to Rangers, Celtic and Motherwell

this season following the misuse of pyrotechnics at the league cup semi-finals at Hampden in November.

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice will be holding a round table meeting at Easter Road stadium on 17<sup>th</sup> June to discuss with key stakeholders our approach to tackling disorder related to football. Invitations have yet to be issued but will include SFA.

[Redacted – 30(b)(i)]

#### Facilities Investment

It remains our ambition to meet the commitment to double the sport and active living budget. The 2025-26 Budget underlines our ongoing commitment to Sport and Active Living by protecting the investment, despite the unprecedented fiscal pressure. In October the Scottish Government and CoSLA jointly published the Physical activity for health: framework, through which we will support a range of actions at both national and local level to enable people to unlock the many physical and mental benefits of being active.

The SFA will receive a further £9m in capital investment from DCMS in 2025-26, taking total investment to £29m in football facilities over the last 5 years. The SFA have set a target of £50m investment over the next 5 years and are keen to explore options with the SG. Our general position is that at this time we do not have the capital available to provide additional investment for football facilities and that, were capital to become available, we would need to consider options for investment in sports facilities more widely. We have however put the SFA in touch with the SNIB to enable a conversation about the potential for investment there.

**Key Topics Briefing****1. The Power of Football**

The network of football across Scotland is vast. Football is the country's number 1 sport, with over 2,500 clubs spread across the country. Currently there are over 150,000 registered players, with a further 50,000 coaches and volunteers. If we also include the number of recreational participants, parents, fans, and influencers in the local community, the Scottish FA estimates that football clubs' impact on more than 900,000 people on a weekly basis.

The unique reach of football and its ability to deliver across Scottish Government portfolios, offers a platform to influence and develop Scottish society and impact on a wide number of key thematic areas, both on and off the pitch. Scottish football has a track record of delivering on Scottish Government national and local outcomes through projects and programmes such as the following:

- Cashback programmes (Justice)
- Time to tackle (Mental Health)
- Out of School Childcare (Ayr United Project initially, a further £4m rollout in 2025 and £5m in 25-26)
- Football Memories Group (Dementia/Mental Health)
- Climate Action & Sustainability (Environment)
- Learning through Football – (Education)
- Coach Education & Development (Education)
- ParaFootball (Equalities)
- Go Fitba (Community)
- Football for All (Health)

These examples have delivered a mix of national and local outcomes, with key partners from the public and social sectors engaged. The projects and programs have been recognised by national and international partners as best practice, with a reach far beyond the traditional sporting boundaries, tackling areas such as increasing physical activity levels, addressing food insecurity, improving mental health, engaging young people, reducing offending etc.

Existing programmes such as the work carried out by Cashback and community football clubs with the Fair Play Foundation and Network Rail have demonstrated a commitment to work with communities to use the power of football to engage, inspire and educate, and to improve the lives of our participants and the communities they live in.

Scotland has some of the best community football clubs in Europe, organisations that are deep rooted in their community, which help support players, coaches, volunteers, and parents. The role of our clubs within society is fundamental and can often connect communities far beyond other statutory and non-statutory organisations. The breadth and diversity of the communities that these clubs service is considerable, and many operate within areas of significant deprivation.

During the Covid pandemic, many of these organisations very quickly pivoted from delivering football sessions to delivering food parcels and providing hope for many in their locale. The main motivation for our clubs is evident – they wish to serve and better their local community and use the power of football to help impact on the lives of so many.

Furthermore, the Social Return on Investment (SROI) model, created by UEFA offers football the opportunity to demonstrate impact at a national, regional, and local level more effectively than ever before. The SROI model outlines that community football in Scotland is worth £728 million per annum and has significant Health, Social and Economic outcomes – from this report and similar national and club models, it's clear that community football clubs are key to the fabric of society in Scotland and this monetary and social value, is reflected across much of Europe.

### Strategic Partnership with the Scottish FA - Background

The Scottish Government is working in partnership with the Scottish FA to try to use the unique reach of football in Scottish society to positively impact both physical and mental health and to improve the wellbeing of our communities. The partnership aims to deliver benefits in education and attainment, justice outcomes, the local and national economy, employability and climate change/net zero. Mr Gray will be chairing his first meeting with the partnership group in June.

The partnership recognises that the work of the SFA contributes to a wide range of Scottish Government portfolios and policy areas, as well as to local priorities and outcomes, and seeks to bring what is a considerable number of transactional engagements with government under a strategic umbrella which recognises the cross-portfolio contribution of these areas of work.

There is considerable synergy with the current “Whole Systems Approach” to physical activity and population health, which necessitates engagement across sectors to achieve our objectives. The governing body for European football, UEFA, is very interested in this potential partnership, which we understand could be the first of its kind. The SFA's innovative approach to using football as a positive force is also represented in their current work with UEFA, the Scottish National Investment Bank and Big Issue Invest in developing the Social Outcome Contracting/Social Investment concept for football which, if it comes to fruition, could be an important component in the delivery of the benefits referred to above.

For football the key challenges include affordability with the ongoing cost of sports participation, combined with the rising cost of living; the accessibility of suitable facilities for clubs, compounded by increased participation demand; and the ongoing challenge of recruiting and retaining volunteers to support increased participation.

The challenges for Government where football can (continue to) play a key role are in the move from reactive to preventative health care, including tackling societal issues of obesity and more people suffering from mental health issues; support for and empowerment of local communities; development of long term sustainable models to reduce pressure on the public purse; and addressing inequalities and increased cost of living.

Given the reach of football into communities right across Scotland, and the numbers involved every week, we recognise the considerable scope for the partnership to deliver on a wide range of policy outcomes and would recommend continuing to work with the SFA on this.

## **2. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Sport**

The Scottish Government and our national agency for sport, sportscotland, passionately believe that sport and physical activity is for everyone. However, we recognise that certain groups of the population remain less likely to be physically active than others. This is true for many women, ethnic minorities, members of the LGBTQI+ community, individuals from lower SIMD areas, and those with disabilities. It remains a priority for the Scottish Government to address inequalities in participation to sport and physical activity.

The Scottish Government is also clear that sport must be a respectful and welcoming for all – not just participants, but officials, coaches, spectators and volunteers.

Sportscotland, alongside wider UK Sport Councils have created the Moving to Inclusion Framework. This Framework helps governing bodies of sport (SGBs) to tackle inequalities and enhance participation across groups. sportscotland are supporting over 40 SGBs with wrap-around support to implement the new Framework. This support includes access to a mentor who has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion in a sport and physical activity context.

sportscotland has also announced a new relationship with the race discrimination charity, Sporting Equals. This is part of the ongoing commitment to tackle race inequality in sport and physical activity. The partnership will strive to increase levels of knowledge, awareness and understanding of the issues within sport. It will aim to give sports, clubs and communities the confidence to identify and tackle race inequalities and racism.

Wider engagement with Scottish Disability Sport, Scottish Women in Sport, and LEAP Sports Scotland is also undertaken to help address wider barriers to sport and physical activity across other underrepresented groups.

### **Top Lines**

- Sport is a powerful force for good in society, and we recognise the fundamental physical, social, and mental health benefits that come from being physically active.
- Sport provides opportunities for people to connect with their neighbourhoods, coming together in shared activities which inspire and motivate, helping to reduce social isolation and build community cohesion.
- Football, in particular, has a special resonance in our communities. As our national sport, football is a game enjoyed by countless Scots, and one that wields enormous social power.
- The unique and powerful reach offers a platform, and an incredible opportunity, to influence and develop Scottish society for the better, both on and off the pitch.



### 3. Football Banning Orders and Pyrotechnics

#### Background

Ministers have now considered proposals to amend Football Banning Order (FBO) legislation and, taking on board the need to follow full and proper procedures for developing and delivering legislation, have now instructed officials to develop and deliver a public consultation on FBOs with the public and civic Scotland on revising the current FBO legislation with a view to improving their effectiveness and to ensure they remain fit for purpose. This consultation would have a specific focus on using FBOs to tackle the misuse of pyrotechnics and the commitment to delivering this has been included in the Programme for Government published on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Specifically, the Programme for Government commitment is to “Begin a full consultation with the public and civic Scotland on revising the current legislation on Football Banning Orders to improve their effectiveness, make sure that they can be applied in response to the misuse of pyrotechnics at football and ensure they remain fit for purpose.”

We will be seeking to take forward the consultation as soon as feasible, this would normally last for 12 weeks. The findings from this will be used to consider next steps including whether legislative changes should be developed and, if so, what these changes should include. It is of course important to recognise that at this stage we cannot predict who will form the next Scottish government, and that a new government is not obliged to continue the policies of the existing government. However, regardless of who forms the next Scottish government the consultation will provide an evidence base which can be used to inform future decisions.

#### Key Points:

- FBO legislation has been in place since 2006. It is right that we periodically review such legislation to ensure it remains fit for purpose and responds to changing football fan behaviour.
- The review gives us an opportunity establish whether the legislation is working effectively and, if not, identify what changes are required.
- anyone who wishes to contribute to the review will have an opportunity to provide views and evidence – including individual fans, fans groups, clubs and anyone else with an interest
- No date has been set for the public consultation, however, we are will be looking to take this forward as quickly as feasibly possible.
- We do not have a specific timeframe for how long the review will take and recognise that there will be restrictions on what can be taken forward in the run up to the Scottish elections in 2026. However, it is our aim to progress this as quickly as is feasible.
- No legislative changes can be made until the next Scottish Government is appointed and taking forward action in this area is of course dependent on that government maintaining continuity with current Scottish Government policy in this area.
- We are particularly concerned about the growing, and dangerous, issue of pyrotechnic misuse at football matches and the review will specifically look at whether FBOs form an effective penalty for such behaviour.

The misuse of pyrotechnics is a serious issue which will require a collective and concerted effort to eradicate. Police Scotland, football authorities and Scottish Government officials have been, and will continue to, work in partnership to develop a cohesive response to this issue. This includes joint participation in the Pyrotechnics (Football) Short Life Working Group established by Police Scotland.

Additionally, we provided stop and search powers under the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 and are exploring options including how existing available measures, such as Football Banning Orders, could be utilised to greater effect and whether further measures are needed, and the SPFL Trust is developing a pyrotechnics education programme to be delivered through clubs to those with Football Banning Orders or club bans for pyrotechnic misuse.

Around 100,000 people attend football each week and the vast majority simply want to enjoy a day out watching their team. While disorder issues are high profile, they are undertaken by a very small percentage of fans. However, we recognise that disorder, abusive and antisocial behaviour associated with football are long standing problems and we have recently seen an escalation in dangerous misuse of pyrotechnics in football grounds. This cannot simply be ignored.

Concerns that the misuse of pyrotechnics will lead to someone in Scotland being maimed for life or killed are real. Police, football authorities, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal service and Scottish Government are all represented on the groups noted above and coordination of activity is therefore taking place to make the most of the resources available to address this issue.

### Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022

Under the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 the possession and use of pyrotechnics at matches is a criminal offence, the Act also gave Police Scotland additional powers of stop and search to prevent those carrying pyrotechnics from entering football stadia and I expect the short life working group to assess the effectiveness of this.

These stop and search powers came into effect in October 2022 and the possession offence came into force in June 2023. We have asked Police Scotland's Pyrotechnics (Football) Short Life Working Group to give full consideration to this matter, to both establish the effectiveness of existing powers and identify what more needs to be done.

However, it is important that we recognise that there is no single action which will provide an easy resolution to the problem of pyrotechnic misuse at football, and that is why I am pleased that police, football authorities and the Scottish Government are working together to identify holistic approaches to tackling this issue and working together with everyone playing their part.

### Scottish Football Clubs and Authorities

Scottish football clubs invest heavily in safety and security measures in and around their stadiums to ensure the safety of football fans attending games across the country. When unacceptable behaviour occurs the clubs themselves can take action to eject and ban supporters from their stadium.

Additionally, the SPFL Trust is developing a pyrotechnics education programme to be delivered through clubs to those with Football Banning Orders or club bans for pyrotechnic misuse. Also, a partnership including police and football authorities is helping develop joint communications strategy to ensure everyone knows that pyrotechnic misuse is illegal, dangerous and carries consequences.

### Designated pyrotechnic areas

The expert advice that we have received is clear that there are dangers attached to any use of pyrotechnics by spectators in stadia. In 2017, an independent study, commissioned by UEFA and the Football Supporters Europe (FSE), was authored by Dr Tom Smith of the British Pyrotechnic Association, and involved the assistance of other international independent experts. It concluded that there are no such things as safe pyrotechnics when used in close proximity to other people and in contravention of stated safety distances.

Even so-called 'safe' pyrotechnics reach extreme temperatures and can cause all the risks associated with pyrotechnic misuse. We therefore do not agree that any type of pyrotechnic should be allowed in stadia, or that there should be designated areas in which pyrotechnics can be legally used by fans. Public safety is currently best protected by not allowing pyrotechnics to be used by spectators, and rather enjoying professional pyrotechnic displays put on by the clubs themselves.

All pyrotechnics are dangerous and have the potential to cause harm and injury. We are therefore not considering this or any other model that may normalise the use of these dangerous and harmful items at football matches.

### Communications

A partnership including police and football authorities is helping develop joint communications strategy to ensure everyone knows that pyrotechnic misuse is illegal, dangerous and carries consequences.

### Strict liability

Clubs and governing bodies should use their influence to ensure the behaviour of their fans both within and outside of the stadium is respectful and does not break the law. We are not currently proposing to take steps to financially penalise clubs for the behaviour of their fans, that is a matter for football governing bodies, but the option of introducing strict liability remains on the table and we look to clubs and governing bodies to do all they can to positively influence fan behaviour.

The vast majority of football supporters are well behaved, the Scottish FA strengthened their Unacceptable Conduct regulations to ensure football clubs are doing all they can to reduce anti-social and unacceptable behaviour in their grounds.

If a club falls short of meeting the required standards sanctions can be imposed. The SPFL have brought sanctions to Celtic, Rangers and Motherwell football clubs for pyrotechnic misuse at the League Cup semi-finals in November. We believe this is a positive step forward and have seen a positive reaction regarding pyrotechnic misuse following those decisions.

## 4. Tackling Sectarianism

### **Background:**

- The Scottish Government is committed to tackling all forms of sectarianism, however, this specific policy area currently only covers intra-Christian sectarianism.
- Intra-Christian sectarianism is a long standing, historical problem in Scotland which has its roots in the religious, racial, cultural and political differences between Protestant and Catholic communities in Scotland.
- Sectarianism is a societal problem, it manifests itself across the whole of society, including but not confined to football, and therefore approaches to tackling it cannot be confined to one area.
- The roots of sectarianism can always ultimately be traced back to religion, but this is often not clear from modern manifestations which are most visible around areas such as football and marches and parades.
- Therefore, sectarianism is not simply Catholic/Protestant, it can also include Loyalist/Irish Republican; Celtic/Rangers; British/Irish; and so forth. Usually it will be a mix of several different elements.

### **Top Lines:**

- We condemn all threatening, offensive or bigoted behaviour wherever it takes place.
- Since 2016 we have invested funding of over £4.8 million in work to tackle sectarianism.
- This work has always had a strong focus on working with children, young people and adults in schools, workplaces, communities and prisons.
- The Minister for Victims and Community Safety provided £402,000 of funding to deliver work to tackle sectarianism in 2024-25.
- This funding supports the delivery of education projects in schools, colleges, prisons, communities and workplaces, providing learning opportunities for thousands of children and adults across Scotland.
- A proposed sectarian aggravation was not introduced in the Hate Crime Bill following consultation.

### **Specific issue: Sectarianism and football:**

- The links between sectarianism and football have been long established and acknowledged.
- While the vast majority of football supporters are well-behaved, there is clearly still a significant problem which all of those with an ability to influence and to change must contribute to eradicating.
- The European football governing body, UEFA have made their position clear where racist (sectarian) singing is concerned, we believe that the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and the Scottish Premier Football League (SPFL) should be taking their lead from this.
- The SPFL have updated their rules on unacceptable behaviour and have recently cited Celtic, Rangers and Aberdeen for supporter misuse of pyrotechnics, this has never been done for sectarian behaviour or chanting and singing.

## **5. ALCOHOL AT FOOTBALL GROUNDS**

### Background

There has been growing calls by members of the public, supporter organisations, clubs and football governing bodies to lift the current restrictions on the sale of alcohol in Scottish football stadiums.

Ms Todd has had discussions with the SPFL on the introduction of alcohol at football over the last couple of years and expressed the clear view that, while the door is not closed on the issue, any proposals coming forward would need to recognise the significant impact of alcohol on public health in Scotland. The SPFL recognises this.

On 25 September, Ms Todd answered a PQ from George Adam on the reintroduction of alcohol at football stating that the Scottish Government would continue to engage with the football authorities on ways to enhance the fan experience. This generated significant interest in the press and football related press in particular.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care had said that the Scottish Government would give serious consideration to any proposal to lift the ban in football stadiums, which many press reports suggested meant we were actively considering the matter. This was subsequently clarified by both Cab Sec HSC and FM who confirmed that there are no plans to review to legislation on alcohol in football grounds; the priority was instead creating a safe and supportive sporting environment for all.

It remains a strategic aim for the SPFL to allow alcohol sales in stadia. We understand that they would wish to run a number of carefully selected pilot projects in order to examine the impact and gather data and evidence, subject to local licencing approval. However, we have seen no detail at this stage.

It is, however, recognised that in many if not most cases alcohol is present at football stadia at present anyway, either in approved fan zones or hospitality suites.

### History

There have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch, although it should be noted that alcohol was not sold in football stadia, but brought in by fans. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium.

## **Top Lines**

The Scottish Government works with a wide range of organisations to ensure football supporters enjoy our national game in a safe, enjoyable environment.

- We engage frequently with the football authorities on a wide range of issues, using the power of football to help support and improve communities.
- While we are always open to discussions with the football authorities, there are no plans at this time to remove the existing general restrictions on alcohol at football matches in Scotland.
- We have not received any proposals, specific or general, at this time

We must have a clear understanding of how any specific proposals would impact our goal of reducing alcohol-related harm

- The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing.
- However, we recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

We recognise that football in Scotland now is very different to the early 1980s when the current controls were brought in following disorder and violence which marred the 1980 Scottish Cup Final.

- However, there is no doubt that – while football in Scotland today is generally safe and trouble-free – challenges remain, particularly around the increasing use of pyrotechnics and the trend for end of season pitch invasions

## **6. CASHBACK INVESTMENT**

### **Top Lines**

- CashBack for Communities is a key Scottish Government programme that is funded by money recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- CashBack supports young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and the communities most affected by crime through various projects, such as employability support; creative arts and sports projects.
- CashBack partners also provide a spectrum of interventions which include providing safe spaces, trusted adults and a range of positive diversionary and support activity.
- The programme has a strong links to the Scottish Government's Vision for Justice in Scotland and the Divert strand of our Serious Organised Crime Strategy.
- Since its inception, the programme has committed £130m to supporting around 1.3m young people across all 32 local authorities in Scotland.
- Up to £20 million has been committed to the Phase 6 programme which will run from April 2023 to March 2026.
- Funding has been awarded to 29 organisations, to deliver a range of diversionary activities and opportunities for young people aged 10 – 25, helping to tackle some of the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour and criminal activity.

### **2023/24 Impact Report**

- The Impact Report for 2023/34 was published on 10th December 2024.
- Year one of Phase 6 has exceeded all its outcome targets. The key headlines are:
  - Diversion from justice system – 4,318 young people report reduced involvement in antisocial or criminal activity
  - Positive destinations – 4,954 young people gained an accreditation
  - Improving health and wellbeing – 8,348 young people report increase in SHANARRI wellbeing indicators
  - Contributing to communities - 64,240 volunteering hours contributed
  - Building skills and resilience – 7,440 young people report positive changes in behaviour

## 7. FACILITIES

### Background

At the SFA AGM in June 2024, President Mike Mulraney committed to investing £50 million in new and improved football facilities across Scotland. The SFA is already benefiting from £20.1m of direct investment from DCMS (UKG) over the 4 years to 2025. DCMS has recently confirmed a further £9 million will be provided for investment in Scotland in 2025-26.

### Top Lines

- The Scottish Government understands the important role that sporting facilities play in improving people's lives, whether it is taking part in sport and physical activity for the first time, developing, progressing or achieving success, and the physical, mental, and social health benefits this brings.
- We recognise there are significant challenges facing the sporting system, as operational, energy, building and material costs continue to rise rapidly. The cost of protecting and maintaining the existing infrastructure, and developing new facilities, has, and continues to increase at an unprecedented rate, which is placing significant financial pressures on everyone.
- It is critical that key stakeholders work closely together to make the best use of the estate for sport and physical activity and to ensure it is inclusive and sustainable in the long-term.
- sportscotland's commitment to inclusion and reducing inequality will continue to drive its investment in projects. Prioritising projects that are in, or serve areas, of multiple deprivation or rural disadvantage, and target people who share protected characteristics.
- sportscotland has invested over £209m (of Scottish Government and National Lottery funding) since April 2007 to help sports clubs, community groups, local authorities, sport's governing bodies and other organisations deliver new and upgraded sporting facilities across the country.
- We have asked sportscotland to undertake a review of the sports facilities estate to better understand the current provision. The Programme for Government 2023 also set out a commitment to convene a working group, to explore how community access to facilities, such as schools, can be maximised and enhanced. Both of these pieces of work are underway.
- We want to ensure a more affordable, inclusive and sustainable sports facilities estate that provides more and better opportunities and removes barriers for people to take part.
- We recognise the significant impact spending on sport and physical activity makes in delivering health outcomes and will continue our regular discussions with governing bodies as we work together to invest in sport and active living.

[redacted – 33(1)(b)]

## **8. SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE - EXTRA TIME PROGRAMME**

### **Background**

- In a joint initiative with the Scottish Football Association, the 'Extra Time Programme' is supporting local football clubs and trusts to provide before, after school and holiday clubs to targeted primary school children from low income families.
- The Extra Time Programme builds on the initial concept which was originally tested by Ayr United Football Academy (AUFA) through the Access to Childcare Fund over 2020 – 2024, which demonstrated a range of positive outcomes for children and their families.
- A £2m investment was announced in [April 2023](#), to establish the Extra Time Programme, supporting 25 clubs and trusts to deliver before school, after school and holiday clubs for primary school children from low income families to over 2,500 children.
- In June 2024, FM announced £4 million continued investment in the Extra Time Programme which is providing over 3,500 children each week during term time with access to a range of activities, experiences and food; as well supporting parents with their childcare needs to enable them to take up or improve their employment circumstance; train, study or facilitate respite; as well better understanding the impact of reducing inequalities of access to children's activities for those most at risk of living in poverty.

### **EXTRA TIME PROGRAMME 2025/26**

- In 2025/26 we will increase our 'Extra Time Programme' investment to £5.5 million, expanding delivery from 31 clubs to 53 clubs.
- This national programme will deliver services across the whole of Scotland and will support over 5,000 children and their families who are most at risk of living in poverty.
- Providing further investment into this initiative is contributing to the Scottish Government's priorities of eradicating child poverty and growing the economy.
- The Extra Time programme has been established to understand how organised activities clubs for children will form part of the future system of school age childcare, in order to better support parents and carers with a range of alternative childcare options that meet their needs.
- Our recent Annual Impact Report demonstrated that as well as improved outcomes for children, providing funded activity services which support parents and carers around the school day can remove one of the key barriers preventing parents – particularly those on low incomes – from gaining access to and sustaining employment and training.

### **Purpose**

- The Programme is seeking to support Scotland's most deprived communities and is targeted at primary school children who are most at risk of living in poverty. It is also contributing towards our national mission to end child poverty; and will help to reduce inequalities in accessing activities for families living in poverty.

- The participating clubs are located within urban and rural areas, offering a good geographical spread across the country.
- There is a variety of approaches being taken by the clubs to test and deliver provision that suits the needs of families in their communities. This includes working with local schools and other community partners to deliver breakfast clubs, after school clubs, weekend provision and holiday clubs. Some clubs are also considering the impact of in-service days and school closures on families to provide full day activity sessions.
- Many of the clubs have been considering how to best support parents and carers as part of their projects. For example, working in partnership with local services to deliver employability courses, and offering SFA coaching qualifications.

### **Extra Time Programme Aims**

- We know that families across Scotland use a wide variety of childcare services and activities to support them around the school day and during holidays.
- The Extra Time programme has been established to understand how **organised activities clubs for children will form part of the future system of school age childcare**, in order to better support parents and carers with a range of childcare solutions that meet their needs.
- The programme will develop a better understanding of how provision of organised activities for children, alongside local support services (where appropriate), can improve outcomes for those families on low incomes, with a particular focus on:
  - reducing inequalities in access to a range of activities around the school day for children.
  - reducing barriers to employment by improving access to childcare for targeted families. Improved access to childcare can enable parents or carers to take up, sustain or increase their hours of work or to take up study, or training opportunities.
  - improving outcomes for children and families by providing access to life enhancing experiences.
  - improving family health and wellbeing by supporting and increasing access to integrated childcare, food, activities (and respite for parents and carers).

### **Extra Time Programme Annual Impact Report**

- In November 2024, the Scottish FA published the Extra Time Annual Impact Report. The report highlights how the Extra Time programme is supporting the government's priority to eradicate child poverty.
- Funding activities that support parents and carers around the school day can remove one of the key barriers preventing parents - particularly those on low incomes - from gaining access to, and sustaining, training, study, or secure and stable employment
- This Annual Impact Report is part one of two publications, with a Process Evaluation Report due to be published in June 2025. The Process Evaluation will explore emerging themes that were highlighted in the Annual Impact report, such as the impact activity services can have on tackling child poverty, school attendance, and improved outcomes for children.

### **Key Findings from the Report**

#### **Positive outcomes for parents and carers**

- There is clear evidence that the Extra Time programme is supporting parents and carers to maintain their current employment or gain new employment, with numbers of parents/carers increasing by almost 80% from Quarter 1, April-June 2024, to Quarter 2 July-September 2024.
- One of the biggest impacts as reported by the clubs of providing consistent and regular organised children's activity to targeted families through the Extra Time Programme, was the reduced inequalities of access to activity provision, through providing subsidised activity services. This reduced the cost burden for parents/carers, and allowed them to increase their working hours, doubling the effect of any financial savings.
- The results from the quarterly club-level reporting show an increase in the number of parents/carers who were able to access respite from care responsibilities. With a large number of parents/carers accessing respite, in many cases this has positively impacted their mental health and wellbeing.
- Clubs reported the mental health benefits of reduced stress, increased respite from care, improved wellbeing and reduced anxiety for parents and carers.
- Data captured showed evidence that parents and carers have been given volunteering opportunities by the clubs, and some have completed SFA coaching qualifications as a result of their children attending the service.

#### Positive outcomes for participating children

- Clubs reported that the provision of food at sessions has resulted in participants being better nourished and making healthier food choices due to increased knowledge of nutrition.
  - When assessing the impact on mental health and wellbeing as a result of the activity provision, clubs reported that Extra Time has had mental health benefits for participants (improved confidence, happiness, and social skills).
1. The social benefits of Extra Time were consistently mentioned by clubs, with parents highlighting the programme has positively impacted their child's anxiety, improved their child's attitude towards attending school and having more energy/being more alert in the classroom.
- The benefits to education were highlighted by many clubs as an additional impact from the Extra Time programme. Multiple clubs linked the provision of food not only to improved school behaviour but also improved school attendance.

## Attendees / Biographies

### **Mike Mulraney, President, Scottish FA**

Mike was elected as President in June 2023 having been Vice-President and having previously served on the Professional Game Board. Mike is on the Executive Board and Chairs the Professional Game Board within the Scottish FA. Mike is Chairman of the Mulraney Group, a company he has founded himself. He is also former Chairman of Alloa Football Club. FM met Mike Mulraney and Ian Maxwell in Munich in June 2024.



### **Ian Maxwell, Chief Executive, Scottish FA**

Formerly a player with Queen's Park, Ross County (he was part of the Staggies team that won the 1998–99 Scottish Third Division and then finished third in the 1999–2000 Scottish Second Division to secure a second consecutive promotion), St Johnstone, St Mirren and Partick Thistle. After he ended his playing career, he became assistant manager to Ian McCall at Partick.



After McCall stepped down as Thistle manager in April 2011, Jackie McNamara and Simon Donnelly took control of the team, while Ian became the general manager. He was promoted to the position of managing director in 2014. In April 2018, the SFA announced that Ian would be appointed as their chief executive at the end of the 2017–18 season.

### **Aileen Campbell, CEO, Scottish Women's Football (SWF)**

Aileen has been the CEO of SWF since 2021. SWF is the governing body for women's association football at every level below the Scottish Women's Premier League, including youth games and senior pyramid. Aileen previously served as an MSP and Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary.



### **Neil Doncaster, SPFL CEO**

Neil joined Norwich City in November 1997 as company secretary and solicitor before taking up the role of chief executive in 2001. From 2006, he was a director of The Football League. In July 2008, he was elected to The Football Association board. In July 2009, Neil was appointed Chief Executive of the Scottish Premier League. During his time at the SPL, Doncaster presided over the restructuring of the league. In 2013, the Scottish Premier League and the Scottish Football League were merged into a single league for all 42 professional clubs.



On 3 July 2013, Neil was confirmed as chief executive of the newly formed Scottish Professional Football League. In the same year, Neil was elected to the board of the European Professional Football Leagues. In March 2018, Neil joined the board of the Scottish FA, making him the first person ever to have sat on the boards of both the English FA and the Scottish FA. Neil served on UEFA's Legal Committee between 2018 and 2020 and was appointed as a member of UEFA's Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body in June 2020.

**Calum Beattie, SPFL Company Secretary and Chief Operating Officer**

Calum is the Company Secretary and Chief Operating Officer at the SPFL. He was appointed to that role in 2021 after 4 years with the SPFL as Assistant Company Secretary. He was formerly a corporate solicitor with Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP. He also sits on the Board of the SPFL Trust, a charity, registered in Scotland which works with community trusts and associated SPFL clubs across the country, helping them to deliver change that improves people's lives.



#### Doc 4

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

**Sent:** 22 May 2025 14:26

**To:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

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

**Subject:** RE: Engagement Opportunity - Men's Scottish Cup Final: 24 May 2025

Hi [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Further to the briefing, we know have the table plan for lunch and for watching the game.

Ms Minto will be seated at for lunch will be the President's table and will have the following guests:

Mike Mulraney, Scottish FA President  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)]  
Chair Celtic FC, Peter Lawwell  
Chair Celtic FC Guest  
Chair Aberdeen FC, Dave Cormack  
Chair Aberdeen FC Guest  
Chris O'Shea (Sponsor)  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)] (Guest of Sponsor)  
Ms Minto  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Ms Minto will be in seat A32 beside SFA Chief Executive, Ian Maxwell, and Les Gray, Vice President SFA.

Many thanks

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – 38(1)(b)] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Doc 5**

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

**Sent:** 22 May 2025 18:02

**To:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen

<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton

<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Sean

McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care

2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and

Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE PLEASE - Media Lines - Ms Minto - Scottish Cup Final

[redacted – 38(1)(b)],

Ms Minto is content.

Kind regards,

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

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 – 38(1)(b)]

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

**Sent:** 22 May 2025 16:08

**To:** Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>

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

38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen

<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton

<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Sean

McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care

2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and

Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE PLEASE - Media Lines - Ms Minto - Scottish Cup Final

*Copying Lesley Fraser for awareness*

PO

Good afternoon,

Grateful for clearance of the following lines for use if we are asked re Minister's attendance at the football on Saturday. The lines are agreed with comms and spads.

Kind regards,

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**RESPONSE**

**A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

“Public Health Minister Jenni Minto accepted an invitation from the Scottish FA to attend the Scottish Cup Final.

“This provided a valuable opportunity to engage on a range of issues, including football's contribution to physical and mental health, and to eradicating child poverty through the Extra-Time school age childcare programme.”

## **Doc 6**

**Ministerial Event** – Aberdeen v Celtic, Men’s Scottish Cup Final

**Venue** – Hampden Park, Glasgow

**Date** – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Minister(s) in attendance** – Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health and Women’s Health

**Supporting Officials** – [redacted – 38(1)(b)], Head of Active Scotland

### **Note of meeting / Key Points**

- There was no set agenda or formal meeting, the format of the event was informal engagement and a sit-down lunch prior to the game.
- The Minister held discussions with the football stakeholders in attendance representing both Celtic and Aberdeen.
- The Minister agreed to connect the Chairman of Aberdeen FC into the work being taken forward by Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) in Aberdeen City driving whole-system action to improve health equity nationally and locally.
- The Minister undertook a detailed discussion with SFA President Mike Mulraney on football facilities in Scotland, including what could be done to enable greater access to the school estate. The SFA had a number of suggestions that would be discussed with Scottish Government officials in more detail. Mr Mulraney also discussed the business environment and shared his views on the Scottish Government’s approach to taxation policy and its impact on business.
- The Minister and SFA Chief Executive Ian Maxwell discussed the harm caused by gambling in Scotland and what role the Scottish FA could play to support tackling this issue from a public health perspective. The significant role played by community clubs and their foundations in supporting mental and physical health within their communities was also discussed.

## Doc 7

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@scottishfa.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 22 May 2025 14:08  
**To:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Men's Scottish Cup Final

Dear [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Just to confirm that the table that Ms Minto will be seated at for lunch will be the President's table and will have the following guests:

Mike Mulraney  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)]  
Chair Celtic FC (Peter Lawwell)  
Chair Celtic FC Guest  
Chair Aberdeen FC (Dave Cormack)  
Chair Aberdeen FC Guest  
Chris O'Shea (Sponsor)  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)] (Guest of Sponsor)  
Ms Minto  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Once outside Ms Minto will be in seat A32 beside our Chief Executive, Ian Maxwell and on the other side will be Les Gray, our Vice President.

Hope that helps

Regards  
[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 06 May 2025 09:57  
**To:** [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@scottishfa.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Men's Scottish Cup Final

Hi [redacted – 38(1)(b)]

I hope you are well?

I am pulling together the briefing for Ms Todd and I was wondering whether you could let me know who will be attending from the Scottish FA Board, Celtic FC and Aberdeen FC?

It would be helpful to know who will be sitting next to the Minister in the box?

Also, could you please let me know who will be sitting at the same table as Ms Todd for lunch?

I appreciate this information won't be known yet, but grateful if you could let me know once details become clearer.

Many thanks

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – 38(1)(b)]

Delivery & Policy Officer

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

Ground East, St Andrews House

Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Email: [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@[gov.scot](mailto:[redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)