FOI 202500491454

Information requested:
“1. Could you supply the full expenses from John Swinney's trip to Malawi and Zambia in October, including how many officials accompanied him, and their full expenses, including flight costs, accommodation and other expenses?

2. Could you supply all briefings and minutes/notes from meetings John Swinney held in Malawi and Zambia?”

1.1 Daily Brief for Visit – Submitted 14 October 2025

DAILY BRIEFING – FIRST MINISTER VISIT TO ZAMBIA/MALAWI – October 2025
Official Support and Key Contacts

Scottish Government	
[redacted - s.38], International Development	**[redacted - s.38]**
[redacted - s.38], International Development	**[redacted - s.38]**
[redacted - s.38], Private Office	**[redacted - s.38]**
[redacted - s.38], **[redacted s.39]**	**[redacted - s.38]**
[redacted - s.38], **[redacted s.39]**	**[redacted - s.38]**
Ross Ingebrigtsen, SpAd	**[redacted - s.38]**
[redacted - s.38], Comms	**[redacted - s.38]**
UK Government	
FCDO Contact Malawi, **[redacted - s.38]** (***[redacted - s.38]***)	**[redacted - s.38]**

BHC Lusaka Key Contacts

NAME	***TEL***
Rebecca Terzeon (High Commissioner)	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***
[redacted - s.38]	***[redacted - s.38]***

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Day 2 - WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER - ZAMBIA

Key activities:

- Arrival
- Briefing meeting with British High Commissioner
- University of Zambia, for site visit at the Blantyre-Blantyre Research Laboratory
- Bilateral with HE President Hichilema
- University Teaching Hospital, for site visit with Kids Operating Rooms
- British High Commissioner-hosted private dinner at the Residence, focused on investment.

2A BRIEFING MEETING WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ZAMBIA
15 October 2025

Key message	Delighted to be in Zambia – a historic first visit by Scotland's First Minister. My objectives for this visit are to further deepen relations with our partners in the Government of Zambia and our delivery partners. I am also eager to use this opportunity to broaden my understanding of the situation on the ground in Zambia. The Scottish Government remains committed to working in partnership with the Government of Zambia on poverty alleviation and towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Keen to hear FCDO impressions on the current political and economic situation in Zambia. And to hear about the recent visit by President Hichilema to the UK. The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with the British High Commissioner and FCDO Zambia. I am grateful for your collaborative and enthusiastic approach in offering support to Scottish Government officials in the planning of my visit. Thank you to your dedicated and highly professional team for their hard work.
What	The First Minister will be provided with a country briefing from the High Commissioner, on arrival, and ahead of his bilateral meeting with the President of Zambia.
Why	The First Minister will have the opportunity to present the aims and objectives of his visit programme. Also to hear from the British High Commissioner on current political and economic dynamics, including needs and priorities in Zambia at this time.
Who	 **Rebecca Terzeon is British High Commissioner to Zambia**, having taken up the role in **January 2025**. Prior to this, she most recently served as Head of FCDO's West Africa Department, from 2021 to 2024. Since joining the UK civil service in 2001, she has served as Head of the UK's Africa Strategy from 2020 to 2021, Head of Gender Equality, Deputy Head of the UK's development programme in Somalia and has also served in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Where	British High Commission Official Residence, 347 Independence Ave, Lusaka
When	Wednesday 15 October 2025 10:30-11:15
Likely themes	**Scottish Government programmes:** on health, education, gender equality, renewable energy and climate justice. **Challenges faced by Zambia at this time**, including: high debt levels, economic growth, inflation, drought-induced unreliable energy access and food insecurity; against a background of aid cuts by major donors, and impacts of climate change. **[redacted - s.32]**
Media	Photo only
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief

Agenda and Summary

Agenda (no fixed agenda)
10:30 – 10:35 Welcome remarks by British High Commissioner and introductions
10:35- 10:40 Scottish Government aims for visit and update on programmes.
10:40-11:00 – British High Commission briefing on economic and political situation.
11:00 – 11:10/15 Discussion.
11:15 Close.

Summary
- This meeting will serve as a briefing meeting for the First Minister ahead of the planned bilateral meeting with the President that afternoon.
- **[redacted - s.30]**
- This is the first time that FM will meet High Commissioner Rebecca Terzeon, who took up the role in **January 2025.** FM met outgoing High Commissioner Nicholas Woolley during President Hichilema's June 2025 visit to Bute House.
- The High Commissioner recently accompanied the President to the UK on his 3-day working visit (1-3 October).

Top Brief
[Drawn from Core Brief, including Zambia country profile]
Scottish Government Priorities in Zambia
- Through our International Development Fund, we are providing targeted support on: inclusive education, in particular supporting disability education and scholarships for girls; health, with a particular focus on non-communicable diseases; gender equality, including through our Women and Girls Fund, and our support for the Police Scotland / Zambia Police Service partnership on gender based violence; and renewable energy through our Global Renewables Centre.
- Through our Climate Justice Fund, we are providing £7.4m of investment in Zambia over 3 years through our Climate Just Communities programme. Interventions in Zambia include: climate resilient agriculture (crops, livestock, irrigation); economic development; water, sanitation and hygiene; natural resource management; disaster risk reduction; gender, equality, disability and social inclusion; and climate advocacy.

[redacted - s.32]

Suggested Questions
- **[redacted - s.30]**

2B UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA (UNZA) – BLANTYRE-BLANTYRE LUSAKA NCDs RESEARCH LAB

Wednesday 15 October

Key Message	Key health partnership within SG International Development Fund.
What	You will be welcomed by **Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia, Prof Mundia Muya**, who will lead your visit to UNZA Lab. You will be invited to share brief remarks (attached separately). The **Dean for School of Health Sciences, Prof Sody Munsaka**, Prof Mundia Muya, and a representative from the Ministry of Health, will also speak. **Dr Samuel Munjita**, **project lead, University of Zambia** will lead you on a tour of the laboratory. You will unveil a plaque recognising the contributions of Prof Geoffrey Kwenda, who was integral to establishing the laboratory, who passed away in March 2025.
Why	Underline the value of our ongoing partnership with UNZA and recognise the significance of this partnership in contributing to better health outcomes for the people of Zambia.
Who	**Prof Mundia Muya, Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia** Prof Mundia Muya is a civil engineer and a Fellow and Life Member of the Engineering Institution of Zambia, and the Chartered Institute of Building of the UK. He has a PhD in Construction Management sponsored by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and an MSc in Construction sponsored by the British Council, both from Loughborough University and a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from the University of Zambia. **Dr Mwapatsa Mipando, University of Glasgow (Dean for Global Engagement) and Malawi University of Science and Technology** Dr Mwapatsa Mipando was appointed by SG as Malawi's first GlobalScot in November 2024. Dr Mipando is a physiologist with a special interest in medical education. He is the first African to be appointed University of Glasgow's Dean for Global Engagement. He is a corresponding fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and is the Malawi project leader of Blantyre-Blantyre Project and the MalDent Project. For many years he was Vice Chancellor of Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHES), Malawi, partnering with Glasgow University, and retains strong links with KUHES. He has been lead for this visit across UNZA/KUHES.

	Dr Sody Mweetwa Munsaka, Associate Professor of Medical Microbiology, University of Zambia Dr Sody Munsaka is the Zambia project lead at UNZA for the Blantyre-Blantyre Lusaka Project. Dr. Munsaka is Head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Acting Dean of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Zambia. **Dr. Samuel Munjita, Team Leader/Project Manager and Lecturer, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Zambia.**
Where	The University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZiyR2BvdMsLKphPT6
When	Wednesday 15 October 12:00-13:00
Likely themes	Global health, health partnerships, expanding health research capacity in Zambia to support domestic and regional health outcomes.
Media	Unveiling of plaque in honour of Prof Geoffrey Kwenda
Official Support	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda Summary Annex A - Speaking note

Agenda and Summary

Agenda

12:00–12:15 – Welcome and introductions led by Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia, Prof Mundia Muya

12:20–12:35 – Speeches in the Board Room:

1. Welcome remarks by the Dean, School of Health Sciences, Prof Sody Munsaka
2. Address by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia, Prof Mundia Muya
3. Remarks by the Government of Zambia Representative
4. Keynote address by the Scottish First Minister, HE Mr John Swinney

12:35–13:00 – Visit to Blantyre-Blantyre Lusaka Laboratory:

1. Welcome and introduction by Team Leader Dr. Samuel Munjita;
2. Briefing on Blantyre-Blantyre Lusaka lab purpose and activities;
5. Tour of selected laboratory sections – during the tour, First Minister will be invited to unveil the plaque in honour of Prof Geoffrey Kwenda

13:00- End of programme.

13:00 FM will return to the British High Commission Residence, **[redacted - s.30]**

Summary

Opportunity to engage with key partnership within our international development health portfolio: a collaboration between University of Glasgow, University of Zambia and Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Malawi, with £1 million investment from Scottish Government in the Blantyre-Blantyre Lusaka lab.

The new state of the art laboratory, opened in 2024, represents a step change in global research partnerships – providing a platform for Zambia, Malawi and Scotland to collaborate on research into non-communicable diseases.

Desired Outcomes

Recognise/celebrate £1 million investment from Scottish Government into building research capacity in Zambia, supporting research in Africa, by Africans, for Africa.

Recent engagement

- The £1 million funding for the Lusaka laboratory was announced by FFM Humza Yousaf when he met with the President in Edinburgh in May 2023, following the King's Coronation.
- When FM and the President met at Bute House in June 2024, FM gifted the President a small token – a photo frame containing photos of the construction and completion of the lab, expressing the hope that he would get to see it in person in Zambia.

Annex A

Speaking note for UNZA

[redacted - s.30]

2C BILATERAL MEETING WITH HE HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA
15 October 2025

Key message	An honour to meet with you again, following our bilateral at Bute House in Edinburgh in June 2024. Scotland and Zambia's relationship dates back 150 years and today there are many links between Scots and Zambians. Share the objectives for this visit: to further deepen relations with you, our partners in the Government of Zambia, and our delivery partners. I am also eager to use this opportunity to broaden my understanding of the situation on the ground in Zambia. The Scottish Government remains committed to working in partnership with the Government of Zambia on poverty alleviation and towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Scottish Government wants our programmes to continue to be led by the priorities of our partner countries and we are particularly interested in hearing your reflections as these programmes are now being implemented. I am grateful for your Government's welcome to me and my officials. Thank you to your dedicated and highly professional teams for their hard work too in supporting my visit.
What	Bilateral meeting with HE President Hakainde Hichilema. There will be a private bilateral meeting first; followed by a public meeting with media in attendance, where both the President and First Minister will be invited to make pre-prepared remarks.
Why	The relationship between Scotland and Zambia is strengthening. The First Minister will have the opportunity to present the aims and objectives of his visit programme. Also to hear from the President on current political and economic dynamics, including needs and priorities in Zambia at this time. And discuss the future of the Scotland / Zambia relationship.
Who	**HE Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia** was elected as the seventh president of Zambia on 24 August 2021, having contested five previous elections. **[redacted - s.30]**

	In June 2024, he met FM at Bute House – the warm discussion focused on cooperation on climate change and renewables, partnership on key international development focus areas (education, health and equality) and tourism in Zambia. He has visited Scotland twice in two years (2023 and 2024) and has a close relationship with Heriot-Watt, although he studied at the University of Zambia. **Mulambo Haimbe, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation** (since July 2024), MP for Lusaka Central. He holds a Bachelor of Law Degree (LLB) and Master of Law in Construction Law and Arbitration. **Douglas Syakalima, Minister of Education** (since September 2021). MP for Chirundu Constituency in Southern Province, a position he has held since 2016. Previously a Lecturer in many Universities in Zambia, and worked as a part- time Lecturer in the Department of Psychology.
Where	State House, H8CH+C3P, Independence Ave, Lusaka.
When	Wednesday 15 October 2025 14:30-15:30
Likely themes	**Scottish Government programmes:** on health, education, gender equality, renewable energy and climate justice. **Challenges faced by Zambia at this time**, including: high debt levels, inflation, drought-induced unreliable energy access and food insecurity; against a background of aid cuts by major donors, and impacts of climate change. **Deepening the partnership** between Scotland and Zambia. **[redacted - s.32]**
Media	During the public meeting, local Zambian media will be present. There will be no media in the private meeting. Photos on State House steps at close of engagement.
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief Annex A - Introductory remarks for private meeting Annex B - Speaking Note for Public Meeting **[redacted - s.30]**

Agenda and Summary

- 14:30: FM greeted on arrival **[redacted - s.32]**.
- 14:35 Longer private meeting (smaller room) between FM and the President.
- 15:10 Short public meeting (in large room with media present) **[redacted - s.32]**. See Speaking Note attached.
- 15:20 Photos on State House steps.
- 15:30 Close.

Agenda (private meeting) (*no fixed agenda, rough timings*)

14:35 – 14:40 Welcome remarks by HE President Hichilema and introductions
14:40 - 14:45 First Minister sets out Scottish Government aims for visit and updates on programmes.
14:45-14:55 HE President Hichilema update on current social and economic situation.
14:55-15:10: Discussion
15:10 – Close of private meeting. Move to public meeting.

Summary

Summary points for this engagement can be drawn from the Core Brief, Country Brief **[redacted - s.32]**

Suggested Questions

The First Minister may wish to ask:

- **[redacted - s.30]**

Annex A

PRIVATE MEETING - Speaking Note

John Swinney MSP

First Minister

Bilateral meeting with His Excellency Hichilema President of the Republic of Zambia

PRIVATE MEETING REMARKS

[redacted - s.30]

Annex B

PUBLIC MEETING - Speaking Note – To be read out formally in front of local media

John Swinney MSP

First Minister

Bilateral meeting with His Excellency Hichilema President of the Republic of Zambia

PUBLIC MEETING REMARKS

Wednesday 15 October 2025

4 minutes

MAIN MESSAGES

- Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Hakainde Hichilema [***Haka-Indeh Hitch-e-Lehma***], it is an honour to meet with you again.

- The last time we met, in June 2024, at Bute House in Edinburgh, was during your visit to Scotland to be awarded an honorary doctorate from Heriot-Watt University.

- A reflection not only of your leadership in transforming education in Zambia, but of your personal connection with Scotland, and indeed the many and varied wider linkages between our 2 countries.

- I am absolutely delighted to now be here in Zambia – the first time a First Minister of Scotland has visited Zambia – and to have this opportunity to meet with you again.

- Honourable Mulambo Haimbe (***Ha-im-bay***), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and other distinguished guests, thank you also for your warm welcome to Zambia.

- Your Excellency, when we met last year, we noted that Scotland's relationship with Zambia has been built over the last 150 years.

- But, that it is equally an innovative and forward-looking relationship, with great potential for further growth. In particular focused on our work together in health, education, equalities, renewable energy, and climate justice – with sustainable economic growth and wellbeing in Zambia our shared goal.

- I want to take this opportunity to again assure you, that Scotland remains wholly committed to investing in, and indeed growing, its special and strategic relationship with Zambia.

SUPPORTING MESSAGES

- Your Excellency, in June last year, I had gifted you a photo frame containing images of the newly opened state-of-the-art research laboratory facility at University of Zambia here in Lusaka. The Scottish Government had invested £1 million to create this laboratory.

- It joined the laboratories at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Malawi, and Glasgow University, as a ground-breaking now 3-country collaboration, in scientific health research, between universities in Scotland, Zambia and Malawi.

- This new facility, that I have now seen in person today truly embodies our shared commitment to collaborative research across borders and to improved healthcare for all.

- It is a powerful testament to what can be achieved when ambition, partnership, and purpose come together. And with African expertise at the forefront.

- Likewise, I am looking forward to visiting University Teaching Hospital this afternoon, to see here in Zambia the paediatric operating room – the "Kids Operating Room" – which is the new "sister" operating room to that which I have previously visited in Dundee, Scotland.

- This type of health partnership, again based on our shared values, will significantly improving safe surgical access for thousands of children in Zambia. Particularly important, with around 45% of Zambia's population being children.

- Reflecting on shared values, Scotland was the first nation globally to commit funds specifically to climate justice, launching our Climate Justice Fund in 2012.

- In 2023, we launched a three-year programme called Climate Just Communities, with £7.4 million for Zambia. I am looking forward over the next few days to meeting with Zambian climate justice advocates from that programme.

- Likewise, I will meet with partners and grantees from our Women and Girls Fund programme, as a key opportunity to engage with local woman- and girl-led organisations in Zambia. Your Excellency, I know equalities is equally a personal commitment on your part.

- Finally, whilst here, I am looking forward to celebrating the myriad – and growing – Zambian-Scottish Connections within the Zambian population.

Across diaspora, students and church groups. But also businesses, towards increased trade relationships.

CONCLUSION

- In closing, Your Excellency, I wish to convey once again my thanks to you, for your kind invitation to visit Zambia.
- And my thanks also to all in your Government - and to the UK Government, represented here today by British High Commissioner Rebecca Terzeon – who have helped facilitate this visit.
- It is an honour and a privilege to visit your country, and to engage closely with our partners in the government of Zambia, Zambia's Police Service, with its civil society, health, education and renewable energy institutions, and to have discussed trade and investment relationships.
- All of whom are helping to strengthen and deepen the already warm ties between Scotland and Zambia.

2D VISIT TO KIDSOR – OPERATING ROOM AT UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

Wednesday 15 October

Key message	Long-standing partner through our SG International Development Health programme
What	Site visit to University Teaching Hospital, with KidsOR, to announce new (small) funding and see impact of earlier larger Scottish Government investment in the Operating Rooms themselves. FM will be welcomed by the hospital's **Senior Medical Superintendent Dr Charles Mbewe**, formally welcomed where FM will be invited to say a few words; given a tour of the Kids Operating Room; before sharing any concluding remarks.
Why	Underline the value of our ongoing partnership with KidsOR and thank them for unwavering commitment to providing life-saving surgical care to children in Zambia and across the world
Who	***[Hon Elijah Muchima, Minister for Health,*** *has underscored Zambia's commitment to inclusive, sustainable, and effective health systems.]* **Dr. George Sinyangwe, Permanent Secretary for Donor Coordination, Ministry of Health.** **Dr Charles Mbewe, General Surgeon and Senior Medical Superintendent, Children's Hospital,** University Teaching Hospital. **Caleb Macharia, KidsOR Head of Projects, Africa** (based Kenya). With KidsOR for 3 years, growing through the ranks. He has extensive experience managing multi-faceted projects and has successfully collaborated with governments, hospitals, and other stakeholders to help deliver over 100 dedicated children's operating rooms across 36 countries. **Dr Bruce Bvulani, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon** Dr. Bruce Bvulani, President of the Zambia Association of Paediatric Surgery, has been instrumental in transforming paediatric surgical care in Zambia. Initially the country's sole children's surgeon, his collaboration with KidsOR has significantly expanded surgical capacity and training programs, greatly improving children's healthcare nationwide.

	Dr Amon Ngongola, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon **Madam Shambanse Chinyonga**, Chief Hospital Administrator.
Where	University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia https://maps.app.goo.gl/FCMVzZjK6zHDuqo3A
When	Wednesday 15 October 15:50-16:50
Likely themes	Access to safe and quality surgical facilities, affordable, efficient oxygen generation system to address the lack of reliable medical oxygen in low-resource settings.
Media	New funding announcement of £25k for Kids Operating Rooms to develop new technology to generate oxygen in low-resource settings, the pilot of which will be based in University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka. Builds on previous funding to KidsOR for Zambia Kids ORs.
Official Support	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda Summary Annex A - Speaking note

Agenda and Summary

Agenda/Running Order

15:50–16:10 Arrival of the First Minister's Party
National Anthem
Prayer
Introductions / FM signs visitors book – Board Room.
Brief Remarks:

- UTH Senior Medical Superintendent
- Kids Operating Room – Head of Projects
- [Health Minister, Ministry of Health]
- First Minister

16:10–16:30 Tour of the Kids Operating Rooms (scrubs will be provided to be worn).

16:30-16:40 Closing Remarks (At the OR Lobby)- Dr. Amon Ngongola
16:40 Closing Prayer

Summary
Desired Outcomes
Recognise and highlight the positive impact of this partnership connecting technical expertise from Scotland and Zambia to drive forward positive healthcare outcomes for children in Zambia.

Recent Engagement
You visited the KidsOR Dundee Facility in Aug 2024.

Sensitivities
[redacted - s.30]

Annex A

Speaking points:

[redacted - s.30]

2E WORKING DINNER HOSTED BY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ZAMBIA

15 October 2025

Key message	Delighted to be in Zambia – a historic first visit by Scotland's First Minister. My objectives for this visit are to further deepen relations with our partners in the Government of Zambia and our delivery partners. I am also eager to use this opportunity to broaden my understanding of the situation on the ground in Zambia. The Scottish Government remains committed to working in partnership with the Government of Zambia on poverty alleviation and towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Keen to hear dinner guests' views on the current economic situation in Zambia. In particular to hear this evening about the **business and investment climate, economic growth (including renewable energy focus as part of that)**. Likely that discussion will also focus on macroeconomic challenges facing Zambia, including debt, aid cuts, and changes in Global North countries' approaches to development.
What	Private dinner at the Residence hosted by the British High Commissioner in honour of FM visit to Zambia. Dinner guests have been selected, including those nominated by SG, to support discussion on Zambia's current economic environment.
Why	The First Minister will have the opportunity to hear from the dinner guests – all with an economic, trade and investment, or renewables background - on economic dynamics in Zambia.
Who	**British High Commissioner, Rebecca Terzeon,** is hosting this private dinner at the Residence in honour of FM visit to Zambia. **[redacted - s.38]** **Claire Alexander**, the Scottish co-founder of the African Scotland Business Network (ASBN), and is currently based in South Africa. ASBN is growing by numbers and impact, larger companies coming on board to work with them, including Barclays Bank. **[redacted - s.30]**

	Michael Tarney, in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Zambia Renewable Energy Association (ZARENA), the Zambian partner in the SG funded Global Renewables Centre. An energy professional with significant experience in investment and the mentoring of entrepreneur and start up companies, and Chair of the Investment Committee of the Zambia Business Angels Network Board. **Lowani Chibesakunda** – *CEO, Citi Bank Zambia* Lowani is a leading figure in Zambia's financial sector and a strong advocate for inclusive finance and gender equity. She has longstanding professional ties to Scotland, having completed an MBA at Herriot Watt University earlier in her career. **Zali Bryson Chikuba** – *Executive Director, ZIPAR (Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research)* Zali leads one of Zambia's most respected economic think tanks. In addition to his expertise on fiscal reform and investment policy, he brings a strong understanding of the social dimensions of Zambia's debt landscape – including the implications for public service delivery, poverty reduction, and inclusive growth. **[redacted - s.38]**
Where	British High Commission Residence, 347 Independence Ave.
When	Wednesday 15 October 2025 18:00-18:30 Drinks on terrace 18:30-20:30 Dinner
Likely themes	**Challenges faced by Zambia at this time**, including: high debt levels, inflation, drought-induced unreliable energy access and food insecurity; against a background of aid cuts by major donors, and impacts of climate change. **[redacted - s.32]**. And while in the UK, the President personally committed to joining the **UK-led Supply Chains Mission of the G20 Global Clean Power Alliance**, which aims to accelerate the global transition to clean energy by addressing systemic barriers to investment and infrastructure.

	Scottish Government programmes: on health, education, gender equality, renewable energy and climate justice. On **Renewables,** we have established a Global Renewables Centre (GRC), with the Scottish GRC at Strathclyde University, committed to sharing knowledge/resources between Scotland, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia that enables increased deployment of sustainable energy. The GRC has engaged extensively with stakeholder networks and achieved its goal of a decentralised structure with a formal presence in Scotland, and our three partner countries, operationalised through The Zambian Renewable Energy Association (ZARENA) in Zambia.
Media	None
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief Annex A- First Minister Opening remarks

Agenda and Summary

18:00-18:30 Drinks on terrace
18:30-20:30 Working dinner. On format of the dinner:

- British High Commissioner will introduce FM, then do a round of intros.
- FM to make some opening remarks.
- BHC will chair the discussion, with relaxed format for dinner guests.

Summary

The dinner guests all have an economic, trade and investment, or renewables background, to support a discussion on economic dynamics in Zambia and climate resilience.
Discussion may also cover macroeconomic climate and the situation regarding Debt restructuring and debt justice, future of aid and generating private investment.

Debt restructuring and Debt Justice

- First Minister's has had recent discussions with UK based NGOs regarding **debt justice** - focused on the issue of private creditors and the experience of indebted countries.
- Zambia completed its debt restructuring in 2024, following 2020 default on its Eurobond loans, becoming the first African country to do so during the pandemic. A $3.5 billion restructuring deal was reached in 2024; and while this has reached a more stable arrangement, debt repayments are still significant.
- **[redacted - s.30]**
- Scottish Government has a history of championing ethical finance initiatives, including the Global Ethical Finance Initiative (GEFI), and our ability to build common ground between differing viewpoints.
- Scotland does not have a formal role at the G20, World Bank and other international financial institutions. However, this does not prevent us from being a "good global citizen," and using our voice to speak out against injustice when we have the opportunity.
- The Scottish Government provides its international climate justice and development funding as direct grants, not loans. This approach allows for sustainable development without adding financial strain.
- We have consistently advocated for other countries to follow our example of giving funding for loss and damage as grants, not loans, to allow countries to recover from extreme climate events without taking on additional debt and to provide them with the ability to determine how this money is spent most effectively. We will continue to champion the need for grant-based finance, including at COP30 in Brazil.
- But improving access to finance is only one part of the solution. We must also find ways to address the structural issues that entrench cycles of debt and dependence.

Suggested Questions

First Minister may wish to ask:
[redacted - s.30]

Annex A
Introductory Remarks at Private Investment - Speaking Note [3 mins]

[redacted - s.30]

Day 3 – Thursday 16 October – ZAMBIA

Key activities:

- Roundtable Discussion on Gender equality – Hosted by Ecorys and FAWEZA
- Police Scotland Partnership with Zambia, at Zambian Police Service Command Centre and then University Teaching Hospital One Stop Centre
- Climate Justice Fund roundtable
- Scottish-Zambian connections Reception, hosted by the Lusaka and District Caledonian Society, sponsored by Heriot Watt Alumni Association of Zambia

3A GENDER EQUALITY ROUNDTABLE – WOMEN & GIRLS FUND

16 October 2025

Key message	The Scottish Government's Women and Girls Fund seeks to support civil society organisations to advance gender equality here in Zambia, and in Malawi and Rwanda. We know that women's movements and civil society organisations are the drivers of real, meaningful and long-lasting change.
What	Participation in a roundtable engagement to hear about the challenges facing organisations working on women's rights and discuss the progress on the Scottish Government's Women and Girls Fund.
Why	An opportunity to hear from organisations and networks who engaged in the design process of the Women and Girls Fund and who are receiving funding as part of the first grant-making cycle.
Who	*[See Annex A for a full list of attendees and biographies]* **[redacted - s.38], Ecorys [redacted - s.38]** • Ecorys are the lead delivery partner for the Women and Girls Fund. • **[redacted - s.38]** **Kotutu Chimuka, WGF Project Director** • Kotutu is the Managing Director for Ecorys Zambia and has significant experience and expertise in gender equality and supporting civil society organisations. • As project director, Kotutu is the key contact point between the Scottish Government and Ecorys. **Costern Kanchele, Forum for African Women Educationalists Zambia (FAWEZA), Executive Director** • FAWE Zambia (FAWEZA) are the implementing partner on the Women and Girls Fund. • More broadly they advocate for policies and legislation that promote gender equality and equity in education for girls and women. **Mainga D Kabika, Permanent Secretary for Gender, Government of Zambia** • Ms Kabika met with officials in July and reaffirmed her government's priorities of

	tackling GBV and women's representation in decision-making/politics.
Where	Ecorys Zambia, 124 Kudu Road, Lusaka, 38322
When	Thursday 16 October 09:00-10:30
Likely themes	Women and Girls Fund, gender equality, challenges faced by the women's rights sector, aid cuts
Media	Announcement of the award of the first cycle of grants under the Women and Girls Fund to be made
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief on Women and Girls Fund Speaking Note Biographies of Attendees (Annex A)

Agenda and Summary

Agenda

9:00-9:15 – Welcome remarks and introductions
9:15-9:20 – Scottish Government reflections
9:20-9:45 – Presentation on design process, WGLOs presentation on gender context and their projects (WGF Team, WGLOs)
9:45-10:00 – Plenary session and engagement with the FM
10:00-10:10 – Closing remarks on the Women and Girls Fund (FAWEZA)
10:10-10:30 – Comms activity and depart

Summary

This is the first ministerial engagement with the Women and Girls Fund programme partners and grantees, as well as a key opportunity to engage with local woman- and girl-led organisations in Zambia and publicly announce the award of the first grants under this fund.

The First Minister will hear directly from these organisations about the challenges they face, particularly around aid cuts and challenging advocacy contexts. They will also be invited to reflect on the design and grant application stages of the Women and Girls Fund. The First Minister will have the opportunity to reaffirm commitment to working collaboratively to advance gender equality around the world, as well as expressing Scotland's commitment to international development, recognising its role as a good global citizen.

Scottish Government officials met with Ecorys, FAWEZA and one of the grantees, the Zambian National Women's Lobby, in July when they were in Zambia. Grant funding had not yet commenced so this is the first Scottish Government engagement with organisations in receipt of funding through the Women and Girls Fund.

Top Brief

We are delighted to be working with Ecorys and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) [fa-way] in our three partner countries on the Women and Girls Fund.

- This Fund is being delivered in a participatory way and puts the voices of women and girls and women- and girl-led organisations at the heart of the Fund's design and implementation.
- Importantly, this Fund provides support directly to local woman- and girl-led organisations in our partner countries.
- We know that direct funding is central to driving transformational change and this fund will empower women and girls, locally, to define and meet their own priorities.

Informed by the findings of the design phase, the Women and Girls Fund will deliver several types of grants tailored to the needs of women- and girl-led organisations in each country, across a range of thematic areas.

- The grant types include grants for advocacy, capacity building, research, social movements and swift response grants.
- The thematic focus areas for cycle one include women's representation in politics and decision-making; rights for disabled women and girls; gender-based violence and child marriage; gender-inclusive public services; menstrual hygiene; and women's land rights.

Background

We awarded the contract for the new Women and Girls Fund in March 2024 and this was announced on International Women's Day 2024.

- This contract was awarded to Ecorys [eh-koh-riss] who are working in partnership with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) [fa-way].
- The £3 million contract is for a period of 4 years and follows a competitive procurement process.
- We engaged with the governments of Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia as we developed proposals for the Women and Girls Fund. Ecorys and FAWE also met with representatives from the governments to set out their plans for the Fund shortly after being awarded this contract.
- Government-level engagement in this work is continuing through their participation as part of steering committees across the three countries, and we would like to thank the partner country governments for their enthusiastic engagement on this work to date.
- Ecorys and FAWE have recently completed the crucial participatory design phase for the Fund during which they engaged with a range of organisations to understand their needs and to work with them to create an effective fund which will deliver for women and girls across Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia.

Speaking Note

- **[redacted - s.30]**

Plenary Section Questions

The following questions have been submitted in advance to be asked by the First Minister:

1. What was your role in the participatory design process, and how did you contribute to shaping the project?

2. Do you feel more ownership of the project because of your involvement in its design? Why or why not?

3. What would you as woman- and girl-led organisations list as priority advocacy issues for the next year?

4. What would you as women- and girl-led organisations list as priority capacity building issues for the next four years?

5. Disability is a global concern and women with disabilities face double discrimination, as women and then as people with disabilities. What work are woman- and girl-led organisations in Zambia undertaking to deal with the challenges women with disabilities face?

6. In view of the upcoming elections in 2026, what is the role of woman- and girl-led organisations in promoting the participation of women in political leadership?

Attendees

WGF Team

- **[redacted - s.38]**, Ecorys
- Kotutu Chimuka, Ecorys
- **[redacted - s.38]**, Ecorys
- Costern Kanchele, FAWEZA
- **[redacted - s.38]v**, FAWEZA
- **[redacted - s.38]**, FAWEZA

WGF Grantees and Steering Committee

- Beatrice Chola, Bwafwano
- **[redacted - s.38]**, Bwafwano
- Violet Pikiti Sitwala, Archie Hincheliffe Disability Intervention
- Golden Nachibinga National Women's Lobby
- **[redacted - s.38]**, Zambia Governance Foundation
- Womba Wanki, Generation Alive, WGF Steering Committee Member

Woman- and Girl-Led Organisations

- **[redacted - s.38]**, Women and Law in Southern Africa
- **[redacted - s.38]**, Feminist Warriors
- Besa Mwansa, Young Women in Action, Executive
- Redges Munsaka Muleya, Zambia Association for Research and Development
- Girls Gone Political **[TBC]**

Government of Zambia

- **[redacted - s.38]**, Gender Division
- Ms Mainga Kabika, Permanent Secretary for Gender Division

Biographies of Attendees - Other WGF Team and WGLOs **ANNEX A**

WOMEN AND GIRLS FUND TEAM
[redacted - s.38]

WOMEN AND GIRLS FUND GRANTEES

Beatrice Chola, Bwafwano Executive Director

- Ms Chola has over 35 years of professional experience in gender mainstreaming, training, capacity building, project management, SRHR and health issues, and human rights.

[redacted - s.38]

Bwafwano Women and Girls Fund Project
The Bwafwano Integrated Services Organization Project (UMWEO-Supporting communities affected by Gender Based Violence) is operating in Lusaka, Kapiri Mposhi, and Mkushi, focused on advocacy and capacity-building to combat GBV.

Violet Sitwala, Executive Director, Archie Hinchcliffe Disability Intervention

- Mrs Violet Sitwala has 26 years of experience in community health and development; recognised for her dedication to improving the lives of marginalised groups, especially persons with disabilities.

AHDI Women and Girls Fund Project
The Enhancing Meaningful Participation and Opportunities for Women's Equality and Rights (WGF-EMPOWER) is structured to address the multi-dimensional barriers that hinder girls and women with disabilities from participating in progressive opportunities in Chibombo's Mungule Ward, central province. Under the education component, the project will advocate for increased resource allocation to provide assistive learning devices and menstrual hygiene support for girls with disabilities.

Golden Nachibinga, Zambia National Women's Lobby

- Golden is Acting Executive Director for Zambia National Women's Lobby. He is a gender activist with over 20 years' experience working with government institutions, political parties, faith and traditional leaders and other stakeholders. Golden is a trainer in civic and voter education, male engagement approaches on gender equality and has monitored elections from a gender perspective.

[redacted - s.38]

ZNWL Women and Girls Fund Project
The Empowering Women for Effective Participation in Political Processes at Local and National Level Project aims to enhance women's representation and participation in leadership by building the political capacity, skills, and confidence of aspiring women leaders to engage in decision-making and pursue leadership roles.

WOMAN- AND GIRL-LED ORGANISATIONS

Bwalya Chilufya National Coordinator, Zambia National Association of Women with Disabilities (ZNADWO)

- Ms Chilufya is a project management, public policy and communications specialist. She has expertise in gender and disability mainstreaming. The specific areas of focus include organisational development, strategic planning, programme design and evaluation, organisational capacity assessment and organisational governance.

[redacted - s.38]

Womba Wanki, Generation Alive, Executive Director

- Generation Alive works with young women and girls on leadership skills and undertakes advocacy to increase their participation in decision making/in governance of developmental.

[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.38]

Besa Mwansa, Young Women in Action, Executive

- Young Women in Action work in governance, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Besa is a lawyer by profession, a women's and children's rights activist with over 10 years work experience in gender, gender-based violence and human rights.

Redges Munsaka Muleya, Chairperson, Zambia Association for Research and Development

- Redges is a gender expert, who has both academic and professional experience and counsellor in gender related issues.
- She is also an advocate of women's rights and community trainer in human rights, gender and development and women empowerment.

3B POLICE PEER-TO-PEER PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

16 October 2025

Key message	I understand the importance of working in partnership internationally to learn from and support each other in tackling gender-based violence, and Scotland must play its part as we work to achieve the crucial goal of ending violence against women and girls, in Scotland, Zambia and across the world.
What	The First Minister will greeted by **Inspector General Police Mr Graphel Musamba** before making his way to the training room and invited to offer reflections on the valuable partnership between the police forces. He will then witness the training activities which will be led by Police Scotland as part of the wider Sexual Offences Liaison Officer training offered to Zambian officers. Following this, the delegation will visit a One Stop Centre where the First Minister will meet with victim support staff.
Why	To express support for longstanding partnership between Police Scotland and the police services of Zambia and Malawi and commitment to working with partners across the world to tackle gender-based violence. Police Scotland have trained over 1000 officers (between Zambia/Malawi) since 2016.
Who	**[redacted - s.38],** Police Scotland **[redacted - s.38]**, Zambian Police Service Graphel Musamba, Inspector General Police, Zambian Police Service
Where	Command Centre, Zambian Police Service HQ, Lusaka One Stop Centre, University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka
When	Thursday 16 October 10:45-12:45
Likely themes	Gender-based violence and child protection, police peer-to-peer partnership, gender equality.
Media	Photographs to be taken as part of wider Scottish Government comms coverage. High level of local media interest in the police partnership so likely pick up by local journalists.
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief on Police Partnership Programme Annex A – Speaking Note Annex B - Biographies

Agenda and Summary

10:45-10:50 – Arrival and greeted by Inspector General Police Mr Graphel Musamba
10:50-11:05 – Welcome remarks from **[redacted - s.38]** (Zambian Police) and Police Scotland trainers
11:05-11:20 – Observation of training and engaging with officers
11:20-11:30 – Scottish Government reflections and thanks
11:30-11:45 - Handover of One Stop Centre materials and comms
11:45-12:00– Drive to One Stop Centre
12:00-12:10 – Opening remarks by One Stop Centre staff *[limit numbers in party as much as possible due to sensitivity of visit]*
12:10-12:30 – Tour of One Stop Centre
12:30-12:45 – Scottish Government reflections and thanks

Summary
The partnership between Police Scotland and the Zambian Police Service began in 2016 and this is the second year of a multi-year funding agreement to support the programme as it seeks to tackle violence against women and children. Funding in the last year has supported various training deployments, awareness-raising activities and support to one stop centres (rape crisis centres which offer a range of services including police, psychosocial, health interventions). The First Minister will attend a One Stop Centre which received resources as part of this programme last year. Two Police Scotland officers will be in Zambia 10 October – 26 October to deliver Sexual Offences Liaison Officer training to 16 officers.

[redacted - s.30]

The First Minister will have the opportunity to express commitment to this longstanding partnership between Police Scotland the Zambian Police Service which will be celebrating its tenth year next year. The partnership is based on sharing lessons learned, recognising that there is still progress to be made in Scotland in tackling gender-based violence, but also that Scotland stands ready to support Zambian police officers to achieve this shared goal.

The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture met with a delegation of Zambian officers during an intensive training programme in Scotland in March. The Zambian Police Services are working with Police Scotland to plan another training programme in Scotland for early next year, although this is unlikely to include the officers engaged with today apart from **[redacted - s.38]**.

FOI 202500491454

Top Brief

We understand the importance of working in partnership internationally to learn from and support each other in tackling gender-based violence, and Scotland must play its part as we work to achieve the crucial goal of ending violence against women and girls, in Scotland and globally.

We are committed to continuing support for the Police Scotland Peer-to-Peer Partnership Programme with the Police Services of Malawi and Zambia on the protection of vulnerable groups, in particular on the areas of gender-based-violence and child protection.

- The Scottish Government will provide £450,000 to Police Scotland in 2025/26 for capacity-strengthening around child protection and gender-based violence.
- Police Scotland undertake regular reviews of the partnerships to inform future programming and their long-term peer-to-peer partnership.

We are pleased to have announced our continued support of the Police Scotland Peer to Peer Partnership with the police services of Malawi and Zambia for 2024-27 of up to £1.45 million over three years.

- The overall outcomes of this phase of the programme are to:
  - Increase reporting and conviction rate in Malawi/Zambia for incidents of violence against women and children;
  - Enhance the experience of engaging with police services for women and children in Malawi/Zambia who are victims of violence; and
  - Positively influence attitudinal shifts around gender-based violence and child protection in Malawi/Zambia.
- Key strands of activity to support the achievement of these outcomes are:
  - supporting the delivery of training and upskilling of relevant staff;
  - enhancement of IT systems to support the programme outcomes;
  - improving data collection on impact of interventions; and
  - scoping further capacity strengthening and collaboration opportunities.
- Plans for this phase of the programme were informed by learning from previous phases and follow a recent review deployment during which Police Scotland engaged with police services and victim support providers on the ground in Malawi and Zambia to gather feedback.

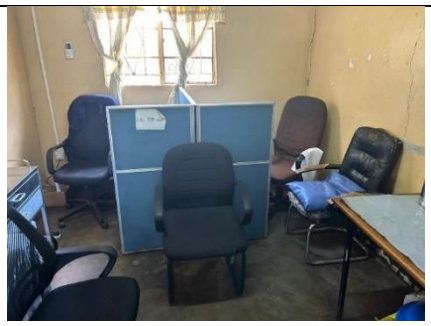
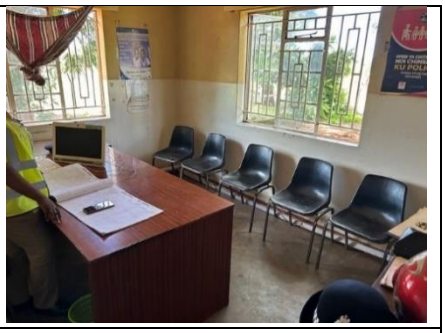
Advancing gender equality remains an important priority in Malawi and Zambia and significant work remains to be done in this area in both countries, particularly with regard to gender-based violence.

- This is why we are supporting Police Scotland to work alongside the police services of Malawi and Zambia to improve the experience of engaging with the police for victims who have experienced gender-based violence or child protection related issues.

This multi-year programme includes support for enhanced resources at one stop centres (OSCs) as we look to maximise the impact of Scottish Government funding through considerations of holistic approaches to victim support.

- We know that these centres are a priority area of focus for enhancing victim support and Police Scotland have committed to explore opportunities for enhancement over the course of the programme for 2024-27.
- In 2024-25, £50,000 was allocated to provide resources to several centres across Malawi and Zambia.
- In Malawi, this included significant upgrades at two key OSCs in Lilongwe and Blantyre, including children's items, office furniture, refrigeration for medical samples, voice recorders, medical equipment, and other essential items.
- In Zambia, this included increased resources across up to 38 OSCs nationwide, including furniture, children's toys, and refrigeration facilities.

Example Images of One Stop Centres in Zambia and Malawi as provided by Police Scotland from their review deployment in 2024:

		
Medical examination suite at Kabwe OSC	Victim interview space at Kabwe OSC	Child interview space – Victim Support Unit, Llongwe

Annex A -Speaking Points

- **[redacted - s.30]**

Annex B - Biographies of Attendees

[redacted - s.38]

Inspector General Graphel Musamba, Zambian Police Service: appointed as Inspector General of Police in April 2023 by the President. Mr Musamba was present for the launch of the awareness raising campaign (supported by SG) alongside the Permanent Secretary for the Gender Division (Ms Kabika) and **[redacted - s.38]**. The Inspector General of Police (IGP) is the head of the Zambian Police Service and should be referred to as Mr Musamba.

[redacted - s.38]

3C CLIMATE JUST COMMUNITIES ZAMBIA MEETING

16 October 2025

Key message	Scotland remains committed to taking a climate justice approach in all of our international work: recognising that those least responsible for the climate crisis, in Global South countries like Zambia, are being affected first and most severely by it. It is fantastic that an estimated over 36,000 direct and 79,000 indirect beneficiaries, located in some of Zambia's most remote and hard to reach communities, have both been supported by, and formed a crucial part of the success of, CJC Zambia. I recognise that these impressive results, including in transformational improvements to food and water security, have not been easy to achieve: and the programme has done so in the face of many significant challenges.
What	Meeting including presentations and interactive walk- through of CJC interventions with NIRAS, local delivery partners and community member beneficiaries of CJC Zambia 5 minute FM remarks (speaking note attached)
Why	Opportunity for you to hear directly from both **beneficiaries and implementors** of our CJC Zambia programme. Enhance your understanding of how the programme functions, and what impact it is having. Communicate Scotland's continued support for the progress CJC has made: in particular, by its adopting a uniquely community- led, participatory approach to climate action. This will in turn demonstrate Scotland's ongoing solidarity with and support to the Global South in addressing the climate crisis.
Who	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]** 45 total attendees invited (minus FM delegation) including: CJC Local Delivery Partner Heads, CJC Advisory Steering Group members, NIRAS Zambia, CJC Zambia and Delivery Partner staff and community members (list below). *[Representatives from SCIAF's Zambian partner – Caritas Zambia – may also attend. SCIAF previously were CJ partners in Malawi.]*
Where	InterContinental Hotel Lusaka, Haile Selassie Avenue
When	14:00- 16:00

Likely themes	Climate Just Communities Zambia programme, international climate justice, water access, food security, climate resilient agriculture, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, climate advocacy, economic development, gender, youth and disability inclusion, sustainability and exit planning for CJC Zambia
Media	Photos to be posted on the FM LinkedIn channel
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Annex A: Attendee list Annex B: Background Briefing Annex C: Speaking Note Annex D: Suggested Questions

Agenda

Time	Item	Lead
14:00- 14:05	Opening Prayer	**[redacted - s.38]**
14:05- 14:25	Opening, Introductions and Welcome Address	**[redacted - s.38]**
14:25- 14:30	FM Remarks	FM
14:30- 14:45	Overview of CJC Zambia	**[redacted - s.38]**
14:45- 15:45	Gallery Walk of CJC Workstreams- FM to engage with Community Members and Delivery Partners	FM, community members and delivery partners
15:45- 15:50	Closing Remarks and Prayer	**[redacted - s.38]**

Summary

Engagement Background

- This engagement recommended by policy officials, who work with NIRAS to deliver the CJC Zambia contract. A key opportunity to engage directly with those delivering and participating in CJC Zambia – our flagship Climate Justice Fund Programme: seen as a key strategic opportunity given the importance of the CJC programme to Scotland's international work, and proximity of the trip to COP30.

Sensitivities

[redacted - s.30]

ANNEX A

Attendees

A total of 45 participants have been invited but unlikely that 45 will be able to attend. Names and bios included below are for key participants only.

[redacted - s.38]

Delivery Partner Heads

- A total of 6 invited (incl. **[redacted - s.38]**listed above)

CJC Advisory Steering Group

- A total of 14 invited. The Steering Group includes representatives from:
  - Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
  - Office of the President (Gender Division)
  - Zambia Meteorological Department
  - Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
  - Ministry of Agriculture
  - Zambia Environmental Management Agency
  - Ministry of Energy

NIRAS Zambia, CJC Zambia and Delivery Partner Staff

- A total of 16 invited (incl. **[redacted - s.38]**, listed above)

Community Members

- A total of 12 invited, 9 approx. expected to attend

ANNEX B

Background Briefing- CJC Zambia

- The CJC programme (2023- 2026) operates in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia, under three separate contracts. £24m total, £8m each in Rwanda and Malawi, and £7.4m in Zambia) **It is Scotland's biggest Climate Justice Fund programme to date.**
- NIRAS Group (UK) is the lead supplier contracted to deliver CJC in Zambia, in partnership with delivery partners on the ground: Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ), Green Living Movement of Zambia (GLM), Tearfund, Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ), Disability Rights Watch (DRW) and CBM UK.
- CJC Zambia is delivering interventions in four districts: Luangwa (14 wards), Shangombo (2 wards), Sioma (2 wards), and Sinazongwe (4 wards). The target districts are among the poorest in Zambia and the remote wards selected are the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change.
- Project interventions were designed using participatory approaches, and implementation in each ward is overseen by a Community Management Committee (CMC).
- It takes a community-led, participatory approach, prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable including women, young people and people with disabilities.
- CJC Zambia has been delivering interventions across 6 key workstreams as follows
    - Water access, sanitation and hygiene: borehole drilling, borehole rehabilitation and weir construction.
    - Climate resilient agriculture: livestock provision, seed provision and training in climate-resilient livestock and crop/ vegetable production.
    - Natural resource management: tree planting and training in community- led forestry management.
    - Disaster risk reduction: formation and training of community based disaster risk reduction committees, provision of emergency food relief during the 2024 drought emergency.
    - Advocacy: training of climate justice advocacy champions and facilitation of dialogues spanning local, regional and national levels on climate justice issues.
    - Economic development: business development support to village savings loan associations and facilitation of market linkages to support local business groups.
- CJC Zambia is now in its third and final year of implementation, with the contract due to finish at the end of March 2026. **[redacted - s.30]**.
- The programme is now working to finish the vast majority of implementation pre-Christmas, with largely wash- up work to take place between December 2025 and March 2026.

ANNEX C

Speaking Note (max length 5 minutes)

- **[redacted - s.30]**

ANNEX D

Suggested Questions

You may wish to use question prompts below when given time to speak with community members and delivery partners.

[redacted - s.30]

3D RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE LUSAKA AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY
16 October 2025

Key message	Delighted to meet so many Scottish Government partners this evening, thank you for all your hard work for Zambia's future. Also delighted to meet diaspora in Zambia – those that are heritage, those that are connected through education, and those that feel a connection to Scotland. The Scottish-Zambia connections are strong, and they are important to us.
What	Drinks reception hosted by the Lusaka and District Caledonian Society, sponsored by the Heriot Watt Alumni Association of Zambia, in honour of First Minister visit to Malawi.
Why	The First Minister will have the opportunity to present the aims and objectives of his visit programme, to celebrate 17 years of partnership with Zambia, and to meet a wider group of those involved in the Scotland- Zambia relationship beyond those we currently fund and that First Minister will meet on this visit.
Who (Biogs cover Selected Attendees only)	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]** **Douglas Syakalima, Minister of Education** (since September 2021). MP for Chirundu Constituency in Southern Province, a position he has held since 2016. Previously a Lecturer in many Universities in Zambia, and worked as a part- time Lecturer in the Department of Psychology. **Permanent Secretary for Education Noriana Muneku**, is a great champion for inclusive education in Zambia - **[redacted - s.32]** **Norman Chipakupaku**, a Zambian who lived in Scotland for many years, returning to Zambia in 2021. Also an alumni of Heriot-Watt. Norman is PS Disaster Management in the Zambian Government, and prior to that was PS Defence. **[redacted - s.32]** **British High Commissioner Rebecca Terzeon** and a number of her team.
Where	Latitude 15 Hotel, Lusaka

When	Thursday 16 October 2025 18:00-20:00
Likely themes	**Scotland-Zambia Connections:** across iNGOs, universities, schools, health institutions, faith groups. **Scottish Government programmes:** on health, education, gender equality, renewable energy and climate justice.
Media	Photos
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief Annex A - Speaking Note

Agenda and Summary

Agenda (rough running order)

18:00 Drinks reception start.

1815 FM arrival, meet Minister for Education Douglas Syakalima along with his PS Noriana Muneku in holding room. Join main event at 1830.

18:30 Join main event

19:10 Welcome remarks by **[redacted - s.38]** and introductions.
Permanent Secretary for Education Noriana Muneku will welcome her Minister for Education Douglas Syakalima
Minister for Education Douglas Syakalima speaks for the Zambian Government
British High Commissioner Rebecca Terzeon will introduce First Minister

19:30-19:35 **First Minister remarks (speaking note).**

1935-20:00 First Minister meets guests **[redacted - s.30]**

20:00 Close. Note that the First Minister is staying in the Residence this night.

Summary

This reception provides the opportunity for the First Minister to meet a wider group involved in the Scotland-Zambia relationship, beyond those he will meet in the visit programme.

Top Brief

Scotland-Zambia connections

Refer to Zambia in the core briefing. Similar to Malawi:

- Scotland and Zambia share historical and contemporary links through Dr. David Livingstone, and the early Scottish missionaries. Zambians are proud that Dr Livingstone's heart was buried (at his request) at Chief Chitambo's village in Zambia.
- Scottish missionaries led to the establishment of hospitals including at Chitambo, and to strong linkages on health and education that continue to this day.
- Modern day linkages also through mining, eg in Zambia's Copperbelt.
- Heriot Watt's online campus for Zambia has led to high demand for educational links, with Scottish Government funding MBAs for women through them. The President was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Heriot Watt in June 2024.

FOI 202500491454

First Minister

"Scottish-Zambia Connections" Reception - Zambia

Thursday 16 October 2025

Maximum length: 5 minutes

- **[redacted - s.30]**

Day 4 – FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

Key activities:

- Site visit to Matero Level 1 Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia, to see "PEN PLUS" community treatment of non-communicable diseases.
- Travel from Lusaka, Zambia to Lilongwe, Malawi.
- Briefing Meeting with Acting British High Commissioner Rebecca Fabrizi.
- Acting British High Commissioner Reception, at the Residence, Lilongwe.

4A BRIEFING MEETING WITH ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALAWI
17 October 2025

Key message	• Delighted to be in Malawi, particularly in this the 20th anniversary year of the formal Cooperation Agreement between the Governments of Scotland and Malawi, which started our development programme. • My objectives for this visit are to further deepen relations with our partners in the Government of Malawi and our delivery partners. I am also eager to use this opportunity to broaden my understanding of the situation on the ground in Malawi. • The Scottish Government remains committed to working in partnership with the Government of Malawi on poverty alleviation and towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. • **[redacted - s.32]** • The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with the British High Commissioner and FCDO Malawi. • I am grateful for your collaborative and enthusiastic approach in offering support to Scottish Government officials in the planning of my visit. Thank you to your dedicated and highly professional team for their hard work.
What	The First Minister will be provided with a country briefing from the Acting High Commissioner, on arrival, and ahead of his bilateral meeting with the President of Malawi.
Why	The First Minister will have the opportunity to present the aims and objectives of his visit programme. Also to hear from the Acting British High Commissioner on current political and economic issues in Malawi.
Who	 **Rebecca Fabrizi is Acting British High Commissioner to Malawi**, having taken up this role in July 2025. Prior to assuming this position she was the UK Special Envoy for Small Island Developing States. She was also the lead for bilateral relationships between the UK and Caribbean countries. In her diplomatic career so far, Rebecca has enjoyed postings in Beijing, Rome, Belgrade and at the United Nations and WTO in Geneva. She has also worked for the European Union in Brussels and as an academic at the Australian National University.
Where	British High Commission Official Residence, 3R46+C7F, Lundu Street, Lilongwe
When	Friday 17 October 2025 16:30-17:15.

Likely themes	**Scottish Government programmes:** on health, education, gender equality, renewable energy and climate justice. **Challenges faced by Malawi at this time**, including: high debt levels, economic growth, inflation, unreliable energy access and food insecurity; against a background of aid cuts by major donors, and impacts of climate change, including flooding via recent cyclones Ana, Freddy. **[redacted - s.32]**
Media	Photo only
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief

Agenda and Summary

Agenda (no fixed agenda)
16:30 – 16:35 Welcome remarks by the Acting British High Commissioner and introductions
16:35- 16:40 Scottish Government aims for visit and update on programmes.
16:40-17:00 – Acting British High Commission briefing on current economic and political situation.
17:00 – 17:10/15 Discussion.
17:15 Close. Note that the Reception is then due to start in the Residence at 18:00.

Summary
[redacted - s.30]

This is the first time that FM will meet Acting High Commissioner Rebecca Fabrizi, who took up the role in **July 2025**.

Top Brief

SG Priorities in Malawi
- The Scottish Government has a strategic and formal partnership with the Government of Malawi. The original Cooperation Agreement was signed on 2 November 2005.
- The updated Global Goals Partnership Agreement was signed April 2018, by then President Mutharika during his visit to Scotland, and by FFM Nicola Sturgeon. The 2018 Agreement provides a framework for cooperation on: Health; Education; Civic Governance; Sustainable Economic Development; Renewable Energy and Water & Climate
- Through our International Development Fund, today we are providing targeted support on: inclusive education, in particular supporting disability education and scholarships for girls; health, with a particular focus on non-communicable diseases; gender equality, including through our Women and Girls Fund, and our support for the Police Scotland / Malawi Police Service partnership on gender based violence; and renewable energy through our Global Renewables Centre.
- Through our Climate Justice Fund, we are providing £8 million of investment in Malawi over 3 years through our Climate Just Communities programme. Interventions in Malawi include: disaster risk management; livelihoods security; loss and damage; resilient schools; water, sanitation and hygiene; gender and inclusion; advocacy, communication and networking.
- We have also funded projects on loss and damage - through SCIAF and GiveDirectly, and have been working with the Civil Society Network on Climate Change on climate justice research and advocacy.

[redacted - s.30]

Suggested Questions

The First Minister may wish to ask:

[redacted - s.30]

4B RECEPTION HOSTED BY ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALAWI
17 October 2025

Key message	Delighted to be in Malawi, particularly in this the 20th anniversary year of the formal Cooperation Agreement between the Governments of Scotland and Malawi, which started our development programme. My objectives for this visit are to further deepen relations with our partners in the Government of Malawi and our delivery partners. I am also eager to use this opportunity to broaden my understanding of the situation on the ground in Malawi. The Scottish Government remains committed to working in partnership with the Government of Malawi on poverty alleviation and towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Delighted to meet so many Scottish Government partners this evening, thank you for all your hard work for Malawi's future. Also delighted to meet diaspora in Malawi – those that are heritage, those that are connected through education, and those that feel a connection to Scotland. The Scottish-Malawi connections are strong, and they are important to us.
What	Drinks reception hosted by the Acting High Commissioner, in honour of First Minister visit to Malawi.
Why	The First Minister will have the opportunity to present the aims and objectives of his visit programme, to celebrate 20 years of partnership with Malawi, and to meet a wider group of those involved in the Scotland-Malawi relationship beyond those we currently fund and that First Minister will meet on this visit.
Who	**Rebecca Fabrizi is Acting British High Commissioner to Malawi.** **Other key invitees include (see biographies list)**
Where	British High Commission Official Residence, 3R46+C7F, Lundu Street, Lilongwe
When	Friday 17 October 2025 18:00-20:00.
Likely themes	**Scotland-Malawi Connections:** across iNGOs, universities, schools, health institutions, faith groups. **Scottish Government programmes:** on health, education, gender equality, renewable energy and climate justice.

	Challenges faced by Malawi at this time, including: high debt levels, inflation, unreliable energy access and food insecurity; against a background of aid cuts by major donors, and impacts of climate change, including flooding via recent cyclones Ana, Freddy.
Media	Photos.
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief Annex A- Attendee Biographies Annex B - Speaking Note

Agenda and Summary
Running order for reception
18:00 Drinks reception start – guests arrive.
18:10- First Minister and Acting High Commission mingle to meets guests: **[redacted - s.30]**.
18:45- 18:50 Welcome remarks by British High Commissioner
18:50- 18:55 – Guest of Honour First Minister to deliver speech
18:55 Playing of Malawian and UK anthems
19:00-20:00 Guests mingle and network to enjoy the evening.
20:00 Close. Note that the First Minister is staying in the Residence this night.

Summary
This reception provides the opportunity for the First Minister to meet a wider group involved in the Scotland-Malawi relationship, beyond those he will meet at events.

Top Brief

SG Priorities in Malawi
- The Scottish Government has a strategic and formal partnership with the Government of Malawi. The original Cooperation Agreement was signed on 2 November 2005. The updated Global Goals Partnership Agreement was signed April 2018, by then President Mutharika during his visit to Scotland, and by FFM Nicola Sturgeon. The 2018 Agreement provides a framework for cooperation on: Health; Education; Civic Governance; Sustainable Economic Development; Renewable Energy and Water & Climate
- Through our International Development Fund, today we are providing targeted support on: inclusive education, in particular supporting disability education and scholarships for girls; health, with a particular focus on non-communicable diseases; gender equality, including through our Women and Girls Fund, and our support for the Police Scotland / Malawi Police Service partnership on gender based violence; and renewable energy through our Global Renewables Centre.
- Through our Climate Justice Fund, we are providing £8m of investment in Malawi over 3 years through our Climate Just Communities programme. Interventions in Malawi include: disaster risk management; livelihoods security; loss and damage; resilient schools; water, sanitation and hygiene; gender and inclusion; advocacy, communication and networking.

Scotland-Malawi connections
- Relationship between Scots and Malawians began in 1859, with the warm welcome extended to David Livingstone and his companions when he entered what is now Malawi for the first time;
- Today, the Scottish Government continues to provide core funding to the Scotland Malawi Partnership and the Malawi Scotland Partnership to support networks between the two countries, across education, civil society, churches.

Annex A – Key attendees:

International Development to meet:
Letty Chiwara, Country Representative, UN Women
Edgar Bayani, CEO, Community Energy Malawi
[redacted - s.38]Malawi Country Representative - Global Health Partnerships
Fenella Frost Resident Representative of UNDP Malawi
Quent Kalichero MFA, Government of Malawi, and former Deputy Malawi High Commissioner to the UK.

Susan Dalgety, Vice Chair of SMP

[redacted - s.30]

Annex B - Speaking Note

First Minister

British High Commission Reception - Malawi

Friday 17 October 2025

Maximum length: 5 minutes

[redacted - s.30]

Day 5 – SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

Key activities:

- Guided site visit at locations in Zomba District, around Chimbalanga village and meeting with beneficiaries of Climate Just Communities Malawi programme.

5A CLIMATE JUST COMMUNITIES: ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY

18 October 2025

Key message	The Scottish Government is proud to be supporting the Climate Just Communities programme in Malawi. The SG recognises the value of community-led climate justice programming. Those most impacted by the climate crisis are often the experts in responding to it. The interventions seen today are good examples of this. It is essential that that any response to the climate crisis must recognise and include those most historically marginalised – who often bear the brunt. Today is an opportunity to see this in practice.
What	Site visit to meet communities benefiting from the SG's Climate Just Communities (CJC) Malawi programme.
Why	Show SG's support for participatory approaches (of which CJC Malawi is an example) in climate justice programming See and hear the impact that Climate Just Communities Malawi project is having on the lives of community members.
Who	**Kenneth Matekenya,** Team Leader (DAI) Overall project manager for the CJC programme in Malawi **[redacted - s.38]** **Machinda Marongwe,** Oxfam Program Director for Southern Africa Cluster **Dickens Mtonga,** Executive Director for Evangelical Lutheran Development Services (ELDS) **Traditional Authority Ngwelero -** Traditional leader of the area where Chimbalanga village is located **Reinghard Kaweta Chavula,** District Commissioner **Steering Committee Chairperson** – tbc.
Where	T&D Lodge and Conference Centre J8GH+VX3, Zomba, then at 14:15 drive to Chimbalanga village
When	18 October 2025 13:00

Likely themes	Climate Justice, and specifically community led programmes in Malawi.
Media	National media from Malawi from print, TV and radio will be present. They will likely want to speak to FM prior to him leaving the site. A professional photographer will accompany the DAI Malawi team to document this visit. Selected photographs will be used for reporting to the Scottish Government and may be shared on CJC and DAI LinkedIn channels.
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** – Head of International Development
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief Biographies

Agenda and Summary

Agenda

13:00 – 13:45 – Arrival and Lunch at T&D Lodge and Conference Centre
13:45 – 14:15 – Meeting with District Commissioner, and briefing from DAI and ELDS
14:15 – 15:00 – Travelling to Chimbalanga village for the site visit
15:00 – 16:15 – Meeting with community members benefiting from CJC Malawi interventions
16:15 – 16:30 – Departure to Blantyre

Summary

13:00 – 13:45 Arrival and Lunch at T&D Lodge and Conference Centre

DAI will welcome you and there will be 45 minutes to eat lunch.

13:45 – 14:15: Meeting with District Commissioner and Steering Committee Chairperson, and briefing from DAI and ELDS

Following from this, you be welcomed by the District Commissioner.

Chair of the CJC Malawi Steering Committee may be available. However, they may not be appointed yet due to recent election. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee's is a Malawian civil servant - appointed by Malawian President.

Welcoming remarks will be provided by District Commissioner.

No formal speech required, but you may wish to:

[redacted - s.30]

DAI (the lead implementer for CJC Malawi) and ELDS (a sub-contractor of DAI's) will then provide a verbal briefing in advance of the visit. This will consist both of a briefing on the CJC Malawi project overall, and what to expect on the field visit specifically. Leaflets will be provided by DAI which will give information on the sites and activities to be visited.

14:15 – 15:00: Travelling to Chimbalanga village for site visit

DAI will travel to site, and SG delegation will follow in convoy.

15:00 – 16:15: Meeting with community members benefiting from CJC Malawi interventions

Welcome by village, Traditional Authority and village headman will be given.

No formal speech is expected from you, but you may be asked to make informal remarks:

[redacted - s.30]

You will then visit a solar irrigation scheme and meet with beneficiaries of honey production by beekeeping groups; goat pass-on interventions and youths trained in various vocational skills.

These are part of Climate Just Communities **Livelihoods Security theme**. Climate change poses a formidable threat to livelihood security, particularly for communities relying on environment-based sources of income. In response to this challenge, the CJC Malawi Livelihoods theme concentrates on diversifying livelihood options for these communities.

Following from this, you will meet with community members benefitting from CJC Malawi's **WASH interventions**.

Key climate risks in Malawi are linked to there being either too much or too little rain. This effects communities' access to potable water especially since the majority depend on surface water sources such as shallow wells. CJC Malawi WASH interventions include establishing water points, introducing solar powered reticulation systems and drilling boreholes to increase community access to water.

You will then meet community members benefitting from **Natural Resource Management interventions** as part of CJC Malawi.

Over 1 million trees have been planted as part of afforestation interventions since the project's inception. This has been driven by Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs) – committees run by the community that focus on natural resource management.

Finally, you will interact with Vitalite representatives – which is a **private sector company that is promoting clean energy** through provision of solar lamps for lighting.

Vitalite successfully established a distribution hub in Zomba (and another in Phalombe) and recruited agents to drive market penetration of their solar products.

16:15 – 16:30: Departure to Blantyre

During departure, it is likely that Malawian print, radio and TV press will be present to ask you questions.

Sensitivities
[redacted - s.30]

Top Brief
Background

CJC Malawi focuses on the most marginalised communities. Women and girls, young people, and people with disabilities are supported to take leadership roles, shaping locally- led solutions that respond to their needs, while strengthening resilience to the material and social impacts of the climate crisis.

- CJC aims to demonstrate the value of community-led climate justice programming. We encourage other governments and donors to adopt approaches that also place communities at the centre climate action.
- The CJC Malawi Steering Committee provides feedback to DAI and the SG on the project. They meet twice a year to review progress of CJC Malawi and provide guidance for improvements to the project. Local Delivery partners also (DAI's sub-contractors) meet monthly at district level.
- Climate Change in Zomba primarily manifests in the form of disasters such as flooding, dry spells, cyclones, heavy rains, hailstorms and thunderstorms.

As part of Scotland's international work, we continue to advocate for climate finance to be accessible at the community level.

- Scotland will have a presence at COP30 in several weeks and will use our platform to call for equitable climate finance, delivered as grants not loans, and channelled directly to communities.
- Excellent programmes such as these help us make the argument for this, by demonstrating the value of community-led climate justice programming.

FUTURE FUNDING

[redacted - s.30]

Biographies

Kenneth Matekenya, Team Leader (DAI) – Climate Just Communities Malawi

- Ken has been the in-country team leader for DAI (the delivery partner for CJC Malawi) since its inception in 2023.
- Prior to this, Ken has 31 years of programme management experience in international development – including 7 years Malawian Ministry of Agriculture. Ken met Cabinet Secretary Martin at COP29 in November 2024.

[redacted - s.38]

Machinda Marongwe, Oxfam Program Director for Southern Africa Cluster

- Machinda currently serves as the Programme Director for Oxfam in Southern Africa, providing strategic leadership across 17 countries and managing a £170 million portfolio.
- Machinda has led major humanitarian responses to crises such as Cyclone Idai and the Ukraine refugee emergency. Oxfam is a sub-contractor under DAI in implementing the CJC Malawi project, so will accompany FM on the visit.

Dickens Mtonga, Executive Director for Evangelical Lutheran Development Services (ELDS)

- ELDS is a local delivery partner and sub-contractor coordinating implementation of the Climate Just Communities project in Zomba District. Dickens joined ELDS in 2004, became Executive Director in 2016.

Traditional Authority Ngwelero

- Ngwelero is the sub-district traditional leader of the area where Chimbalanga village is located.

Reinghard Kaweta Chavula, District Commissioner

- District Commissioner in various districts since 2014.
- 2018 to 2024 Reignhard served as Chair for District Commissioners.

Steering Committee Chairperson

- Previous Steering Committee chairperson was Walusungu Kayira – a civil servant from the Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture.

Day 6 – SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

Key activities:

- Attend service at St Michael and All Angels' Church, followed by tree planting ceremony in grounds of church. Then coffee with congregants and representatives of civil society and faith groups.

- Guided site visit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital to see mental health and dentistry facilities,; then next door to Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHES), to include working lunch.

- Visit to Mandala House – historic house.

6A ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH – AND COFFEE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY 19 OCTOBER 2025

Key message	Attendance at St Michael and All Angels Church, Blantyre. St Michael's is Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian's Blantyre Synod (CCAP), which is affiliated with the Church of Scotland.
What	First Minister attendance at Church. He will read a verse during the service. First Minister meeting informally immediately after the church service, over coffee, with congregants and representatives of faith groups/civil society. FM may be asked to say a few words, reflecting on his visit and the Scotland / Malawi relationship.
Why	First Minister requested to attend a church service on Sunday.
Who	Church Service: Minister Rev Gracious Meki; and CCAP Blantyre Synod Moderator the Reverend Reynold Mangisa Coffee engagement: church congregants; Scottish diaspora in Malawi, some Scottish Government partners, and Malawians who feel connected to Scotland (most will already have attended the British High Commission reception on Friday 17th in Lilongwe).
Where	Church Service: St Michael and All Angels Church, Blantyre Coffee engagement: in the school next to the church.
When	Church Service: 08:30 – 10:15 Coffee engagement: 10:30 – 11:15
Likely themes	Interest by guests in the First Minister's reflections on his visit. Scotland / Malawi links. Church of Central Africa Presbytery (CCAP)/Church of Scotland
Media	Photos.
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Summary

Agenda and summary
Agenda
07:45-08:15 Guided visit around St. Michael and All Angels Church, before moving to next door modern building where the church service will take place.
08:30 – 10:15: Church Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Blantyre.
10:20-10:40 Tree planting ceremony in grounds of church with the Moderator.
10:45 – 11:30: Coffee engagement in school attached to Church.

Summary – Church service
St Michael and All Angels Church, Blantyre:

- Constructed 1888-91 on the site of the original Scottish Mission site, and designed by a Scot Rev David Clement Scott with no formal architectural training.
- The Church is part of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod, which is now separate to but affiliated to the Church of Scotland.

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP)/Synod of Blantyre:

- Scottish missionaries embarked on missionary work in Malawi in honour of David Livingstone
- The Free Church founded a mission in Livingstonia in 1875, and the Church of Scotland founded one in Blantyre in 1876. In 1924 the CCAP was established by loosely joining these two missions together with the Dutch mission in Nkhoma
- In 1957-8 there were 67 Scottish missionary families in Malawi, manning a large network of schools and hospitals. Today the CCAP has 5 Synods – 3 in Malawi and one each in Zambia and Zimbabwe
- There are many congregation twinnings between Scotland and Malawi, and the Blantyre Synod also support some Mission Partners in the country.

Summary – after church coffee

- After church service, over coffee, social meeting with civil society/church groups, Scottish diaspora in Malawi, SG partners, and Malawians connected to Scotland.
- Malawi Scotland Partnership, including: Linda Dembo CEO; **[redacted - s.38]** Daka, Chair
- Attendees will include some of those nominated by the Scotland Malawi Partnership (including certain of their Board members who will be in Malawi during FM's visit, and some who spoke to the First Minister in August 2024 when he visited the City Chambers), eg:
  - Edgar Bayani, CEO Community Energy Malawi, worked with SG on renewable energy for many years
  - Maggie Banda, WOLREC, campaigner for women to vote
  - **[redacted - s.38]**
  - **[redacted - s.38]**
  - **[redacted - s.38]**who led the Scottish Government-funded satellite imaging work for post Cyclone Freddy damage assessment
  - dynamic Malawian post-grads who have visited Scottish schools, eg **[redacted - s.38]**.

6B QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND KAMUZU UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND

Sunday 19 October

Key message	The Scottish Government is proud to support and provide long-term sustainable funding to the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences partnership since 2005. Strategic partnerships can drive forward transformative change. The power of the GU/KUHeS partnership is a model for successful North-South collaboration, recognised by the European Commission as an exemplar of best practices between African and European institutions. Partnerships, through investment and shared expertise, lead to sustainable development and impactful advancements in healthcare and research. The SG-funded MalDent project to establish Malawi's first dental school, and the Blantyre-Blantyre project to establish a research laboratory at KUHES are key examples of how targeted initiatives can achieve extraordinary results. To celebrate the success of the MalDent Project in training the first home-grown dentists in Malawi and the Blantyre-Blantyre Project's role in establishing a cutting-edge research hub. To underscore the importance of equalising power in partnerships – of Scotland and Malawi working together and prioritising the needs of Malawian partners. Ensuring that initiatives are driven by local needs and expertise.
What	A tour of the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences Blantyre campus and associated partnerships. You will tour the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and learn about the Scotland Malawi Mental Health Education Project (SMMHEP) and dental clinic in relation to the MalDent project. You will then tour the teaching campus and the Scottish Government supported Blantyre-Blantyre laboratory. You will also be invited to deliver remarks at the end of the visit (see speaking note)
Why	This is an opportunity to recognise our long term strategic partnership with the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS). Formerly known as Malawi's College of Medicine, KUHeS have been a key Scottish Government (SG) partner since 2005, and are specifically mentioned for support within the formal SG/Malawi

	Government Cooperation Agreements signed in 2005 and then 2018 at FM/President level. KUHeS is located in the capital Lilongwe, but also in Blantyre where the biggest element of our funding has been focused. We have committed to awarding direct, long term funding of £500,000 per annum on a non-competitive basis to KUHeS in line with the outcomes of our International Development review, specifically our commitments on equalising power through our Programme. This is also an opportunity to see three flagship health partnerships between Scotland and Malawi- the Scotland Malawi Mental Health Education Project and the MalDent Project.
Who	Project leads, staff and patients of the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital.
Where	Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Blantyre, Malawi https://maps.app.goo.gl/31bMaY3H1jjHHeZE7 Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi https://maps.app.goo.gl/9SMBUfWzWVhc1AQe6
When	Sunday 19 October – 12.00-14.30 (includes informal lunch)
Likely themes	Global health, health partnerships, expanding health research capacity in Zambia to support domestic and regional health outcomes.
Media	Photos - no announcements planned. See comms plan
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief Annex A – Speaking Note

Agenda and Summary

Agenda

12:00 Arrival of the First Minister of Scotland at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, and is welcomed by:
- Professor Macpherson Mallewa - Vice Chancellor,
- Dr Mwapatsa Mipando, Glasgow University and coordinator for FM visit (FM will already have met Dr Mipando in UNZA, Zambia)

First Minister briefed by the Vice Chancellor on the tour

12.10 Tour of the Scotland Malawi Mental Health Education Partnership (SMMHEP) consultation at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital

12.20 Tour of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Dental Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital

12:40 Tour of the Construction Site for the Dental School at KUHeS.
First Minister is introduced to the first 10 graduates of Dental School at the construction site and takes a photograph with them before inspecting the site.

12:50 Tour of Blantyre to Blantyre Laboratory services and team

13:15 First Minister escorted into the Library Auditorium from Blantyre Blantyre laboratory.
Welcome committee:
- Professor Sosten Chiotha - Chairperson of Council,
- Professor Macpherson Mallewa - Vice Chancellor,
- Dr Belinda Gombachika - Deputy Vice Chancellor,
- Government Official,
- Mr Christopher Namagowa – Registrar,
- Hospital Director, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital
- Dr Benjamin Kumwenda - Director of Student Affairs and Scottish Government Partnership Grant Lead.

13:15 Opening Prayer by Reverend Samuel Ngomwa, Chaplain of the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences

13:20 Welcome Remarks by the Director of Ceremonies

13:25 Remarks by Professor Macpherson Mallewa - Vice Chancellor of the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences

13.35 Remarks by Government of Malawi Official

13:40 Remarks by Professor Iain McInnes-Vice Principal of the University of Glasgow

13:30 Speech by First Minister of Scotland

13:40 Presentation of gift to First Minister by the Vice Chancellor and
Closing Remarks by Director of Ceremonies

13:45 Closing Prayer

13:50
- Group Photo
- Media Interviews
- Snack lunch served outside the Library Boardroom
- Networking

14:30 First Minister departs from Library boardroom.

Top Brief

Strategic Partnership

- This partnership is a powerful example of successful North-South collaboration and an important a catalyst for innovation, driving new approaches to healthcare delivery and research.
- By investing in governance and important infrastructure, this partnership is laying the foundation for sustainable future for the University.
- By uniting expertise from Scotland and Malawi, this partnership has created a state-of-the-art facility, nurtured local talent, and fostered sustainable development. This remarkable partnership demonstrates that by working together, we can achieve far greater impact than by going it alone.
- By prioritizing the needs of our Malawian partners and investing in local talent, this partnership has created a sustainable model for future collaborations.
- Our support for this partnership demonstrates our ambition to taking holistic approach to global health, addressing both education and research to create a lasting impact.
- We are supporting power equalisation through our direct funding of Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) in Malawi aligned to their priorities. It continues to be our intention to award KUHeS special (non-competitive) status in our future programme.
- In 2024-25, we reinstated funding to the University of Glasgow to support the ongoing development of KUHeS as a new independent University in Malawi. The funding was used to establish strong financial and institutional governance systems and to sustain existing SG projects ongoing at the University.

Scotland Malawi Mental Health Education Project (SMMHEP)

- SMMHEP is a Scottish charity, supported by NHS Education Scotland, Royal College of Psychiatrists, and THET, addressing Malawi's mental healthcare shortage through education and training.
- The project established a Masters in Medicine (Psychiatry) course at Malawi's College of Medicine (2010-13) to address critical psychiatrist shortage.
- Further, it received £300,000 Scottish Government funding in 2016 to support psychiatry capacity building, including scholarships for four trainees.
- It was recognised as a leading example of Scottish NHS boards collaborating on global health initiatives, in one subject discipline (mental health/psychiatry).
- The Scotland-Malawi Mental Health Education Project is a shining example of a successful health partnership, demonstrating the power of collaboration to address global challenges.
- Thanks to the dedication and hard work of all involved, through collaboration and shared expertise, we have made significant strides in addressing the critical shortage of mental health professionals in Malawi.
- We are immensely proud of the SMMHEP's achievements, including the establishment of Malawi's first postgraduate psychiatry course. Together, we have established a strong foundation for mental health care in Malawi and look forward to building on these achievements.

- The Scottish Government's continued support for SMMHEP over the past decade is an important recognition of the project's impact and potential to create a sustainable mental health system in Malawi.

MalDent (establishment of a dental school, Malawi)

- The project received £1.3 million from the Scottish Government, with additional funds for digital learning due to COVID-19.
- The project works to launch a dental degree programme in Malawi, with the first students starting in 2019, and graduating this year. There are now more dental students (52) than registered dentists (40).
- Malawi's National Oral Health Policy was developed with project support.
- The World Bank committed $5.2 million for a new dental teaching facility.
- Tuition fees and living costs can prevent qualified students from pursuing dentistry. MalDent Student Aid, a charity, helps students facing financial hardship continue their dental studies. Kamuzu University offers a separate financial support program for dental students.
- The MalDent Project team has achieved extraordinary milestones, transforming dental education and care in Malawi.
- Your dedication to training a new generation of Malawian dentists is commendable. With a burgeoning cohort of dental students now outnumbering registered dentists, you have laid a strong foundation for oral health improvement.
- Securing substantial World Bank funding for a state-of-the-art clinical teaching facility is incredibly exciting and we look forward to construction beginning later this year.
- The projects' instrumental role in developing Malawi's National Oral Health Policy demonstrates your commitment to comprehensive oral care working closely with partners.
- We applaud the tireless efforts of the team both here in Malawi and in Glasgow and look forward to the continued success of the MalDent Project.
- My heartfelt congratulations to the entire team, who have developed and overseen key missions - the establishment of Malawi's first dental school - and also a first National Oral Health Policy for Malawi, that has laid down a blueprint for oral health improvement
- I was delighted to hear of the resounding success of the pioneer cohort of dental students. The fact that all ten students have very recently passed their BDS Finals, marking the first ever group of home-trained dentists in Malawi, is a truly remarkable achievement.
- This milestone, coupled with the imminent completion of the new teaching facility, lays a solid foundation for the future of oral health in Malawi.
- Securing substantial World Bank funding for a state-of-the-art clinical teaching facility is incredibly exciting and we look forward to following progress as construction continues over the months ahead.
- Your dedication to training a new generation of Malawian dentists is commendable. With a burgeoning cohort of dental students now outnumbering registered dentists, you have laid a strong foundation for oral health improvement.
- The projects' instrumental role in developing Malawi's National Oral Health Policy demonstrates your commitment to comprehensive oral care working closely with partners.

- We applaud the tireless efforts of the team both here in Glasgow and in Malawi and look forward to the continued success of the MalDent Project.

Blantyre Blantyre Project

- Scottish Government provided £1 million in funding, with additional support for COVID-19 research and testing.
- The Blantyre Blantyre laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and is conducting vital research from vaccine efficacy to dyslipidaemia.
- The Blantyre-Blantyre project is a remarkable collaboration between Scotland, and Malawi, harnessing expertise to combat everything from the rising tide of non-communicable diseases to vaccinations.
- I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks for all those involved in the project. From the researchers who envisioned this lab to the engineers who made it a reality - each of you has played a vital role.
- What really strikes me is that this laboratory isn't just about bricks and mortar. Together, we are fostering a research community, a hub, for driving cutting-edge research in Africa, by Africans, for Africa.
- This project is a shining example of south-south collaboration. African expertise, from researchers to engineers, is at the forefront. At every step, from design to evaluation, we remain committed to our principles of partner-led development.
- This new lab, with a dedicated research community at its core, will empower to tackle challenge by investigating the root causes and treatments of NCDs seeking solutions tailored to Malawi's specific needs.
- This project goes beyond groundbreaking research. In line with our ambitions on mainstreaming sustainability and gender equality, we are proud that the laboratory will be powered by solar energy, installed by industry-leading female engineers providing sustainable and reliable energy

Health Partnership Programme (HPP)

- Inspired by the strong collaborations like those we have seen here at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, earlier this year, the Scottish Government launched the Health Partnership Programme (HPP) in Malawi, Rwanda, and Zambia.
- Here today we have witnessed the power of knowledge exchange. The HPP builds on this principle, promoting bidirectional learning between Scotland and partner countries. By sharing expertise and good practice, the HPP will create a stronger, more equitable and healthier future.
- By supporting existing collaborations and, in time, fostering new ones, the programme will enhance institutional resilience in partner countries' healthcare systems. Together, we can identify shared challenges and develop innovative solutions that strengthen healthcare systems in all our partner countries.

The project demonstrates the effectiveness of a collaborative approach to global health challenges and contributed to the development of cancer care guidelines in Malawi. It also enhanced the reputation of NHS Scotland as a leader in global health.

- We believe that the HPP will create lasting change through building and sustaining strategic partnerships, learning, and knowledge exchange.
- This exciting programme represents a significant step forward in strengthening healthcare systems and improving health outcomes in Scotland and our partner countries.

Background – earlier funding at QEH

Edinburgh Malawi Breast Cancer Project (earlier funding)

- The project received around £185,340 between 2015-2018 and aimed to enhance breast cancer treatment at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital through improved multidisciplinary care and pathology.
- The project successfully reached 213 patients, expanded the multidisciplinary team, trained QECH staff in oncology skills, established new roles in breast care nursing and IT/data management, and implemented improvements in pathology tissue processing.
- The project improved healthcare for women in Malawi through multidisciplinary breast cancer treatment. Increased access to targeted therapy via oestrogen receptor testing. Enhanced patient care through improved multidisciplinary team working and oncology nursing education.
- The project empowered Malawian staff to lead oncology nursing education and established sustainable systems for data management and pathology.

Annex

John Swinney MSP

First Minister

Kamuzu University of Health Sciences Malawi

Friday 17 October 2025
7 minutes

[redacted - s.30]

6C TOUR OF HISTORIC MANDALA HOUSE

20 October 2025

Key message	Cultural engagement.
What	Oldest building in Malawi – café and art gallery downstairs, with opportunity to see work of local artists. Upstairs is the Society of Malawi Library and Archive with the original boardroom and offices of the African Lakes Company (ALC), founded by the Moir Brothers from Glasgow.
Why	Mandala House was built in 1882 by the African Lakes Corporation, founded by Glasgow's Moir brothers, and is the oldest building in the country. The name "Mandala" comes from locals' nickname for John Moir, who wore glasses, and the house is now a national monument, housing the Society of Malawi Library and Archives and hosting the La Caverna restaurant and art gallery. A Saltire flag continues to be flown beside the Malawi flag on the outer building. The Glasgow University archive continues to hold historic documents on Mandala House. In addition to interest in its historic links with Scotland, the Scottish Government's Malawi Investment initiative is run through the African Lakes Company (ALC), which was revived from the original African Lakes Corporation sited in Mandala House.
Who	First Minister will be given a personal informal tour of Mandala House by one of the staff.
Where	Mandala House, Blantyre.
When	Sunday 19 October 14:45-15:15
Likely themes	Historic links between Scotland and Malawi Historical information on Mandala House, including its boardroom Malawi art
Media	Photos: FM will gift a wooden quaich to mark his visit to be held in Mandala House. A new Scottish flag has also been gifted for the building (the Saltire flies next to the Malawi flag on the outside of Mandala House), and will be in place already on arrival.
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	N/A

Day 7 – MONDAY 20 OCTOBER

Key activities:

- Roundtable on investment at Mandala House.
- [Bilateral].

7A INVESTMENT ROUNDTABLE AT MANDALA HOUSE

20 OCTOBER 2025

Key message	• Trade and investment have potential to enhance sustainable economic growth and development by empowering existing businesses and creating sustainable livelihoods. • While recognising the important role of traditional development aid, the Scottish Government is committed to help strengthen Malawi's private sector dynamism by supporting the development of Scottish and Malawian private investment links.
What	A roundtable discussion will on SG support for commercial investment in Malawi through the African Lakes Company (ALC). You will be met by **Robert Bobby Anderson**, the CEO of ALC. An informal conversation around the Mandala House boardroom table. The intention being to exchange ideas and experience around the role of investment as complementary tool to reduce aid dependence in the medium to long term. Formalities kept to a minimum in order to encourage useful dialogue. Announcement of further commercial investment support to St Andrews Macadamia Farm (£100,000) and a new partnership with National Bank of Malawi Development Bank (£264,031).
Why	Through the International Development Fund's Malawi Investment Programme, the Scottish Government has, via African Lakes Company, provided match-funded investment to help Malawi increase trade and investment links and strengthening existing businesses to create sustainable livelihoods. The meeting will: enable the First Minister to meet and hear from Scottish Government commercial investment partners; and provide the First Minister with an opportunity to join the wider discussion on business and investment friendly environments in Malawi and role of investment/trade in Malawi's development.
Who	**Key leads:** **Robert 'Bobby' Anderson** - founder of the revived African Lakes Company (ALC), a Scottish company making investments in growth stage companies in Africa. The company took off in 2017 with a grant from SG to match private Scottish investors. **Bernard Masi** - played a key role in setting up National Bank of Malawi Development Bank (NBMDB) Ltd and is currently the Bank's General Manager.

	Esnat Kamudoni - Chief Operating Officer at NBMDB and leads its business growth strategy, ensuring portfolio quality, oversees stakeholder engagement, credit operations, and project monitoring. She supports the Bank's broader mandate of fostering developmental impact through inclusive and sustainable financing. **Antonios Tselingas** - MD for St Andrews Macadamia farm (SAM) in Zomba, one of the success stories of SG Malawi Investment Programme having diversified into macadamia after over 2 decades growing tobacco. **Other participants:** • National Bank of Malawi Development Bank (4) • St Andrew Macadamia (4) • African Lakes Company (1) • Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (1) **[redacted - s.38]**will attend as an observer.
Where	Mandala House, Blantyre – the Boardroom
When	20 October 2025, 09:00-10:00 *[may need to change to the Sunday afternoon if the bilateral is fixed for Monday]*
Likely themes	Investment as a key avenue for sustained economic development and improved livelihoods in Malawi Empowerment of Malawi women through businesses
Media	Photo only
Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda Summary Annex A - Speaking Note

Agenda and summary

Agenda

- Bobby Anderson, CEO African Lakes Company, to chair. Brief introductions (one for each org)
- **ALC** – Bobby Anderson introduces the vision of ALC (2 mins)
- **St Andrew Macadamia**. Progress report plus outline of the important role of the women's Agricultural Community Foundation project based on the farm and the synergies it has created. (5 mins)
- **National Bank of Malawi Development Bank**. Outline of the challenges faced by women seeking access to affordable capital to grow their businesses and the role of the new project between ALC and NBMDB. (5 mins)
- **Malawi Investment and Trade Centre**
- **FIRST MINISTER**
  - Welcome meeting in ALC boardroom
  - Comment on SAM/ACF partnership and on the vision of NBMDB.
  - Reference the role of angel investors in providing capital for early stage businesses in Scotland, and welcome ALC efforts to engage Edinburgh based Archangels in this project.
- **Open discussion**
- **Wrapping up** to align with FM timetable (JK to signal to Chair).

Summary

- In March 2013, as DFM/Cabinet Secretary Finance, Mr Swinney hosted a roundtable at Prestonfield, Edinburgh during the visit of President Banda to Scotland, to discuss establishing a commercial investment fund for Malawi.
- That led to establishment of our commercial investment funding stream under the International Development Fund, through African Lakes Company (ALC), co-investing with private Scottish investors such as Ann Gloag and Sir Ewan Brown, and interest in mentorship by John Cameron.
- The Malawi Investment Initiative is intended to begin moving Malawi away from reliance on aid (**[redacted - s.30]**) and towards a self-sustaining economy supported by trade and investment.
- The investment is managed by ALC, reviving the original African Lakes Company that was established in Glasgow in 1878 to develop trade as an effective way of displacing slavery in Malawi, and which had its African HQ in Mandala House.
- In October 2016 Minister for International Development announced Scottish Government investment of £1m from the IDF in Malawian businesses, over a 3-year period, match-funded by private investors based in Scotland to provide a total business investment of £2m for Malawi.
- This roundtable will enable First Minister to hear about the business and investment climate in Malawi from business and banking leaders. And discuss how Scottish Government support and investment is there for that "aid to trade" desire.

- New funding will be announced under our Malawi Investment Initiative, including via new partnership with the National Malawi Development Bank: further £100,000 commercial investment support to St Andrews Macadamia Farm (to now total £500,000) and a new partnership with National Bank of Malawi Development Bank (£264,031).

Annex A

Introductory Remarks at Investment Roundtable - Speaking Note [3 mins]

[redacted - s.30]

7B BILATERAL MEETING WITH HE AP MUTHARIKA, PRESIDENT OF MALAWI
20 October 2025

Key message	Delighted to be in Malawi, particularly in this the 20th anniversary year of the formal Cooperation Agreement between the Governments of Scotland and Malawi, which started our development programme. Scotland and Malawi's relationship dates back 150 years and today there are many links between Scots and Malawians. This relationship, while historic, is also innovative and forward-looking, particularly as we look to work together on current global priorities such as global health, tackling the causes and impacts of climate change and increasing energy security. My objectives for this visit are to further deepen relations with you, our partners in the Government of Malawi, and our delivery partners. I am also eager to use this opportunity to broaden my understanding of the situation on the ground in Malawi. The Scottish Government remains committed to working in partnership with the Government of Malawi on poverty alleviation and towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with the Government of Malawi. And remains wholly committed to investing in, and indeed growing, its special and strategic relationship with Malawi. The Scottish Government wants our programmes to continue to be led by the priorities of our partner countries and we are particularly interested in hearing your Government's reflections as these programmes are now being implemented. I am grateful for your Government's welcome to me and my officials. Thank you to your dedicated and highly professional teams for their hard work too in supporting my visit.
What	Bilateral meeting with HE President Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi.
Why	This meeting will be an opportunity to further strengthen our relationship. The First Minister will have the opportunity to present the aims and objectives of his visit programme, and to update on programming announcements, which are in line with Malawi's development

	priorities. Also to hear from the President on current political and economic dynamics, including needs and priorities in Malawi at this time. And discuss the future of the Scotland / Malawi relationship.
Who	 **President Peter Mutharika:** a member of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Arthur Peter Mutharika was the President of Malawi from 2014-2020, during which time (April 2018) he visited Scotland and signed the updated Global Goals Partnership Agreement with FFM Nicola Sturgeon. In Malawi's September 2025 elections he was returned to power, and inaugurated on 4 October as Malawi's 7th President. **[redacted - s.30]** Professor Mutharika is an expert on international economic law, international law, and comparative constitutional law. As a professor, he has taught at University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Haile Selassie University (Ethiopia), Rutgers University (USA), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research Program for Foreign Service Officers from Africa and Asia at Makerere University (Uganda). For 39 years he taught at Washington University, and was latterly the Charles Nagel Professor of International & Comparative Law Emeritus. He has also served as an Academic Visitor at the London School of Economics. **George Chaponda**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, appointed October 2025. He has held a number of senior positions in various Malawi Governments. He visited Scotland in 2014, as then Minister of Foreign Affairs, meeting with Humza Yousaf as then Minister for International Development. **[redacted - s.30]**
Where	Blantyre Residence [tbc]
When	Tbc
Likely themes	**Scottish Government programmes:** on health, education, gender equality, renewable energy and climate justice. **Challenges faced by Malawi at this time**, including: high debt levels, inflation, unreliable energy access and food insecurity; against a background of aid cuts by major donors, and impacts of climate change.
Media	Tbc

Supporting official	**[redacted - s.38]** **[redacted - s.38]**
Attached documents	Agenda and Summary Top Brief Annex A - Speaking Note

Agenda and Summary
[redacted - s.32]

Agenda (private meeting) (no fixed agenda yet)
[redacted - s.32]

Summary
Bilateral meeting between the First Minister and the President of Malawi. **[redacted - s.30]**

This is the first time that FM will meet HE President Mutharika, following his recent inauguration on 4 October. FFM Nicola Sturgeon previously met President Mutharika in Edinburgh in April 2018, signing the current Global Goals Partnership Agreement.

Top Brief

SG Priorities in Malawi

- During this visit in Malawi, FM will undertake a range of engagements:
  - **Climate Justice projects in Zomba District**, through our Climate Just Communities Programme;
  - Visit to our long-term strategic partners - **Kamuzu University of Health Sciences** – to see a range of key initiatives, including:
    - **the Blantyre-Blantyre Research Laboratory**
    - **mental health training support**;
    - **Malawi's first dental school,** including meeting the first cohort of home-grown dentists;
  - **hosting an investment roundtable at Mandala House, Blantyre; and**
  - celebrating through a reception in Lilongwe and then gathering after church in Blantyre the myriad – and still growing – **Malawi-Scottish Connections** within Malawi's population.

Presidential Priorities
President Peter Mutharika has outlined his priorities for Malawi following his return to office in October 2025. The following themes are priorities:

1. Anti-Corruption and Accountability
The president has emphasized **zero tolerance for embezzlement**, promising that any official who misuses public funds "will not be tolerated." He aims to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB**)** and ensure its independence.

2. Economic Stabilization and Growth
In relation to the economy, his administration is prioritizing:

- **Food security**
- **Foreign exchange stability**
- **Debt restructuring**

- **Export diversification**
- **Job creation**, especially for youth

He has called for **international investment**, framing Malawi as a trustworthy partner.

3. Public Services Reform

Plans include strengthening **healthcare and education systems**, improving infrastructure, and restoring trust in public institutions.

Mutharika has promised to restructure state institutions, improve transparency, and restore efficiency in government operations.

4. Climate and Environmental Action

Mutharika has signalled renewed commitment to **environmental management**, including enforcing bans on single-use plastics and promoting clean energy.

Suggested Questions

- The First Minister will want to ask questions to supplement briefing provided by SG officials, refer to Malawi country profile in the core briefing.

In particular, the First Minister may wish to ask:
[redacted - s.30]

1.2 Core Brief for Visit – Submitted 14 October 2025

Core Brief: First Minister Visit to Zambia and Malawi – October 2025

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Steering Brief – Overarching Themes and Aims

Summary Purpose and Themes for Malawi and Zambia Visit October 2025

- Current global challenges – climate change, pandemics, conflict, poverty, inequality – can only be addressed if the Global South and North work together.
- Supporting international development and climate justice is an important way that Scotland can be a good global citizen.
- SG established its international development footprint in 2005, with a £3 million International Development Fund focused on Malawi only. Since then, our overseas assistance has evolved and expanded geographically, thematically and financially.
- Since 2023, our revised International Development Fund programmes focus on health, education, equalities, and renewables.
- How we spend is equally important. While our programme started with an ambition to support Scottish organisations partnering abroad, our focus now is to listen to the voices of the people and governments in our partner countries, to better understand their challenges, and work in partnership to address these issues.

Current Challenges in International Development and Aid

- Scottish Government planned aid expenditure for 2025-26 is £23 million.
- Our world-leading Climate Justice Fund was also established in 2012. We are fulfilling our commitment to spend £36 million on Climate Justice, over this Parliamentary term, including £10 million on loss and damage.
- And we support Humanitarian crises with £1 million of support annually.
- Our commitment shows leadership at a time UKG cut aid by 30%.
- **[redacted - s.30]**
- Economic turbulence, flooding/drought events and significant US aid cuts have reduced Malawi and Zambia's capacity to make progress on their own national development plans.

Purpose and Outcomes of the Visit

- Celebrating the 20th year of Scotland's International Development Programme in 2025, the First Minister will visit programmes in Zambia and Malawi:
    - How health systems cope with diseases,
    - how we support quality education,
    - how to support those most affected by climate change, and
    - how we support the advancement of gender equality.
- This will be the first time a First Minister has visited Malawi since the historic Co-operation Agreement between the governments of Scotland and Malawi in 2005, and the first ever visit to Zambia.

Overview of Current International Development (IDF) Programming

[See the thematic briefs throughout this document for more detail]

Background

Since 2022, following discussion with our partner countries during Covid-19, we refocused our work thematically, and further evolved our approach. We are clear that how we fund is equally as important as what we fund:

- How: in designing/implementing our new programmes, we're now guided by 3 underpinning approaches: our International Development Principles; mainstreaming equality; and pursuing an equalising power agenda.
- What: launching new international development programmes with our partner countries, where we are looking to collaborate on tackling non-communicable diseases, support inclusive education for those with additional support needs, and work together on advancing the rights of women and girls. We are also responding to our partner countries' asks on renewable energy.

In developing these new sectoral programmes, we are working to embed **participatory methodology**, where possible, into programme design, implementation, and evaluation processes to ensure decisions on our new programmes are driven by local expertise, including those who are 'experts by lived experience. This is further linked to shifting power commitments.

A. Stronger Health Systems

- Scotland has a strong history of supporting health systems in our partner countries.
- Our NHS partnerships, have transformed health care, for example launching Malawi's first dental school, supporting a programme which has trained all psychiatrists, established the first dedicated A&E centre, and supported on cancer.
- Further health partnerships have sought to explore "the Glasgow Effect" (low life expectancy/health equity gaps) through the SG-funded Blantyre-Blantyre Research Labs initiatives between universities in Glasgow/Blantyre/Lusaka, driving forward research advancements for Africans, by Africans, in Africa.
- This is a key example of our commitment to support "shifting power" or power equalisation, as part of our 20-year partnership with them.
- We also support work on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), an area where Scotland has huge expertise. NCDs are the leading cause of death and disability, accounting for c74% of all global deaths, projected to be responsible for the most fatalities in Africa by 2030. Despite this they receive a fraction of aid support.
- In Malawi and Zambia our funding has helped to create facilities and training which can help the poorest get support for complex cases, such as heart disease and cancers; and in Rwanda we are supporting palliative care, in the context where 80% of those needing pain relief in the global south are unable to receive it.

B. Promoting Gender Equality and the Rights of Women and Girls

- In 2023 Malawi ranked 110 out of 146 countries for gender equality, 37.5% of women have experienced Gender Based Violence (GBV), and early child marriage is 26.9%. In 2025, Zambia ranked 79 out of 146 countries in terms of gender equality, with 41% of women experiencing GBV, and child marriage rate of 14.6%.
- While progress has been made, there is a lot of work to be done. Advancing gender equality and tackling GBV and early child marriage remain key priorities for our partner countries' governments. The police services in both Malawi and Zambia are working to address GBV as a priority.
- To date, we have invested in a range of successful equalities programmes, including: our collaboration with Comic Relief in Malawi/Zambia/Rwanda focused on girls' and women's rights and leadership through sport; and Police Scotland's peer-peer partnership with the Malawi and Zambia police services on capacity building for tackling GBV and child protection.
- Our equalities programme comprises our Women and Girls Fund, designed/led by woman- and girl-led organisations in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda.

C. Inclusive Education

- Our inclusive education programme aims to build on previous projects, including supporting primary schools to effectively include deaf learners to improve their quality of education; online MBA Scholarships for Zambian women from all backgrounds; and our Scotland Pakistan Scholarships for Young Women and Girls.
- Despite widespread agreement on the importance of education for all children, girls and disabled children are still left behind. There are nearly 240 million children living with disabilities globally who, like every child, have the right to be supported through responsive care and education.
- 129 million girls are out of school worldwide (32 million primary /97 million secondary). These estimates are worse in Sub-Saharan Africa where girls and disabled children are more likely to never attend school or to drop out due to barriers including culture and stigma, lack of trained teachers, inadequate learning materials and inaccessible facilities.
- Our inclusive education programme (2024-29) aims to support existing efforts on inclusive education through national policies. It comprises 3 strands in our African partner countries:
  - Support disabled learners (especially girls) to attend school.
  - Support young women through scholarships to complete secondary education and transition to tertiary education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
  - Support policymakers to strengthen inclusive education policy skills and remove barriers.

D. Climate Justice (including Loss and Damage)

- Devastating, widespread, rapidly escalating impacts of the climate crisis are being experienced globally, with the Global South and marginalised groups impacted first

and most severely, including economic loss, but also loss of life, indigenous/local knowledge, biodiversity, and territory.

- Global North countries, as historic emitters, have a responsibility to act. Scotland leads by example, e.g. enshrining the principle of climate justice in our 2019 Climate Change Act.
- Scotland was the first nation globally to commit funds specifically to climate justice and have committed to trebling the Climate Justice Fund to £36 million over the course of this parliamentary term.
- In 2023, we launched a three-year £24 million Climate Just Communities programme, split across Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia. This programme delivers and develops a series of interventions to help build inclusive and climate resilient communities.
- On **Renewables,** we have established a Global Renewables Centre (GRC), with the Scottish GRC at Strathclyde University, committed to sharing knowledge/resources between Scotland, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia that enables increased deployment of sustainable energy.

E. Humanitarian Responses

- In 2017, SG established a £1 million per annum Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF) to respond to humanitarian emergencies, both the high profile DEC Appeals as well as "hidden emergencies" globally. The HEF Panel comprises experts from 8 leading NGOs based in Scotland.
- In the last 2 years, SG has also responded to climate-related humanitarian emergencies in our partner countries: the food crisis in 2024 in Malawi with £500,000 to SCIAF/Christian Aid; and in March 2024, £500,000 to the Red Cross to respond to the severe cholera outbreak there.

Scotland recognises the huge pressure escalating debt levels are putting on countries in the Global South.

- Excessive debt levels are undermining progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, diverting resources away from critical investment in health, education, infrastructure and climate action.
- When faced with a climate disaster, governments should not be in a position where they are forced to choose between repaying their creditors and helping their communities to recover.
- We have consistently advocated for other countries to follow our example of giving funding for loss and damage as grants, not loans, to allow countries to recover from extreme climate events without taking on additional debt. We will continue to champion the need for grant-based finance, including at COP30 in Brazil.

Climate Justice

Scotland's approach to climate justice is distinct and internationally recognised.

- Our £36 million Climate Justice Fund, now in its final year, supports those most affected by the climate crisis in ways that are participatory, rights-based and inclusive.
- Scotland's financial contributions are relatively small in a global context, but we will continue to lead by example and there has never been a more vital time to do so.
- The Climate Justice Fund is distinct from, and additional to, Scotland's International Development Fund, and acknowledges Scotland's commitment to international climate finance and recognition of its common but differentiated responsibilities in addressing the global impacts of climate change.

Our focus for the rest of this Parliamentary term is on two major multi-year programmes: Climate Just Communities (CJC) and our Non-Economic Loss and Damage Programme (NELD).

- The flagship £24 million Climate Just Communities (CJC) programme is Scotland's biggest climate justice programme to date and is now in its final year.
- CJC operates in **Malawi, Zambia** and Rwanda, working through national partners and local organisations to put communities themselves in the lead.
- Programme delivery focuses on the most marginalised communities. Women and girls, young people, and people with disabilities are supported to take leadership roles, shaping locally- led solutions that respond to their needs, while strengthening resilience to the material and social impacts of the climate crisis.
- The programme is delivering real change on the ground. In Malawi, communities have benefitted from improved access to clean water and food security; in Zambia, communities are being trained in climate- resilient agriculture and climate justice advocacy; and in Rwanda, houses rebuilt after flooding have been designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.
- CJC aims to demonstrate the value of community-led climate justice programming and to encourage other governments and donors to adopt approaches that also place communities at the centre climate action.
- Scotland uses its platform internationally to act as a bridge-builder, amplifying Global South voices and sharing learning from our programmes to strengthen the global evidence base.
- Key upcoming international climate justice milestones, in particular COP 30, must be inclusive of participants from the Global South, bringing those most impacted by the climate crisis to the forefront of decision- making processes.

Loss and Damage

There is an important role for Scotland and other subnational governments to continue to show leadership on loss and damage.

- As a good global citizen, Scotland was proud to be the first global north Government to commit funding explicitly to address loss and damage.
- Since COP26, we have mobilised £10 million on community-led loss and damage projects in East Africa, the Pacific Islands and the Bay of Bengal. This includes our world-first Non-Economic Loss and Damage Programme.
- Learning from our projects has consolidated our position that a proportion of the UNFCCC Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) must be ringfenced to make finance directly available to communities in the form of grants not loans.
- There must also be recognition of, and funding for, non-economic loss and damage, such as loss of cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge, biodiversity and impacts on physical and mental health. A holistic approach to addressing loss and damage is needed.
  [redacted - s.30]

Background- Climate Finance

At COP29, developed countries agreed that they would raise a core of at least $300 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2035. This agreement is known as the "New Collective Quantified Goal" (NCQG).

- There is also broader ambition to increase climate finance to $1.3 trillion per year by 2035.
- Amongst developing countries (including Malawi and Zambia), the NCQG has been criticised as wholly inadequate to the scale of need. For example, the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group have called it a "staggering betrayal of the world's most vulnerable."
- The reality is that there remains a significant shortfall in climate finance:
  - Adaptation: Global adaptation finance remains critically underfunded. According to UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2024, the annual gap between needs and current flows is estimated at $187–$359 billion, of which less than 15% is currently being met. This shortfall threatens progress toward the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), which aims to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability globally.
  - Emissions Reduction Funding: Investment in mitigation must triple by 2030 to stay within 1.5°C pathways, with developing countries requiring over $2 trillion annually.
  - UNFCCC Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD): A breakthrough agreement at COP27 helped to establish the world's first Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. Since the Fund's establishment at COP27 and the decision to operationalize it at COP28, only 28 countries have made pledges to the value of $768 million. This amount is modest compared to the scale of climate-induced loss, which is projected to reach hundreds of billions annually.
- Scotland has called for the need to scale up ambition and good quality climate finance to keep to the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact and to deliver on climate justice.

COP30 will be defined by:

- **Accountability and ambition**: Parties are due to submit their new **Nationally Determined Contributions (**NDCs) **and National Adaptation Plans** (NAPs). So far, only about 10% (this includes the UKG) of the 196 signatories to the UNFCCC have revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), leading to uncertainty around what level of ambition will be exhibited.
- **Climate finance**: At COP30 Parties will define a strategy to reach the $1.3 trillion goal (referred to as the 'Baku to Belém Roadmap to $1.3T'). The mobilisation of this – particularly in the face of drastic overseas aid cuts enacted by western governments – is likely to be challenging and represent a point of conflict in negotiations.
- **Fossil fuel phase-out**: Building on COP28's commitment to transition away from fossil fuels, with potential pressure for stronger language on phase-out timelines.
- **Nature and Indigenous leadership**: Given Brazil's hosting role, nature-based solutions, rainforest conservation, and Indigenous rights will be at the forefront.

Current and Historic Climate Justice Fund Programmes in Malawi and Zambia

CURRENT PROJECTS

Climate Just Communities - £8m Malawi

- CJC operates in Karonga**,** Salima, Neno, Machinga, **Zomba** (where you will visit), Phalombe and Chikwawa districts.
- Our delivery partner for the £8m CJC Malawi Contract is DAI Global UK.
- Interventions are in the following areas:
  - Disaster Risk Management
  - Livelihoods Security
  - Loss and damage
  - Resilient Schools
  - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
  - Gender and Inclusion- Advocacy,
  - Communication and Networking.
- CJC Malawi directly benefits over 61,000 people and indirectly benefits over 270,000 people. Key achievements so far include planting more than 1 million trees, developing 223 Community by-laws on protection of natural resources and riverbanks and training more than 1,300 farmers on sustainable agriculture.

Climate Just Communities - £7.4m CJC Zambia

- CJC operates in Luangwa, Shangombo, Sinazongwe and Sioma districts.
- You will meet delivery partners and community members at an event in Lusaka.
- Our delivery partner for the £7.4m CJC Zambia Contract is NIRAS Group (UK).
- Interventions through the CJC Zambia are being delivered across the following areas:
  - Climate Resilient Agriculture (crops, livestock, irrigation)
  - Economic Development (Village Savings and Loan Associations, small enterprises)

  - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)
  - Natural Resource Management (NRM)
  - Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
  - Gender, Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion (GEDSI)
  - Climate advocacy
- Key achievements include:
  - At the start of September 2025, the programme had reached a total of 36,691 direct beneficiaries and 79,969 indirect beneficiaries.
  - At the start of September 2025, the programme had supported an estimated 19,650 people to access improved sources of clean water.
  - At the start of September 2025, the programme had planted 63,408 trees.
  - Throughout FY2 (2024-2025) food relief was distributed to 4,746 individuals, supporting households facing acute food insecurity during the Zambian national drought emergency.
  - At the start of September 2025, the programme had distributed 3867 livestock, supporting communities to improve livelihoods, economic stability and food security.

HISTORIC PROJECTS

2023- 2024

- £250k - Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF) (Zambia)
- £300k - SCIAF Storm Freddy Funding (Malawi)
- £1m - GiveDirectly Fund (Malawi) loss and damage cash transfers

2022- 2023

- £500k- SCIAF Storm Ana Funding (Malawi)

2021- 2022

- £100k Climate Challenge Programme Malawi (CCPM) co- design solutions to the climate crisis, with a particular focus on gender inclusivity and human rights.
- £40k Malawi Climate Leaders Programme to connect and empower young Malawians who are committed to developing their leadership on climate action.
- £50k Clean Cooker Grant (Malawi) to support cleaner cooking stoves in Malawi.

International Development and cuts to Aid

We are protecting our commitments to International Development, humanitarian support and Climate Justice because it's right thing to do.

- The financial commitments Scotland has made have shown leadership during difficult times and at time UKG cut aid and is further dropping its commitment to the UN target of 0.7% Gross National Income (GNI) for aid spend - cut again from 0.5% to 0.3% GNI.
- SG has been clear on not wanting to "balance the books on the backs of the poor".

Background
[redacted - s.30]

Principles of the International Development Programme

Vision

The Scottish Government's vision is that through embedding the UN Global Goals, Scotland will contribute to sustainable development and the fight against poverty, injustice and inequality internationally.

Overarching Ethos

We speak out with clarity of purpose and compassion, in support of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This requires three overarching and immutable commitments in how we act internationally:

- Respect for human rights and equality – Whether through the incorporation of UN Human Rights Treaties[3] or through international engagement with partners;
- Support for the rules-based international system – We strongly support multilateralism and the rules-based international system, contributing actively in global dialogues; and
- Implementation of a feminist approach to our international work – Scotland is the first country in the UK to commit to taking a feminist approach to international relations.

Our International Development Principles:

- **Partner-country led development**
  We recognise that countries prioritise their own needs and lead their own development, therefore we fund work that is aligned with national/local plans and other in-country development partners. In supporting partner-countries we make sure we have sufficient expertise and skills to form a partnership and add value, and also support them to move beyond aid to sustainable development.
- **Equality**
  We prioritise the rights of women and girls, their advancement and equality. We recognise the enduring and intersectional inequalities that exist and we oppose racism in all its forms and aspire to be anti-racist in our work.
- **Amplify global-south voices**
  We encourage advocacy by and in support of the global south including the poorest and those living in vulnerable situations.
- **Inclusion and diversity**
  We question whose expertise we value, who we listen to and who holds the levers of power. We support new and innovative ways to break down barriers, to harness a diverse range of new voices and new ideas to drive change.
- **Collaboration and partnerships**
  We build partnerships with a shared ethos and vision that benefit from expertise across partner countries to foster joint learning and co-create solutions to further our commitment in our 2016 International Development Strategy to the "Beyond Aid agenda".
- **Innovative, adapting and sustainable**
  We design programmes that are: flexible, resourceful and capable of responding to changing circumstances; are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, with

interventions that consider long-term aims, and take account of risk. Recognising that we are facing a global climate emergency, we will support increasing resilience to climate change and to transition to becoming, as appropriate, net-zero economies in a way that is fair, just and leaves no one behind.

- **Embrace technology**
  We support innovation to progress human health, wellbeing and environmental sustainability, such as improved access to digital services and using technology to reduce the need to travel, while acknowledging that technology can be a barrier to participation for some people in the global south.
- **Accountable, transparent and safe**
  The Scottish Government and our delivery partners are transparent and accountable to local communities and the general public in our partner countries and in Scotland; we ensure, that all of our work has appropriate safeguarding policies and practices in place.

Feminist Approach to International Development

Our feminist approach to ID will continue to support the **equalisation of power** and the **advancement of gender equality.**

On power equalisation, our international development work will:

- Prioritise partner-led development, by ensuring that our programmes are focussed on areas identified by our partner country Governments
- Embed participatory methodology, where possible, into programme design, implementation and evaluation processes to ensure decisions on our new programmes are driven by local expertise.
- Evolve our programmes to provide funding streams for Civil Society Organisations in our partner countries, starting with the Women and Girls Fund and a new Global Citizenship Fund Investment in (south to south) institutional partnerships
- Explore opportunities to provide long-term institutional south-south investment, such as continued support for our long-term partnership with Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Blantyre, Malawi
- Explore further opportunities to invest in south- south knowledge exchange between other stakeholders in our international development partner countries in key agreed areas, such as through our Global Renewables Centre.
- Review our due diligence processes to build more transparent and accessible processes.

Background on Safeguarding Position

Sexual exploitation and harm is a risk in international development and humanitarian interventions by aid organisations. This is due to: power (financial) imbalances that continue between aid organisations and the local communities they support; difficulties for individuals and communities in reporting incidents; and practices by individuals within organisations still not reflecting their organisations' policies.

Our response to this issue has been established over several interventions:
March 2018: The Scottish Government published its safeguarding statement, setting out expectations on the standards from those we fund to provide services to those people and communities who look to our support at their time of greatest need. There was also significant engagement with partners on safeguarding, to review policies.
October 2018: "Safer for All" safeguarding support package developed/published by Scotland's International Development Alliance, funded by Scottish Government.
October 2018: The Scottish Government signed up to the UK-Government-led 'Commitments made by donors to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the international aid sector'. We remain aligned with UKG on safeguarding against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) in the international aid sector.
February 2024: The Scottish Government contracted a safeguarding assessor and training to support capacity building within the international development team and ensure new programmes under the International Development Fund had high quality safeguarding policies and processes, as part of our wider due diligence process.
Now (**SG)**: We have continued to monitor and strengthen our own grant conditions over the last 7 years, including specifically focusing on power imbalances. **[redacted - s.29]**

[redacted - s.30]

Health Programme

HS1: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Background

- Globally NCDs are the leading cause of death and disability, killing around 41 million people each year. This accounts for around 71% of all global deaths.
- The World Health Organisation predicts that by 2030 NCDs will be the primary cause of death across sub-Saharan Africa with around **3.8 million premature deaths.**
- Across the African continent, countries are facing a **rapid demographic and epidemiological transition that includes a shift in health profile** with many countries now facing a dual burden of communicable and non-communicable disease.
- **NCDs are widely reported to be the largest unmet need in health financing.** For example, since 2001, it is estimated that only 2% of global Official Development Assistance for Health has been targeted towards NCDs.

Programming

- £2.5m over 5 years (2023-2028) to the Health4Life Fund supporting global action and progress on the prevention of non-communicable diseases such as heart attacks, strokes and cancers. WHO invited Scotland to become the first high-income donor to the Health4Life fund following our collaboration with Global South partners on tackling non-communicable diseases;
- Country level programming on supporting the scale up the WHO's 'Package of Essential non-communicable disease interventions' (PEN-Plus), a model of care that integrates treatment for non-communicable diseases into primary care hospitals in low-and middle-income countries:
    - **Malawi** - 'The Health Services Joint Fund' (HSJF) – a pooled funding mechanism set up by The Malawian Ministry of Health to ensure better coordination and synergy of donor inputs to reduce fragmentation.
    - **Zambia** - partnering with the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) to set-up two additional PEN-Plus training centres increasing capacity and coverage of health workers to deliver quality NCD services. Includes a secondment to the Zambian MOH to support national policy building on NCDs.

HS2: Health Partnerships Programme (HPP)

- Launched in July 2025, building on the success of the NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Programme, to provide a strategic platform and financial investment to support exchanges of skills, experience and knowledge, with an emphasis on bidirectional learning.
- Includes the **Tripartite Quality Improvement partnership** between Malawi, Scotland, and Zambia, which aims to improve healthcare quality through knowledge sharing and alignment with national strategies.

Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS)

Blantyre Blantyre Malawi

- Over £1m Scottish Government funding established the Blantyre-Blantyre Clinical Research Facility with KUHeS and The University of Glasgow, aiming to compare health factors between the "two Blantyres".

- The facility strengthens Malawi's research and diagnostic capacity, especially on NCDs.
- Recognised as a model of equitable north-south partnership, driving forward cutting-edge research in Africa, by Africans, for Africa.

Blantyre Blantyre Lusaka

- £1 million investment to establish a state-of-the-art biomedical laboratory at the University of Zambia, building on the existing partnerships in Malawi.
- Focussing on vaccine efficacy research to improve access to vaccines in Zambia, particularly Cholera, in response to direct request from President of Zambia.
- Powered by solar energy, installed by female engineers, demonstrating a commitment to sustainability.
- Aims to build research capacity in Africa, with potential for collaboration with global pharmaceutical companies and the African Research Universities Alliance.

MalDent Malawi

- Establishment of an undergraduate dental degree (BDS) programme within the Faculty of Medicine, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, to train Malawian dentists who are 'globally competent and locally relevant'.
- Successfully increased the number of dental students in Malawi, surpassing the number of registered dentists, the first cohort graduated this year.
- Secured significant funding from the World Bank for the construction of a new dental teaching facility.

Kids Operating Room

Background

- In 2015, Garreth and Nicola Wood founded Kids Operating Room (KidsOR), a global health charity dedicated to providing life-saving surgical care to children in more than 75 state-of-the-art operating rooms in 26 countries.
- **Scottish Government funding:**
  - May 2022 - £250,000 for new facilities at Kabwe Central Hospital (Zambia).
  - November 2023 (COP28) - £324,900 partnership in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia to facilitate the establishment of seven paediatric Operating Rooms.
  - September 2025 - £400,000 to establish the Gaza HOPES Field Readiness Hub – a rapidly deployable hospital in Gaza to provide essential surgical, maternity and paediatric services.

Inclusive Education

- The First Minister announced in October 2024 that new inclusive education programmes, funded via the International Development Fund, would be delivered through multi-year commitments in Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia (Central Province) and Pakistan between 2024 and 2029.
- Our commitment to inclusive education was strengthened in 2025, when Scotland made first-time commitments at the Global Disability Summit, including a commitment to ensure at least 50% of all over aid is disability-inclusive by 2030.
- Our inclusive education programmes are already delivering against this commitment.
- **The majority of the (up to) £3.5m per year funding for inclusive education will go to two programmes, grants for which were competitively awarded to civil society organisations in 2024, with input from the Rwandan, Malawian and Zambian Ministries of Education - for example Ms Noriana Muneka, PS for Education was involved in selecting the winning organisations (Oxfam and Link Education International) for the above two programmes.**

Equality context for education in Zambia and Malawi

The Malawi and Zambia context

- UNICEF have indicated that Malawi and Zambia, and other countries in the region, are still facing a learning crisis that COVID and more recent economic and environmental events have made worse.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, learning poverty, defined as the share of children unable to read and understand an age-appropriate text by age 10, is estimated at 89 percent by the World Bank, UNESCO, and other organizations.
- Children with disabilities in Malawi face significant barriers to education, which are worsened by recurring shocks. For instance, only 3.3 per cent are enrolled in primary schools and 2.2 per cent in secondary schools.
- Girls with disabilities are the most excluded group of children at all levels of education due to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of both their gender and their disability.
- Barriers to the delivery of inclusive education in both Malawi and Zambia include financial barriers faced by parents, the lack of transport for itinerant teachers, inadequate specialist teachers, inaccessible infrastructure for learners with special needs, inadequate SNE teaching and learning materials and lack of assistive devices.
- For Malawi and Zambia, ensuring girls and young women – including those with disabilities - have equitable access to quality education is a critical part of both countries' paths to greater prosperity. Both have in recent years outlined commitments to strengthening inclusive education systems.

The Girls Initiative for Resilient Learning and Support (GIRLS) Project

This is the programme you are visiting on Saturday 18th October.

- GIRLS aims to help women and girls to finish secondary school and to transition to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) or tertiary education in Malawi (2 districts – Balaka and Machinga), Rwanda (10 districts), and Zambia (4 districts).
- This programme is being delivered by Oxfam GB between July 2024 and March 2029, GIRLS started implementation in October 2024 and will run for five years, supported by Scottish Government funding of up to £1m per year.
- It is implemented through partnerships with:
  - the Young Women's Christian Association in Zambia and Rwanda
  - the Concerned Youth Organisation in Malawi
  - government ministries and agencies responsible for education and gender.
- GIRLS achieves its aims through providing scholarships to girls, including those with disabilities, as well as critical wrap-around activities. These include mentorship, counselling, career guidance, and teacher capacity strengthening.

Recent Progress

In Year 1 (financial year 2024/25), GIRLS reported the following results:

Malawi: During a period in which extreme weather events and food inflation have been a significant challenge, scholarships were awarded to 500 students, split between Machinga and Balaka districts, with 300 bicycles distributed to scholarship recipients, and engagement with school leaders and communities.

Zambia: Scholarships were awarded to 1,390 girls in Central Province (which is the geographical focus of the project) across four districts (Chitambo, Kabwe, Kapiri-Mposhi, and Serenje), comprising of 40 individuals enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, and 1350 at secondary schools.

The Realising Inclusive and Safer Education (RISE) programme

- RISE aims to remove barriers to quality education for out-of-school children with disabilities and additional support needs. The programme is being delivered by Link Education International between July 2024 and March 2029.
- The RISE project involves more than 400 government schools in eight districts in three countries – Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia.
- The project aims to support children with disabilities, especially girls and those who are out-of-school, to access a safe and quality education, through Scottish Government funding of up to £1.5m per year.

World Bank Inclusive Education Policy Academy (IEPA)

- A third programme strand, already announced in March 2024, complements the first two by support national policy-makers to strengthen their inclusive education policy skills and remove barriers to inclusive education.
- The World Bank Inclusive Education Policy Academy and Learning Exchange (IEPALE) is a three-year programme, which we have supported since March 2024. The programme supports policy-makers from our partner countries in Africa to strengthen the delivery of inclusive education policy in their countries.

- This initiative is our first-ever contribution to a World Bank programme, made through its Foundational Learning Compact Trust Fund, multi-donor trust fund supporting early childhood, primary, and secondary education.
- IEPALE is now in its third year. During that time, our contribution (£356,000 in Year 1, £431,000 in Year 2, and £177,000 in year 3) has supported the policy-makers of Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia to build more inclusive education systems.
- IEPALE's main objectives are to:
  - strengthen education systems to be more inclusive for all learners, through knowledge-sharing and peer support
  - strengthening the technical capacity of policymakers and practitioners to build quality education systems for all, and specifically for learners with disabilities.

Recent Progress

Malawi

- IEPALE has helped Malawi to ensure that Continuous Professional Development activities, including school leadership, are inclusive from the design stage.
- IEPALE has shaped the development of Malawi's Inclusive Education Policy and its strategy, with Malawian government policy makers now taking forward a proposal to turn one of the existing teacher education colleges into an inclusive education college.
- Dr. Ambumulire of Phiri National Council for Higher Education in Malawi recently spoke in September 2025 at an education conference at Oxford University about the success of IEPA in supporting Communities of Practice on inclusive education in the region, and for facilitating learning between Malawi and Zambia/Rwanda.

Equalities Programme

Legislation and Government Priorities

- Legislation in Malawi and Zambia has been updated in recent years, reflecting government-level prioritising of tackling gender inequality and power imbalances that exist culturally.
- While wide-reaching gender-based violence laws give legal protection to victims, incidents are still widespread, and Police Scotland also found during their 2024 review that support services tended to be limited, with focus groups held in Malawi highlighted that provision of these services was not yet sufficient to be able to meet demand.
- In 2023-24, Police Scotland reported that the area of gender-based violence and child protection were assessed by the partner countries to be areas of significant need. These were identified by the respective Inspector Generals as priorities within their strategic plans and there was general agreement at all levels in each police force that tackling gender-based violence remains a top priority.

Government of Zambia
[redacted - s.32]

Government of Malawi
[redacted - s.32]

Women and Girls Fund

In line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, the Women and Girls Fund supports the advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in our partner countries.

- The aim of the Women and Girls Fund is to provide direct funding to support woman- and girl-led organisations in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda, with the advancement of equality and the rights of women and girls as a principal objective.
- In line with feminist principles, and our commitments to equalise power, this fund applies a participatory methodology and has been co-developed by women and girls as experts, both by profession and by experience, and woman- and girl-led organisations in our international development partner countries.

The former Minister for International Development announced the award of the contract for the Women and Girls Fund on International Women's Day 2024.

- This contract was awarded to Ecorys who are working in partnership with a pan-African NGO, the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE).
- The £3 million contract is for a period of 4 years.
- We engaged with the governments of Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia as we developed proposals for the Women and Girls Fund. Ecorys and FAWE also met with representatives from the governments to set out their plans for the Fund shortly after being awarded this contract.

- Government-level engagement in this work is continuing through their participation as part of steering committees across the three countries, and we would like to thank the partner country governments for their enthusiastic engagement on this work to date.

We are delighted to be working with Ecorys and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) in our three partner countries.

- Ecorys and FAWE have completed the crucial participatory design phase for the Fund during which they engaged with a range of organisations to understand their needs and to work with them to create an effective fund which will deliver for women and girls across Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia.

Informed by the findings of the design phase, the Women and Girls Fund will deliver several types of grants tailored to the needs of woman- and girl-led organisations in each country, across a range of thematic areas.

- The grant types include grants for advocacy, capacity building, research, social movements and swift response grants.
- The thematic focus areas for cycle one include women's representation in politics and decision-making; rights for disabled women and girls; gender-based violence and child marriage; gender-inclusive public services; menstrual hygiene; and women's land rights.

Police Scotland Partnership

We understand the importance of working in partnership internationally to learn from and support each other in ending gender-based violence, and Scotland must play its part as we work to achieve the crucial goal globally.

- We are committed to continuing support for the Police Scotland Peer-to-Peer Partnership Programme with the police services of Malawi and Zambia on gender-based-violence and child protection.
- The Scottish Government will provide £450,000 to Police Scotland in 2025/6 for capacity-strengthening activities to tackle violence against women and children.
- Police Scotland undertake regular reviews of the partnerships to inform future programming and their long-term peer-to-peer partnership.

We are pleased to have announced our continued support of the Police Peer to Peer Partnership for 2024-27 of up to £1.45 million over three years.

- The overall outcomes of this phase of the programme are to:
  - Increase reporting and conviction rate in for incidents of violence against women and children
  - Enhance the experience of engaging with police services for women and children who are victims of violence
  - Positively influence attitudinal shifts around these issues
- Key strands of activity to support the achievement of these outcomes are:
  - supporting the delivery of training and upskilling of relevant staff;

- enhancement of IT systems to support the programme outcomes;
- improving data collection on impact of interventions; and
- scoping further capacity strengthening and collaboration opportunities.

Advancing gender equality remains an important priority in Malawi and Zambia and significant work remains to be done in this area in both countries, particularly with regard to gender-based violence.

- This is why we are supporting Police Scotland to work alongside the police services of Malawi and Zambia to improve the experience of engaging with the police for victims.

This multi-year programme includes support for enhanced resources at one stop centres (OSCs) as we look to maximise the impact of Scottish Government funding through considerations of holistic approaches to victim support.

- We know that these centres are a priority area of focus for enhancing victim support and Police Scotland have committed to explore opportunities for enhancement over the course of the programme for 2024-27.
- In 2024-5, £50,000 was allocated to provide much needed resources to several centres across Malawi and Zambia.

Background

Supported by the Scottish Government, Police Scotland have collaborated with the Malawi and Zambia Police Services since 2016 in 5 phases:

- Phase 1 (GBV/child protection programme): 2015-2019
- Phase 2 (Protection of Vulnerable Groups programme): 2019-2020
- Phase 3: Programme paused due to COVID: 2020-2022
- Phase 4: Programme partially recommenced post-COVID: 2022
- Phase 5: PVG Programme recommenced in full: 2023

The multi-year programme for 2024-27 includes:

- Sexual offences and child protection training, delivered collaboratively with the police forces in Malawi and Zambia;
- Specialist training programmes particularly for managers and on interview skills to support enhanced evidence gathering;
- An inbound visit from Zambian and Malawian officers for training in Scotland;
- A review of the previous Malawi ICT work, with the aim of creating a central crime recording system to improve prosecution rates for instances of violence against women and children;
- Improved data collection for monitoring and evaluation of the programme itself;
- Scoping of opportunities for collaboration, particularly around forensic testing and cyber-crime.

[redacted - s.30]

Background: One Stop Centres

- **[redacted - s.30]**
- One Stop Centres are the equivalent of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in Scotland. SARCs in Scotland provide specialist medical and forensic services for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted. They are designed to be comfortable and multi-functional, providing private space for interviews and forensic examinations, and may also offer sexual health and counselling services.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality

Scottish Government recognises that accelerating progress towards gender equality requires combining gender-focused actions with mainstreaming.

- Our aim is to build more gender-responsive, and gender-transformative international development programmes by mainstreaming gender equality across our international development sector portfolios.
- This is to ensure that any work undertaken by our health, inclusive education, equalities and global solidarity programmes supports gender equality.
- To support the delivery of this commitment, we will score our new bilateral and multilateral Official Development Assistance funding for the implementation of specific projects against the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker.

Domestic Gender Equality

Gender equality is at the heart of our vision for a fairer Scotland.

- We want women and girls to be empowered to exercise equal rights and opportunities, have equitable access to economic resources and decision making, and live their lives free from all forms of violence, abuse and harassment.

We continue to take forward work to protect, promote and improve gender equality, recognising intersectional inequality, in Scotland.

- Gender inequality is complex and harmful and it affects everyone - not just women and girls.
- We know that child poverty and women's poverty is inextricably linked and that we can only tackle child poverty by tackling the inequalities faced by women.

We have announced that we will have an Equality Strategy for Women and Girls, [redacted - s.29]

Humanitarian

The £1 million per year Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF) was established in 2017. The aim of the HEF is to provide immediate and effective assistance to reduce the threat to life and wellbeing for a large number of a population faced with a humanitarian emergency.

In 2025 funds from the HEF were allocated to the following humanitarian crises based upon recommendations from the panel:

- £250k for conflict in Sudan
- £250k for conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo
- £250k for the DEC Appeal for the devastating earthquakes in Myanmar

A further £1m was announced in September 2025 for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as follows:

- £400,000 to Kids Operating Room to establish the Gaza HOPES Field Readiness Hub – a rapidly deployable hospital in Gaza to provide essential surgical, maternity and paediatric services.
- £600,000 to the UNOCHA led Humanitarian Fund for the Occupied Palestinian Territories to provide life-saving health services, food and nutrition assistance, emergency shelter, water and sanitation, protection services, education support and cash for families.

In 2023/24 alongside the £1m HEF budget, we piloted an additional £1m of Climate Justice funding through the HEF for Loss and Damage projects in Kenya, Ethiopia, Pakistan and **Zambia.**

Also in March 2024, we provided £500k for a response to a deadly cholera outbreak in **Zambia** and £500k for a response to the ongoing food crisis in **Malawi.** In February 2025 we provided £450,000 to Christian Aid, Oxfam and SCIAF for a response to the food crisis in **Malawi.**

Renewable Energy

Top Lines

I have made clear my government's priority of tackling the climate emergency. The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss is real and present, but so is the opportunity to successfully reach net zero.

- The government that I lead will align the capacity generated by our vibrant entrepreneurial nation, with our world-leading academic and research institutions, our valuable natural resources and our businesses and communities in a shared agenda to develop our renewable energy capacity and to deliver net zero.
- International collaboration and partnership is key as we develop our renewable energy sectors and support our partner countries reach their renewable energy goals.

Background

Renewable energy is a priority area for our African partner countries. In 2022, we launched a new **Scottish Global Renewables Centre** (GRC) to facilitate knowledge exchange between our international development partner countries (Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda) and the Scottish renewables sector.

Scottish Global Renewables Centre

- The Scottish part of the GRC is sited in Strathclyde University, our partner on renewable energy in Malawi since 2012.
- The vision for the GRC in the long term is to facilitate knowledge exchange and support global citizenship that results in increased and improved use of renewables across our African partner countries and wider region, in line with their national energy policies. The GRC has gender and climate justice as cross-cutting themes.
- It promotes leadership from the Global South by partnering with local stakeholders to gather perspectives on energy sector priorities and design knowledge exchange activities.
- The GRC will also engage with local communities and civil society organizations to ensure that their voices are represented in decision-making processes.
- It will continue to work to promote local ownership and leadership of renewable energy projects.
- Such initiatives support Global South-led, Global South-delivered solutions for the Global South.
- The current focus of the GRC has been in sourcing and appointing its local partners – organisations – in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda, following a process of engaging and consulting key stakeholders in all our partner countries. These African hubs will be funded from the IDF (£200k total p.a.).
- The local engagement work to date has identified a set of themes around which the GRC intends to form Communities of Practice and develop a programme of knowledge exchange activities. Minigrid innovation, business models and financing – as proposed by SE4ALL for Zambia - are priority areas.

- Together, University of Strathclyde and the local partner will co-design and deliver Knowledge Exchange activities through 2024, including in-country workshops.
- The GRC has engaged extensively with stakeholder networks and achieved its goal of a decentralised structure with a formal presence in Scotland, and our three partner countries, operationalised through The Renewable Energy Industry Association of Malawi, The Zambian Renewable Energy Association, and Energy Private Developers (Rwanda).

Rural Energy Access through Social Enterprise and Decentralisation

- The Rural Energy Access through Social Enterprise and Decentralisation (EASE) project worked to address energy poverty in marginalised communities in Malawi by deploying renewable energy systems under sustainable social business models and piloting District Energy Officers in Dedza and Balaka to support local energy planning and deployment.
- The Project was delivered in partnership with the University of Strathclyde, Self Help Africa, Community Energy Malawi (CEM) and WASHTED. ***NB:*** FM will meet these partners at Malawi University for Business and Applied Science.
- The project successfully installed 2 solar PV microgrids serving 126 customers, which support connections for 646 households, 37 businesses, 2 schools and 2 churches. 20 of the households and businesses connected customers are women-headed. The Balaka Energy Hub powers an irrigation scheme, cold room and 3 co-located PUE business. 125 irrigation scheme members (50m, 75f) directly benefit. The Dedza school Energy Hub serves classrooms, offices, and 8 teachers houses.
- Capacity-building by CEM's District Energy Officer pilot programme provided renewable energy training and ongoing support to 20 local technicians, 170 local government extension workers from Agriculture, Education, Health and Community Development sectors, plus 280 employees of local NGOs actively supporting these areas.
- The project received over £1.6 million in funding from the Scottish Government between 2018-2024.
- The microgrid assets have been transferred to local partner Kuyatsa, ensuring the sustainability of the project.

Global Citizenship

Promoting and supporting global citizenship in Scotland is a key objective for the Scottish Government's International Development work.

- Our new Global Solidarity portfolio will strengthen global citizenship participation through three core portfolio strands:
  - **GS1: Core Funding of 4 networking bodies** - to engage in, and build domestic support and understanding of, international development issues and Scotland's commitment to Fair Trade, recognising the important contribution it makes to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - **[redacted - s.29]**
  - **[redacted - s.29]**
- Programme for Government (2024-25) commitment to: "**not forget our commitment to the global Sustainable Development Goals'** and also to **'launching new programmes to support good global citizenship, connecting Scotland to the Global South."**
- Our portfolio design aligns with SG's commitment to UN SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) which recognises the need for cross-sector and cross-country collaboration in pursuit of all UN SDGs.

GS1 - Core Funded Bodies

We provide core funding to 4 networking organisations -

- **Scotland's International Development Alliance** (SIDA), as the main network in Scotland that unites the international development sector to promote effectiveness and to collectively influence the international development policy agenda;
- **Scottish Fair Trade** (SFT) (since 2017), initially to coordinate the campaign for Scotland to meet the criteria necessary to become a Fair Trade Nation, and then to retain this and work to promote and support fair trade in Scotland;
- **Scotland Malawi Partnership** (SMP), as the national civil society network coordinating, supporting and representing the people-to-people links between Scotland/Malawi; and
- **Malawi Scotland Partnership** (MaSP), the Malawi-owned/led sister organisation of the SMP, an umbrella organisation to bring together, support and add value in Malawi to the many civil society links that Malawi has with Scotland.

Country Profile: Zambia

Population: 19.6 million (September 2022 census)
Governance: Presidential Republic
President: Mr Hakainde Hichilema, United Party for National Development (UPND)
Main Languages: Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga, Lozi, English

Zambia gained independence on 24 October 1964, following British colonial rule under the British South Africa Company. Kenneth Kaunda became the first President after UNIP won the 1964 elections. The Scottish Government has supported development projects in Zambia since 2008, with a dedicated Zambia Development Programme established in 2016.

- **[redacted - s.32]**

Historical Links with Scotland

- Scotland and Zambia share strong historical links going back over 170 years since Dr David Livingstone's expeditions first brought him into Zambia.
- The city of Livingstone, in the Southern Province, is named after the Scottish explorer who was the first European to explore the area.

Key Recent Ministerial engagement

- **June 2024:** First Minister John Swinney hosted President Hichilema at Bute House for a bilateral.
- **March 2024:** Ms Stewart, then International Development Minister, met the Zambian High Commissioner twice, in London as part of a wider roundtable with all three African partner High Commissioners, with Former First Minister (Mr Yousaf) joining; then in Edinburgh in a 1:1. Discussion focused on live issues in Zambia and international development programming.
- **December 2023:** FFM (Mr Yousaf) met President Hichilema at COP28 in Dubai. They discussed key climate challenges for the global community and urgency of action on loss and damage.
- **May 2023:** FFM (Mr Yousaf) met President Hichilema in Edinburgh following the King's Coronation. In addition to discussing partnership in international development, conversation touched on Zambian debt, renewable energy, and potential partnership between the Zambian and Scottish chambers of commerce.
- **November 2021:** FFM (Ms Sturgeon) met President Hichilema during COP26. They discussed the bilateral relationship, climate finance, devolution of public spending, trade and investment and COVID-19.

Zambia Development Programme 2017-24

Projects under the Zambia Development Programme (competitive funding round) started on 1 October 2017: totalling more than £6.2 million over 4.5 years and featuring 6 projects which

focus on the themes of agriculture, sustainable economic development, health and education in Central Province, and ran until 2024.

Education

Organisation: Open University

Project title: Zambian Education School-based Training (ZEST)

Total award: £1,284,524 (2017 to 2022) Extended to 2024

Health

Organisation: First Aid Africa

Project title: First Aid and Renewable Energy Solutions For Communities In Zambia's Central Province

Total award: £730,161 (2017 to 2022)

In February 2018, a further £50,000 was added to First Aid Africa's budget, to enable them to purchase solar panels and medical equipment for Chitambo Hospital.

Organisation: CBM

Project title: PrevENT: Community ear and hearing care and rehabilitation of disabling hearing loss

Total award: £1,251,578 (2017 to 2022)

Sustainable Economic Development (agriculture)

Organisation: Gaia Education

Project title: Zambian Youth for Conservation, Agriculture and Livelihood Action! (ZYCALA)

Total award: £363,736 (2017 to 2020)

Organisation: SCIAF

Project title: Empowering resource-poor rural communities in Central Province, Zambia by strengthening income security, fostering well-being of women and promoting renewable energy use.

Total award: £1,350,000 (2017 to 2022) Extended to 2024

Organisation: Christian Aid

Project title: Making Agriculture a Business: Harnessing the potential of Small Scale Farmers/ Entrepreneurs as Champions of Economic Development.

Total award: £1,309,537 (2017 to 2022)

OTHER LIVE PROJECTS IN ZAMBIA (NON-COMPETITIVE)

Kids OR: £45,000 of match funding to KidsOR has been approved to assist with the refurbishment, and equipping and training, of the pediatric operating theatre at the University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka.

Edinburgh Business School / Heriot-Watt University

20 fully-funded long distance learning MBA scholarships for women in Zambia.

[redacted - s.32]

FOI 202500491454

FT Article 8 October 2025

US aid cuts were 'long overdue', Zambia's president says Hakainde Hichilema tells FT abrupt closure of USAID was a 'shock' but offers opportunities for African nations

Zambia's president has branded cuts to international aid "long overdue", saying the closure of the US Agency for International Development and reductions by other donors offered his country the opportunity to "take care of our own affairs".

Zambia has relied on Washington for roughly a third of its health budget, with the bulk going on HIV/Aids treatment, basic and maternal health. But speaking to the Financial Times during a trip to London, President Hakainde Hichilema said his country had to learn to stand on its own feet.

"It forces us to grow our economies and to do the things we should have been doing," he said, adding his mantra was "seek ye growth" as a way of raising the government's capacity to spend on social programmes.

"It's painful for now," he said, adding the "instantaneous" nature of the cuts — which reversed funding Congress already allocated — left his government little time to adjust. "There is a shock. But longer term, it's a good thing."

In its 2026 budget, Zambia's government raised spending on healthcare 13 per cent to K26.2bn ($1.1bn), though, at 11 per cent of total spending, that falls short of an international commitment to raise health spending to 15 per cent. It has also pledged to crack down on theft of donated medicines and has increased funds allocated for the purchase of drugs by 30 per cent.

Hichilema's remarks echo those of other African leaders who have been less critical of sweeping reductions in international aid than many non-governmental organisations and public health campaigners who fear a rebound in diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. One study predicted an additional 14 million deaths worldwide by 2030 as a result of USAID cuts.

Hichilema said his stance did not mean there was no role for international solidarity, especially on issues such as public health and global security. "Countries cannot decouple themselves from one another," he said.

Big countries also had a duty to keep the international trading system open so that smaller states including Zambia could export freely, he said. The US this year raised tariffs on goods from Zambia to 15 per cent, though it exempted many metals, including copper, the African country's main export. China has responded by offering zero tariffs on all goods imported from Africa.

“We’re too small to get caught in the middle of [arguments between] bigger countries,” Hichilema said, urging the US and China to end their trade war. “When we’re in Beijing, we are not against Washington. When we’re in Washington, we’re not against Beijing,” he said.

Hichilema, whose four years in office have been dogged by painfully slow debt restructuring negotiations, said Zambia — which defaulted on its debt in 2020 — had cleared 94 per cent of its arrears in what he described as a “major milestone”.

A dispute with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), to which Zambia owes about $50mn, would be concluded under the rules of the G20 framework, he said.

The president said the economy was recovering as the debt crisis receded. The IMF expects Zambia to grow at roughly 6 per cent this year, up from 4 per cent last year when a recovery in mining revenue was offset by drought, which hit hydropower output and forced the country, normally a food exporter, to import staples.

Hichilema said his government had helped revive the mining sector by reversing what he characterised as the previous government’s erratic policies. In 2023, Hichilema unwound an expropriation of the Konkola Copper Mines from Vedanta, an Indian miner, making it a condition that Vedanta invested $1bn, he said.

The mining sector, he added, had received billions of dollars of new money, highlighting $1.1bn invested by United Arab Emirates’ International Resources in the Mopani Copper Mines since 2023 and Barrick’s $2bn expansion of the Lumwana copper mine.

Hichilema was elected on a wave of optimism in 2021 after he defeated Edgar Lungu. He described the debt inherited from his predecessor as a “python around our neck, chest and legs”. High inflation and a squeeze on spending have damaged the new government’s popularity.

Lungu died in June, but Hichilema, who will stand for re-election next year, has become drawn into a protracted fight with the late president’s family over funeral arrangements.

Lungu’s widow has gone to court to fight the repatriation of her late husband’s body from South Africa — where he died while seeking health treatment — saying she did not want Hichilema to preside over the state funeral. Hichilema was imprisoned under his predecessor. The president conceded the dispute had been “very embarrassing” for Zambia. “But I believe sanity will prevail,” he said.

FOI 202500491454

Country Profile: Malawi

Population: 22.2 million (July 2025 est.)
Governance: Presidential Republic
President: Arthur Peter Mutharika, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)
Main Languages: English (official), Chichewa (common)

The links between Scotland and Malawi are multiple and varied, with their roots traced back to the expeditions of Dr David Livingstone of the 1850's.
In July 1964, Malawi won its independence from British Colonial rule – the 60th anniversary of which was celebrated in 2024.
Through the signing of the Formal Co-operation Agreement with Malawi in 2005 (updated in 2018) the Scottish Government launched its International Development Programme.

Sensitivities/Live Issues
[redacted - s.32]

Historical Links with Scotland

- Scotland has strong historical links to Malawi, dating back to Dr David Livingstone's explorations in what is now Malawi. For 150 years Scots have helped the people of Malawi to develop basic education and health systems.
- The city of Blantyre, named after Livingstone's birthplace includes a memorial to him.
- Colin Cameron served as the Minister of Works and Transport in the Cabinet of Nyasaland from 1961-1964, and briefly as Minister of Works in the first Malawian Cabinet after independence in 1964, serving under President Hastings Banda.
- President Bingu wa Mutharika visited Scotland in November 2005, during which the Cooperation Agreement was signed with former First Minister Jack McConnell.
- Former President Banda visited Scotland in March 2013 as part of the 200th anniversary celebrations of the birth of David Livingstone.
- Former President, Arthur Peter Mutharika visited Scotland in April 2018.

Key Recent Ministerial engagement

- **November 2023:** Then Minister for International Development, Ms McKelvie met Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nancy Tembo in Iceland. Warm discussion focused on international development programming in health and equalities.
- **November 2023:** Malawian Minister for Tourism, Vera Kamtukele attended the Scotland Malawi Partnership AGM in Glasgow where she met Minister CEID, Ms McKelvie. The Former First Minister Humza Yousaf recorded a video message- focusing on the Climate Justice Fund. The Minister CEID had met virtually Ms Kamtukele the week prior at Global Citizenship and Youth Volunteering Conference.

- **September 2023:** Climate Week/SDGs Summit: at the invite of President Lazarus Chakwera, the then First Minister Humza Yousaf spoke at the Malawi Partners Conference in New York on Tuesday 19th September.
- **May 2023:** FFM Mr Yousaf met with the President of Malawi, Dr Lazarus Chakwera in London during the coronation of King Charles III.
- **June 2022:** Then-Minister for CEID, Mr Gray met Malawian Foreign Minister, Nancy Tembo virtually to discuss the future of SG's ID programming.
- **October 2021**: The Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon met President of Malawi, Dr Lazarus Chakwera during the COP26 climate summit.
- **April 2018:** The Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon signed a new Global Goals Partnership Agreement with the then President of Malawi, Arthur Peter Mutharika on behalf of each government.

Malawi Development Programme 2018-24 (competitive funding round)
Projects under the current Malawi Development Programme (2018-23) started on 1 October 2018, following a competitive funding round, and ran until April 2024.

The 11 projects in Malawi, listed by theme (health, education, renewable energy, civic governance and sustainable economic development) (Note that the 6th strand under the GGPA, i.e. Water & Climate, are funded under the CJF rather than the IDF).

Health

- **Organisation: St John Scotland**
  Project: Community action and service access for maternal, newborn and child health
  Total funding: £601,876 (including *£13,800* for PPE and *£7,830* for 136 bicycles)
- **Organisation: NHS Tayside (Suspended due to COVID19)**
  Project: Scottish Emergency Medicine – Malawi Project
- **Organisation: University of Edinburgh**
  Project: Moving towards sustainability: strengthening rural health facilities, upskilling providers and developing mentoring capacity to support roll-out of cervical cancer 'Screen and treat' services across Malawi.
  Total funding: £218,127 per annum
- **Organisation: University of Glasgow**
  Project: Towards a Dental School for Malawi – The Maldent Project
  Total Funding: £1,312,424 (plus £33,000 for digital devices and extension year)
- **Organisation: Water Aid**
  Project: Deliver life to mothers, girls and children in the southern region of Malawi
  Total funding: £327,175.37 per Annum

Education

- **Organisation: Global Concerns Trust**
  Project: Tools and training for livelihood in Malawi
  Total funding: £875,222.00

- **Organisation: Mary's Meals**
  Project: Mary's Meals pre-school and primary feeding programme in Malawi
  Total funding: £1,320,000
- **Organisation: Sense Scotland**
  Project: Promoting equal access to education in Malawi North
  Funding: £296,347 per annum

Renewable Energy

- **Organisation: University of Strathclyde**
  Project: Rural energy access through social enterprise and decentralisation (EASE)
  Total funding: £1,332,533 + £294,055 extension

Civic Governance

- **Organisation: Chance for Change**
  Project: Access to justice and humane, child-welfare based treatment for children in conflict with the law in Malawi.
  Total funding: £1,265,759
  Project description: The overall objective of this project is to support the Malawi Government in enabling

Sustainable Economic Development

- **Organisation: Challenges Worldwide**
  Project: CROPS strengthen farmer owned crop Value Addition Centres while creating rural sustainable business models and wealth for smallholder farmers.
  Total funding: £998,074

Other Malawi funded projects (non-competitive) from the Development Assistance Funding Stream

Stream 1 of our **current** International Development Fund also supported:

- Provided £60,000 to the Glasgow Dental School for the provision of equipment (**Phantom Heads**) and the **refurbishment of the Dental training unit** at the Dental Centre in Lilongwe (2018).
- In 2017 the Scottish Government £50,000 to the **Mamie Martin Fund for the Alison Cameron Scholarships** which will fund 21 Malawian girls through High School and 2 Malawian women through university. In 2018 SG provided a further £50,000 to the Mamie Martin Fund for the Alison Cameron Scholarships which will fund 20 Malawian girls through High School and 2 Malawian women through university.
  - Each year, from 2015 onwards, SG has provided a small amount (c£12k pa) as a match fund to the McConnell Foundation for the Livingstone Volunteers Scheme – supporting young people from Scotland to go volunteer. In 2017/18 we asked the McConnell Foundation to extend their geographic focus beyond Malawi, to also include Zambia and Rwanda, to fit with our Strategy, which they did.

[redacted - s.32]

Human Rights

Human Rights – Top Lines

- The Scottish Government is committed to promoting and upholding the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and meeting our international obligations in full.
- Human rights are not dependent on citizenship status. Everyone living in Scotland has human rights which must be respected, protected and fulfilled. This includes EU and other non-UK nationals, refugees and asylum seekers.

Human Rights Defenders

- The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) defines HRDs as "*people who, individually or with others, act to promote or protect human rights*".
- This encompasses the full spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- We strongly support the vital work done by human rights defenders, which is often undertaken at great personal risk.

[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.38]

Trade and Investment

[redacted - s.32].

- **[redacted - s.30]**

1.3 Security Briefing – Malawi

[redacted - s.39]

1.4 Security Briefing – Zambia

[redacted - s.39]

1.5 Comms Briefing

Media plan: First Minister trip to Zambia and Malawi, October 2025

Background and aims

Scotland has developed close links with our partner countries, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia. This will be the first time a First Minister has visited either country since the start of our international development work in 2005, and will be the first ever visit by a First Minister to Zambia. It is therefore a significant milestone, providing opportunities to:

- Showcase the importance of the Scottish Government's international development and global citizenship work
- Demonstrate to people in Scotland, as well as partner countries, the legacy of partnership programmes
- Promote initiatives aligned with the First Minister's priorities for Scotland: eradicating poverty, growing the economy and tackling the climate emergency, and Scotland's role on the world stage

Key messages

As a result of the Scottish Government's investment in international development programmes, and the hard work of our humanitarian and development partners, many lives across the world have been transformed. Our global partnerships have thrived in Zambia and Malawi. We are committed to supporting Global South countries to grow in a fair and sustainable manner – moving "from aid to trade". And, in learning more about the challenges and opportunities facing people in other countries, we learn more about ourselves.

Health:

Over the 20-year period of our development programme, Scotland has a strong history of supporting health systems in our partner countries, with innovative partnerships between Universities, NHS staff and institutions, as well as support throughout the COVID crisis. Our NHS partnerships have transformed health care, for example launching Malawi's first dental school, supporting a programme which has trained all psychiatrists, established the first dedicated A&E centre, and supported on cancer.

Climate justice:

Scotland was the first nation globally to commit funds specifically to climate justice, launching our Climate Justice Fund in 2012, and we committed to trebling the fund to £36 million over the course of this parliamentary term. In 2023, we launched a three-year £24 million programme called Climate Just Communities, split across Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia.

[redacted - s.30]

Strategy and tactics:

[redacted - s.30]
Timeline:

[redacted - s.30]

Additional key messages

We believe we have a lot to contribute to the international community. By sharing our knowledge, skills and technical expertise for global good, we continue to make distinctive contributions towards addressing global challenges and injustices; and to do so through a partnership approach."

Health

- Scotland has a strong history of innovation in medical science and practice, and this experience has been shared through several medical projects in partner countries.

Education

- Overall, we aim to create an inclusive, welcoming and diverse educational environment, which actively promotes the transfer of knowledge and experience between nations.
- Scottish Universities offer provision overseas and collaborations to bring quality education to developing countries.
- Scholarship programmes in individual Scottish universities enrich the student experience for both the home students as well as learners from abroad.

Tackling climate change

- Devastating, widespread and rapidly escalating impacts of the global climate crisis are being experienced worldwide, with the Global South and marginalised groups feeling these impacts first and most severely.
- At a time when global climate finance for vulnerable countries remains uncertain, Scotland has protected climate justice funding and remains on track to deliver the full £36m commitment.

2. Any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between the office of the First Minister and Zambian Government Officials regarding the visit. Information should include but not be limited to a detailed timeline (with dates) of any contact between these individuals. Please provide this information between the dates of 1 July 2025 and 21 October 2025 inclusive.

2.1 Letter from First Minister to President of Zambia

Rt Hon John Swinney MSP
An Fhìor Urr John Swinney BPA
First Minister of Scotland
Am Prìomh Mhinistear

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

H.E. Mr Hakainde Hichilema
President of the Republic of Zambia
State House
Independence Avenue P.O. Box, 30135
Lusaka, Lusaka 10101
Zambia

14 October 2025

Your Excellency,

Please accept this quaich, Scotland's cup of friendship, as a thank you for welcoming myself and my team to your beautiful country. The giving of this quaich marks both the first visit to Zambia by a First Minister of Scotland, and the long and cherished history between our two great nations.

The quaich has been used through the centuries in Scotland to offer a welcoming drink at clan gatherings, and other family occasions, and to friends and visitors. "Quaich" is a Scots rendering of the Gaelic word "cuach", meaning cup, and the two-handed design incorporates trust, on the part of both giver and receiver.

Yours,

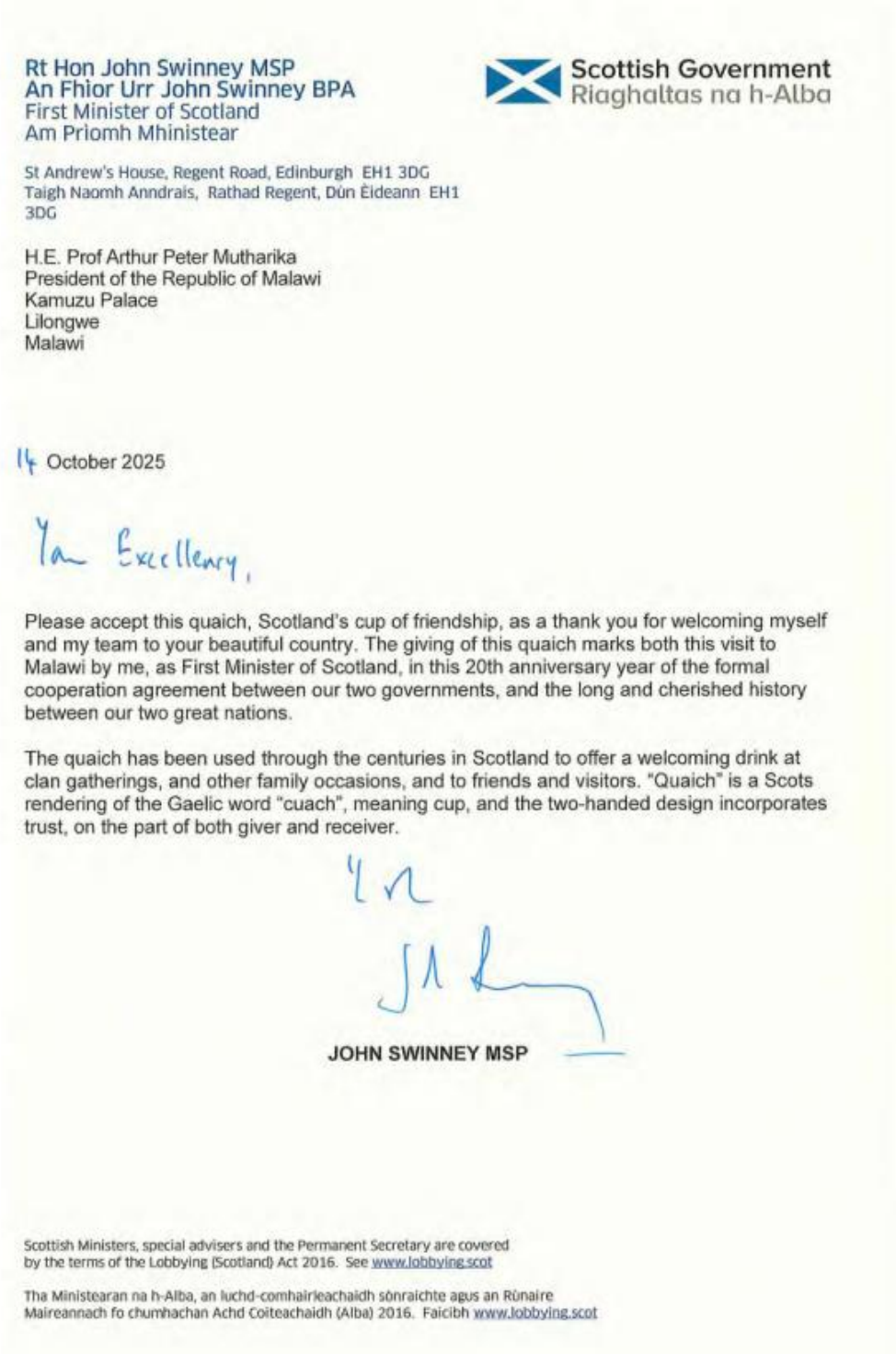
JOHN SWINNEY MSP

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

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

3. Any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between the office of the First Minister and Malawi Government Officials regarding the visit. Information should include but not be limited to a detailed timeline (with dates) of any contact between these individuals. Please provide this information between the dates of 1 July 2025 and 21 October 2025 inclusive.

3.1 Letter from First Minister to President of Malawi



Rt Hon John Swinney MSP
An Fhìor Urr John Swinney BPA
First Minister of Scotland
Am Prìomh Mhinistear

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG

H.E. Prof Arthur Peter Mutharika
President of the Republic of Malawi
Kamuzu Palace
Lilongwe
Malawi

14 October 2025

Your Excellency,

Please accept this quaich, Scotland's cup of friendship, as a thank you for welcoming myself and my team to your beautiful country. The giving of this quaich marks both this visit to Malawi by me, as First Minister of Scotland, in this 20th anniversary year of the formal cooperation agreement between our two governments, and the long and cherished history between our two great nations.

The quaich has been used through the centuries in Scotland to offer a welcoming drink at clan gatherings, and other family occasions, and to friends and visitors. "Quaich" is a Scots rendering of the Gaelic word "cuach", meaning cup, and the two-handed design incorporates trust, on the part of both giver and receiver.

Yours

JOHN SWINNEY MSP

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4. Any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between the office of the First Minister and any Scottish Government official with a rank of deputy director or higher regarding the visit. Information should include but not be limited to a detailed timeline (with dates) of any contact between these individuals. Please provide this information between the dates of 1 July 2025 and 21 October 2025 inclusive.

4.1 Email Chain Requesting Advice – 15 September 2025

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 16 September 2025 07:31
To: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: Re: FM visit to Malawi & Zambia - advice required by end of week

Apologies, the FM has reflected overnight and the dates will need to be 15-21st as he needs to be back in Scotland for the 22nd.

@**[redacted - s.38]** I will be in meetings all morning but can jump on a call at 2pm if that would be helpful?

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

From: Julie Grant
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 7:26:49 PM
To: First Minister ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; Katherine White
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 ; Colin McAllister ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; Emily Mackintosh ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; John Webster ; Permanent Secretary ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: Re: FM visit to Malawi & Zambia - advice required by end of week

Adding **[redacted - s.38]** as **[redacted - s.38]**is on leave. Thanks j

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From: [redacted - s.38] on behalf of First Minister
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 5:44:36 PM
To: [redacted - s.38] ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; Katherine White
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 ; Colin McAllister ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; Emily Mackintosh ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; **[redacted - s.38]** ; John Webster ; Permanent Secretary ; **[redacted - s.38]** ;

Julie Grant
Subject: FM visit to Malawi & Zambia - advice required by end of week

Kat, **[redacted - s.38]**, **[redacted - s.38]**
The FM has asked for revised advice on a visit for him to Malawi and Zambia for October (ideally flying out 15th and returning 22nd. **[redacted - s.30]** and provide some advice **by the end of this week for FM to consider**. I am purposely keeping the cc list on this chain tight for now, in order that Policy, Comms, V&E and seniors can be aware of the ask from the FM, but to note he will take a final decision once the advice is with him.
[redacted - s.30]Thanks
[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted - s.38]**The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday.** Further details, including preferences, can be found here.
All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

4.2 Meeting Invitation – 16 September 2025

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 16 September 2025 15:53
To: [redacted - s.38]; Katherine White; **[redacted - s.38]**; Julie Grant; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh; Ross Ingebrigtsen; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Jack Middleton; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: FM Malawi / Zambia visit - officials & Spads catch up
When: 18 September 2025 11:30-12:15 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi all

As discussed with **[redacted - s.38]** and Katherine, putting this call in for Thursday morning to cover off:

1) Outline of advice going to FM (inc. run down of programme, any diplomatic/political risks, view form FCDO etc)
2) Delegation & practicalities (inc. optimum SG delegation make up, immunisations, visas etc)
3) AOB

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

4.3 Email Chain on Number of Officials on Visit - September/October 2025
(Note, some of this content falls in scope of Q5 below but is included as one chain here for ease)

From: Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2025 16:34
To: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Thanks very much for this update Kat. This is an area which FM cares about, and I'm glad he feels well served by the team.

Kenneth

From: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 October 2025 14:16
To: Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Hi Kenneth,

A quick update here:

[redacted - s.30]

From: Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2025 15:42
To: [redacted - s.38]; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Exchequer Strategy and Performance <DGESP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

[redacted - s.38]

Thanks very much for this. Given the high level of scrutiny of FM visit I think that we will need to limit attendance to 2 policy officials. I know that this will make it an intense trip and **[redacted - s.39]**, but this is comparable with support for other FM visits.

Shona

[redacted - s.38]_____
From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 25 September 2025 09:53
To: Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

For updated awareness – this only came to light after my email last night.

[redacted - s.30]
[redacted - s.30]

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
International Division
Scottish Government
Mobile (direct): 00**[redacted - s.38]**

([redacted - s.38])

_____
From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 24 September 2025 17:38
To: Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Hi Shona,

Kat and I have discussed and I'm responding whilst she is engaged at NYCW events today.

[redacted - s.30]

Background: emails today with FCDO Zambia on support levels
<< Message: RE: SG/FCDO Intros and possible SG visit to Malawi/Zambia 15-20 October >>
Happy to discuss.

Best

[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
International Division
Scottish Government
Mobile (direct): 00**[redacted - s.38]**

(**[redacted - s.38]**)

From: Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>
Sent: 23 September 2025 12:14
To: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**
Cc: DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Joe mentioned to me yesterday that he thought the delegation was too big. I appreciate that much of that is out with our control but anything that you can do to reduce numbers would be appreciated.

Shona
[redacted - s.38]**From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 22 September 2025 09:46
To: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Stephen Noon <Stephen.Noon@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Martin Johnson <Martin.Johnson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Donna MacKinnon <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce <Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy <CabSecforCAE@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Visits and Events <VisitsandEvents@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Catriona Laing <Catriona.Laing@gov.scot>; Philip Raines <Philip.Raines@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; Donald Henderson <Donald.Henderson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**;

[redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Kat

> [out of scope]
>
> *I also recognise the importance of SG continuing to develop and enhance our participation in international development programmes especially given the reduction in commitments from UK and US Governments. It is an important signal for me that we indicate our continued moral leadership and commitment in such activity especially in the 20th year of our programme.*
>
> *[out of scope]*
>
> *I have therefore decided to undertake the Malawi/Zambia programme on the dates proposed [I must be back on 21 October]. I am generally content with the programme but would like it refreshed to maximise the opportunities to take forward climate action visits to more significantly reflect this theme in my programme.*
>
> *Please proceed with the arrangements.*

I will schedule a call this afternoon with the group from last week to discuss next steps, but Kat/**[redacted - s.38]** – please take this as confirmation to proceed with arrangements for this visit.

On nos for the travelling delegation, the FM has not commented on this, **so I will pick up with the Perm Sec's office and aim to provide a steer on this later today.**

[out of scope]

Thank, and look forward to chatting later today.

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

From: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 September 2025 08:47
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Stephen Noon <Stephen.Noon@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Martin Johnson <Martin.Johnson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**;

[redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Donna MacKinnon <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce <Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy <CabSecforCAE@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Visits and Events <VisitsandEvents@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Catriona Laing <Catriona.Laing@gov.scot>; Philip Raines <Philip.Raines@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; Donald Henderson <Donald.Henderson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.30]
Happy to discuss.

Thanks

Julie

Julie Grant | Deputy Director News & Digital
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: julie.grant@gov.scot
m: **[redacted - s.38]****From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 19 September 2025 15:38
To: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Stephen Noon <Stephen.Noon@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Martin Johnson <Martin.Johnson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Donna MacKinnon <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce

<Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy <CabSecforCAE@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Visits and Events <VisitsandEvents@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Catriona Laing <Catriona.Laing@gov.scot>; Philip Raines <Philip.Raines@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; Donald Henderson <Donald.Henderson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

[out of scope]

Thanks all – hope to have a steer (at least on MZ) early next week.

[redacted - s.38]

From: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 September 2025 15:09
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Stephen Noon <Stephen.Noon@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Martin Johnson <Martin.Johnson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Donna MacKinnon <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce <Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy <CabSecforCAE@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Visits and Events <VisitsandEvents@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Catriona Laing <Catriona.Laing@gov.scot>; Philip Raines <Philip.Raines@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>;

Donald Henderson <Donald.Henderson@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: FM's international travel - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Dear **[redacted - s.38]**, FMPO

Further to discussions earlier this week, please find attached [out of scope]:
1, Travel to Malawi and Zambia during October
2, [out of scope]

Due to time constraints, this work has not had final Special Advisor input although they have been engaged during the development of the submissions.

Thanks to **[redacted - s.38]** and **[redacted - s.38]**in ID and **[redacted - s.38]** in ICC for their help.

Happy to discuss once FM has considered,

Kat

Katherine White *(she/her)*
Deputy Director I International Development and Climate Change Division I Directorate of Culture and External Affairs I Scottish Government
Mobile: [redacted - s.38]

4.4 Diary Invitation – 23 September 2025

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 23 September 2025 10:16
To: [redacted - s.38]; Ross Ingebrigtsen; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White; **[redacted - s.38]**; Julie Grant; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Cc: Emily Mackintosh; **[redacted - s.38]**; Colin McAllister; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: Catch up on Malawi & Zambia visit
When: 23 September 2025 15:00-15:45 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

If anyone else needs to join this call, please forward.

4.5 Email Chain on Costings – 25 September 2025

From: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2025 17:30
To: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: FM Visit - Costings for delegation options

Thanks **[redacted - s.38]**, overview below. Please shout if not clear or it you think FM will need more context.

Thanks

Julie

[redacted - s.30]

Julie Grant | Deputy Director News & Digital
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: julie.grant@gov.scot
m: **[redacted - s.38]****From: [redacted - s.38]**
Sent: 25 September 2025 16:54
To: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: Fw: FM Visit - Costings for delegation options

Julie

If you add covering advice on staffing profile you would recommend, I will send this all over to the FM tonight and say we will speak to him on Monday about it **[redacted - s.30]**

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:39:13 PM
To: [redacted - s.38]
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: FM Visit - Costings for delegation options

Hello **[redacted - s.38]**,
[redacted - s.30]
Best regards,

[redacted - s.38]

4.6 Email Chain on Delegation Size – 29 September 2025

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 29 September 2025 16:31
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM Malawi-Zambia visit - planning chain

[redacted - s.38]

I have discussed the delegation options with John Webster (PPS) and he has taken the decision that the delegation should be the following:

[redacted - s.30]
Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 24 September 2025 13:01
To: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>
Subject: FM Malawi-Zambia visit - planning chain

[redacted - s.38]

I am setting up this chain for all colleagues involved in the FM's upcoming visit to Malawi & Zambia. I have added PO, Policy, Comms, V&E, Speechwriters and SLOs – please add anyone else who needs to be included. (If anyone wishes to be removed, let me know).

@[redacted - s.38] you are going to set up programme calls for the next few weeks, with separate calls covering i) policy/programme and ii) logistics. I am happy to attend both.

As discussed on yesterday's call, the below are the deadlines we are working to for written and verbal programme updates are below:

- Thursday 2 October – draft programme sent to the FM, inclusive of draft Comms handling & Speeches
- Friday 3 October – meeting with FM and delegation to discuss
- Wednesday 8 October – meeting with FM and delegation to discuss final elements
- Thursday 9 October – final briefing pack due, inclusive of Comms handling & Speeches (**[redacted - s.39]**)

In terms of size of delegation, I believe that conversation is now taking place at Perm Sec – DG level, but grateful for confirmation once we have the settled castlist on the Comms/Policy/V&E side.

@[redacted - s.38] thanks for the update this morning on the Malawi elections – very helpful.

[redacted - s.39]
As discussed, would be great to get travel & accom booked asap.

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted - s.38]
The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found here.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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

4.7 Email Discussing Delegation Size – 29 September 2025

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 29 September 2025 09:59
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Cc: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: SG delegation nos for Malawi-Zambia visit
Importance: High

Perm Sec, Shona

I am not sure where your discussions have progressed to on nos. for the MZ delegation, but below are costs for three options. As you can see, Julie G has recommended Option 1. Do you wish to add a steer on policy nos. to the below?

I am hoping to discuss with the FM today in BH in order to book flights and accommodation asap.

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

--

FM

We are hoping to book flights and accommodation for the visit this week.

[redacted - s.30]

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted - s.38]
The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found here.

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4.8 Email Discussing Delegation Size – 29 September 2025

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 29 September 2025 16:22
To: John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot> **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: Delegation size - M&Z visit

[redacted - s.30]
We are hoping to book flights and accommodation for the visit this week.

[redacted - s.30]

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted - s.38]
The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found here.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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

4.9 Email on Flight Booking – 1 October 2025
From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 01 October 2025 13:07
To: [redacted - s.38]; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: To FMPO: GIFTS : FM Malawi-Zambia visit - planning chain [OFFICIAL]

[redacted - s.39]

[out of scope]

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 01 October 2025 08:45
To: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: FM Malawi-Zambia visit - planning chain [OFFICIAL]

[redacted - s.39]

4.10 Email on Advanced Notice of Visit – 9 October 2025

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 09 October 2025 10:13
To: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38] John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>**
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Letter to go to HMK PPS - FM's visit to M&Z

Thanks and yes, I'll just email them as part of our ongoing visit logistics.

[redacted - s.30]
[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
International Division
Scottish Government
Mobile (direct): 00**[redacted - s.38]**

([redacted - s.38])

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 09 October 2025 09:55
To: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38] John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>**
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Letter to go to HMK PPS - FM's visit to M&Z

[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.30]
Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 09 October 2025 09:44
To: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38] John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>**
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Letter to go to HMK PPS - FM's visit to M&Z

[redacted - s.30]

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
International Division
Scottish Government
Mobile (direct): 00**[redacted - s.38]**

(**[redacted - s.38]**)

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 08 October 2025 10:21
To: [redacted - s.38] John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: Letter to go to HMK PPS - FM's visit to M&Z

John

[redacted - s.41]
[redacted - s.39].

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

--

[redacted - s.41]
[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted - s.38]
The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found here.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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4.11 Email Chain on Logistics – 13 October 2025

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 11:09:25 AM
To: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: IMPORTANT - passport details & booking confirmations for MZ delegation

Katherine

[redacted - s.39]
@[redacted - s.38] **@[redacted - s.38]** **@[redacted - s.38]** **@[redacted - s.38]** you may wish to add your details to this chain so that Katherine has everything to hand.

Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

[out of scope]

4.12 Comms Query Email Chain – 16 October 2025

From: Katherine White
Sent: 16 October 2025 22:39
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]< [redacted - s.38]>; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; **[redacted - s.38]< [redacted - s.38]**>; **[redacted - s.38]< [redacted - s.38 >; [redacted - s.38]< [redacted - s.38 >**
Subject: RE: FM Request - URGENT

Thanks **[redacted - s.38]**– Just to follow up on one point to clarify.

[redacted - s.30]

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 16 October 2025 22:16
To: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: FM Request - URGENT

Thanks Katherine!

I've sent that to him now.

[redacted - s.38]

From: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 October 2025 22:11
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: FM Request - URGENT
Importance: High

Hi **[redacted - s.38]**

[redacted - s.30]
[redacted - s.30]

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 16 October 2025 22:01
To: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Subject: FM Request - URGENT
Importance: High

Good evening Katherine,

[redacted - s.30] Thank you,

[redacted - s.38]
[redacted - s.38]Office of the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | **[redacted - s.38]**

4.13 Email Chain between FMPO and SCS Officials – 20 October 2025
From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 20 October 2025 11:50
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Richard Rollison <Richard.Rollison@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Subject: Next steps from Malawi-Zambia visit

John

[redacted - s.30]
Thanks
[redacted - s.38]

4.14 Further Email Following Chain above – 21 October 2025
(Statement referenced can be read at parliament.scot from 28 October)

[out of scope]

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 20 October 2025 20:57
To: [redacted - s.38]; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Richard Rollison <Richard.Rollison@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; **[redacted - s.38]**
Subject: RE: Next steps from Malawi-Zambia visit

Thanks **[redacted - s.38]**.

For tomorrow if you could draft 12 minutes for now for others to add/amend - it'll depend on the Parly Business but I expect it'll be 10 minute statement without interventions, followed by 20 minutes for questions (rather than 15mins, 30mins Qs).

[redacted - s.38]
Private Secretary
Office of the First Minister
Mobile: [redacted - s.38]All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information

From: [redacted - s.38]
Sent: 20 October 2025 17:48
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Richard Rollison <Richard.Rollison@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Next steps from Malawi-Zambia visit

Thanks **[redacted - s.38]** and timescales noted.

Can I just check rough length of statement?

I'm going to start drafting tomorrow.

From: [redacted - s.38] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 20 October 2025 17:17
To: Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]; **[redacted - s.38]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Richard Rollison <Richard.Rollison@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Next steps from Malawi-Zambia visit

Emily, all

The FM confirmed he intends to deliver a statement on the first day back after recess (so Tuesday 28th Oct) – I'll update Parliament Business PO now so Mr Dey can take forward.

[redacted - s.38] – attached is the structure/content for the statement from FM, grateful if you and colleagues can take forward please and for an draft to be shared with SpAds by early Friday please so the FM can then consider a version over the weekend please?

Many thanks,
[redacted - s.38]

[redacted - s.38]
Private Secretary
Office of the First Minister
Mobile: [redacted - s.38]All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information

5. Any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between Scottish Government officials with a rank of deputy director or higher regarding the visit. Information should include but not be limited to a detailed timeline (with dates) of any contact between these individuals. Please provide this information between the dates of 1 July 2025 and 21 October 2025 inclusive.

See Document 4.4 above.

5.1 Email between Senior Civil Servants Following Visit – 20 October 2025

From: Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:10:31 PM
To: John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - s.38]
Subject: FW: Next steps from Malawi-Zambia visit

Hi John,

For awareness, but not for onward sharing just yet.

Let's chat on Wednesday too…

Kat