

From: Kenneth Hogg
Sent: 18 September 2025 18:27
To: Shona Riach
Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] dinner in the Queen Anne building - Telegraph

For info
Kenneth

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 18 September 2025 16:54
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024
Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture ; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]; Kenneth Hogg ; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]; Sean McGivern ; David Hutchison ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; Jack Middleton
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] dinner in the Queen Anne building - Telegraph
Thaks [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] – will issue now.
[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 16:52
To: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>
Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: FOR CLEARANCE: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] dinner in the Queen Anne building - Telegraph
Hi [redacted- s.38(1)(b)],
Thanks for this - Mr Robertson is content to clear.
Thanks,
[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:46:41 pm
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>;

Kenneth Hogg

<Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Sean McGivern

<Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] dinner in the Queen Anne building - Telegraph
Good afternoon Cab Sec/PO

The Telegraph is running a story on the HES Castle dinner based on the emails below. The thrust is likely to be "Angus Robertson has called for a full and robust investigation...."

I have agreed a tweak to our previous line with officials – grateful for your thoughts.

Regards

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"Officials are seeking clarity with Historic Environment Scotland on this matter and will continue to update the Cabinet Secretary."

QUERY

As discussed, I am writing a story for tomorrow's paper about Angus wanting a full investigation about the dinner that took place last month in Edinburgh Castle's Queen Anne building, attended by HES director Stephen Duncan and his wife. It is my understanding he paid £25 for the dinner.

I have had sight of the email below from one of Angus's officials to Stephen Kerr MSP making clear the Scottish Government is not satisfied with the responses provided by HES so far about this incident. However, please let me know if you want to provide a further response.

"The Cabinet Secretary also shares your concerns. The issue regarding the use of the Queen Anne building was not something that the sponsorship team was aware of on Sept 11.

"Since you brought this to the committee's attention, Mr Robertson through the sponsorship team has requested information of HES regarding what happened.

"You suggest that HES are proactively sharing information. I would not describe it in this way. HES are responding to the questions that we have asked to a variable degree of satisfaction.

"However, we are continuing to seek clarity from HES, as they provide further information.

"We have been trying to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the use of the room and the Dinner. We are not there, yet.

"Strictly whether there is an investigation or internal inquiry is a matter for HES. However, the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and the sponsorship team want to ensure that this is robustly investigated.

"My understanding from HES is that they are looking to "review" the situation. We are trying to ascertain what that will entail but HES are developing this.

"Whether this takes the form of an investigation or inquiry is probably too early to say. However, you will appreciate that Scottish Ministers will want to ensure that it is a fair and robust process and we are actively monitoring the situation.

"As above we would not describe any information from HES as a briefing. They are reacting to the questions being posed by the Scottish Government.

"I note their press lines that were issued on Sept 11. We have not been informed of an investigation, only that they will carry out a 'review'.

"I have been told verbally by a HES director that they aim to commence this tomorrow. However, we have asked for a number of points of clarity to ensure that it is both fair and robust, therefore it may not commence tomorrow.

"It is our role within the Scottish Government to provide reassurance to Scottish Ministers and we would aim to do so through intensive support of HES in their process."

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)] | [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300

244 9029

From: Kenneth Hogg
Sent: 25 September 2025 16:52
To: Shona Riach
Subject: FW: Whistleblowing complaint about HES and Angus Robertson
Attachments: Highly Confidential - Whistleblowing

Shona

For awareness. Can we have a word?

Kenneth

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 September 2025 16:39
To: Kenneth Hogg
Cc: First Minister ; Director Propriety and Ethics ; Jennifer Inglis-Jones
Subject: FW: Whistleblowing complaint about HES and Angus Robertson

Hi Kenneth,

As mentioned on Teams, FM has received the attached email from what appears to be HES staff.

Grateful if you can advise FM's office on handling of this issue.

Many thanks,

[redacted-s38(1)(b)]

[redacted-s38(1)(b)] | Propriety and Ethics Team

1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams

From: [redacted-s38(1)(b)] <[redacted-s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 25 September 2025 15:46
To: [redacted-s38(1)(b)] <[redacted-s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: Whistleblowing complaint about HES and Angus Robertson

Hi [redacted- s38(1)(b)]

Grateful for your advice on who should lead on the attached, HES is an agency of the SG, should this be passed to the Perm Secs Office/ HR to take forward, the

correspondents are also asking for Mr Robertson's removal. I am unable to trace any previous correspondence from the e-mail address.

Thanks

[redacted- s38(1)(b)]

[redacted- s38(1)(b)]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Mobile [redacted- s38(1)(b)]

The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday.

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

[redacted- s30(c)]

From: Kenneth Hogg
Sent: 10 November 2025 10:48
To: Shona Riach
Subject: Emails from Hugh Hall

Shona

This is the email chain.

Kenneth

From: Kenneth Hogg
Sent: 29 August 2025 12:02
To: 'Hugh Hall'
Cc: Shona Riach ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Making way for the new HES Chair

Dear Hugh

I'm emailing to confirm safe receipt of yours (below). Thank you for clarifying your position. We will work on the basis that you are resigning as Chair, with your last day in the role being Friday 5 September.

I'll be in touch again before then.

With thanks

Kenneth

Kenneth Hogg
Director, Culture & External Affairs
Scottish Government

From: Hugh Hall <hugh.hall@hes.scot>
Sent: 29 August 2025 11:51
To: Kenneth Hogg <kenneth.hogg@gov.scot>
Subject: Making way for the new HES Chair

Dear Kenneth

I mentioned to Shona a few weeks ago that, with the imminent appointment of the new Chair, I would take my leave early to help facilitate a smooth transition, especially in these challenging times. I wanted to let you know that I intend to stand down as Chair next Friday – 5 September. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with a fabulous Team at HES and with a wide range of great partners.

I would like to make one final plea if I may for the Cabinet Secretary to meet soonest with my HES Board colleagues. They have all been working above and beyond over the last few difficult months in particular and I know they would welcome a discussion with

Mr Robertson on a range of matters.

Despite all of the challenges, HES is a fantastic organisation, achieving a wide range of great things day to day, year to year, through the commitment and dedication of a wonderful Team. There is much to look forward to and, undoubtedly, many opportunities to be grasped in the years ahead.

I wish Historic Environment Scotland every success for the future.

Best wishes
Hugh

Dr Hugh Hall²
Chair

Historic Environment Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

T: 07771941130
E: hugh.hall@hes.scot

www.historicenvironment.scot

From: Hugh Hall
Sent: 12 August 2025 08:35
To: Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot
Subject: HES Board meeting with Cabinet Secretary

Morning Kenneth.

When I met with Shona on 24/7, I reiterated my request for a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary. In the circumstances, it would seem apt for the Cabinet Secretary to meet with the full Board. I was asked to put our request to officials and it would be passed on. I would be grateful if you could take this as a formal request.

I remain puzzled that I have not had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary since he took on responsibility for HES early last year.

I note that in the 2022 Scottish Government Response to the Progress Review of Scottish Government's Relationship with Public Bodies, Government agreed with the recommendation that "Portfolio Accountable Officers should ensure that there is regular

contact between NDPB Boards and both Ministers and SG officials". I may be missing something so please feel free to correct me.

Given my impending departure this is no longer an issue for me but I suggest it is something for SG to ponder on the appointment of the new Chair. From my perspective, I certainly found the relationship that I had with predecessor Ministers both valuable and enjoyable.

Happy to pick up on this when we speak.

Hugh

Historic Environment Scotland - Scottish Charity No. SC045925
Registered office: Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Historic Environment Scotland Enterprises Ltd – Company No. SC510997
Registered office: Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

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Please inform the sender if received in error.

FW FOR AWARENESS - Media lines - A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

From: Kenneth Hogg
Sent: 11 November 2025 09:56
To: Shona Riach
Subject: FW: FOR AWARENESS - Media lines - A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

From: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 11 November 2025 08:55
To: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; First Minister ; Kenneth Hogg ; Jamie MacDougall ; Propriety and Ethics team mailbox ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; Director Propriety and Ethics ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] ; Cabinet Secretariat Inbox ; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Subject: FOR AWARENESS - Media lines - A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP For Awareness,

Please see additional media lines issued to the Herlad last night, thanks [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
SG RESPONSE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Following his appointment by the Culture Secretary, Sir Mark Jones’ priorities as Chair are to ensure HES has the trust of the public and its partners. The Scottish Government will continue to support him in this endeavour to resolve the leadership and governance issues that have been raised.”

“In addition to appointing the new Chair, the Culture Secretary and previous Culture Ministers regularly met with and engaged with senior leaders at Historic Environment Scotland, including the Chief Executive and previous Chair.

“The Cabinet Secretary was not advised of the correspondence relating to a request to meet with the board. Officials were considering the most appropriate approach to the request in light of the ongoing investigations into matters at Historic Environment Scotland. While this work was ongoing the previous Chair indicated his resignation to the Scottish Government. As a result Dr Hall's request was superseded and work moved to supporting the efforts of the new Chair to resolve outstanding issues.

“Scottish Government officials continue to attend HES Board meetings and are working closely with the organisation to support the new Chair.”

NEWS RELEASE

Angus Robertson must answer allegations of ‘misleading parliament’ on HES scandal

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Monday 10 November 2025

FAO: all newsdesks

Embargo: for immediate release

SNP culture secretary Angus Robertson has “serious question to answer” amid claims he may

have misled parliament over the scandal engulfing Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Mr Robertson repeatedly insisted last week that he had never been invited to attend a board meeting of the quango which has been mired in allegations of malpractice by senior officials and operating a toxic workplace culture.

However, a weekend newspaper report contained details of a leaked email highlighting repeated requests from former HES chairman Dr Hugh Hall to Scottish Government officials for

the cabinet secretary to attend a full board meeting of the troubled organisation.

Scottish Conservative MSP Stephen Kerr, who has today submitted a topical question on the

issue, says Mr Robertson must explain his actions to MSPs.

Scottish Conservative MSP Stephen Kerr said: "Angus Robertson has some serious questions to

answer because it appears that he may have misled parliament.

"At committee last week, the culture secretary was adamant to both myself and my colleague

Jamie Halcro Johnston that he had never been invited to attend a HES board meeting. But a leaked email over the weekend suggests that this was not the case and that repeated requests

were made to meet with him.

"Angus Robertson must come before MSPs to explain himself. That's why I have today submitted a topical question to the presiding officer.

"We already knew that the SNP's culture secretary has been asleep at the wheel while the meltdown at the top of HES unfolded. It's clear that he ought to have intervened sooner.

"But if he actively ignored invitations to attend board meetings, that is a whole new level of ministerial neglect. It would be an inexcusable dereliction of duty.

"HES receives around £70million of taxpayer money every year. Angus Robertson is ultimately

responsible for ensuring it's spent wisely, yet on his watch the organisation is a basket case, with

one allegation after another emerging in the press."

Notes to editors

Angus Robertson told the culture committee last week that he was never invited to attend a board meeting of HES link

Leaked email from the former chairman of HES, Dr Hugh Hall, reveals he made repeated attempts to meet with Angus Robertson, including a request for the culture secretary to attend a full board meeting of the quango link

Topical Question submitted today by Stephen Kerr reads: To ask the Scottish Government whether the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture will correct the record following reports that he told a parliamentary committee he had not been invited to attend a board meeting of Historic Environment Scotland, despite evidence to the contrary.

ENDS [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] (She /Her) - why I share my pronouns

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

Communications Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] / [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

?????

www.gov.scot/news

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

Sent: 11 November 2025 08:48

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

<FirstMinister@gov.scot>;

Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>;

Propriety and Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director Propriety and Ethics
<DirectorProprietyandEthics@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

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

S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Cabinet Secretariat Inbox
<CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

Thanks, [Redacted S.38(1)(b)], and [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]. Also widening to include P&E Senior
Management – grateful if [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] and [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] can be copied into
these types of matters. [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Propriety and Ethics Team
1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams

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

Sent: 10 November 2025 18:30

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie
MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Propriety and
Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted
S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

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

S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]
[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Cabinet Secretariat Inbox
<CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

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

P&E lead on investigations and referrals re Code so I'm sure they'll come back. Just
extending copylist meantime.

H [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] (she/her) |

Commissions | Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support | Scottish Government

E: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot | Mob: 07477 057757 Working from home and from SG

offices and the Scottish parliament. Available on MS Teams, email or mobile. Please

note I'm working flexibly and do not usually work on Friday afternoons. If you receive this

outwith normal working hours

please do not feel you need to pick this up outside of your own working pattern.

From: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of First Minister

Sent: 10 November 2025 18:17

To: Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall

<Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Propriety and Ethics team

mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted

S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

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

[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

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

[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

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

[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

All

To see the attached letter from Stephen Kerr MSP asking the FM to refer this case to the Independent Advisers of the Code. Grateful for urgent advice this week for the FM to consider alongside a draft response please? In meantime I'll flag to the Cab Sec's PO for awareness as well as the FM.

Grateful for confirmation this has been picked up. Copying Comms in case of media queries.

Many thanks, [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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

Office of the First Minister

Mobile: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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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: Kerr S (Stephen), MSP <Stephen.Kerr.MSP@Parliament.scot>

Sent: 10 November 2025 17:19

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@Parliament.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@Parliament.scot>; [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted

S.38(1)(b)]@Parliament.scot>

Subject: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

Please find attached a letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP.

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba www.parliament.scot :

facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

As discussed the FM would like a response that incorporates the details shared with Parliament by the Cab Sec this afternoon.

Many thanks,

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary

Office of the First Minister

Mobile: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

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(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 11 November 2025 10:57

To: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Propriety and Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Director Propriety and Ethics <DirectorProprietyandEthics@gov.scot>; Ashleigh Gray <Ashleigh.Gray@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP
Thanks, [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]. Just to confirm that Propriety and Ethics will pick up advice to the FM and a draft reply to Mr Kerr's letter regarding the Ministerial Code.

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)] Propriety and Ethics Team

1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 11 November 2025 09:38

To: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Propriety and Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Julie Grant

<Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Director Propriety and Ethics <DirectorProprietyandEthics@gov.scot>;
Ashleigh Gray <Ashleigh.Gray@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP
Adding Constitution Comms for awareness.

Thanks,

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 11 November 2025 09:15

To: Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Propriety and Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Director Propriety and Ethics <DirectorProprietyandEthics@gov.scot>; Ashleigh Gray <Ashleigh.Gray@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

Also, joining this up with the lines issued last night. P&E and Cabinet Secretariat were not copied into the exchanges on lines.

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)] | Propriety and Ethics Team

1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 11 November 2025 08:48

To: Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Propriety and Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted- s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Director Propriety and Ethics <DirectorProprietyandEthics@gov.scot>; Ashleigh Gray <Ashleigh.Gray@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen

<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Cabinet Secretariat Inbox
<CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP
Thanks, [redacted- s.38(1)(b)], and Helen. Also widening to include P&E Senior Management – grateful if Michael and Ashleigh can be copied into these types of matters.
[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]
[redacted- s.38(1)(b)] | Propriety and Ethics Team
1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams

From: Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 November 2025 18:30

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Propriety and Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Cabinet Secretariat Inbox
<CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

Thanks [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

P&E lead on investigations and referrals re Code so I'm sure they'll come back. Just extending copylist meantime.

H

Helen Webster (she/her) | Deputy Director for Cabinet, Parliament and Governance & Secretary of Commissions | Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support | Scottish Government

E: Helen.Webster@gov.scot | **Mob:** [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

Working from home and from SG offices and the Scottish parliament. Available on MS Teams, email or mobile. Please note I'm working flexibly and do not usually work on Friday afternoons. If you receive this outwith normal working hours please do not feel you need to pick this up outside of your own working pattern.

From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 10 November 2025 18:17

To: Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Propriety and Ethics team mailbox <PandETeam@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Helen Webster

<Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted-
s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]
<[redacted-s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP All

To see the attached letter from Stephen Kerr MSP asking the FM to refer this case to the Independent Advisers of the Code. Grateful for urgent advice this week for the FM to consider alongside a draft response please? In meantime I'll flag to the Cab Sec's PO for awareness as well as the FM.

Grateful for confirmation this has been picked up. Copying Comms in case of media queries.

Many thanks,

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary

Office of the First Minister Mobile: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

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From: Kerr S (Stephen), MSP <Stephen.Kerr.MSP@Parliament.scot>

Sent: 10 November 2025 17:19

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@Parliament.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@Parliament.scot>; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@Parliament.scot>

Subject: A letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP

Please find attached a letter to the First Minister from Stephen Kerr MSP.

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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha slugh na h-Alba

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OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

[redacted s30(b)(i)- free and frank exchange of advice]

[redacted s30(b)(i)- free and frank exchange of advice]

[redacted s30(b)(i)- free and frank exchange of advice]

From: Shona Riach
Sent: 21 November 2025 13:36
To: Jamie MacDougall; Kenneth Hogg
Subject: RE: Letter to the Cab Sec re HES

Looks good to me. thanks
Shona [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: Jamie MacDougall
Sent: 21 November 2025 09:28
To: Kenneth Hogg
Cc: Shona Riach
Subject: RE: Letter to the Cab Sec re HES

Hi Kenneth

Draft reply is here: HES - reply to committee.docx

Jamie

Jamie MacDougall | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environment | Directorate for Culture and

External Affairs | The Scottish Government | Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 November 2025 14:41

To: Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>

Cc: Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Letter to the Cab Sec re HES

Importance: High

Jamie

Could you lead on drafting a reply please, and send it to Shona and myself for review?

Thanks

Kenneth

From: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution,

External Affairs and Culture 2024

Sent: 20 November 2025 14:24

To: Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Exchequer Strategy and Performance <DGESP@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Letter to the Cab Sec re HES

Importance: High

Hi Jamie, Kenneth,

Please see attached from the CEEAC committee – grateful if we could have a draft response up by cop Monday 24th at the latest – earlier much appreciated.

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

[Redacted S.38(1)(b)] to the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture – Angus Robertson MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG Email: CabSecCEAC@gov.scot

Phone: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot>

Sent: 20 November 2025 13:10

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

Subject: Letter to the Cab Sec re HES

Hi [Redacted S.38(1)(b)] / [Redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Please find attached a letter for the Cab Sec regarding HES and please note the Committee is seeking a response before our next meeting (on 27th November).

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

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot : [facebook.com/scottishparliament](https://www.facebook.com/scottishparliament) : twitter.com/scotparl

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

From: Shona Riach
Sent: 05 October 2025 12:34
To: Katerina Brown; DG Exchequer Strategy and Performance
Cc: Kenneth Hogg; Jamie MacDougall; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]; Mark Jones
Subject: Re: Private and Confidential - Return to Work

Thanks Kat. I'm also pleased that we have an agreed way forward.

Best,

Shona

From: Katerina Brown
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 10:26 am
To: DG Exchequer Strategy and Performance
Cc: Shona Riach ; Kenneth Hogg ; Jamie MacDougall ; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]; Mark Jones
Subject: RE: Private and Confidential - Return to Work

Dear Shona,

Our emails literally crossed by minutes.

I welcome the offer of an independent investigator that has been made available through SG and I look forward to the next steps so that we can all move forwards.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Kat

Katerina Brown | HES Chief Executive

Historic Environment Scotland | Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba

Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

E: katerina.brown@hes.scot

M: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

www.historicenvironment.scot



From: [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot On Behalf Of
DGESP@gov.scot

To: Katerina Brown

Sent: 03 October 2025 12:54

Cc: Shona.Riach@gov.scot; Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot; Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot; [redacted- s.38(1)(b)]; Mark Jones ; DGESP@gov.scot

Subject: Private and Confidential - Return to Work



HES IT doesn't recognise the sender of this email as this is the first time you have received an email from this address. Please be extra vigilant of attachments and links and use the 'Report Email as Suspicious' button if you have any concerns. DGESP @ gov.scot

Dear Kat

Thank you for your email. As you know, I have been very clear to the Board of HES that your position must be resolved as quickly as possible. As you note, your prolonged absence leaves the organisation without its leader at a critical time and it leaves the organisation without an Accountable Officer.

[redacted- s.38(1)(b)]

Kind regards

Shona

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