From: <Redacted – section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Housing
Sent: 24 February 2026 16:25
To: <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: For FM Clearance - FM - Sunday Mail

From: <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)>@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 November 2025 19:52
To: Emily Mackintosh <section 38(1)(b)>@gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>
Cc: <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot; <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For FM Clearance - FM - Sunday Mail

For the benefit of the copylist I have liaised with Emily and am issuing the line in order for it to have a chance of it appearing in print.

<section 38(1)(b)>

From: Emily Mackintosh <section 38(1)(b)>@gov.scot
Sent: 01 November 2025 17:56
To: <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> >; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>
Cc: <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>
Subject: Re: For FM Clearance - FM - Sunday Mail

Adding <section 38(1)(b)> for awareness.

If FM doesn't come back by deadline, I can clear.

If anyone has the invite, grateful if that can be passed on as well.

Thanks,
Emily

From: <section 38(1)(b)> <section 38(1)(b)>@gov.scot
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 5:39:45 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>
Cc: <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>; <section 38(1)(b)> < <section 38(1)(b)> @gov.scot>
Subject: For FM Clearance - FM - Sunday Mail

First Minister, PO,
CC: CabSec Housing, CabSec Education *(just as an update following help looking for invites)*

The Sunday Mail has asked for our response to the below release from the Lib Dems regarding the youth event 'Making Sense of Politics' due to take place on Monday.

At present, we can find no record of an SG rep lined up to attend and suggest the short response below issue.

FMPO can you confirm the 'later this month' line is accurate? I believe its an annual event and last year it was 19 November?

Grateful for FMs clearance.

Thanks,

<section 38(1)(b)>
<section 38(1)(b)>
News | Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: <section 38(1)(b)> | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029
www.gov.scot/news

Response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The First Minister regularly engages with children and young people including through the Children's Cabinet which will take place later this month."
**

Query:

Swinney is “scared of school kids” as he skips young people’s event

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton has today said that John Swinney is scared of facing questions from school kids as the First Minister prepares to skip a Royal Society of Edinburgh event in Dumfries.

All Scottish party leaders were invited to the RSE’s Young People’s Signature Event: Making Sense of Politics on Monday 3 November 2025.

The event is hosted by The Royal Society of Edinburgh, in partnership with Young Scot, The Scottish Youth Parliament, and Youthwork Dumfries and offers pupils the opportunity to engage directly with politicians, explore the issues that matter to them, and hear from inspiring youth voices.

John Swinney is not attending.

In her recent book, Nicola Sturgeon admitted that falling performance in international education league tables was “undeniable” and that she “did not succeed in all that I set out to do on school education”.

Mr Cole-Hamilton said:

“I think it is so important to encourage young people to engage with politics and I am sure they will ask me plenty of tough questions.

“I would happily debate John Swinney anywhere, anytime on any topic.

“Scottish Liberal Democrats want to offer hope for Scotland’s young people. We’re focused on cutting mental health waits, delivering more pupil support assistants to tackle violence and upheaval in schools and tackling Scotland’s climate emergency

“No matter where you live, you can get a Scottish Liberal Democrat MSP who believes in change with fairness at its heart, if you back us on the peach regional vote. That’s as true in the South of Scotland as it is across the country.

“There’s still time for John Swinney to change his mind and face a grilling from Scotland’s young people.

“C’mon John, why are you running scared of school kids?”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

In her book Nicola Sturgeon wrote:

“Of course, none of this alters the fact that I did not succeed in all that I set out to do on school education- and that is on me.”

“The Scottish education system is not the failure that many claim. And yet, it was undeniable that our performance in international league tables was falling.”

“I established a Council of Education Advisers, made up of internationally renowned experts, to help shape the answers to these questions, and the work it did was extremely helpful. Even so, it often felt that I was grasping at ‘solutions’ that I hoped, rather than knew, would make a difference.”

--

Dan Vevers
Chief Reporter @ The Sunday Mail

<section 38(1)(b)> @DanVevers

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