

Scottish Government

**Inter-Governmental Relations**

**Annual Report**

**April 2016 – March 2017**

presented to

The Convener  
Finance and Constitution Committee  
Scottish Parliament

# Inter-Governmental Relations

## Annual Report

April 2016 – March 2017

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## **Ministerial Foreward**

I am delighted to present this first annual report on inter-governmental relations to the Scottish Parliament, in line with our written agreement.

Scottish Ministers remain fully committed to facilitating improved parliamentary scrutiny of our inter-governmental exchanges with the other administrations of the UK. We believe this is important in increasing the transparency and effectiveness of our exchanges for the benefit of the people of Scotland.



I welcome the on-going interest of parliamentarians in this area. I have encouraged my officials to support this process and to continue to work to ensure that the organisation as a whole is both aware of and compliant with the terms of the agreement. I am pleased that they maintain strong positive dialogue with parliamentary staff to ensure we continue to adapt to changes in the context of our inter-governmental relations.

**DEREK MACKAY**

**Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution**

**June 2017**

## **Introduction**

1. This report details the formal and informal ministerial-level engagement between the Scottish Government and the UK Government and other devolved administrations over the reporting period April 2016 to March 2017. The report does not cover international engagement, such as with the European Union or within the context of the British-Irish Council.
2. It takes account of the reporting that ministers have already engaged in on those formal fora highlighted in the agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament and consolidates this with detail of other informal meetings held throughout the year.

## Formal Engagement

### Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements (Devolution)

3. Ministers agreed at the Plenary session of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC(P)), which took place in December 2014, that the over-arching Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements on Devolution (MoU) should be reviewed to reflect the fundamental change in the constitutional landscape of the United Kingdom. This decision followed recommendations by both the Silk and Smith Commissions for the development of improved provisions and practices underpinning inter-governmental relations.
4. Officials from the four UK administrations worked collaboratively to examine the provisions of the MoU, assess whether the agreement remained fit for purpose in the current context and to establish proposals to be placed before Ministers for agreement at the next JMC(P). However, events throughout 2015 and into 2016 – including a UK General Election, an unexpected change of leadership in Northern Ireland, Devolved Administrations' Elections, the EU Referendum and a change of leadership in the UK – meant that it was not possible to schedule another JMC(P) until October 2016. By that time, the result of the EU Referendum was known and Ministers at that JMC(P) commissioned further work to take account of the changed context from the period in which revisions had already taken place. That work is ongoing.
5. For the time being therefore, the October 2013 version remains in place

### *Other Memoranda of Understanding, Concordats and Service Level Agreements*

6. Implementation of the provisions of the Scotland Act (2016) and other recommendations of the Smith Commission have been the major drivers in establishing new formal written agreements this year.
7. Terms of reference have been agreed in establishing a new Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations). They complement the existing provisions for JMC contained within the MoU. These are not detailed in this section, but instead fall within the following section on outcomes of the Joint Ministerial Committee (Plenary).
8. In line with our written agreement with the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government has sought to provide relevant committees with due notice of new inter-governmental agreements in the preparatory stages of their development and when agreements are completed and signed.
9. The following table presents all written agreements signed in this reporting period.

Agreement	Signed
<p><a href="#"><u>Memorandum of Understanding on joint working arrangements covering the implementation of devolved provisions in the Scotland Act 2016 relating to Social Security and Employment Support Services in Scotland.</u></a></p> <p>Between the Scottish Government and the Department for Work and Pensions</p> <p><i>This MoU sets out a framework for co-operation to ensure the social security and the employment support provisions, associated powers and operations of the Scotland Act 2016 are considered and implemented effectively and with full regard to both Scottish and UK systems.</i></p>	September 2016
<p><a href="#"><u>Memorandum of Understanding</u></a></p> <p>Between the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Scottish Government</p> <p><i>An agreement underlying procedures and practice to facilitate the role of the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament in setting the strategic priorities of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) with respect to its activities in Scotland.</i></p>	29 November 2016
<p><a href="#"><u>Memorandum of Understanding on the Scottish Income Tax Powers</u></a></p> <p>Between the Scottish Government and HM Revenue and Customs</p> <p><i>This documents responsibilities in relation to establishing and operating Scottish income tax powers in an efficient and effective manner. It provides the framework to oversee the establishment and operation of the Scottish income tax powers.</i></p>	01 December 2016
<p><a href="#"><u>Memorandum of Understanding</u></a></p> <p>Between the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and Office of Communications (Ofcom)</p> <p><i>The memorandum of understanding commits Ofcom to consult on their draft annual plan and sets out the process for Scottish Ministers to appoint a member to the Ofcom Board.</i></p>	February 2017

<p><a href="#"><u>Concordat on the decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations</u></a></p> <p>Between the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Scottish Ministers</p> <p><i>This concordat sets out practical arrangements for the transfer of the UK Secretary of State's Energy Act 2004 functions in relation to the decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations to Scottish Ministers.</i></p>	<p>13 February 2017</p>
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## Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC)

### *Plenary (JMC(P))*

10. A period of roughly 22 months between the Plenary in December 2014 and the next meeting in October 2016 elapsed.
11. The Plenary session has convened twice in the past reporting year in October and January. This is unusual – as Plenary has traditionally been an annual occurrence – and the reasons for it are twofold. The first is that, in the general examination of provisions for inter-governmental relations, officials made an interim recommendation that the Plenary should convene more often. The second is that the result of the EU Referendum placed an imperative on high-level engagement to consider how best to approach redefining relations with the EU, taking into account all constituent parts of the UK.
12. The first Plenary session this reporting period took place in Downing Street, London, on 24 October 2016. The meeting was Chaired by the Prime Minister, Theresa May. The First Minister attended, along with the newly appointed Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's place in Europe, Michael Russell. The First Minister made clear that she would approach this meeting primarily as an opportunity to secure an effective mechanism for the devolved administrations to directly influence the UK approach and objectives for negotiations with the EU, as pledged by the Prime Minister. Ministers agreed to establish a new forum on EU negotiations, guided by the principles of the JMC and with specific terms of reference, that would help to facilitate the formulation of that UK approach. The Scottish Government entered into the new forum - the JMC(EN) - in good faith, on expectation that meaningful engagement would take place and that an agreed position might be formed in due course.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Official Communique](#)

[Associated SG News Release](#)

13. The second Plenary session took place in Cardiff City Hall, on 30 January 2017. This meeting was hosted by UK Government and Chaired by the Prime Minister. The First Minister attended, along with the Minister for UK Negotiations on

Scotland's Place in Europe. After the first three meetings of the JMC(EN) the First Minister's focus for this Plenary session was to gain greater clarity and agreement on how discussions at those meetings would affect the formation of a UK approach and the content of the UK letter to the EU triggering Article 50. The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe spoke on the proposals put forward in the Scottish Government paper, *Scotland's Place in Europe*, and questioned whether the UK had considered these prior to the Prime Minister's statement of 17 January, in which she said the UK would leave the EU single market. Scottish Ministers agreed to the UK Government proposal to intensify engagement on the understanding that sheer quantity of meetings was less important than the quality of exchanges. Ministers sought a further meeting ahead of the triggering of Article 50 and/or sight of the Article 50 letter.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Official Communique](#)

[Associated SG News Release](#)

[Associated SG News Release](#)

14. We expect at least one Plenary session to be scheduled in the 2017-18 reporting period, however no dates have been set.

#### *Europe (JMC(E))*

15. It is ordinary procedure for the JMC Europe to meet before each European Council meeting of which there are four per year - June, October, December and March. However, in the reporting period April 2016 – April 2017, there were only two JMC(E) meetings. There are no official communiques issued from these meetings.
16. There was a reduction in the quality of engagement through the JMC(E) forum compared to the previous reporting year. This may be attributed to the changed political context as the UK Government prepares for exiting the EU. The extensive machinery of government change which took place in Whitehall following the referendum outcome saw the Secretariat of the JMC(E) move from the Cabinet Office across to the newly formed DExEU and with it, a consequent loss in knowledge and expertise of the JMC(E) processes. The last year has involved a process of trying to rebuild the JMC(E) machinery in light of these changes. Following repeated requests from the Minister for International Development and Europe, Alasdair Allan, and from Scottish Government officials throughout this year for improvements there are now some indications that there is a renewed Ministerial focus at a UK level and an increase in resourcing at official level. However, we have not yet had engagement following the General Election.
17. There was no JMC(E) prior to the June 2016 European Council as the Council meeting fell immediately after the UK EU referendum. A collective decision was taken by the secretariat not to have a meeting.

18. There was also no JMC(E) meeting ahead of the European Council in October as a date could not be identified that could accommodate all parties. Papers were shared with the Devolved Administrations just a few days ahead of the European Council, breaching the MoU obligations, and were not of the standard that the Scottish Government is entitled to expect. The Minister for International Development and Europe wrote to the Chair David Jones, Minister of State for Exiting the EU providing Scottish Government comments by correspondence. The Minister also stated his concern at the apparent inadequate level of resource assigned to the JMC(E) on the part of UK Government and urged improvements to be made in advance of the December meeting.
19. The first JMC(E) in the reporting period took place on 7 December 2016, ahead of the December European Council and was chaired by David Jones Minister of State for DExEU. The Minister for International Development and Europe attended on behalf of the Scottish Government. In addition to the standard JMC(E) item on European Council business there was also an item on “Effective Joint Working on on-going Domestic EU Business” this was at the request of the Devolved Administrations. The aim of this item was to tease out the machinery of Government changes which had taken place in Whitehall since the June referendum and to clarify the UKG’s approach to dealing with on-going EU business and its approach to engaging with the Devolved Administrations on these matters. There was also a paper on the UK Government’s priorities for Commission Work Programme. At this meeting the Minister for International Development and Europe requested that the item on the Commission Work Programme be reviewed to provide specific detail on the UK Government’s offensive and defensive priorities for on-going EU business. The Minister also requested further clarity on the precise entry points available to the Devolved Administrations to feed into the decision making process. The Minister once again reiterated concerns at the commitment and resourcing the UK Government was investing in the JMC(E) and urged significant improvements to be made ahead of the March meeting.
20. The second JMC(E) in this reporting year took place ahead of the March European Council in Whitehall and was again chaired by David Jones Minister of State for DExEU. There were similar difficulties trying to secure a date for this meeting despite Scottish Government Ministers, again, demonstrating considerable flexibility. Papers were again circulated extremely late and were again not of the quality the Scottish Government is entitled to expect under the MoU. The item on Offensive and Defensive priorities was not on the agenda despite repeated requests by the Minister for International Development and Europe and his officials on his behalf. No alternative agenda item was suggested by UKG and as a result the meeting contained only three items as opposed to the standard four. The Minister participated by videoconference and made clear his disappointment at the handling of the meeting. The meeting was chaired in a brisk functional way not conducive to meaningful engagement. The Minister wrote to David Jones following the March meeting expressing his continued disappointment at the JMC(E).
21. DExEU officials recently visited the Scottish Government to discuss how the JMC(E) process could be improved going forward. These meetings were productive and positive. Scottish Government officials once again asked for a forward look of the UK Government’s approach to on-going EU business and have asked the UK Government to produce a paper which maps out in detail their key priorities for on-

going EU business in light of both the Commission Work Programme and the upcoming Estonian and Bulgarian presidencies. Scottish Government officials have stated that this forward look is a requirement under the MoU and that this information is necessary in order to forward plan JMC(E) meetings and enable the agenda to be strategically planned. We expect this paper to be tabled at the June 2017 JMC(E) meeting.

### *EU Negotiations (JMC(EN))*

22. The JMC(EN) is a newly established forum to facilitate political engagement and collaboration between the four governments, to develop an agreed UK approach to and objectives for negotiations, and to ensure collective oversight of those negotiations. The forum operates in addition and complementary to existing JMC machinery. Existing formats, including the JMC (Europe), and the Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral, will continue to meet to manage on-going business on EU issues. Joint working in JMC(EN) will report to, and be overseen by, JMC(P).
23. It was agreed that, as far as possible the forum should convene once per month. Between April 2016 and March 2017 the forum has met on four occasions.
24. The first meeting of the JMC(EN) took place on 9 November 2016, hosted by UK Government in London and Chaired by the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU. The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe attended. This inaugural meeting focussed on establishing a work programme for the forum itself and gaining agreement to the joint analysis that would be required to take that work programme forward. The Minister also sought clarification from UK Government on the approach to EU market access.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Official Communiqué](#)  
[Associated SG News Release](#)

25. A second meeting took place on 7 December 2016, hosted by UK Government in London and Chaired by the Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union. The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU did attend but was held up with other parliamentary business for the bulk of the meeting. The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe attended, along with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. Ministers discussed priorities relating to law enforcement, security and criminal justice, civil judicial cooperation, immigration and trade. Mr Russell continued to press for clarity on the JMC(EN) work programme and how it would influence decision making.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Official Communiqué](#)  
[Associated SG News Release](#)

26. A third meeting took place on 19 January 2017, hosted by UK Government in London and Chaired by the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union. The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe attended. The meeting followed the Prime Minister's announcement on 17 January, in which she said the UK would leave the EU single market. In light of this, the Minister sought urgent clarification from UK Government on whether they had given due consideration to the proposals set out in the Scottish Government's paper *Scotland's Place in Europe*, released on 20 December 2016, and questioned why there had been no consultation or warning prior to the Prime Minister's statement.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

*An official Communique was not agreed for this meeting.*

[Associated SG News Release](#)

27. A fourth meeting took place on 8 February 2017, hosted by UK Government in London and Chaired by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union did attend the meeting but arrived late. The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe attended. The meeting followed the January JMC(P), where Ministers had agreed to an intensification of engagement between administrations. Mr Russell reiterated his call for quality of exchange over sheer quantity of meetings and, citing the handling of the UK Government announcement on single-market, made clear that the Scottish Government expected to be involved in the development of any proposals accompanying or contained within the letter trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

*An official Communique was not agreed for this meeting.*

[Associated SG News Release](#)

28. No further formal meetings of the JMC(EN) took place prior to the close of this reporting year. Officials have been considering how the forum should adapt to better allow for genuine deliberation and consensus seeking and expect meetings to resume at the earliest opportunity following the formation of governing administrations in the UK and Northern Ireland.

#### *Domestic (JMC(D))*

29. The JMC(D) has not had cause to meet since March 2013 although the option remains open to ministers to reconvene as necessary.

30. There have been no issues raised under the JMC Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Procedure in the past reporting year.

#### Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral (FMQ)

31. The Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral (FMQ) is primarily used as a forum to bring forward finance issues that are common across the devolved administrations. As ministers have been engaged in bi-lateral discussions there had been a gap of almost three years between the last FMQ in November 2013 and the meeting that took place in October 2016. More regular use of the FMQ has now resumed.

32. The FMQ has met twice in the course of the 2016-17 reporting year. Normally there would be three FMQ's in a reporting year, but due to the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May 2016, the first meeting of the year did not take place until October 2016. The location of each meeting rotates between London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

33. The first meeting of the year took place in London, on 24 October 2016. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Rt Hon David Gauke MP). The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution (Derek Mackay) represented the Scottish Government. The agenda for the meeting included EU funding; the UK Autumn Statement; Taxes and Levies; Financial Transactions; and Budget Classification of Housing. At the meeting, the Cabinet Secretary called on the UK Government to end austerity, to set out a positive fiscal stimulus in the UK Autumn Statement and address the economic uncertainty following the EU referendum. In addition, the Cabinet Secretary obtained UK Government support to establish a new Scottish Growth Scheme, to unlock investment for the private sector following the increased uncertainty as a result of the vote to leave the European Union. It was also agreed that there should be more regular Quadrilateral meetings in future.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Joint Ministerial Statement](#)

[Associated SG News Release](#)

34. The second FMQ meeting took place in Edinburgh on 14 February 2017. This meeting was hosted by the Scottish Government and was chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury as is the normal arrangement. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance & the Constitution attended. The agenda for the meeting included a discussion on the implications of the outcome of the EU Referendum; the prospects for the UK Budget in March 2017; the UK Government's efficiency review; the impact of the UK Government's plans to change its annual budget timetable (to having an Autumn Budget); the interaction between UK Government and devolved administrations' tax policies; and Police and Fire VAT. At the meeting, the Cabinet

Secretary focussed on seeking greater clarity from the UK Government on the impact of the Brexit vote; on the Scottish Government's proposals in *Scotland's Place in Europe* and pressed the UK Government again to take action to address the current VAT arrangements for Scotland's Police and Fire services.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:  
*A Joint Ministerial Statement was not issued following this meeting.*

[Associated SG News Release](#)

[Associated SG News Release](#)

35. In the future, we would expect up to three meetings to be scheduled each reporting year.

### Joint Exchequer Committee (JEC)

36. The Joint Exchequer Committee met on 3 November 2016, the only time during the period of the report. As set out in the terms of reference agreed in Annex D of the fiscal framework, JEC would normally be expected to meet twice annually, subject to there being substantive business to discuss. In this case, progress on fiscal framework implementation was being made at official level but had not reached the point of requiring a second Ministerial meeting. The Joint Exchequer Committee is expected to meet again during Summer 2017 to discuss further aspects of fiscal framework implementation.
37. JEC met in Edinburgh and was attended by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The Cabinet Secretary chaired the meeting. Issues discussed included the application of the Block Grant Adjustment, administration and implementation costs for 2017-18, programme funding for powers being transferred from April 2017 and progress on further income tax powers and VAT assignment.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Official Communiqué](#)

### Joint Ministerial Working Group on Welfare (JMWGW)

38. The Joint Ministerial Working Group for Welfare was set up in February 2015 between the UK Government (Scotland Office and Department for Work and Pensions) and the Scottish Government to ensure a smooth devolution of social security and employability powers. The forum is supported by a Joint Senior Officials' Group. To date the group has met on seven occasions, three of which fell within this reporting period.

39. The forum convened for the first time this reporting period and the fifth time overall on the 16 June 2016, hosted by the Scottish Government in our Atlantic Quay office in Glasgow, and co-chaired between the Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell and the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Joint Communiqué](#)

[Official Minute](#)

40. Ministers met again on 11 October 2016, hosted by the UK Government in Scotland Office's Dover House building in London, with the meeting co-chaired by Ms Constance and Mr Mundell.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[Joint Communiqué](#)

[Official Minute](#)

41. The last meeting in this reporting period came on 20 February 2017 and was again hosted by the UK Government in Scotland Office's Dover House building in London, with the meeting co-chaired by Mr Mundell and Ms Constance.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

*A Joint Communiqué was not issued following this meeting*

[Official Minute](#)

42. Due to the timing of the UK General Election, it is likely that the next meeting will need to be scheduled later than was originally envisioned after the Summer Recesses of both the UK and Scottish Parliaments.

43. The JMWGW remains an effective forum for ministers to discuss important matters regarding the safe transfer and devolution of social security and employability powers, as well as their implementation, and we expect it will continue to meet when required.

#### Other – Agriculture Ministers' Forum

44. In August 2016 the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, proposed a new Ministerial forum to discuss the impact of the EU referendum result on agriculture, environment, fisheries, marine and the rural economy.

45. With all administrations in support of the proposal, the forum initially met on an informal basis, hosted and chaired by Ms Griffiths, in Cardiff, on 8 November 2016. The Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing, represented the Scottish Government; whilst the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, George Eustice represented the UK Government; and Minister of Agriculture,

Environment and Rural Affairs, Michelle McIlveen, represented the Northern Ireland Executive. As an informal meeting, aimed at opening high-level dialogue, no official communique issued from this meeting.

46. The forum met again, hosted in Edinburgh and chaired by Mr Ewing, on 23 February 2017. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham, and the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell also attended. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs, Andrea Leadsom represented the UK Government, with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland, Lord Dunlop accompanying her. Again, Ms Griffiths and Ms McIlveen represented their respective administrations. Scottish Ministers took the opportunity at this meeting to raise broad areas of concern, such as market access, workforce issues, and funding. Again, the meeting was held on an informal basis, with no pre-agreed agenda and no resulting official communique.

Material related to this meeting can be found at the following links:

[SG News Release](#)

47. Following the February meeting and subsequent written exchanges between ministers, which laid a foundation upon which to establish a programme of future meetings and collaborative exchanges, the first formalised meeting of this Defra and Devolved Administrations ministerial forum took place, in London, on 20 April 2017, outside this reporting period. Subsequent scheduled meetings following the General Election have been cancelled by the UK Government.

## Informal Engagement (by portfolio)

### A Note on Informal Engagement

48. The written agreement on inter-governmental relations also commits the Scottish Government to report on the range of broader inter-governmental engagement that has taken place during the year. The following pages provide information on the less-formal, face to face meetings that have taken place between Scottish Ministers and their counterparts in the UK Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive in this reporting period.

49. The information is set out by current portfolios. It should be noted that ministers and portfolio remits have been reorganised during the period covered in this report, so engagements by specific ministers may, in some instances, appear to be incongruous with portfolios as stated. Events during the year, especially the result of the referendum on membership of the EU, have led to an increased frequency and regularity of engagement in some portfolios. Other events, such as changes to ministerial positions in the Scottish Government and in our counterpart administrations may have precluded engagement at points throughout the year. However, those portfolios that are most heavily devolved, generally see lower levels of engagement at the Ministerial level. Apparent levels of ministerial-level engagement may not reflect the frequency and regularity of engagement and exchange at the informal official level.

### First Minister

50. First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
15/07/2016	First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon	Prime Minister, Theresa May	UK	Introductory Meeting; discussed Exiting the EU
27/09/2016	First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon	Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark	UK	Bilateral in margins of the Institute of Directors convention, London; discussed Key Industrial Sectors in Scotland
25/11/2016	First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon	First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones	WG	Bilateral in margins of British-Irish Council: discussed Exiting the EU

30/01/2017	First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon	Prime Minister, Theresa May	UK	Bilateral in margins of Joint Ministerial Committee (Plenary): discussed PM Visit to USA; and Exiting the EU
30/01/2017	First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon	First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones	WG	Bilateral in margins of Joint Ministerial Committee (Plenary): discussed EU Negotiations
27/03/2017	First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon	Prime Minister, Theresa May	UK	Bilateral during PM visit to Scotland; discussed Exiting the EU

51. Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
08/09/2016	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Introductory Meeting
15/09/2016	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis	UK	Introductory Meeting
07/10/2016	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford	WG	Introductory Meeting
20/10/2016	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis  Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	EU Negotiations
24/11/2016	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	EU Negotiations

11/01/2017	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis	UK	EU Negotiations
26/01/2017	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	EU Negotiations
30/01/2017	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford	WG	Bilateral in margins of Joint Ministerial Committee (Plenary): discussing EU Negotiations
22/02/2017	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell	Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis	UK	EU Negotiations

#### Deputy First Minister and Education and Skills

#### 52. Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
18/08/2016	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney	Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mike Penning	UK	Resilience and Civil Contingencies
02/11/2016	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney	Minister for Education, Peter Weir	NIE	Introductory Meeting

53. Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley Ann Somerville

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
27/06/2016	Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley Ann Somerville	Minister of State for Universities and Science, Jo Johnson	UK	Introductory Meeting; UK Higher Education and Research Bill; UK Teaching Excellence Framework; and the Outcome of the EU Referendum
05/07/2016	Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley Ann Somerville	Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams	WG	UK Higher Education and Research Bill

Communities, Social Security and Equalities

54. Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
21/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance  Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Introductory Meeting; discussion on Joint Ministerial Working Group on Welfare; and Transgender Issues
04/07/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance  Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman	Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Stephen Crabb	UK	Introductory Meeting; discussed Devolution of New Social Security Powers to Scotland

04/07/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Disabled People, Justin Tomlinson	UK	Support for Disabled People (including PIP)
03/11/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance	Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Damian Green	UK	Transfer of New Social Security Powers to Scotland
12/12/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Faith and Integration, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth  Minister for Communities and Children, Carl Sargent  Minister for Communities, Paul Givan	All	Meeting of the Four Nations' Communities Ministers: discussing Community Cohesion; UK Race Disparity Audit; Syrian Refugees; and Roma & Traveller issues
19/01/2017	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance  Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman	Minister for Employment, Damian Hinds	UK	Transfer of New Social Security Powers to Scotland; Benefit Cap; and 18-21 Year Olds' Housing Support
26/01/2017	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Transfer of New Social Security Powers to Scotland and Housing Benefit Payments
11/10/2017	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance	Minister of State for Immigration, Robert Goodwill	UK	Accommodation for Asylum Seekers and Refugees to Scotland

55. Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
25/10/2016	Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman	Minister of State for Disabled People, Work and Health, Penny Mordaunt	UK	Fairer Scotland Action Plan; Welfare Reform Mitigation; Devolution of Welfare
12/12/2016	Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman	Minister of State for Disabled People, Work and Health, Penny Mordaunt	UK	UK Work, Health and Disability Consultation; Employment Outcomes for People with Drug and Alcohol Addictions; Devolution of Welfare; Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit; and UN Enquiry into Welfare Reform
12/12/2016	Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (DWP), Caroline Nokes	UK	UK Work, Health and Disability Consultation
09/01/2017	Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman	Minister for Communities, Paul Givan	NIE	Fact Finding Trip (Devolution of Welfare) to NI

Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

56. Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
24/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Outcome of the EU Referendum
06/07/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop	Minister of State for Europe, David Lidington	UK	Rights of EU Nationals; Role of SG in Negotiations; and EU Member State Responses

07/07/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Rights of EU Nationals; Role of SG in Negotiations; and EU Member State Responses
22/07/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Lord Dunlop	UK	Outcome of the EU Referendum
22/07/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop	Minister of State for Exiting the European Union, David Jones	UK	Outcome of the EU Referendum
08/08/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop	Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley	UK	BBC Charter Renewal; Tourism; Edinburgh World Heritage Site; and Edinburgh International Culture Summit
25/08/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop	Minister of State for Digital and Culture, Matt Hancock	UK	Introductory Meeting at the Edinburgh International Culture Summit

57. Minister for International Development and Europe, Alasdair Allan

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
07/12/2016	Minister for International Development and Europe, Alasdair Allan	Minister of State for Immigration, Robert Goodwill	UK	Post-Study Work Visas and Freedom of Movement

58. Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
30/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Lord Dunlop	UK	City and Regional Partnership Deals and the Astana Expo
30/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Greg Hands	UK	Offshore Oil and Gas
30/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel, Mark Lancaster	UK	Defence Estate Review
25/08/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox	UK	Introductory Meeting
27/10/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Lord Dunlop	UK	Aberdeen City Deal
07/11/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for the Middle East, Africa and Counter Terrorism, Tobias Ellwood	UK	MoD Basing Review; Support for Veterans; National Defence Medal Campaign; Sharing Employability Data; NHS Scotland and Military Health Records
25/03/2017	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel, Mark Lancaster	UK	

11/04/2017	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown	Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark	UK	UK Government's Industrial Strategy
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59. Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Paul Wheelhouse

Date	SG Minister	External Minister	Admin	Description
08/12/2016	Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Paul Wheelhouse	Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Simon Kirby	UK	Impact of Brexit on Financial Services

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

60. Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham

Date	SG Minister	External Minister	Admin	Description
13/11/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham	Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry, Nick Hurd	UK	Scotland's Contribution to Global Climate Action

Finance and the Constitution

61. Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay

Date	SG Minister	External Minister	Admin	Description
09/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford	WG	Introductory Call
09/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne	UK	Introductory Meeting

15/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	Minister for Finance, Mairtin O'Muilleoir	NIE	Introductory Meeting
16/06/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Commencement and Implementation of the Scotland Act 2016
08/09/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Commencement and Implementation of the Scotland Act 2016
19/09/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	Chief Secretary to the Treasury, David Gauke	UK	Introductory Meeting
21/10/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford  The Minister of Finance, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir	WG/NIE	Finance Trilateral
01/12/2016	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond	UK	Introductory Meeting
20/01/2017	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay	The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford  The Minister of Finance, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir	WG/NIE	Finance Trilateral

62. Minister for Parliamentary Business, Joe Fitzpatrick

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
07/11/2016	Minister for Parliamentary Business, Joe Fitzpatrick	Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office, Chris Skidmore	UK	Elections and Electoral Registration

27/03/2017	Minister for Parliamentary Business, Joe Fitzpatrick	Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office, Chris Skidmore	UK	Elections and Freedom of Information
27/03/2017	Minister for Parliamentary Business, Joe Fitzpatrick	Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, Michael Ellis	UK	Legislative Programme, Scotland Act Orders and Legislative Consent

### Health and Sport

63. There has been no face-to-face, ministerial-level, engagement identified this reporting year under the Health and Sport portfolio.

### Justice

64. There has been no face-to-face, ministerial-level, engagement identified this reporting year under the Justice portfolio.

### Rural Economy and Connectivity

65. Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Description</b>
07/07/2016	Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing	Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell	UK	Digital Connectivity
02/11/2016	Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing	Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Andrea Leadsome	UK	Rural Economy and Scotland's Future in the EU
09/12/2016	Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Lord Dunlop	UK	Inverness Castle Delivery Group

66. Lord Advocate, James Wolffe and Solicitor General, Alison Di Rollo

<b>Date</b>	<b>SG Minister</b>	<b>External Minister</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Event</b>
15/06/2016	Lord Advocate, James Wolffe  Solicitor General, Alison Di Rollo	Attorney General for England and Wales, Jeremy Wright  Solicitor General England and Wales, Robert Buckland	UK	Introductory Meeting
04/08/2016	Lord Advocate, James Wolffe  Solicitor General, Alison Di Rollo	Advocate General, Lord Keen of Elie	UK	Introductory
09/08/2016	Lord Advocate, James Wolffe	Attorney General for Northern Ireland, John Larkin	NIE	Introductory
17/11/2016	Lord Advocate, James Wolffe  Solicitor General, Alison Di Rollo	Counsel General of Wales, Mick Antoniw	WG	Introductory