

**Note of meeting between First Minister and Beijing Party Secretary, Mr CAI Qi
Bute House, Edinburgh
Saturday, 12 May 2018**

Key points:

The First Minister welcomed the Party Secretary on his first visit to Scotland. She reflected on her recent visit to China and the strengthening bilateral links between Scotland and China. Specifically, the First Minister highlighted the opportunity for joint working on children's rights and gender equality.

They discussed the new direct air route from Scotland to China and the opportunities it will bring, particularly in terms of increased trade and investment and tourism. (Increased exports from Scotland to China was cited as a recent success).

The Party Secretary commented on the importance of bi-lateral frameworks, such as the China-UK Global Strategic Partnership and the China-UK Leadership Forum, and the opportunity for Scotland to play a strong role in these.

They reflected on the success of Vice Premier's visit to Scotland in December, and the importance of people to people connections and cultural exchange. The Palace Museum (Forbidden City) heritage restoration project and the Edinburgh International Festival's partnership with the Shanghai International Festival were cited as examples of projects which offer opportunities for mutual learning.

The Party Secretary commented that he would be keen to develop even closer co-operation between Beijing and Edinburgh, particularly in cultural and heritage collaboration. He agreed to follow this up with the Vice Mayor of Beijing (who is responsible for Culture).

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They concluded the meeting by agreeing to commit to further co-operation in areas of mutual benefit, including trade and investment, education, energy, culture and heritage.