

QUESTION 1

To ask Scottish Ministers to provide all correspondence including emails with dates or any communications thereof that confirms that the Cabinet Secretary advised Audit Scotland that the Government had provided commercial loan facilities of up to £45 million between September 2017 and June 2018.

Response

Review of lending and other investments is part of Audit Scotland's routine scrutiny of the Scottish Government's annual accounts. Audit Scotland has access to all relevant documentation relating to any transactions that the Scottish Government may enter into.

Audit Scotland was advised of the loan facilities provided to Ferguson Marine by Scottish Government officials during the course of the 2017/18 audit of the Consolidated Accounts.

The 2017/18 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts was published on 27 September 2018 and is available from the Audit Scotland website:

<http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk>.

QUESTION 2

To ask the Scottish Government to provide the evidence that supports Mr Mackay's assertion that that he informed the Finance and Constitution Committee of the loans on 24th April and 27th June 2018. The statement implies that Mr Mackay informed ALL of the members of that Committee rather than the Convener alone, that being Bruce Crawford. Correspondence of any format including emails and all communications between Mr Mackay and the Committee is required.

Response

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work wrote to the Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee to inform the Committee of the loan facilities provided to Ferguson Marine on 24 April and 27 June this year.

The contents of the Cabinet Secretary's correspondence with the Committee is commercially sensitive and its disclosure would (or would be likely to) prejudice substantially the commercial interests of Ferguson Marine (section 33(1)(b) of FOISA applies).

The Scottish Government does not hold information about the sharing of its correspondence among members of the Finance Committee. The Clerk to the Committee may be able to address this issue and can be contacted at

Finance.Constitution@parliament.scot.