

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery  
**Sent:** 27 February 2023 11:02  
**To:** [REDACTED] Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery  
**Cc:** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity; First Minister; McDonald L (Lisa); [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] McCaig C (Callum); Director of Population Health; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Liddle JP (JohnPaul); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: DFM and Business Organisations meeting - 22 February 2023 - Readout  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for sending this up – content with the minute of this meeting.

Grateful if you could send the eRDM link of the readout for our own records.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
**Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 February 2023 17:03  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; McDonald L (Lisa) <Lisa.McDonald@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Director of  
Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Liddle JP  
(JohnPaul) <JohnPaul.Liddle@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** DFM and Business Organisations meeting - 22 February 2023 - Readout

Good afternoon PO,

Please see below readout of the DFM's meeting with the business organisations (CBI, FSB, STA, SCC, SFD, SCDI, SFE, SRC, IoD) on 22 February 2023. Grateful if you advise if DFM is content.

**DFM** offered a short update, noting that: there is likely to be some element of 'turbulence' until change of political leadership, that ongoing work and engagement will continue, particularly on issues businesses have raised. He stressed that SG recognises the importance and value of dialogue with the business community.

**Business Organisation Feedback – in summary: the meeting was welcomed and all appreciated DFM's time and candour. Business keen for engagement to continue, particularly around announcements.**

- **CBI:** asked for reassurance that consultation deadlines were still relevant (including draft energy strategy, alcohol advertising, skills). **DFM** advised to assume deadlines are still in place, but recognised that decision making might be slower than usual.
- **FSB:** Noted a lot coming down the line for business, feeling like a "Government Juggernaut" (DRS; LEZ in Glasgow particularly). Interregnum interrupts opportunity for business influence. Sought **DFM's** thoughts about slowing the pace to allow time for reassessment. **DFM** advised of changes made to DRS and circulated by Circularity Scotland on 21/2/23.
- **SRC:** asked and had confirmed that they should assume ILG leadership group is going ahead as usual.
- **STA:** welcomed FM reassurance to whisky sector stressed the need to consider effects on wider tourism industry.
- **SCC:** Noted DRS affects more than tourism sector and that SCC want to work with SG to develop operational plan that's workable and meets objectives for both business and climate. Requested a discussion with SG official on forward planning/working in partnership.
- **SFD:** Yesterday's DRS announcement very welcome, particularly given the work SFD have done with small producers Asked if **DFM** expected changes to the Budget in light of change of FM. **DFM** confirmed it's unlikely. **DFM** said SG grateful for business input into making DRS scheme work.
- **SCDI:** Reassured by continuity of NSET delivery work and Energy Strategy And Just Transition Plan. Noted that Innovation Strategy completion is imminent and asked if announcement would delay. **DFM** suggested this may be paused.
- **SFE:** this group had several discussions focussed on economic growth and keen for the momentum of this topic to continue as it's an important part of Scotland's economy going forward.
- **SRC:** Welcomed the engagement and requested that any future Economy Secretary continues this type of engagement with the business organisations, particularly ad hoc discussions around announcements.

**Actions**

1. Lisa McDonald to call [REDACTED] to discuss future planning/working in partnership -  
**COMPLETE**

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Strategic Business Engagement and Events | Economic Strategy Directorate



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[REDACTED]