



T Irrelevant & Sensitive
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Grahame Smith
By email: GSmith@stuc.org.uk

05 March 2020

Dear Grahame,

As I expect you already know, earlier this week the First Minister attended a UK Government COBR meeting and chaired a meeting of the Scottish Government's Resilience Committee (SGoRR) to discuss preparations for coronavirus (COVID-19) following confirmation of a first case in Scotland. At the COBR meeting a four nations Action Plan to tackle the virus was agreed. This was published on 3 March with Scottish specific information made available alongside the four nations plan, and is available at <https://news.gov.scot/news/action-plan-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

I would be very grateful if - as a first step - you could share that with your members to augment our plans to provide the best possible information to all employers and their workforce.

I want to build on that, by working with you to develop and maintain a shared understanding of the impacts on the Scottish economy. I am keen to hear from you what more we can do to support businesses and how we can also help workers affected by the various impacts of the virus on the workplace and wider economy, including through employers taking a fair and flexible approach to treatment of staff members. Businesses will of course be alert to the value of minimising the risk of the virus spreading through their workforce. I therefore propose a meeting with the main business organisations and the STUC (and with enterprise agencies and Business Gateway too) on 11 March 2020 from 3 pm to approximately 4.15 pm at St Andrews House, Edinburgh. That timing should allow you to engage with your members and come well prepared.

I hope that you or a senior colleague will be able to attend (or dial-in) to that discussion.

Kind regards

Personal Data

FIONA HYSLOP

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