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RESTRICTED HANDLING

SC(20)6th Conclusions

SCOTTISH CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN BUTE HOUSE, EDINBURGH
AT 9.30 AM ON TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2020

Present:	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP	First Minister
	John Swinney MSP	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
	Aileen Campbell MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
	Fergus Ewing MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
	Jeane Freeman MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
	Fiona Hyslop MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture
	Michael Matheson MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
	Michael Russell MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs
	Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People
	Humza Yousaf MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Justice
In Attendance:	Leslie Evans	Permanent Secretary
	LPP	LPP
	Graeme Dey MSP	Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (<i>part of meeting only</i>)
	Ben Macpherson MSP	Minister for Public Finance and Migration
	David Rogers	Director of Constitution and Cabinet
	John Somers	First Minister's Principal Private Secretary
	James Hynd	Head of Cabinet Secretariat
	Andrew Bruce	Permanent Secretary's Principal Private Secretary
	Kate Higgins	Special Adviser
	Ross Ingebrigtsen	Special Adviser
	Liz Lloyd	Special Adviser
	Aileen Easton	First Minister's Official Spokesperson
	Sinéad Power	First Minister's Policy and Delivery Unit
	Tabitha Stringer	PS/First Minister
	NR	Cabinet Secretariat
		Cabinet Secretariat

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OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE**Apologies**

1. Apologies were received from Ms Cunningham and Ms Forbes. They were represented by Mr Swinney and Mr Macpherson, respectively.

Introductory Remarks

2. The previous day, the First Minister had announced the nomination of Kate Forbes MSP as Cabinet Secretary for Finance and of Jenny Gilruth MSP as Minister for Europe and International Development. Parliament would be invited to agree to the appointments that afternoon, which would then be submitted to HM The Queen for formal approval.

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Minutes of Meeting held on 4 February 2020

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February (SC(20)5th Conclusions) were approved.

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SCANCE (Paper SC(20)22)

7. The First Minister introduced the SCANCE paper (SC(20)22). In discussion of current issues, Cabinet's attention was drawn to the following matters:

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15. Further to the item in paper SC(20)22 concerning the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (*SC(20)5th Conclusions refers*), now known as COVID-19, Ms Freeman informed Cabinet that Mr Swinney had chaired a meeting in the Scottish Government Resilience Room (SGoRR(M)) the previous day in order to take stock of the current situation regarding the outbreak and to consider its implications across civil society.

16. While nobody had yet tested positive for COVID-19 in Scotland, it was very likely that cases would emerge over time. Extensive work was now under way, in collaboration with regional partners, to prepare for any outbreak in Scotland. The protocols designed for dealing with pandemic flu had been invoked, given current levels of uncertainty about how COVID-19 would develop. Planning included work to assess the vulnerability of the social care sector. In addition, the capacity of testing facilities, which were now operational in both Edinburgh and Glasgow, could be increased to meet demand, if required.

17. The First Minister noted that she would wish to be informed of any future SGoRR(M) meetings concerning COVID-19, in case she might wish to attend.

(Action: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport; Safer Communities Directorate; Health Performance and Delivery Directorate)

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Any Other Business

47. None.

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February 2020