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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

**Deputy First Minister and Cabinet** John Swinney MSP

Secretary for Education and Skills Aileen Campbell MSP Cabinet Secretary for Communities and

**Local Government** 

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Fergus Ewing MSP

Tourism

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman MSP Fiona Hyslop MSP Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work

and Culture

Michael Matheson MSP Cabinet Secretary for Transport,

Infrastructure and Connectivity

Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe Michael Russell MSP

and External Affairs

Permanent Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP

Older People

Humza Yousaf MSP Cabinet Secretary for Justice

In Attendance: Leslie Evans

LPP

Graeme Dey MSP

Ben Macpherson MSP

**David Rogers** John Somers James Hynd

Andrew Bruce

Kate Higgins

Ross Ingebrigtsen Liz Llovd Aileen Easton Sinéad Power

Tabitha Stringer

Minister for Parliamentary Business and

Veterans (part of meeting only)

Minister for Public Finance and Migration Director of Constitution and Cabinet First Minister's Principal Private Secretary

Head of Cabinet Secretariat

Permanent Secretary's Principal Private

Secretary

Special Adviser Special Adviser

Special Adviser

First Minister's Official Spokesperson First Minister's Policy and Delivery Unit

PS/First Minister Cabinet Secretariat Cabinet Secretariat

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### **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.

# **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

### Minutes of Meeting held on 4 February 2020

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

# **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

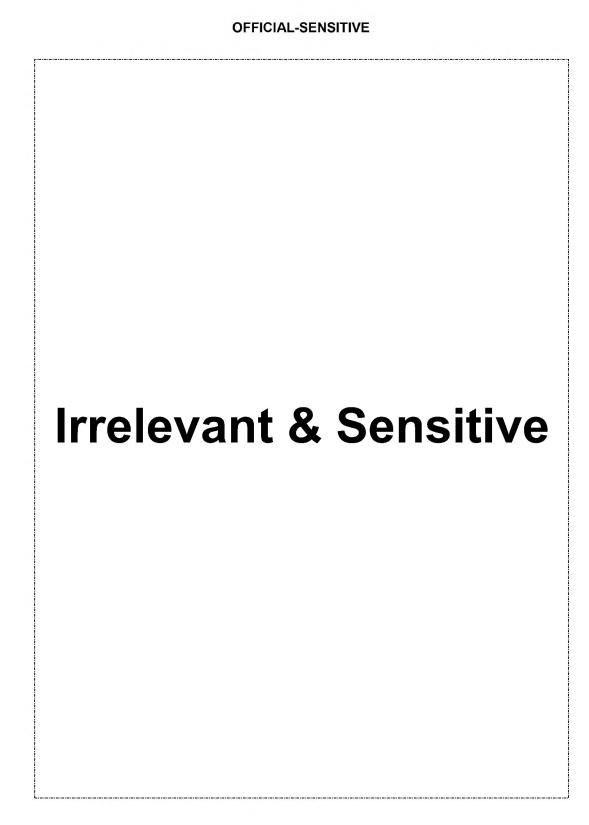
### SCANCE (Paper SC(20)22)

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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#### **OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE**

### 2019 Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19

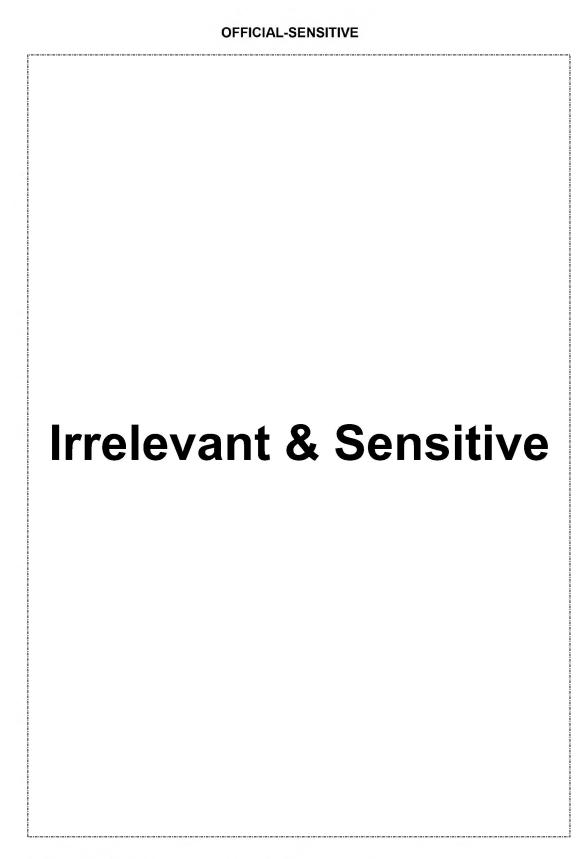
- 15. Further to the item in paper SC(20)22 concerning the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (SC(20)5th Conclusions refers), now known as COVID-19, Ms Freeman informed Cabinet that Mr Swinney had chaired a meeting in the Scottish Government Resilience Room (SGoRR(M)) the previous day in order to take stock of the 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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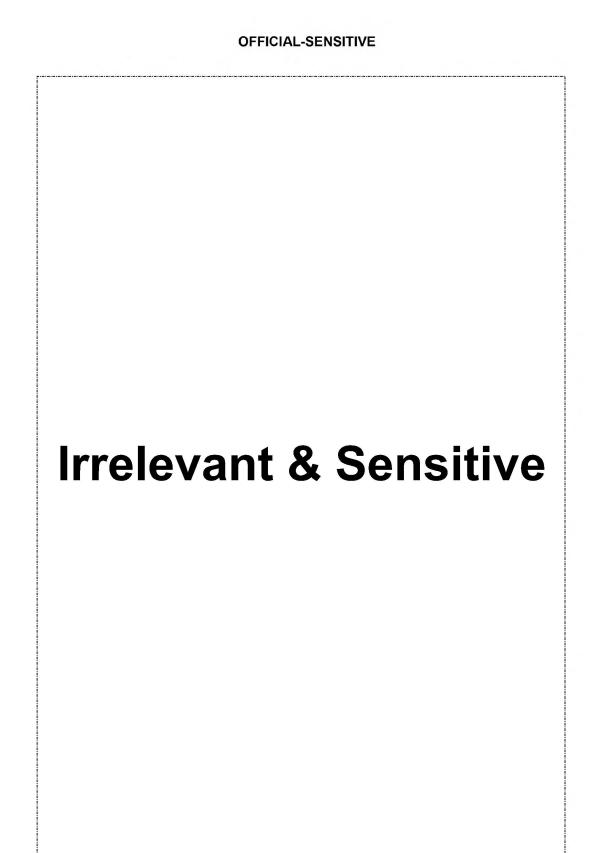
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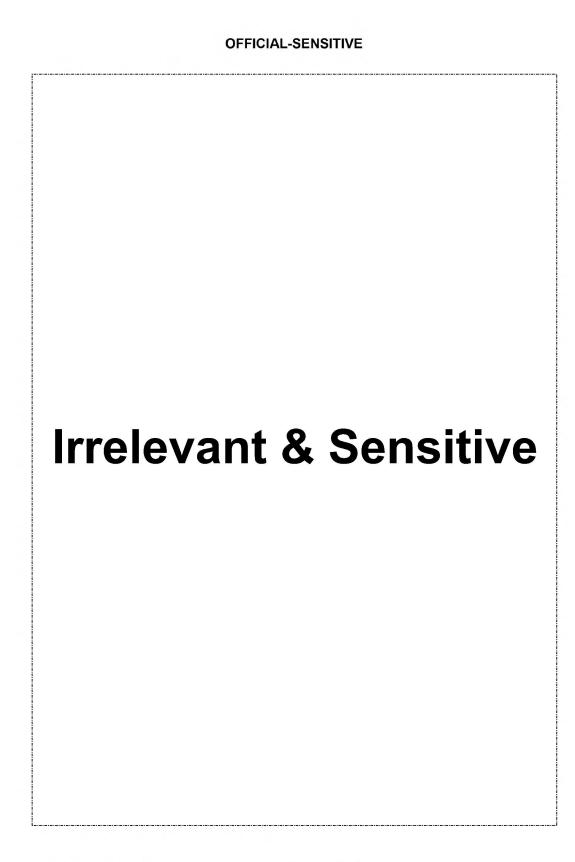
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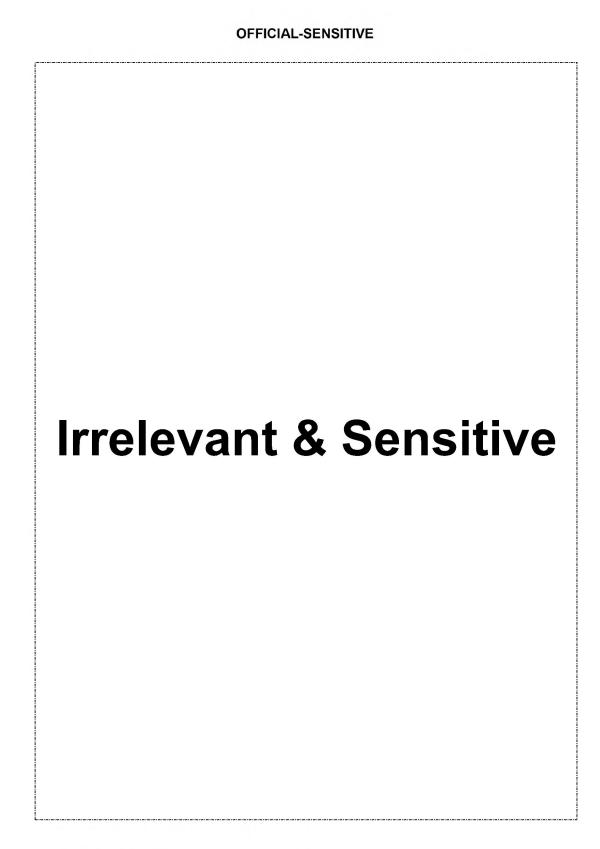
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### **Any Other Business**

47. None.

Cabinet Secretariat February 2020

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