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Dear Patrick,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear in front of the Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on 1 September. I found the discussion very helpful and hope that you and the committee members found it useful too.

During the session, I committed to follow up in writing with regards to a few topics. Please find enclosed as annexes information about the following:

- Development Education Centres
- Funding for Scottish Fair Trade
- The breakdown of spend in this year's International Development Fund budget and the proportion of money currently managed by organisations in Scotland
- Funding for loss and damage programmes.

During the session, I also invited committee members to join me in welcoming the next cohort of the 1325 Women in Peace fellowship when they next visit Parliament. The next scheduled visit is on 27 October and I would be delighted if committee members would join. If members can let my office know by the end of this month, officials will provide further details nearer the time.

I would like to make you aware that following the session I have concluded that on one occasion I provided incorrect information. This relates to my answer to Keith Brown MSP regarding the Scottish Government's response to the flooding in Nepal, where I incorrectly stated that the Scottish Government's existing funding to the Start Network's Global Fund would be contributing to the rescue efforts of the Nepal Start Fund. The Start Fund Nepal is not currently drawing funds from the Global Start Fund. However, we understand that if the local Start Fund Nepal becomes depleted, funding from the Global Start Fund may be released but this has not yet occurred. I will write to Official Report whom I understand will engage with the Committee clerk on this matter.

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There is also one inaccuracy in the transcription of the Official Report relating to my comments about the Aid Match scheme which I am seeking to have corrected.

I hope this information satisfies the committee's requirements. Please let me know if there is any other information you would find useful. I understand that Mr Gethins is writing separately on matters pertaining to his portfolio.

Yours sincerely,



SIMITA KUMAR

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Annex A: Scotdec Development Education Centres

The Scottish Government provides grant funding to the Development Education Centres to deliver the Global Citizenship in Scotland (GSiS) programme. This supplies professional learning for educators to deliver Learning for Sustainability, global citizenship education and rights education. Further information and detail about the programme is available here: <https://scotdec.org.uk/>

As confirmed during my Committee appearance on 1 September, the GCiS programme saw 91,536 practitioner engagements across both online and in-person support channels during 2025/26. Feedback from teachers who have participated in professional learning sessions delivered through the programme demonstrates the positive impact of the support. One primary school teacher from Edinburgh who had participated in a session commented:

“This topic is very relevant as my class is so multicultural, with immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers all represented, a majority being EAL [English as Additional Language]. I’ve been debating how to make our ‘Scotland and Scots’ topic relevant for all of them. This resource really has nailed it!” (GCiS 2025/26, Q4 Report)

Development Education Centres comprises three regional hubs that support teachers and educators in teaching global citizenship: Scotdec (Edinburgh and south-east Scotland); WOSDEC (Glasgow and west of Scotland); and Highland One World (Highlands).

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Annex B: Funding for Scottish Fair Trade – changes over time

Since 2017, the Scottish Government has published information on its contribution to international development within the devolved constitutional context, covering both expenditure through its International Development Fund (IDF), Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF) and Climate Justice Fund (CJF), and wider policy activity across ministerial portfolios. The publications also report on funding provided to the four networking bodies that receive core funding through the IDF: Scottish Fair Trade, Scotland's International Development Alliance, the Scotland Malawi Partnership and the Malawi Scotland Partnership.

See:

- [Scottish Government contribution to international development report: 2017-2018](#)
- [Scottish Government contribution to international development report: 2018-2019](#)
- [Scottish Government contribution to International Development Report for 2019-2020](#)
- [Contribution to international development 2021 to 2023](#).

Following discussions with the sector regarding future publication arrangements, Scottish Government overseas development expenditure for 2024-25 was published through [Scotland's International Strategy Annual Report 2024-25](#) while work progressed to migrate reporting to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) platform. Scottish Government overseas development expenditure for 2025-26 is now published through [IATI](#) and will be updated on a regular basis.

Since its establishment in 2007, Scottish Fair Trade (previously the Scottish Fair Trade Forum) has received more than £2.5 million through the International Development Fund, comprising both core funding and project-specific awards.

Core funding for the four networking bodies has remained unchanged for a number of years. This reflects a longstanding ministerial expectation that Scottish Fair Trade and the other networking bodies continue to improve efficiency, diversify income sources where possible, and reduce reliance on Scottish Government funding over time. This approach is consistent with the wider public sector focus on efficiency and sustainability.

The Programme for Government 2026-31 commits to increasing the International Development Fund over the course of the parliamentary term. Decisions on the allocation of any future increase, including whether additional funding is provided to Scottish Fair Trade, have not yet been taken and will need to be considered alongside wider priorities and any review of existing programmes.

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Annex C: The breakdown of spend in this year's International Development Fund budget and the proportion of money currently managed by organisations in Scotland

Although our international development work started 20 years ago (2005) with an ambition to support Scottish organisations partnering abroad, as a key component of Scotland's international contribution as a good global citizen, our approach and programmes have evolved progressively over those 20 years, in line with recognised good development practice, towards increased localisation.

Throughout this shift, the valuable role of civil society in Scotland, and the appetite for global citizenship in our local communities continues to be a key priority. For this reason, around £800,000 per year from the International Development Fund is allocated to 4 networking organisations (3 of which are Scotland based) to support global citizenship in Scotland and our partner countries. In June '26 we also launched a new Global Solidarity Fund, aimed at supporting small Scottish based NGOs, working with partners overseas or promoting global citizenship values at home.

In terms of the wider international development and climate justice portfolio, the Scottish Government has set out clearly in our series of reports information on these awards, including stating where these have been awarded through a competitive process (this typically involves a consortium of organisations and incorporates participatory and country-led design approaches). These competitive processes aim to ensure transparency, accountability and value for money.

Where funding has been awarded on a non-competitive basis, this has been set out within the CIDRs (listed at annex B); in particular our funding rationale and processes during the period of COVID were clearly set out in our Scottish Government contribution to International Development Report for 2019-2020.

As stated during the Committee hearing, the majority of IDF spending is committed through multi-year contracts and grants which have been established since the strategic review undertaken in 2021. These are set out clearly in the regular reports mentioned above in Annex B, and support the following themes of our partnerships.

The £16 million is expected to be allocated according to the following categories:

Global Health	29%
Inclusive Education	21%
Humanitarian Relief	17%
Equalities	12%
Global Solidarity	7%
Renewables	2%
Other Admin costs	5%
As yet unallocated	7%

While the allocation of a small proportion of the £16 million in the International Development Fund this year is yet to be finalised, which is normal for this time in an election year, the proportion of money currently managed via organisations based in Scotland is approximately 50%. The two areas of spend which have already been prioritised for growth since last year are Humanitarian Relief and Equalities, where there is increased funding towards Disabilities. Detailed information will be published on the [IATI](#) portal in due course.

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Annex D: Information requested on funding for loss and damage programmes

The Scottish Government mobilised over £10 million in loss and damage over the previous parliamentary term (2021-2026), as part of the £36 million Climate Justice Fund commitment. A full breakdown of the CJF spend is available [here](#) with the table below providing an overview on loss and damage programmes. Where possible, links to reports outlining project level learning and impact have been provided.

For further detail, including an assessment of the overall impact of Scotland's early leadership on loss and damage, the Committee may wish to reference the following report published last year: '[Lessons from the Frontlines: Learning from Scotland's Leadership on Loss and Damage](#)'. This report synthesised a set of principles that could underpin global loss and damage financing, informed by the learnings and impacts of Scotland's funding. These principles include:

1. Locally Led and community-centered responses;
2. Addressing the full spectrum of loss and damage;
3. Inclusion, intersectionality and equity;
4. Rapid and sustained support;
5. Recognising synergies between adaptation and Loss and Damage;
6. Influencing global policy; and;
7. Contributing to knowledge and strengthening leadership.

As outlined in the recent Programme for Government, future programmes under the Climate Justice Fund will be informed by an independent evaluation of projects delivered in the last Parliamentary term. The evaluation will consider how the CJF delivered the intended climate justice outcomes set out in the [theory of change](#) – which was developed through a previous evaluation of the fund in 2021. It will also explore what best practice was developed in the design and delivery of projects that could strengthen the future delivery of climate justice outcomes. The evaluation is in process of being procured and is expected to conclude in 2027.

During relevant international and domestic engagements, the Cabinet Secretary will continue to share insights from Scotland's experience delivering loss and damage programmes in the Global South and will leverage our track record to push for increased action and finance for loss and damage at the global level.

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LOSS AND DAMAGE FUNDING BREAKDOWN 2021 - 2026

Grantee	Amount and year	Programme aim	Learning and Impact	Report link
Climate Justice Resilience Fund International grant-making fund	£1,000,000 2022-2023	Scotland's first L&D programme, which provided onward granting and support for five community-led responses to loss and damage in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands.	The funding pioneered a community-led model of L&D finance and demonstrated the effectiveness of that model. This included funding for youth-led loss and damage activities. The funding generated lessons that informed future SG policy and wider international discussions.	See 'lessons from the front-line report'.
Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)	£800,000 2022-2024	Support for communities in Malawi experiencing loss and damage following Storms Ana, Gombe and Freddy	85,000 people benefited from the programme in Malawi. It supported communities to recover from the storms by rebuilding infrastructure and providing emergency relief, helping ensure further losses and damages would not occur. The programme served as a case study for what can be achieved with dedicated Loss and Damage funding around the world.	See 'lessons from the front-line report'.
Scottish Government Loss and Damage Conference	£500,000 2022	To convene governments, civil society, philanthropy, UN agencies and practitioners to identify practical solutions for mobilising and delivering	Convened around 200 international stakeholders, generating reports and practical recommendations that helped advance international discussions on the design and delivery of L&D finance.	Addressing Loss and Damage: Practical Action

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		L&D finance ahead of COP27.		
International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) Research and policy institute.	£150,000 2022-2024	Research, government engagement, capacity building and policy advice to better understand L&D needs at community and country level, and to generate evidence to inform the UN Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)	The research identified the need for faster, more accessible and locally relevant finance. It also provided some of the first country-level evidence (Malawi, Zambia and Benin) on need, and produced several recommendations for the design of the UN FRLD.	
Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) International research institute	£75,000 2022-2023	Research grant to explore how the future UN FRLD could be designed and governed.	Research developed influential principles; that L&D finance should be grant-based, accessible, locally led and prioritise the most vulnerable. Research informed global discussions on the design and delivery of the UN FRLD	Operationalizing finance for loss and damage: from principles to modalities SEI 211025c-davis-shawoo-loss-and-damage-finance-pr-2110l.pdf How small and locally led grants can address loss and damage: early lessons from the Scottish government's 2021 funding commitment SEI

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GiveDirectly International cash transfer charity	£1,000,000 2023-2024	To pilot unconditional cash transfers as a response to Loss and Damage experienced by households affected by cyclone Freddy in Malawi	The pilot showed cash transfers are an effective response tool, generating evidence to inform international discussions. The programme enabled 2,676 households to meet immediate needs, rebuild homes and restore livelihoods, with evidence showing improvements in food security and school attendance as a result.	Climate loss & damage as direct cash transfers: evidence from Malawi GiveDirectly
C40 Cities A global network of climate-leading cities	£1,000,000 2023-2024	To address loss and damage in urban contexts	Enhanced understanding of loss and damage in urban contexts; provided support for sub-Saharan Africa's first local Just Transition process and produced research on loss and damage faced by climate migrant communities.	C40 Cities: Future urban landscapes: Climate migration projections in cities
Scotland's Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF) Delivered via: SCIAF Oxfam Christian Aid Tearfund	£1,000,000 2023-2024	To test whether existing humanitarian delivery mechanisms could be used to rapidly deliver finance to address L&D, while supporting gender-responsive programmes in Zambia, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Kenya.	Supported communities across four countries to recover following a climate induced humanitarian crisis by restoring livelihoods, cash assistance, improving water access and strengthening resilience to future shocks. Demonstrated that locally led, gender responsive approaches deliver stronger recovery outcomes. Showed the benefit of short-term assistance but found that	Scottish Loss and Damage Humanitarian Projects – Early Learning

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			longer-term investment is needed to build resilience to future climate shocks.	
Climate Justice Resilience Fund	£5,000,000 2023-2026	The programme supported grassroots projects in East Africa, the Pacific, Andean Highlands and Bay of Bengal and addressed less visible impacts of the climate crisis, including mental health, loss of culture and biodiversity	41 grants made to grassroots organizations in the Pacific, East Africa, Bay of Bengal, and Andean Highlands. Raised profile of non-economic loss and damage (NELD) as a distinct category of climate impact; modelled approach for challenging climate finance to local level; held regional learning exchanges and produced case studies, advocacy briefs and a NELD typology for sharing with wider donors.	DELIVERING ENDURING IMPACT: WHY COMMUNITY-LED LOSS AND DAMAGE FUNDING IS CRITICAL TO WIDER CLIMATE ACTION
Loss and Damage Collaboration International L&D policy and advocacy network	£156,650 2025-2026	Synthesised learnings and evidence from all Scottish Government Loss and Damage projects, and created a toolkit to support access to loss and damage funding under the Santiago Network. Supported advocacy positions at COP30 including via an online launch in advance to bring stakeholders together.	The synthesis report resulted in a comprehensive document summarising the impact of Scottish Government funding impacts, and practical ways to address loss and damage internationally. This has been invaluable to showcase Scotland's action internationally. The toolkit has enabled Global South countries to better understand and access funding to address loss and damage through the Santiago Network.	Loss and Damage Response Toolkit Loss and Damage Report Synthesis Report

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