

Call for evidence: External Affairs

Introduction

The Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee is seeking written submissions on the Scottish Government's external affairs policy in the context of Brexit. Given the currently fluid nature of the Brexit process, the Committee's inquiry will examine how the Scottish Government's external affairs policy should evolve, where resources should be allocated to meet strategic priorities and what lessons might be drawn from other countries.

Context

Currently, the Scottish Government's engagement with EU Members States is structured through Innovation and Investment Hub offices in Berlin, Brussels, Dublin, London and Paris. The Scottish Government's stated aims for the Hub offices are:

- promoting Scotland's research, innovation, industrial, social and cultural strengths
- building diplomatic government-to-government relations
- pursuing cultural collaborations, and
- exploring collaborative research and innovation opportunities

Further information on the Hub offices can be accessed at—

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/europe/innovation-and-investment-hubs/>

The Scottish Government's '[International Framework](#)' sets out the Government's wider approach to external relations. In addition, the Scottish Government has a number of engagement strategies in place with Canada, China, India, Pakistan, and the United States.

The Scottish Government also has an '[International Development Policy](#)' which seeks to enable the Scottish Government to play a part in tackling global challenges including poverty, injustice and inequality. Furthermore, Scottish Development International have offices in a range of countries which promote international trade and investment between Scotland and other countries.

Call for views

The Committee's external affairs inquiry will have two distinct strands. Firstly, engaging with the European Union and secondly, Scotland's engagement with the rest of the world.

The Committee would welcome views on the following issues that fall within these overarching themes and any other contribution you feel is relevant to the inquiry.

Engaging with the European Union

- What principles should inform the focus of the Scottish Government's external affairs policy with regard to the European Union?
- Are there examples of best practice for ways in which nations / regions from non-EU Member States engage with and influence the EU?
- What should be the focus of the business plans for the Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Hub offices in Berlin, Brussels, Dublin, London and Paris be?
- How can the Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Hub offices best support the Scottish Government's external affairs policy?
- How can the Scottish Government's Innovation and Investment Hub offices be evaluated effectively?
- How should the Innovation and Investment Hub offices most effectively engage with other Scottish organisations such as Scottish Development International and Visit Scotland?

Engagement with the rest of the world

- What principles should inform the Scottish Government's international engagement? For example, should economic priorities be the key priority or cultural / 'soft power' priorities?
- How should the Scottish Government prioritise its international engagement – for example, should the locations prioritised be based on a geography or policy focus?
- What should be the key aims of the Scottish Government's international offices in Beijing, Ottawa, Toronto and Washington DC?
- Currently, the Scottish Government has international engagement strategies with Canada, China, India, Pakistan and the USA. Do these strategies and their geographic focus remain appropriate post-Brexit?

- How can the Scottish Government's international engagement be evaluated effectively?
- How should the Scottish Government's international offices most effectively engage with other Scottish organisations such as Scottish Development International and Visit Scotland?

How to submit your views

The call for written views will close at 8.00pm on **21 June 2019**. Due to the time required to process and analyse submissions, late submissions will only be accepted with the agreement of the Committee.

Before making a submission, please read our [privacy notice](#) about submitting your views to a Committee. This tells you about how we process your personal data.

Please use the data protection form provided as a template to format your submission. Submissions provided without a data protection form will not be accepted.

We welcome written views in English, Gaelic, Scots or any other language.

Written responses should be sent **electronically, in the template format (as above)** to the following mailbox: CTEEA.inquiries@parliament.scot. Ideally written submissions should be no more than four sides of A4.

If you cannot submit electronically, you may send in a hard copy written submission. Please print off and include a copy of the Data Protection Form with your hard copy submission and send them to:

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Contact

For details about the Committee's work on this Inquiry please contact Stephen Herbert: stephen.herbert@parliament.scot or phone 0131 348 5234.