

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work
and Energy
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh do Mhath
Dhaoine, Obair Chothromach is Cumhachd
Neil Gray MSP
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Claire Baker MSP
Convenor
Economy and Fair Work Committee

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19 October 2023

Dear Claire,

New Deal for Business Group Recommendations Implementation Plan

As you will be aware, the New Deal for Business Group (NDBG) published its [recommendation report](#) on 29 June, with the First Minister accepting the recommendations in full. The report consisted of 10 key priority recommendations taken from the 78 individual recommendations, most of which related to developing and improving existing Scottish Government processes. These recommendations, and improved processes, are made up of short term (within 6 months), medium term (within 12 months), and longer term (within 18 months) actions, with a completion date for all actions of April 2025.

I am today publishing an Implementation Plan to ensure all actions are delivered. The plan sets out the roadmap to deliver the NDBG recommendations, using an action orientated, product-based approach, focused on the 10 key priority recommendations which are now agreed actions. The plan sets out how those actions will be delivered and the products that will be developed as a result.

Most actions relate to developing and improving existing Scottish Government processes and changing culture, and business will have a role in helping achieve these.

Whilst developing this plan is an important milestone in delivery, progress has been made on some of the specific actions:

- The Regulatory Reform Group (RRG) sub-group, Business Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) sub-group and Non-Domestic Rates sub-group have met and are working to progress the recommendations.
- Officials have engaged with the Programme for Government team and analysed as far as possible the cumulative impact of the content to inform Scottish Government Senior Leaders and Ministers, with ongoing discussion now in place to develop a formalised process to identify the cumulative impact for next year.

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- All Cabinet submissions and Accountable Officer templates now have a New Deal for Business section.
- Officials are engaging with Policy Profession and Learning and Development colleagues who are reviewing the policy development cycle and subsequent guidance to ensure the voice of business is heard at all stages.
- We have recently sought views from the business community on the development of specific sectoral Just Transition Plans. We will seek ways to develop and deepen that engagement as we produce, and consult on, draft plans to be finalised in mid-2024.
- The Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy has discussed the NDBG recommendations with the Wellbeing Economy Expert Advisory Group (WEEAG), and we will draw on its expertise as we develop a programme with business to implement the recommendations.
- In the next three months we will have established a revised Business Regulatory Impact Assessment and Guidance for policy makers and by July 2024 we will have a description of Wellbeing Economy that is meaningful for business and published matrix of consultations, Bills and Regulations in development, and established a process for ensuring this is regularly updated.

To ensure the delivery of this plan and the recommendations made by the group, it is anticipated that NDBG will continue for at least 18 months from now, with an updated brief focusing on delivery governance, whilst the subgroups offer a task and finish role.

Improving our relationship with business is key to ensuring we have an economy that is fair, green and growing. Once again, I recognise that creating that high quality relationship with business is just as important within the Scottish Parliament as well as Scottish Government. Dr Malik and I would be very happy to keep you updated on the work of the Group.

Yours sincerely,



NEIL GRAY



DR POONAM MAILK

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