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Our ref: CLD/lc

22 January 2021

Dear Youth Work Partners,

UK Government's Withdrawal from Erasmus and its Youth Work Element

I am writing to update you on the Scottish Government's current position regarding the UK Government's withdrawal from Erasmus and the resulting loss of the support for European Youth Work programmes and partnerships.

The Scottish Government has always been clear that continued participation in Erasmus was in the best interest of Scotland: a position we know our youth work partners share, and indeed the public too, going by social media. That the UK Government unilaterally decided that participation in a programme which has transformed lives, particularly from our most deprived areas, is 'too expensive' was already deeply disappointing and unsatisfactory. To further compound our concerns, the UK Government has also decided, without consultation, that their replacement Turing Scheme will not include a Youth Work element.

I have conveyed my deep disappointment to the UK Government regarding their decision not to offer any support for our youth work sector. Their response, that current financial pressures meant that international youth work was not prioritised for funding, is unacceptable to Scottish Ministers.

It is my sincere hope that an appropriate outcome can be reached with the UK Government on this matter. In the meantime, the Scottish Government is exploring what alternative

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Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered
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options might exist that would allow Scotland to remain close to Erasmus for the life-changing opportunities it offers.

I hope to have more favourable news to share with you on this matter in the future and will write to you again in due course.



RICHARD LOCHHEAD

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