

SCOTLAND OFFICE

BUSINESS PLAN

2013-14

The Scotland Office business plan for 2013-14 is a dynamic document subject to change as business needs dictate. It is organised around five objectives. Underneath each objective key outcomes are defined and the appropriate actions are listed.

April 2013

OBJECTIVE 1: TO INFORM THE DEBATE ABOUT SCOTLAND'S FUTURE IN THE UK AHEAD OF THE 2014 REFERENDUM

Key outcomes:

- The benefits of Scotland remaining in the UK are explained through a strategic programme of UK Government Ministerial and official engagement.
- A clear and positive case for Scotland remaining in the UK is evidenced by a series of well-received Scotland analysis papers.
- Understanding for the UK Government's position grows amongst people in Scotland through an effective communications strategy
- The UK Government position is well understood by overseas governments, businesses and institutions.

	Scotland Office action	Start date	End date
1.1	Guide strategy on referendum debate across Government.		2014
1.2	Support delivery of the UK Government Scotland analysis papers		2014
1.3	Lead communication of benefits of the UK making a clear and positive case for Scotland remaining in the UK.		Ongoing
1.4	Ensure UK Government position is well understood by overseas governments and businesses, and key institutions		Ongoing

OBJECTIVE 2: TO SUPPORT UK GOVERNMENT WORK TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SCOTLAND

Key outcomes

- UK economic policy is developed with a full understanding of the implications for the Scottish economy.
- Scotland Office Ministers are able to represent the views of Scottish businesses, of all sizes, at the UK level.
- Key economic stakeholders are updated regularly on the main points of UK Government economic policy as it affects them.
- The Wilson Review published and its recommendations assimilated into UK Government policy.

	Scotland Office action	Start date	End date
2.1	Ensure UK economic policy is designed with clear understanding of implications for Scotland.		Ongoing
2.2	Engage with a cross sector of the business community and represent their views at the UK level.		Ongoing
2.3	Promote and support the Scottish Business Board so that it informs UK Government policy		Ongoing
2.4	Promote trade and investment priorities for Scottish businesses through a programme of overseas trade visits and the publication of the Wilson Review.		Ongoing

OBJECTIVE 3: TO ENSURE THE UK GOVERNMENT SERVES THE INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH THE RESERVED POLICIES IT DELIVERS

Key outcomes

- Scotland's interests are fully represented in UK Government policy-making.
- UK Government policies in reserved areas are well understood.

	Scotland Office action	Start date	End date
3.1	Represent Scottish interests in UK Government policy making.		Ongoing
3.2	Support UK Government efforts to effectively communicate reserved policies in Scotland.		Ongoing
3.3	Support UK Government in handling national security and civil contingencies in Scotland		Ongoing

OBJECTIVE 4: TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE DEVOLUTION SETTLEMENT BY ENSURING THAT DEVOLUTION RESPECTS THE NEEDS OF SCOTLAND AND THE REST OF THE UK

Key outcomes

- The Scotland Act 2012 continues to be implemented effectively, ensuring the strengthening of devolution in Scotland.
- The devolution settlement is maintained successfully through implementing necessary secondary legislation.
- A constructive working relationship with the Scottish Government is maintained on matters of mutual interest.
- Greater public awareness of examples of where devolution is working successfully.

	Scotland Office action	Start date	End date
4.1	Oversee the implementation of the Scotland Act 2012.	May 2012	2016
4.2	Deliver a programme of constitutional legislation to support the devolution settlement.		Ongoing
4.3	Promote benefits of UK devolution arrangements.		Ongoing
4.4	Provide guidance and support to the UK Government on application of the devolution settlement and the legislative programme.		Ongoing
4.5	Support effective joint working with the Scottish Government.		Ongoing

OBJECTIVE 5: TO ENSURE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN RUNNING THE SCOTLAND OFFICE EFFECTIVELY, EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY, DELIVERING ON ALL INTERNAL TARGETS.

Key outcomes

- Best value for money for the taxpayer is secured, by managing Scotland Office resources effectively and with propriety.
- Liquidity in the economy is supported by paying invoices quickly and reliably.
- Correspondence, Parliamentary, and information request targets are met.

	Scotland Office action	Start date	End date
5.1	Ensure effective transfer of the block grant to the Scottish Consolidated Fund.		Ongoing
5.2	Effective management of SO and OAG financial resources within the SR2010 settlement, and with regard to the settlement in 2015-16 including paying invoices quickly and reliably.		Ongoing
5.3	Provide a supportive environment for staff.		Ongoing
5.4	Respond effectively and efficiently to targets for public and internal Government correspondence.		Ongoing