



Kate Forbes MSP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic
By email

June 10th 2025

Dear Deputy First Minister,

Following your response of May 6th I am writing again regarding the ongoing review of Scottish Enterprise's Human Rights due diligence processes.

I have previously made clear Amnesty's opposition to Scottish Enterprise being permitted to undertake an in-house review of the process in place. The question of whether Scottish public money is supporting companies linked to violations of international law, including genocide, is an extremely serious one. It demands a credible process which is independent, transparent and accountable.

You have indicated that Parliament will not be updated on this work until the review has concluded. Unfortunately, this further exacerbates the concerns I have repeatedly set out. I am writing to urge you to reconsider that position and provide an update to Parliament on the review's framework and progress prior to the summer recess.

There is still time to conduct an independent review that allows those with expertise in international law the opportunity to input to how Scottish Enterprise can best respect and protect human rights. Such a process would provide certainty for all involved - including Scottish Enterprise employees - that human rights risks associated with their work have been thoroughly assessed and appropriately mitigated. It would also be a course of action much more coherent with the Scottish Government's public commitments to upholding and promoting human rights internationally.

In your letter of February you offered Amnesty a meeting with Scottish Enterprise, stating that your officials would take the lead arranging it. I responded accepting that offer however we have received no subsequent follow-up to arrange a meeting. We will need sufficient notice to ensure that the relevant people from Amnesty can be present and I would appreciate it if someone from your team could reach out to us to make arrangements.

Yours Sincerely,

Neil Cowan

Scotland Programme Director – Amnesty International UK

Cc: Economy and Fair Work Committee

