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25<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Duncan

### **CASHBACK FOR COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME - EVALUATION PLAN**

You will recall I wrote to you earlier in the year regarding the Committee's inquiry into support for Community Sport and specifically regarding Recommendation 8 on the evidence taken on the CashBack for Communities Programme.

I am writing to you again now to provide the Committee with a copy of the CashBack for Communities Evaluation Plan that was published today on the Scottish Government CashBack webpages at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/17141/cashback/CashBack-Evaluation>

This Government's unique CashBack for Communities Programme has invested or committed over £50 million recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act in a wide range of sporting, cultural, educational, developmental and employment projects for young people throughout Scotland. The programme has funded 1.1 million activities and opportunities for young people and we are committed to continue to invest POCA recoveries in this way to expand the hugely successful CashBack programme.

As the CashBack for Communities Programme has evolved and grown, so too have our evaluation needs. We have been continuously improving the collection of information in a more systematic and consistent way across project to facilitate capturing outcomes as well as outputs.

In parallel, there is an important focus on articulating those outcomes being achieved as well as the outputs delivered. We are doing that through a proactive approach to publication of quantitative information on CashBack expenditure and activity numbers at local authority level as well as qualitative information on impact and outcomes identified through evaluation work.

The evaluation plan sets out the way that the contributions made by individual project partners is monitored and how this will be captured to provide a National picture of the overall impact of the CashBack for Communities Programme on the young people and communities of Scotland. The plan also sets out when we will publish evaluation reports of the CashBack for Communities Programme which I hope the Committee will find helpful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kenny Macaskill', written in a cursive style.

**KENNY MACASKILL**