

From: REDACTED@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 22 October 2018 11:35
To: REDACTED@gov.scot
Cc: First Minister [Redacted]; REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot;
REDACTED@gov.scot; Bowman k (Katy)
Subject: First Minister at Newsxchange - Response to The BBC

[Redacted]

Please find below the full email that was sent to [Redacted] at the BBC with regards to the First Minister declining the invitation to attend the News Xchange event on the 13 November 2013.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

The First Minister
5th Floor| St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Redacted]



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Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email.

Having considered the issue it is with regret that the First Minister will not be available to host the reception given the BBC decision to invite Mr Bannon and to provide his views with such a prominent platform.

While it is of course for the BBC to decide who you invite and what platform you give them, for us an appearance by the First Minister would risk both legitimising his views and being seen as an endorsement by the First Minister of the decision by the BBC to provide him with such a prominent platform which we are not prepared to do.

A discussion on the impact of populism and how it challenges the media does not in our view require providing a platform for such views through a keynote address regardless of any post speech discussion. That in my view provides an opportunity to amplify the alt-right and fake news messages rather than to discuss and debate the media's role and responsibility in relation to them.

It is quite unbelievable but regrettably not surprising to us that the BBC consider this an appropriate approach to take.

It is disappointing that by hosting him in the manner that you are you have created a situation where your delegates will not be able to hear from the First Minister, it is also deeply disappointing to have this done as a late addition to the programme putting us and no doubt other speakers in a very difficult position.

I understand Lord Hall has requested a meeting with the First Minister while he is in Edinburgh. If we are able to schedule that I'm sure this matter may be discussed further at that point.

regards

Liz

Elizabeth Lloyd
Chief of Staff to Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland
Scottish Government
[Redacted]

From: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk
Date: Friday, 19 Oct 2018, 11:46 am
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) [Redacted]; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; Bowman K (Katy) [Redacted]
Cc: Bowman K (Katy) [Redacted]; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk
Subject: RE: First Minister at Newsxchange

[Redacted]

As promised, here is the information you requested.

As you mentioned, it will be really useful to talk all this through and possibly involve Sarah Smith as she will be moderating the Brannon session.

Firstly, I understand your reservations and it is, of course, something we have discussed at length.

A key factor in our decision making is that this conference isn't open to all members of the public. It is a forum for journalists and media executives.

Why?

News Xchange is a journalism conference which seeks to explore the main industry trends and challenges delegates to understand the wider political and social context.

We have a wide range of speakers from Tony Hall to the Parkland student (Dara Rosen) and faculty advisor (Melissa Falkowski), from David Rhodes, CBS News President, to Matthew Caruana Galizia. We provide the opportunity for a wide range of voices and viewpoints to be expressed within a balanced and relevant context. While some of our speakers do attract more "buzz" than others in the run-up to the event, "shock value" is not something that factors in to our agenda-setting.

The single largest issue facing every delegate in our audience (and every Western nation, in particular) is the rise of populism and what may well turn out to be the transformation of the political

landscape of Western democracies. Mr. Bannon is a powerful and influential figure, both in the US and in Europe, promoting an anti-elite movement with this transformation as its goal. We believe that our delegates will benefit greatly from hearing his thoughts and then, led by the BBC's Sarah Smith, an experienced and skilled journalist, questioning, challenging and debating. To do otherwise would be to ignore what is happening in the world: there is a powerful challenge to democracies from within.

He has been invited to speak at News Xchange this year because his views are relevant to understanding the political climate of society at large and therefore to the media industry.

We also consider it our journalistic responsibility to scrutinise his viewpoint.

Steve Bannon will not be paid a speakers' fee for appearing on stage

How?

Steve Bannon will be appearing at the EICC on Wednesday morning. The morning will start with a keynote speech by Lord Hall.

The Steve Bannon session will be moderated by Sarah Smith, BBC Scotland Editor, followed by an open Q&A with delegates. We expect this to be a rigorous, in depth and thorough examination of his views over 60 minutes.

Our conference is for professionals involved in the news industry and not members of the general public.

Opening reception

Steve will not be at the National Museum of Scotland during the First Minister's proposed address. In fact, the opening reception is an separate event which also encompasses a smaller meeting of EBU executives called the News Assembly.

We believe our delegates would be very eager in hearing from the First minister and, likewise, this represents a good opportunity for the First Minister to communicate her message to an influential crowd.

Publicity

His name has been announced to members of the News Xchange distribution list which totals around 8000 journalists. His name has been added to the 'Program' (US spelling!) section on the website.

We have placed his invitation in a specific journalistic context which includes the knowledge he has attended recent events held by our colleagues at The Economist and Bloomberg.

Thanks

[Redacted]
News Xchange

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Lloyd [Redacted]

Sent: 18 October 2018 16:42

To: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; Katy Bowman

Cc: Katy Bowman

Subject: First Minister at Newsxchange

Dear [Redacted]

Firstly apologies as I wasn't able to make the conference call yesterday, however having spoken with my colleagues I now have some very serious concerns regarding the First Minister's engagement with the event and how this may be perceived.

My colleagues advised me that the two day conference will now include Steve Bannon as a Key note speaker - to be followed by a Q&A. This was clearly not part of the pitch [Redacted] made when asking for FM to speak at the opening event. Whilst it is of course entirely for EBU to determine who you choose to invite to such an event and how you enable them to present themselves, you will of course understand that this presents considerable reputational issues for me to consider.

I'd be happy to have a further chat about it directly, but as an initial request it would be helpful to know when he's appearing and the details of how you intend to enable his presentation to be thoroughly questioned and challenged.

I understand you told my colleagues that his appearance had been confirmed publicly, I'm afraid I'm struggling to identify any public reference to it at all and I'd be grateful for that.

In addition - what if any media coverage is expected of the conference - is it closed event with no media coverage expected, or will there be reports or perhaps interviews scheduled with speakers.

I appreciate that inviting someone like that to the conference provides a certain shock value and no doubt a buzz around the conference that you would wish to generate, however it raises significant concerns for me in relation to the involvement of the First Minister.

I look forward to hearing from you - given the proximity of the event I'd appreciate information and an opportunity to discuss as early as possible to enable us to make an informed decision.

Best wishes

Liz Lloyd

Chief of Staff to the First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: REDACTED@gov.scot; **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 22 October 2018 11:59
To: REDACTED@gov.scot; First Minister [Redacted]
Cc: REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; Bowman K (Katy); McLafferty DJ (Diane) [Redacted];
Subject: RE: First Minister at Newsxchange - Response to The BBC

[Redacted]

No problem – We'll keep you updated as we are still waiting to hear back from [Redacted] office.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Private Office to the First Minister
5th Floor| St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Redacted]



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From: REDACTED@gov.scot;
Sent: 22 October 2018 11:41
To: First Minister [Redacted]
Cc: REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; Bowman K (Katy) [Redacted]; McLafferty DJ (Diane) [Redacted]
Subject: RE: First Minister at Newsxchange - Response to The BBC

Thanks very much [Redacted]. That's really helpful to see.
Can you keep us updated on the Lord Hall meeting, if and when it is confirmed?
Thanks
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Screen and Media, Culture & Historic Environment Division
Scottish Government

[Redacted]. Victoria Quay. Edinburgh

[Redacted]

Web: www.gov.scot/arts Twitter: [@CultureGovScot](https://twitter.com/CultureGovScot)

From: REDACTED@gov.scot; **On Behalf Of** First Minister
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[Redacted]
News Xchange

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Lloyd [Redacted]

Sent: 18 October 2018 16:42

To: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; Bowman K (Katy) [Redacted]

Cc: Bowman K (Katy) [Redacted]

Subject: First Minister at Newsxchange

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Liz Lloyd

Elizabeth Lloyd
Chief of Staff to the First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: REDACTED@gov.scot
Sent: 22 October 2018 13:10
To: REDACTED@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs [Redacted]
Cc: Pryce JM (Jonathan) [Redacted]; McLafferty DJ (Diane) [Redacted]; REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; Bowman K (Katy) [Redacted];
REDACTED@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Briefing for Screen Sector debate, 23 October

[Redacted]

Please see attached a short addition to the debate briefing on FM's decision to pull out of the News Xchange conference.

Regards

[Redacted]

From: REDACTED@gov.scot
Sent: 22 October 2018 11:42
To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs <CabSecCTEA@gov.scot>
Cc: Pryce JM (Jonathan) [Redacted]; McLafferty DJ (Diane) [Redacted]; REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; REDACTED@gov.scot; Bowman K (Katy) [Redacted];
REDACTED@gov.scot
Subject: Briefing for Screen Sector debate, 23 October

PO/Cabinet Secretary

Please find attached a briefing for the parliamentary debate on 'Making Scotland a [Redacted]: Report Examining the Scottish Screen Sector', scheduled for Tuesday 23 October.

Please also find five further attachments comprising five annexes as follows:
Annex A – CTEER's final report 'Making Scotland a Screen leader'
Annex B – Letter to Joan McAlpine, convener of CTEER from CabSec on 19 September
Annex C – Response from Screen Scotland to CTEER report
Annex D – MOUs between partners in Screen Scotland as published on Scottish Enterprise website
Annex E – "Action at Last" – article by Phil Miller in Herald 22 October 2018

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Culture and Historic Environment Division

Scottish Government

[Redacted] **Victoria Quay, EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ**

[Redacted]

FIRST MINISTER PULLING OUT OF NEWS XCHANGE CONFERENCE

The First Minister had agreed to giving a welcoming speech at the News Xchange conference in Edinburgh on 13 November. The conference is a two-day, annual conference focusing on ideas, opportunities and challenges for the international news industry. It brings together 600+ executives, journalists, presenters, bloggers and start-up entrepreneurs from all around the world to share, learn and cross-pollinate ideas with an array of experts, scientists, artists and thought leaders. The conference will be held at the EICC.

The conference has 4 themes:

1. Representation in the news room. This will include topics such as class and social backgrounds. ITV will moderate this section.
2. Activism. This is about social movements such as #MeToo and Parkland (the school shooting). The keynote will include a student from Parkland.
3. Misinformation debate. Truth and lies. How do we navigate this? Speaker will include the Daphne Project and Pulitzer prizewinners from Reuters.
4. Innovation and new technology and new opportunities and connecting with audiences. Speakers will include Google Voice. There will be a session on podcasting. There will be a large session on AI and machine learning.

On Wednesday 17 October officials and Spads had a call with the organisers and it was made clear that [Redacted] was among the speakers. They said they were aware that [Redacted] was a choice of speaker that will not be liked by everyone but that this had been signed off at a high level in the BBC.

On Saturday 20 October FM announced on Twitter that she was pulling out of the conference. She said:

“I believe passionately in free speech but as [@ScotGovFM](#) I have to make balanced judgments - and I will not be part of any process that risks legitimising or normalising far right, racist views. I regret that the BBC has put me and others in this position.”

And later:

“The email the BBC sent to my office justifying Bannon’s inclusion described him as a ‘powerful and influential figure...promoting an anti-elite movement.’ This kind of language to describe views that many would describe as fascist does seem to me to run the risk of normalisation.”

Lines to take:

As the First Minister has clearly set out, she will not be part of any process that risks legitimising or normalising far right, racist views. I fully support her decision to pull out of the conference.