

DPS/FM, [REDACTED]

Copy: as above

As discussed, [REDACTED] to add to briefing for FM's Auschwitz visit if required.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 October 2018 16:57

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FM visit to Auschwitz on 30 October 2018 - Briefing

[REDACTED]

Please find attached briefing for First Minister's visit to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Education Trust on 30 October.

Give me a call if you need any further information.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Curriculum Unit | Scottish Government | Area 2-B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ [REDACTED]

18 Oct – Common Space website: “the Deputy First Minister removed Education Scotland approved educational resources on Israel-Palestine after pressure from Jewish and pro-Israeli lobby groups.”

Article quotes Hugh Humphries (Secretary of Scottish Friends of Palestine), citing an Aug 2018 decision by the Deputy First Minister to put a hold on the further development of the resources. Mr Humphries accuses Scottish Government and Education Scotland of renegeing on a commitment to develop the resources.

Further comments by Mr Humphries:

- [there has been a] “failure to ensure the integrity of the consultation framework [on the resources]”
- “no attempt to voluntarily inform the other stakeholders of the emerging obstacles”
- [we are in danger of allowing] “political lobbyists to interfere in the teaching and learning of our pupils.”
- “pro-Israel stakeholders...were...allowed to blaze a trail into the offices of Education Scotland and the Deputy First Minister John Swinney”

- It is inevitable that educational resources on a subject as sensitive as Israel and Palestine are going to attract a range of opinions.
- Scottish Ministers, as well as Education Scotland, have sought to facilitate agreement on a set of balanced, helpful educational resources.
- Ministers and Education Scotland have engaged with both the Scottish Friends of Palestine and the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities as well as a range of other organisations. No single interest group has been favoured.
- Despite a lengthy process of discussion and consultation it is clear that it will not be possible to reach agreement on the publication of these resources by Education Scotland.
- This is why the Deputy First Minister has asked for a pause in the work. This will allow the necessary time to consider how best to proceed in the circumstances.

- Ministers are not renegeing on any commitments made. Indeed, the initial impetus to develop a balanced set of resources came from Scottish Ministers
- It was the Minister for Learning, Dr Alasdair Allan who met with the Association of Palestinian Communities (APC) in Scotland in 2015 – a meeting that led to the creation of a working group to develop resources on the issue.
- Education Scotland have devoted a considerable amount of administrative support and educational expertise to the work of the Glasgow and Clyde Rights-Based Learning Group (GCRBL) in the development of appropriate teaching and learning resources.
- MSPs will be acutely aware of the sensitivities associated with this particular issue – and the importance of ensuring an appropriate level of agreement if the resources are to be endorsed and published by Education Scotland.
- This is why the Deputy First Minister asked in August 2018 for a further pause before publishing any resources.
- It is important that schools have access to appropriate materials that provide the broadest possible learning experience.
- The consultation framework facilitated by Education Scotland to develop the resources was robust and it sought the views from all key stakeholders including Scottish Friends of Palestine
- It is clear, however, that it will be very difficult to achieve a situation where groups representing the interests of Palestine and those representing the Jewish community can agree on the publication of this particular set of resources by Education Scotland. This is why

the Deputy First Minister has decided to pause further work and to discuss further with key stakeholders.

- There has been no attempt to “shut down” the sharing of the relevant educational resources.
- Education Scotland has invested a considerable amount of time and expertise in order to obtain stakeholder comments on a set of balanced, educationally valuable materials. As is clear, it has proven to be incredibly difficult to achieve this aim.
- The interests of Ministers throughout this process has been to ensure that high quality resources are developed, with the agreement of all key parties.
- Pro-Israeli groups have not received “privileged access” to the Deputy First Minister or Scottish Government
- Ministers and Education Scotland have communicated with all relevant parties throughout the process.
- Scottish Friends of Palestine, Scottish Palestinian Forum and the Association of Palestinian Communities contributed to the “perspective groups” who commented on the resources between September and December 2017. This followed an earlier consultation exercise in late 2016.
- Education Scotland have corresponded with the Friends of Palestine about the resources on a number of occasions.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2018 13:56
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Do you have the devolution unit email you could send to me?

[REDCATED]
Policy Adviser | European Engagement | European Relations
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2018 13:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

[REDACTED] could you drop an email to [REDACTED] copied to the devolution and [REDACTED] notifying them that the FM will be visiting on that date please?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Visits and Events
Sent: 04 October 2018 13:38
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2018 12:23
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is our contact in the UK Embassy Poland. If you can notify her of the visit that would be great.

[\[REDACTED\]](#)

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Adviser | European Engagement | European Relations

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2018 11:59
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Hi [REDACTED], yeah we will have to.

Have copied in [REDACTED], desk officer for Poland who can assist.

Cheers

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Visits and Events
Sent: 04 October 2018 11:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

FM will be travelling to Poland with a group of schoolchildren on Tuesday 30th Oct and I just wanted to check if we need to notify the embassy?

Thanks

[REDACTED]/ Office of the First Minister of Scotland / Scottish Government / 5th Floor, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]



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From [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2018 09:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

One for you guys 😊

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2018 15:51
To: First Minister
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

I just wanted to update you and let you know that applications for our *Lessons from Auschwitz* Projects taking place from Scotland in the autumn are now open to schools and we have started receiving applications.

We are thrilled that the First Minister will be joining us on our 30th October visit from Glasgow.

Please could you put me in touch with members of the First Minister's Visit and Events team so that we can start making arrangements over the summer.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] *Lessons from Auschwitz Project*
Holocaust Educational Trust

BCM Box 7892 | London WC1N 3XX

[REDACTED]

Fax: 08432 905 354



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 March 2018 11:53
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in my being in touch.

To echo [REDACTED], we are delighted the First Minister will be joining us on our *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project one day visit to Poland on 30th October.

Please find attached a draft itinerary for the visit - our flight will depart from Glasgow airport at 6.30am and we are due to land back in the evening at approx. 10.15pm. On the day we will travel by coach from Krakow airport and have a short initial stop at the town of Oświęcim where our participants will learn about the pre-war Jewish community that existed here before then travelling to and visiting Auschwitz I and then Birkenau.

We look forward to working with the First Minister's Visit and Events team but if you have any questions in the meantime or if I can help then please don't hesitate to ask.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] *Lessons from Auschwitz Project*
Holocaust Educational Trust

BCM Box 7892 | London WC1N 3XX

[REDACTED]

Fax: 08432 905 354



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 March 2018 18:13

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I am not sure if you ever received a response from me so I thought I would email again to be sure!

We are absolutely delighted that the First Minister will join us on October 30th and we very much appreciate her giving up her time to do this. This is fantastic news!

We will be in touch before the end of next week with loose timings, draft programme and will happily be available to discuss any questions you may have.

Thank you again.

All the very best

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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BCM Box 7892 | London WC1N 3XX

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 February 2018 14:24

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

As discussed with [REDACTED] the First Minister would be delighted to accompany a school on their visit to Auschwitz. In terms of dates, the Glasgow visit of 30 October works well for the First Minister's diary.

Officials and the FM's Visit's and Events team will be in touch in due course to discuss further planning and logistics. In the meantime, I would be grateful if any draft programme / timings / etc can be shared when available.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Diary Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

FirstMinister.gov.scot

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2018 14:45
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

That's great.

Thank you for your swift response and hope we can make this work!

All the very best

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2018 14:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

[REDACTED]

Thank you for the dates.

I know FM is still keen to take part.

I'm sharing the dates with her private office who can look at diaries and see if we can make one of these work this year. They'll be back in touch as soon as possible.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2018 10:35

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Visit to Auschwitz - Autumn 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

How are you?

I wanted to come back to you with the confirmed dates for our visits to Auschwitz this year from Scotland. The dates are:

- Wednesday 3rd October – visit from Edinburgh
- Tuesday 30th October – visit from Glasgow

I know this came up at FMQ's around Holocaust Memorial Day and we would be so thrilled if we could arrange things this year so that the First Minister could join us. It would mean so much to the survivors, the community and of course send such a strong message about the importance of this event in our history and its lessons today.

I would be happy to discuss this at any point but in the meantime wondered if either of these dates are viable? I really hope so. Please note that the way we secure dates are around our own educational programme with 17 or 18 visits going from across the UK per year, considering school timetables and of course the most financially viable (as we charter the plane for each visit).

Let me know what you think.

All the very best

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]



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STORIES FROM
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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 December 2017 08:37

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Holocaust Educational Trust: Event on Thursday 7th December

[REDACTED]

Our reception was lovely and [REDACTED] spoke brilliantly. We are lucky to have him as such a great advocate for our cause. The visit had a real impact on him and clearly he's spoken to you about it too. We are so pleased he could join us, see our work in action and see the response from the amazing young people who were with us. It really is something they never forget.

Thank you for asking about next year. Whilst the dates are not yet fixed, they should be I hope before the end of January. We are most definitely interested in the FM joining us and keen to make this happen. I will come back to you with the dates as soon as possible.

Have a great Christmas break and happy new year. I'll be in touch next time I am in Scotland – [REDACTED]

All best

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Holocaust Educational Trust

BCM Box 7892 | London WC1N 3XX

[REDACTED]



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STORIES FROM
WILLESDEN LANE N.W.6

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 December 2017 16:48

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Holocaust Educational Trust: Event on Thursday 7th December

[REDACTED]

Hope you are well. I would have loved to have attended - and I know how much the visit meant to John Swinney. [REDACTED] - but please keep in touch and let me know next time you're in Scotland.

Also could you let me know what dates you are looking at for 2018 trips if you're still interested in the prospect of FM accompanying the young people on one of the visits.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **Sent:** 05 December 2017 18:03

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Holocaust Educational Trust: Event on Thursday 7th December

Hi [REDACTED]

How are you?

I'm sure you are incredibly busy at the moment but hopefully you received our invitation to the event we are holding on Thursday evening to celebrate our Ambassadors and the impact of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project. John Swinney is speaking this year which is brilliant.

Absolutely no expectations, but if you fancy popping in, or if you would like to get away and come for a quick drink either before or after the event, it would be lovely to see you. The event is 5.30pm – 7.30pm. If not able to, I completely understand and perhaps we can catch up when things are a bit quieter for you!

All the best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Holocaust Educational Trust

BCM Box 7892 | London WC1N 3XX

[REDACTED]



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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 October 2018 10:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Poland

Hi [REDACTED]

Below is the chain with [REDACTED] and attached is my previous correspondence with [REDACTED] where she suggests options for the visit.

I've copied [REDACTED] details below.

[REDACTED] | Senior Bilateral Policy Officer

Bilateral, Internal and Comms Team | British Embassy Warsaw | ul. Kawalerii 12 | 00 - 468 Warsaw, Poland
E-mail: [REDACTED] | Telephone: [REDACTED] | FTN [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Adviser | European Engagement | European Relations
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2018 12:08
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Poland

Thanks all.

[REDACTED], shall we schedule in a phone call to have a chat about the visit? It's a full day, education focussed visit, I can explain more when we speak.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Languages and STEM Team | Curriculum Unit | Scottish Government | Area 2-B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2018 11:57
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Poland

Hi [REDACTED] (and [REDACTED]),

[REDACTED] (copied) is leading from the Warsaw side. She is the best person for you to talk to, [REDACTED], and she also passed on the Jane Haining information and noted the Krakow-Edinburgh link. I am conscious that the visit is coming up very soon and time is running out, but I am sure she can advise you/Susan with some options on how to proceed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Devolution Unit | Europe Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH | WH1.185 | ✉ email: [REDACTED] 🌐 web: www.gov.uk/fco

Please note that I work part time doing short days: from 9.30 or 10am, ending between 2pm and 4pm. I work from home Mondays and Fridays. Urgent issues and enquiries should be directed to [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2018 11:31
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Poland

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the heads up on this one, my colleague [REDACTED] in Education copied in is leading on this visit, Can you give me the email of the FCO contact in country so [REDACTED] can get in touch and apologies if you gave me this already. I thought you had but I can't seem to find it.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Head of European Engagement
[REDACTED] | (area 2H South) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

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còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 October 2018 08:13
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FM Poland visit

Thanks [REDACTED]
Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 October 2018 12:43
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FM Poland visit

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks very much for this. I believe the team are in touch with the Holocaust Educational Trust and that they are involved with the visit.

I will allow visits and events colleagues to advise further on the First Ministers plans in [REDACTED]absence.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Adviser | European Engagement | European Relations
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 October 2018 07:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FM Poland visit

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for the information.

Will the First Minister be visiting Warsaw too?

Please let us know if you need support with any meetings in Warsaw.

And just out of interest – are you in touch with Holocaust Educational Trust with regard to the visit to Auschwitz? They have always been extremely helpful whenever we've done any Holocaust-related visits. [REDACTED] is excellent. For info Lord Pickles, the UK Post-Holocaust envoy, will be in Warsaw on 26 October for the board meeting of the International Auschwitz Foundation on which he sits.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Senior Bilateral Policy Officer

Bilateral, Internal and Comms Team | British Embassy Warsaw | ul. Kawalerii 12 | 00 - 468 Warsaw, Poland
E-mail: [REDACTED] | Telephone: [REDACTED]

gov.uk/world/poland | [British Embassy Warsaw on Facebook](#) | [UK in Poland on Twitter](#) | [British Embassy Warsaw on LinkedIn](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2018 17:31
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FM Poland visit

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope everything is going well at the Embassy.

I'm emailing to make you aware that First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will be travelling to Poland on Tuesday 30th October as part of a visit to Auschwitz.

I have cc'd my colleague [REDACTED] who is leading on this visit.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Adviser | European Engagement | European Relations
[REDACTED]

Scottish Government
Area 2H South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

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