ANNEX B

11 June 2015

RATECON INVEND

The Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP

The Office of the First Minister

St. Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Dear First Minister

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland has Just been asked to host a Chinese delegation at Edinburgh Zoo from July 5-6<sup>th</sup>.

They wish to Join us for two technical sessions; a discussion on Giant Panda research and also on our application of cutting edge science to the suppression of the global illegal wildlife trade. We are international leaders in applied forensic genetics and work with many Asian and African governments, mainly but not exclusively on the appailing rhino horn and ivory situation. The leader of the Chinese Group is Vice Minister Mr Chen Shuxian and RZSS Chair, Professor Jeremy Peat will be hosting a dinner at the Zoo on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We would wish to extend an invitation to a member of the Scottish Government to Join us at dijner. My Executive Assistant Gillian Wishart can provide further details as we receive confirmation of arrangements from Chinese colleagues.

On another occasion we very much hope that you will visit either Edinburgh Zoo or the Highland Wildlife Park to be briefed on our vital conservation work with native and global species and our expanding research, community and education programmes,

Yours sincerely

C. A Nost

Professor Chris West

CEO



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH

· EHIZ 6TS · SCOTLAND · UK



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#### Our milsslam)

to inspire and excite our visitors with the wonder of living animals, and so to promote the conservation of threatened species and habitals.











Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Aileen McLead MSP

T: 0300 244 4000 E: scottishuministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Professor Chris West CEO
The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
134 Corstorphine Road
EDINBURGH
EH12 6TS



Our ref: 2015/0021078

2 July 2015

Dear Professor Chris West

Thank you for your letter of 11 June 2015 to Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland, inviting her to attend dinner with the RZSS and a Chinese delegation this weekend at Edinburgh Zoo.

Unfortunately, heither the First Minister nor Alleen McLeod MSP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, are able to attend on this occasion. However, I am pleased to confirm that Keith Connal, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Division, will be delighted to accept the dinner invitation on behalf of Scottish ministers.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could contact Keith Connai's Personal Assistant, Jan Anderton, 0131 244 6543, to discuss the proposed detail of the event and the most suitable arrangements for the Deputy Director's attendance.

Kind regards

M. Caucagher

MARISSA GALLAGHER Private Secretary

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG www.gov.scot















From: Iain Valentine [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** 16 September 2016 11:38

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: another question

# Hello [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

Many thanks for this.

To answer your question about timing, we are using a series of new test to do some predictive work. For some weeks now I have been working towards tomorrow as a possible birth date but of course it's all new science and her data which we based that on was very hard to interpret. We will let you know from other tests which we are trying to run on a daily basis(if we get samples from her) about 24 hours notice of her going into labour.

So could be this weekend....or early next week.

Best lain

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 16 September 2016 11:07

To: Iain Valentine

Subject: RE: another question

Dear lain – we've kept this news to a tight circulation in the Scottish Government and I have alerted our communications team so they are ready to draft a news release (we'll be sure to take your lead on this so as not to pre-empt any official announcement).

I have been asked to check whether it is likely there will be a birth this weekend — or if we are looking further into next week? I understand that this is very difficult to determine — and the only way we will know for certain is when the panda gives birth — but if there is any further information on timescales, then I would be very grateful to receive.

Best, [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 September 2016 11:00

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: another question

Dear lain

Further to [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]'s email below, just providing my direct contact details below.

Best, [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

[REDACTED]









From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 September 2016 05:29

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: another question

lain - you read my mind. The First Minister's office has asked me to keep them informed (as has the UK Ambassador).

#### [REDACTED]

When there is news please also let us know at what point we can prepare a press release (embargo date) as we would not want to pre-empt your official announcement.

Thanks for this and very good luck - we're all holding our breath and crossing our figures.

Best wishes. [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

## [REDACTED]

From: Iain Valentine [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2016 22:10

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: another question

### Hello [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

If all goes right in next few days with panda, we will want to inform Consul General, Scot Gov and to keep things straight the Scotland Office too, long before we tell the press.

I have numbers for Consul General's Office(who wants to be informed)....if there is interest in Scot Gov, who is the most appropriate person to inform and by what means? I am not sure if you will have a number or person I should also direct my question to in Scotland Office, do you?

Best Iain

[REDACTED]









From: [REDACTED] [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: 13 June 2017 09:30

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Invitation names

Hello [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

[REDACTED]

So we now wait on the next few weeks to pass to see what will happen with our female panda here. We are shortly to move into the "interesting" phase of her cycle when pregnancy should begin. I will keep you posted as to how it's all looking.

My best lain

[REDACTED]







