

ANNEX B

11 June 2015

The Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
The Office of the First Minister
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

RECEIVED
12 JUN 2015



THE ROYAL
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH
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SCOTLAND • UK
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REG CHARITY SC001061

Dear First Minister

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

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 appalling 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 5th. We would wish to extend an invitation to a member of the Scottish Government to join us at dinner. 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

Professor Chris West

CEO



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our mission

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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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

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Professor Chris West CEO
The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
134 Corstorphine Road
EDINBURGH
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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, neither the First Minister nor Aileen 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 Connal'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. Gallagher

MARISSA GALLAGHER
Private Secretary

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



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 September 2016 05:29
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: another question

Iain - 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 fingers.

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
Iain

[REDACTED]