

From: Russian Embassy 13 June RSVP <rsvp13june@rusemb.org.uk>
Sent: 11 May 2017 14:59
To: First Minister
Subject: National Day Reception, Residence of the Russian Ambassador, Tuesday, 13 June
Attachments: Ms._Nicola_Sturgeon.pdf
Importance: High



WELCOME TO THE RESIDENCE

Ambassador of the Russian Federation

***to the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland***

www.rusemb.org.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

On the occasion of the National Day the Ambassador of the Russian Federation HE Dr Alexander Yakovenko and Mrs Nana Yakovenko request the pleasure of inviting you to the Reception at 12.30 on Tuesday, 13 June at their Residence (the invitation is enclosed).

This invitation is personal and non-transferable.

Please confirm your participation by the 1st of June to activate your QR code.

Please don't forget to bring your official photographic ID and printed version of this invitation.

We are looking forward to welcoming you.

Best regards,

Ambassador's Office

Ambassador's Office

Russian Embassy in London

13 Kensington Palace Gardens

London W8 4QX

UK



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NON TRANSFERABLE



*On the occasion of the National Day
the Ambassador of the Russian Federation
request the pleasure of the company of*

Ms. Nicola Sturgeon

*at a Reception on Tuesday, 13th June 2017 at 12.30 to 14.30
at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QX (Residence)*

RSVP by email:

rsep13june@rusemb.org.uk

Lounge Suit / National Dress

Important: please confirm your participation by 1st June to activate your QR-code
Please present this Invitation and your photographic ID on arrival

For security and safety reasons we would kindly ask the guests
to keep baggage to a minimum
and to note that there is no parking space available



 **Russian**
cultural events



Consul General of the Russian Federation
Mr Andrey A. Pritsepor and Mrs Alexandra Pritsepova
requests the pleasure of the company of
.....First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.....
at a reception on the occasion of the National Day of Russia
at the Merchants Hall, 22 Hanover Street, Edinburgh
on Monday June 12, 2017 at 18.00-20.00

Please bring this card with you

R.I.V.P
58, Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7NF
Tel: (0131) 225 7098 Fax: (0131) 225 9587
Email: visa@edconsul.co.uk

Посольство Российской Федерации
в Великобритании

г. Лондон

Embassy of the Russian Federation

13 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QX
Tel: (020) 7229 36 20; Fax: (020) 7229 58 04
russianembassy@rusemb.org.uk
www.rusemb.org.uk

16 December 2016

№ 1933

Dear First Minister,

I'm pleased to write to you regarding our recent meeting at the Scotland International 2016 Conference on 3 December. This was a precious opportunity to discuss the ties between Russia and Scotland and compare our notes.

It is encouraging that working contacts between Russian and Scottish officials have been developing, and I believe it will contribute to the further strengthening of the economic, cultural and historical relationship between our countries.

I know that the Scottish Government considers supporting and developing the nation's education as one of its foremost priorities. This doesn't come as a surprise, given the long history of both school and university training in Scotland, and certainly bears many positive results that your nation may be proud of.

Unfortunately, as you are aware, The Scottish Qualifications Authority withdrew national courses in Russian language when the examinations curriculum was revised in 2015 and the Russian language is now only available as a Language for Life and Work Award at the beginner and intermediate level.

Certainly, as Ambassador of Russia, I can see many benefits for any nation in having opportunity to study the Russian language at schools. The cancellation of the exams seriously affected the resources available for cultural and business links, for people-to-people contacts and the personal development of individuals.

**First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG**

This, in turn, may prejudice the ability of the young people to develop both their practical skills in their own family of languages and their competitiveness as well as to broaden personal horizons, to have access to the wealth of the world's heritage and, in particular, participate fully in the international discourse surrounding their particular field of study.

Being a diplomat, I believe that the ability to communicate, combined with understanding of the diversity of the world culture and thought, provided by learning foreign languages, is key both to an individual's and a nation's success on the international stage.

There is though another aspect here. Scotland is an important tourist destination for Russians. According to Visit Scotland, visitors from Russia spent 67000 total nights in Scotland from 2013 to 2015 and spent approximately £8 mln here.

As I understand, the most recent figure shows the increase in demand for the Russian language speakers. The number of students studying Higher Russian was increasing from 2002, its lowest uptake, to 2015, its highest uptake since 1993. Scotland also has four Saturday schools where Russian is taught to both adults and children in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee. The Glasgow Saturday School welcomes 200 students, Edinburgh – 120, Aberdeen – 200 and Dundee – 50. Russian is one of the top ten non-English languages spoken at home by students.

It is also in the list of ten most highly paid languages in a recent search of UK employment vacancies, which means that there is still not just potential but actual demand for the Russian language in Scotland.

Finally, I am more than glad to say that in 2017 we will celebrate 100 years since the beginning of teaching Russian at the University of Glasgow. The Russian language team there is organizing a series of events to celebrate this important anniversary and create a "Russian hub", where the many initiatives about Russia both within and out of the university can be shared by everyone and have a better

outreach, that would certainly create an impetus and an added value for those who would choose Russian Language as their career path.

I believe there may be ways for the Scottish Government to have the above decision revisited, and I would hugely appreciate your attention to the matter.

Sincerely yours,



Alexander Yakovenko

