

FIRST MINISTER'S MEETING WITH IRISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UK, DAN MULHALL

ISSUE: The First Minister will have a meeting with in the margins of the Scotland International Dinner, Gleneagles, 2 December 2016.

Top Lines

- **Ireland is an important partner for Scotland.** The Scottish Government is committed to further developing a strong, collaborative relationship with Ireland.
- After a positive campaign, Scotland has delivered a **strong, unequivocal vote to remain in the EU**, and the SG welcomes that.
- The Scottish Government will table **specific proposals in the coming weeks to protect Scotland's interests and keep us in the single market**, even if the rest of the UK decides to leave.
- However - it is important that we do not allow Brexit to define that relationship, and continue to focus on collaboration that can continue to deliver economic prosperity for our people, while drawing on the already deep and historic links that bind us.

Irish Government's Reactions to the EU Referendum Result

- Irish Government's position clear – **Brexit contrary to Irish national interests**, Ireland's economy is stronger alongside a strong UK economy within UK and that stability of Ireland is best assured through EU membership across the islands.
- [redacted]
- Irish Government sought to reassure Irish public that Ireland will not be following the UK in withdrawing from the EU and that the Irish Government has prepared for the Brexit outcome.
- The Taoiseach and Foreign Minister Charlie Flanagan hosted the first **All Island Civic Dialogue** on 2nd November to respond to Brexit – this saw around 250 representatives from North and South meeting to discuss the challenges posed by Brexit. It was, however, publicly snubbed by both major NI Unionist parties. Arlene Foster described it as *"a platform for remoaners"*.
- [redacted]

Upcoming Ministerial Engagement

- 22-23 November 2016, **Secretary General, Niall Burgess**, of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is visiting Scotland to meet with Mr Russell (and possibly Ms Hyslop) Perm Sec and DG Strategy and Operations, Ken Thomson.
- 25 November 2016 – **FM is due to meet the Taoiseach** in margins of BIC.
- 27-28 November 2016 – **FM's visit to Dublin** to address both the Seanad (Upper House of Irish Parliament) and IBEC (Irish equivalent of CBI); meet with key decision-makers and influencers in Ireland and; receive an Honorary Patronage from Trinity College.

Recent Ministerial Engagement

- 10 November 2016 – Mr Russell met with Irish Consul General Mark Hanniffy.
- 08 November 2016 – Dr Allan attended and spoke at an evening networking reception hosted by Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Business Network in Scotland in honour of Minister Joe McHugh's trade delegation visit to Scotland, 07 – 10 November.
- 10 September 2016 – Bilateral between Ms Hyslop and Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan, in margins of BIA Conference 2016.
- 09 – 11 September 2016 – Ms Hyslop participated in the British Irish Association Conference 2016, on a panel "Post Referendum Views". Met with the Taoiseach in the margins of the conference.

Key Links

Official Sensitive

- Collaboration with Ireland in attracting **EU funding** is of key interest to Scotland, including H2020 and Transnational Co-operation Programmes. To date, Scotland and Ireland have worked together to secure EU funding for 19 joint projects with a joint value of £23.5 million.
- In January 2016 the Scottish Government opened an **Innovation and Investment Hub in Dublin**, which is already facilitating stronger links between our nations.

Official Sensitive

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 November 2016 16:24
To: First Minister
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: First Minister invite to Scotland International Dinner - Friday 2 December -
Gleneagles Hotel

Importance: High

Hi Folks

I have received some logistical information below and await a copy of the agenda which is in preparation.

The event starts at 18.00 on Friday 2nd December. [redacted] suggests that the FM meets the Irish Ambassador at 6pm, and [redacted] for 15/20 minutes each.

[Redacted]

Many thanks

[redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 November 2016 17:01
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: First Minister invite to Scotland International Dinner - Friday 2 December - Gleneagles Hotel
Importance: High

Hello [redacted]

Thanks very much for getting in touch – it is always very helpful to know who the contact is within the First Minister's office at the moment and then going forward.

The Agenda for the meeting is in final stages of preparation and will be forwarded to you as soon as it is complete.

In terms of timing for the FM on that evening, [redacted] office has arranged two short meetings in Gleneagles for the FM from 18.00 on Friday 2nd December. The room set aside for this meeting will also be advised later on.

[redacted]

With many thanks

Kind regards

[redacted]