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	Generalitat de Catalunya Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació Serveis Centrals
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	Data 18/07/17 Hora
	Registre de sortida

Mr. Fergus Ewing
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
United Kingdom

RAE
25 JUL 2017
PRIVATE OFFICE

Dear Mr. Ewing,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your hospitality during our meeting on Friday, 23 June 2017 at the Scottish Government Pavilion at the Royal Highland Show. On behalf of the Head of the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the United Kingdom and Ireland, Mr. Sergi Marcén, and me, it was a great pleasure.

Government of Catalonia is keen to promote links between our two governments and countries,

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[REDACTED]



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**

La consellera d'Agricultura, Ramaderia,
Pesca i Alimentació

[Redacted text]

I will be very pleased to meet you soon again when you come to Catalonia or in case I travel to Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Meritxell Serret i Aléu
Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food

Barcelona, 14th July 2017

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and
Connectivity
Fergus Ewing MSP



Scottish Government
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Ms Meritxell Serret i Aleu
Generalitat de Catalunya
La consellera d'Agricultura, Ramaderia
Pesca i Alimentacio
c. Camp de Març 35
25004 Lleida
SPAIN

Our ref: 2017/0026031
22 August 2017

Dear Ms Serret,

Thank you for writing on the 14 July 2017 following our meeting at the Royal Highland Show in June. It was a pleasure to meet you all and hopefully we will meet again before too long. I also want to thank you for sending some fine Catalonian caval

[REDACTED]

I trust that this is in order.

Yours sincerely,

FERGUS EWING



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**

La consellera d'Ensenyament

Clara Ponsatí i Obiols

Mr. John Siwnney
Ministre of Education
Scotland

Dear Minister,

First of all, allow me to greet you and express my appreciation for your ambitious and inspiring reform programme. I am certain that it will have a transformational impact nationally.

I feel very much linked to Scotland at this moment as I was Head of the School of Economics and Finance at the University of St. Andrews before being appointed Minister of Education of the Government of Catalonia. I learned a lot at St Andrews, and that has assisted my goal to serve my co-citizens and to make my country a better place to live in. I said farewell to St Andrews with a deep gratitude for allowing me to serve Catalonia at this historical moment.

I am writing to express my deep concern following the recent attacks to democracy in Catalonia. Since 2012, over a million people every year have been peacefully demonstrating for the right to self-determination for our nation. The government to which I belong was elected democratically with the mandate to hold a referendum, which has been set for 1 October 1st. Unfortunately, the Spanish government has ignored such a demand and brought about a de facto state of emergency last Wednesday September 20th, which infringes upon this democratic right of every nation.

These attacks are an alarming threat to our shared values of democracy, freedom of expression, and respect for diversity. They are at the heart of our European Union. As Minister of Education, I strive to uphold these values for every learner, classroom and school in Catalonia. I believe that we cannot accept any backward steps with regards to such basic civil rights, which will also be critical to the cohesion of our increasingly diverse societies.

I hope that we will have the opportunity to meet soon to discuss how we can work together to build a better future for our younger generations. I would also be very pleased to welcome you to Barcelona.

Yours sincerely,

Minister of Education

Barcelona, 22nd September 2017

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Education and Skills
John Swinney MSP



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Clara Ponsatí Obiols
Minister for Education
Government of Catalonia
consellera.ensenyament@gencat.cat

26 September 2017

Dear Clara,

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 September. I very much appreciate your kind words on what we are doing to improve education in Scotland, particularly in the light of your close personal links with Scotland and St Andrews. I know that you share my belief in the importance of excellence in education and I wish you well with your own endeavours.

My colleagues and I have been watching with growing concern recent events in Catalonia. The Scottish Government does not have a view as to whether or not Catalonia should become an independent state, that is a matter for the people of Catalonia, just as Scotland's future is a matter for the people of Scotland. However we do believe strongly in the right of self-determination as an important international principle which must be respected.

Whilst the constitutional positions of Catalonia and Scotland are not the same and the frameworks in which our countries operate are very different, our own experience here in 2014 shows that it is possible for two Governments with diametrically opposed views on the constitutional future to come together to agree a process that allowed the people to decide. It is essential that civil rights and democracy are respected at all times by all nations and I sincerely hope that there can be dialogue between the Catalan Government and the Spanish Government to ensure a peaceful resolution in the coming days.

I thank you again for your warm greetings and wish you well for the important days ahead.

Yours,

JOHN SWINNEY



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**

El conseller d'Afers Exteriors,
Relacions Institucionals i Transparència

Raül Romaya i Rueda

HE Fiona Hyslop MSP
Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
SCOTLAND

Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Afers i Relacions
Institucionals i Exteriors i
Transparència

Número: 097AS/738/2016
Data: 23/05/2016 14:57:54

Assistència de sortida

Your Excellency,

It is a pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs and to wish you a productive mandate and every success in the exercise of your task.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our Government's desire that during your mandate the friendly relations between Scotland and Catalonia will continue and be reinforced.

Yours sincerely,

Barcelona, 23th May 2016



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**

El conseller d'Afers Exteriors,
Relacions Institucionals i Transparència

Ms Fiona Hyslop
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
St. Andrew's House, Regent Road
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Dear Ms Fiona Hyslop,

Now, as in the referendum in 2014, I would like to express, on behalf of the Catalan Government, our explicit support to the democratically expressed will of the Scottish people.

In Catalonia we have always believed in and defended democracy and negotiation as the right ways to address and solve political issues. We know this is also the Scottish approach and we are confident that this course of action will eventually lead to satisfactory solutions.

In the hope that the voice of the Scots will be listened to in the United Kingdom and also in the European Union, I'm sure we will soon find the adequate occasion to discuss in person this and other matters of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,

Raül Romeva i Rueda

Barcelona, July 4th, 2016

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Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Fiona Hyslop MSP

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Mr Raul Romeva I Rueda
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Institutional Relations and Transparency
C. de la Pietat, 2
08002 Barcelona

Our ref: 2016/0022363

26 July 2016

Dear Raul

Thank you for the letters addressed to myself and Dr Allan, Minister for International Development and Europe, regarding the result of the recent referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union.

The Scottish Government welcomes the strong and unequivocal message sent by the Scottish electorate following a positive campaign. We appreciate other parts of the United Kingdom expressed a different view but we strongly believe that the EU membership delivers many social, economic and cultural benefits.

The Scottish Government intends to raise awareness across Europe about Scotland's different choice in the referendum and about our aspiration to stay in the European Union.

I look forward to continuing working with you to strengthen our relationship over the period ahead.

Kind regards
Fiona Hyslop

FIONA HYSLOP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2017 18:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Thank you for your statement

Dear Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism, and External Affairs, Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP,

On behalf of the Head of the Delegation Sergi Marcén, thank you very much for your statement of support to the Catalan people in their wish to exercise their democratic right to self-determination. The Government of Catalonia are truly humbled to have received a high volume of messages of support from all over the world, all of which call to uphold the principle of self-determination and respect the democratic will of the people of Catalonia to decide on their political future. Self-determination is democracy.

From the Catalan Government, we are committed to respect the will of the people of Catalonia in their demand to ask for a referendum to decide on their political future. It is our duty to respect that will, and act upon it upholding freedom and democracy. Furthermore, allow me to reiterate the democratic and pacific nature of our petition. This is why we have requested to hold a democratic referendum for self-determination on October 1st this year.

Thank you, once again, for your support. The Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the United Kingdom and Ireland is at your disposal to complement all the information you may need.

Kindest Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the United Kingdom and Ireland

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