

Gibson AI (AI)

From: Gibson AI (AI)
Sent: 13 March 2017 15:30
To: Minister for Parliamentary Business
Cc: Hynd JS (James); Macgregor S (Steven); McCann M (Maria); Gunn A (Andrew); Angus R (Roddy)
Subject: Visit to Ireland



I noted Steven's e-mail a little earlier about the London visit.

David perhaps mentioned my call this am to double check scheduling of the anchor meeting for the **Minister's visit to Ireland** (circa 11-13 April). Understand [REDACTED] is in contact with Regina Doherty's office about same. Grateful for confirmation of that slot, together with the Minister's travel plans when possible.

On the back of that material we will look to arrange additional meetings on the themes of FOI and Electoral Policy. The aim of those meetings will be to inform Mr FitzPatrick about the Irish position on each of those topics and offer some background to recent practice/developments in Scotland. I spoke with relevant SG colleagues (Andrew Gunn and Maria McCann) this am about preparation of core briefing to support same. Andrew and Maria will see if they can identify opposite numbers in Ireland, but happy to speak to Ms Doherty's office direct if required.

AI

AI Gibson
Parliament and Governance Team
Parliament and Legislation Unit
Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Scottish Government
Room 4N.02
SAH
Tel: 0131-244-5560 (Ext 45560)

Gibson AI (AI)

From: Gibson AI (AI)
Sent: 15 March 2017 09:43
To: Gunn A (Andrew); McCann M (Maria); Angus R (Roddy)
Subject: FW: Dublin Contacts

Andy
Maria
Roddy

Just to update on Ireland (which is scheduled for 11-13 April, a little later than I thought).

[REDACTED] has given me contact numbers for Irish officials (see below). I propose to speak to [REDACTED] and ask them to point me in the direction of their policy advisers in the areas of FOI and Electoral Policy.

A slot for Mr FitzPatrick's meeting with Regina Doherty has yet to be set, so any discussions I have with the Irish will just be in terms of teeing up the proposal to cover FOI and Elections issues when our Minister visits.

AI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2017 09:32
To: Gibson AI (AI)
Subject: Dublin Contacts

AI,

Most recently we have been liaising with [REDACTED] but prior to that we were liaising with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Diary Secretary to Minister Docherty**
Phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **: Policy Adviser to the Government Chief Whip**
Phone [REDACTED]

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Deputy Private Secretary
Minister for Parliamentary Business
T4.21
Scottish Parliament
0131 24 (47736)
MinisterPB@gov.scot

Gibson AI (AI)

From: Gibson AI (AI)
Sent: 17 March 2017 12:34
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: McCann M (Maria); Angus R (Roddy); Macgregor S (Steven)
Subject: JOE FITZPATRICK, SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

[REDACTED]
Good morning. I understand you have been in contact with my Scottish Government colleague [REDACTED] to discuss the forthcoming visit of Joe FitzPatrick (SG Minister for Parliamentary Business) to Dublin on 11-13 April.

I have been asked to help co-ordinate arrangements for Mr FitzPatrick's visit. I appreciate that a slot for Mr FitzPatrick to meet with Ms Doherty has yet to be set, but we are keen to start teeing up other possible engagements relevant to our Minister's portfolio interests during his visit. On that basis relevant SG colleagues are liaising with Irish Government officials who lead on FOI and Open Government. **I wondered if you could assist in terms of identifying a suitable contact within the Irish Government who leads on Electoral Policy?**

I'll admit to failing to contact you by 'phone despite [REDACTED] providing me with your contact details. I'd be happy to discuss the above by 'phone (my details are at foot) if that would be helpful.

Kind regards

AI

AI Gibson
Parliament and Governance Team
Parliament and Legislation Unit
Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Scottish Government
Room 4N.02
SAH
Tel: 0131(4431)-244-5560 (Ext 45560)

McCann I (Iain)

From: Harvey E (Emma)
Sent: 27 October 2017 12:40
To: Gibson AI (AI)
Subject: FW: DUBLIN READOUT

As discussed.
E

From: Gibson AI (AI)
Sent: 20 April 2017 09:42
To: McCann M (Maria); Gunn A (Andrew); Harvey E (Emma)
Cc: Campbell S (Sinead); Angus R (Roddy)
Subject: DUBLIN READOUT

Maria
Andrew
Emma

Once again, many thanks for your respective contributions to Mr FitzPatrick's briefing for his recent visit to Dublin.

I thought you might appreciate a summary of what was discussed with Mr Donohoe and Mr Coveney. Please note that I was not present at either of those meetings so the material below has been provided by [REDACTED] APS/Mr FitzPatrick. I'm sure [REDACTED] would be happy to field any queries you may have.

Intriguing that the Donohoe mtg turned into a discussion about lobbying when I was across Dublin talking to their Lobbying Register staff!

Regards

AI

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Meeting with Paschal Donohue

This focussed mainly on Lobbying which as you are aware came into effect in Ireland recently. Discussions focussed around Lobbying providing greater transparency and 'putting trust in Government'. We noted that as well as Ministers, a number of others were registered as designated public officials which includes Special Advisers to the Government, Secretaries

General and Assistant Secretaries in the civil service and CEO's/Directors of Services in local authorities.

Additionally there was a brief discussion had between the Ministers on the connection between Lobbying and FOI.

I think it's probably best to focus the letter of thanks on lobbying since Mr FitzPatrick has a keen interest in this area so discussions were extremely useful.

Gibson AI (AI)

From: Gibson AI (AI)
Sent: 30 March 2017 12:29
To: Webster J (John)
Cc: Duxbury C (Chloe); Walker C (Caroline); [REDACTED] Macgregor S (Steven); Harvey E (Emma); Gunn A (Andrew); Angus R (Roddy); McCann M (Maria); Hynd JS (James)
Subject: RE: Overseas Travel Approval Form - Dublin

John

My colleague [REDACTED] passed on your e-mail.

I'm grateful for your offer of help. However please note that, in close liaison with the Taoiseach's office, we are already some way down the line in terms of developing Mr FitzPatrick's visit programme for Dublin. **Content focusses firmly on Mr FitzPatrick's portfolio interests and reflects Ms Doherty's specific request to discuss management of parliamentary business in Scotland.** The Minister's time in Dublin will also be shorter than originally envisaged, reducing scope for adding to the programme.

To summarise where things currently stand, the programme is as follows:

11th April - Travel to Dublin
16.00 - Meeting with Minister **Simon Coveney TD** and officials from his Department re Electoral Policy (location tbc)
18.00 - Dinner with **Regina Doherty TD**, Government Chief Whip in Members Private Restaurant, Leinster House

12th April 10.30 - Meeting with Minister **Regina Doherty TD** in Leinster House re: Scottish experience of Minority Government
12.00 - Minister FitzPatrick to sit in for Leaders Questions in Dail
12.40 - Private Tour of Leinster House
13.30 - Meeting with **Ceann Comhairle** (Speaker) in Leinster House (lunch tbc)
14.30 - Meeting with officials from Parliament and Department of the Taoiseach – re. how the Scottish Parliament and Government deal with legislation in a minority government.
- Depart for Edinburgh

If time/diaries permit, there is also the possibility of a meeting with **Paschal Donohoe TD**, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to discuss FOI and Open Government.

So we are almost there, but I certainly appreciate your offer. Given your role, I wondered if you would have core briefing material on Irish Governance or current issues of note (akin to the points you touched on with Julie McIlroy below?

Regards and best wishes

AI

AI Gibson
Parliament and Governance Team
Parliament and Legislation Unit
Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Scottish Government

Gibson AI (AI)

From: Gunn A (Andrew)
Sent: 03 April 2017 14:30
To: Gibson AI (AI)
Subject: RE: Overseas Travel Approval Form - Dublin
Attachments: RE: Ministerial Visit

AI

I attach [REDACTED] email offering 3.00pm along with my reply.

I've heard nothing further so I'm assuming subject to practicalities the meeting is on.

If you've got any update I can forward to [REDACTED] happy to do so.

Andrew

From: Gibson AI (AI)
Sent: 03 April 2017 14:25
To: Gunn A (Andrew)
Subject: RE: Overseas Travel Approval Form - Dublin

Andrew

Sorry to press, but any more news from Ireland? If the Donohoe meeting is on for early Tuesday pm I'm going to move other business around.

A

From: Gunn A (Andrew)
Sent: 31 March 2017 09:11
To: Gibson AI (AI)
Subject: RE: Overseas Travel Approval Form - Dublin

AI

Just wondering if I can share this with my contact – who might be trying to arrange something which there might now not be time to schedule.

Depending on timing of departure to Edinburgh looks doubtful as to whether there's scope for much more to be fitted in.

Andrew

From: Gibson AI (AI)
Sent: 30 March 2017 12:29
To: Webster J (John)
Cc: Duxbury C (Chloe); Walker C (Caroline); [REDACTED] Macgregor S (Steven); Harvey E (Emma); Gunn A (Andrew); Angus R (Roddy); McCann M (Maria); Hynd JS (James)
Subject: RE: Overseas Travel Approval Form - Dublin

John