

## Gibson AI (AI)

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**From:** Gibson AI (AI)  
**Sent:** 10 April 2017 15:47  
**To:** Minister for Parliamentary Business  
**Cc:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

[REDACTED]

To note below that Mr Donohoe's office are happy to hold the Donohoe-FitzPatrick meeting in Lienster House. That would mean a quicker transition across to the Coveney-FitzPatrick meeting. Do you want to speak to [REDACTED] (number below) or just leave things as they are? [REDACTED] was happy to walk you from one meeting to the next anyway?

AI

**From:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Sent:** 10 April 2017 15:41  
**To:** Gibson AI (AI)  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

Having spoken I was going to go back and keep to 'The Plan' i.e. meeting Mr D in Government Buildings and walking to Leinster House – but, equally, could leave it to [REDACTED] to finalise with [REDACTED] as long as we all know the outcome!).

**From:** Gibson AI (AI)  
**Sent:** 10 April 2017 15:32  
**To:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

OK! I'll bear that in mind when we speak to [REDACTED] I have Mr Donohoe's PS as [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] I'll get [REDACTED] to speak to her.

Here is that rejigged briefing.

A

**From:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Sent:** 10 April 2017 15:08  
**To:** Gibson AI (AI)  
**Subject:** FW: Ministerial Visit

AI

Proposed change of venue for meeting with Mr Donohoe – cutting out 3 minute walking time between Government Buildings and Leinster House.

Would plan to accept I think as they're doing us a favour (at the cost of stretching your legs!).

Andrew

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 April 2017 15:02  
**To:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

Hi Andrew,

Apologies for the delay in getting back. Minister Donohoe will be happy to meet in Leinster House as it will be most suitable for you Minister.

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Diary Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D. | Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2 | D02 R583  
**Direct:** [REDACTED]  
**Website:** [www.per.gov.ie](http://www.per.gov.ie)



\*The Minister is a designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 (details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))

**From:** [Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot) [mailto:[Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot)]  
**Sent:** 04 April 2017 14:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

[REDACTED]  
Excellent. We'll factor that in.

Many thanks.

Andrew

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 April 2017 14:18  
**To:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

Andrew,

Can I suggest the Minister's office here in the Department as a meeting place for the meeting?

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Diary Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D. | Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2 | D02 R583  
Tel: (+353) 1 631 8102  
Website: [www.per.gov.ie](http://www.per.gov.ie)



\*The Minister is a designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 (details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))

**From:** [Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot) [mailto:[Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot)]

**Sent:** 04 April 2017 09:25

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

[REDACTED]

As promised, I attach the hopefully pretty much final programme for Mr FitzPatrick's visit to Ireland.

Mr Donohoe scheduled for 15.00 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. If you could confirm location that would be great and allow us to finalise transport details.

Regards

Andrew

**From:** Gunn A (Andrew)

**Sent:** 31 March 2017 16:10

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

[REDACTED]

That's excellent, that should be fine (and of course trusting no major flight delays).

If we can assume the meeting will be in Leinster House (where we're also assuming the meeting with Mr Coveney will be) this should allow a reasonable time to discuss FOI – and OGP – matters before the 4.00pm meeting.

I'll send across a final itinerary once arrangements are completed here.

Andrew

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 31 March 2017 15:35

**To:** Gunn A (Andrew)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

**Importance:** High

Andrew

The Minister is available to meet Mr FitzPatrick at 1500 on the 11<sup>th</sup> if this is ok from your side?

Mark

**From:** Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot [mailto:Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot]

**Sent:** 31 March 2017 15:18

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

[REDACTED]

Just to update.

Mr FitzPatrick's time in Dublin has been somewhat reduced but there remains the possibility of a meeting with Mr Donohoe if he was available.

The latest timetable/agenda 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

I realise it's highly unlikely but if a meeting with Mr Donohoe was possible this would probably need to be before his 16.00 meeting with Mr Coveney (he lands at about 1.00pm) or first thing on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thoughts welcome/happy to discuss

Andrew

**From:** Gunn A (Andrew)

**Sent:** 23 March 2017 11:52

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

[REDACTED]

Indeed, Mr FitzPatrick has a broad remit but procurement as far as I'm aware is not part of it.

The primary purpose of the visit is to meet Regina Doherty (to discuss Parliamentary business management etc.). However, it's also an opportunity to meet Ministers/senior officials across Mr FitzPatrick's portfolio – with responsibility for FOI in Ireland I understand sitting with Paschal Donohoe.

Dates are still to be finalised but we're working to 11-13 April so presumably the bulk of meetings would be on 12 April. I'll obviously confirm more precise details once I hear more from Private Office/Parliament and Legislation Unit colleagues.

Andrew

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 March 2017 11:38  
**To:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

Andrew

Thanks for the information.

I'd say the confusion around a meeting with the Office for Government Procurement is my interpretation of a meeting with "OGP" which was mentioned to me – clearly it is actually Open Government Partnership.

Can I just confirm you are referring to a meeting with Regina Doherty, the Government Chief Whip?

If you can provide the likely dates and times I can investigate the possibilities.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot [mailto:Andrew.Gunn@gov.scot]  
**Sent:** 23 March 2017 11:31  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Visit

[REDACTED]

Many thanks for your reply.

The plan is to arrange a series of meetings across Mr FitzPatrick's portfolio as Minister for Parliamentary Business – this includes elections, FOI and the Open Government Partnership. Precise timings are unknown but I imagine we're looking at a series of 60/90 minute 'slots' - at this stage we're at the scoping out interest/availability part of the process.

The visit will be built around the meeting with Ms Doherty. However, we're hoping that other portfolio meetings can also be arranged at Ministerial/senior official level – hence approaching you for FOI interests as I understand responsibility for FOI sits with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (I'm not aware of other approaches being made with respect to meetings with your Minister in context of the Office of Government Procurement but will inquire).

If Mr Donohoe was available for a meeting that would obviously be great. The aim of the proposed meetings would be for Mr FitzPatrick to be informed about Irish policy developments

e.g. on FOI and to provide background on current practice/developments in Scotland. In due course, once arrangements are confirmed, we'd be putting together briefing as appropriate.

Regards

Andrew

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 March 2017 11:36  
**To:** Gunn A (Andrew)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ministerial Visit  
**Importance:** High

Good morning Andrew

I refer to your recent email regarding a Ministerial visit in April.

I have replaced [REDACTED] and have responsibility for the FOI Central Policy Unit .

I understand there was also some recent contact in relation to meeting our Minister with regards to the Office of Government Procurement – I presume this is the same visit?

If you want to send on some further details of what you have in mind that would be helpful.

[REDACTED]  
**Government Reform Unit**  
Department of Public Expenditure & Reform,  
3rd Floor, 7-9 Merrion Row, Dublin, 2, DO2 V223  
Ph: 076 100 7332



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## Gibson AI (AI)

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**From:** Webster J (John)  
**Sent:** 31 March 2017 16:12  
**To:** Gibson AI (AI)  
**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

Great news. Paschal is a good meeting to have – and he is an instinctive friend to Scotland.

A visit to the Hub would of course only be on the basis that Mr F's programme allows it. But should it work, we are based on the British Embassy platform in Ballsbridge. A 10-15 minute drive from Leinster House and Government Buildings.

How big is the party that will be travelling with the Minister? Relevant for transport – if you ask us to make arrangements.

On transport, could you let us know as soon as possible what your requirement is. Looking at your programme, meetings will almost exclusively be in and around Leinster House and Government Buildings – so transport should be manageable by taxis. Caroline Walker in copy will make arrangements if you are content.

Best wishes,

**John Webster | Head of the Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Hub in Ireland | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | 29 Merrion Road | Dublin | D04 P272 | T: (00353) 01 205 3836 | M: (00353) 086 810 9998 | john.webster@gov.scot |**

**From:** Gibson AI (AI)  
**Sent:** 31 March 2017 16:03  
**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

I'm hearing that a meeting with Mr Donohoe is indeed possible and its likely to take place around 15.00 on the Tuesday. That would suggest that Mr FitzPatrick visiting the Hub first thing on Wednesday. Where are you located – near to Leinster House?

AI

**From:** Gibson AI (AI)  
**Sent:** 31 March 2017 13:27  
**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

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you.

You may have seen the suggestion that Mr FitzPatrick **visit the Innovation Hub**. As per below we are yet to rule out a meeting with Mr Donohoe TD, but the most obvious slots for the Hub are either circa 2 to 3pm on the Tuesday (the Minster's plane is expected to land at 12.50) or perhaps first thing on Wednesday. We can come back to you early next week to firm this up.

As for **briefing**, if material is being worked up for close Monday that sounds fine to me. I'm sure light briefing on the points I mentioned previously will suffice (and anything you consider may be helpful), nothing specific has been commissioned.

I'm sure there will be scope for **Chloe Duxbury** to be involved, even at points, although we have an eye on numbers for certain meetings. We can firm that up next week once we have a finalised programme.

I think the same goes for transport as I remain unclear at this point if separate arrangements have been made for cars/taxis. Your help here may well prove invaluable!

Have a good weekend and we will pick up next week.

Regards

AI

**From:** Webster J (John)

**Sent:** 30 March 2017 12:40

**To:** Gibson AI (AI)

**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

Thanks AI,

This all looks very impressive, and it is very welcome that my team has been saved some work by our friends in Taoiseach's!

We can certainly provide some briefing and background that will cover the current political context – what would your deadline be for that? We will be preparing updated material by close Monday for Cabinet briefing, will that do?

I will actually be away on family leave that week. However, given the nature of the engagements and the seniority of contact, can I just confirm that the Minister will be content for my deputy Chloe Duxbury (in copy) to accompany the Minister on his calls? This is important in terms of the visibility of the office, for our credibility, on-going relationship development and our understanding of what senior people are thinking.

Lastly, have you made arrangements for transport for the visit? Can we help?

**John Webster | Head of the Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Hub in Ireland | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | 29 Merrion Road | Dublin | D04 P272 | T: (00353) 01 205 3836 | M: (00353) 086 810 9998 | [john.webster@gov.scot](mailto:john.webster@gov.scot) |**



Paschal Donohoe TD  
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform  
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform  
Government Buildings  
Upper Merrion Street  
Dublin 2  
D02 R583  
Ireland

April 2017

Dear Paschal

I am writing to thank you and your officials for meeting with me on 11 April when I visited Dublin.

I am grateful for your taking time, especially at short notice, to discuss matters falling within our respective ministerial portfolios. I welcomed the opportunity to hear your views first hand on the operation of Freedom of Information, Open Government and Lobbying in the Irish context and to contrast that with the experience in Scotland. I was interested in particular to hear your thoughts on the early operation of the Irish Lobbying Register, its scope and the contribution it can make to reinforcing public trust in government. It is clear to me that there is much commonality in terms of the practical and policy challenges we face.

Taking time to further develop the relationship between our two Governments and share experience has proven valuable. I should be happy to continue that dialogue and extend an open invitation to you to visit me in Edinburgh at some point in the future.

Yours for Scotland  
  
JOE FITZPATRICK