

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
Room 4N.02

Gibson AI (AI)

From: Gunn A (Andrew)
Sent: 04 April 2017 14:25
To: Gibson AI (AI)
Subject: FW: Ministerial Visit

AI

To see – proposal to hold meeting with Mr Donohoe in his Department at Government Buildings – from a quick Google looks a short stroll from there to Leinster House.

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

Direct: [REDACTED]
Website: www.per.gov.ie



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

From: 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 11th. 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 11th if this is ok from your side?

[REDACTED]

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 12th.

Thoughts welcome/happy to discuss

Andrew

From: Gunn A (Andrew)

Sent: 23 March 2017 11:52

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Ministerial Visit

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

Gibson AI (AI)

From: Gunn A (Andrew)
Sent: 15 March 2017 13:48
To: Gibson AI (AI)
Cc: McCann M (Maria); Angus R (Roddy)
Subject: RE: Dublin Contacts

AI

My Stormont mole provides the following contact details for the Republic–

- ██████████ (Assistant Principal)
- e mail : ██████████
 - website: www.foi.gov.ie
 - postal address: *Freedom of Information Central Policy Unit (CPU)*
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Floor 3,
7-9 Merrion Street ,
Dublin 2
D02 V223

Happy to pursue from here if you wish – or see what ██████████ think first...

Andrew

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).

██████████ has given me contact numbers for Irish officials (see below). I propose to speak to ██████████ 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

[REDACTED]
MinisterPB@gov.scot

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