

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work  
Keith Brown MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Christian Masset  
Secrétaire General  
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères  
37 Quai d'Orsay  
75007 Paris  
France

26 June 2017

Dear Christian

I'd like to offer my thanks to you for taking the time, during what was such a busy period, to meet with me and my officials during my visit to Paris last month. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss how our two nations can work together in areas of mutual interest. We shall follow these up with your colleagues over the weeks ahead. I was also pleased to be able to set-out Scotland's position regarding the UK EU negotiations.

It was excellent to hear of your fondness for Scotland and I hope you are able to come back and visit soon. Whatever the future holds, I look forward to strengthening the links between Scotland and France.

Kind regards  
Fiona Hyslop

FIONA HYSLOP

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2017 10:13  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Ms Hyslop meetings at the Quai

**Importance:** High

I'll be there on Monday. I can meet you at the Quai d'Orsay reception at 4 if that's OK.  
[Redacted- out of scope]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 May 2017 10:00  
**To:** Consulate of France  
**Subject:** Ms Hyslop meetings at the Quai  
**Importance:** High

Dear [Redacted]

Just to send to you a quick update – Ms Hyslop will be meeting with Christian Masset from 16:15 to 17:00 on Monday, 22 May. We are still awaiting confirmation of the CAPS roundtable. Are you still okay to accompany the Cab Sec during her meetings at the Quai?

Thanks,  
[Redacted]

**De :** [Redacted]  
**Envoyé :** jeudi 27 avril 2017 17:09  
**À :** [Redacted]  
**Cc :** [Redacted]

**Objet :** FW: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Dear [Redacted],

As per [Redacted] email below, do you have a contact in CAPS? [Redacted] is happy to speak directly to them to discuss the think tank event with Ms Hyslop. This is probably the easiest way to organise it. You will have seen from my other emails, that I am on leave now until 10 May, so copying in [Redacted] as they will be picking up arrangements while I am off.

Many thanks,  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2017 13:11  
**To:** [Redacted]

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**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Dear [Redacted],

- Great, the Ambassador will be available for lunch with Ms Hyslop. Shall we say 1300?
- From CDG, you could take the train or a taxi, which is 50 euro flat rate.
- On hotels, copying my colleague [Redacted] in our visits team who will be able to advise.
- We should have contacts at CAPS – I will check with our Foreign Policy team.
- [Redacted] also has contacts, and he might like to be the initial point of contact if he is to accompany Ms Hyslop on her visit?
- For your meetings with counterparts, I will flag to the UK desk officer in the Quai that you are coming – I imagine he will be able to set up meetings with [Redacted].
- It would be great for you to meet some Embassy staff too – I will set up some meetings here, once we have secured your meetings at the Quai

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 25 April 2017 17:31

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

**Importance:** High

Dear [Redacted],

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs is attending the media launch of the Lorient Festival in Paris on 22 May. The event is due to take place at the British Embassy in the evening. We would like to arrange some meetings with the French Foreign Ministry around this visit. We have been liaising with the French Consul-General in Edinburgh, [Redacted].

We appreciate that as this visit is so close after the French elections, that it will be highly unlikely to secure meetings with Ministers, but it should be possible to secure meetings with senior officials in the Quai D'Orsay. We would therefore like to request a meeting with the Secetaire General, Christian Masset. We had also hoped to meet with a think tank(s) in Paris, and the Consul-General suggested it might be possible to organise a closed roundtable discussion with the think tanks through the Centre d'Analyse, De Prevision et De Strategie in the Quai D'Orsay. The subject of the discussion would be "Scotland and Europe".

Lastly, we would like to request a meeting with the British Ambassador if he is available. Perhaps a lunchtime meeting or just before the media launch?

We would look to have Ms Hyslop in Paris by early afternoon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance with this.

Kind regards,  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2017 12:01  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Hi [Redacted],

That's great – thanks so much! Grateful if you could keep me posted on any developments as I am trying to pull together the briefing for the visit.

Thank you!

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2017 11:24  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Hi [Redacted],

We have been in contact with them this morning – they are working on setting the round table up, but are trying to work out who is around to attend.

I will get back to you as soon as we have any more detail.

Thanks!  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2017 11:54  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

[Redacted]

Grateful if you could please give me a wee update on the meeting with the think tanks. Have you heard anything back from CAPS?

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[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 12 May 2017 11:57

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Hi [Redacted],

The meeting with Masset, the Secretary General, has been agreed for 4:15-5pm, we are in the process of contacting CAPS to offer them the remaining time slot (ie 2:30pm-4pm I believe?)

Many thanks

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 12 May 2017 12:54

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

[Redacted]

I was wondering if you had heard anything back from the Foreign Ministry regarding the CAPS meeting and meeting with the Secretaire General?

Thanks,

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 09 May 2017 11:29

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Hello [Redacted],

Many thanks to both you and [Redacted] for your help so far with this visit. I'm following up as [Redacted] is on leave at the moment.

I just wanted to check-in on whether it has been possible for you to seek meetings with the Secretary General of the Quai D'Orsay and whether you have, or would be able to contact CAPS on our behalf regarding the possibility of a 'Scotland and Europe' themed discussion please?

Happy to discuss if easier. I'll be at my desk for most of the day.

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Thanks

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2017 17:44  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Thanks [Redacted].

- Thank you. That would be great if you could check if the Embassy car is available.
- [Redacted], Deputy Director, myself (desk officer for France) and one of Ms Hyslop's Private Secretary's will be travelling with her but I will need to confirm the name at a later date.
- Flights will be booked shortly and one of my colleagues will send these details to you in my absence.

I had just emailed [Redacted] and said that the plan would be for the entire delegation (Cab Sec, [Redacted], me and the PS) to have lunch with the Ambassador if that is acceptable. Thank you for the hotel information. We will book this on our end.

Thanks so much for your assistance.

Kind regards,  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2017 13:25  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs' Visit to Paris - 22 May - Request for meetings

Thanks [Redacted].

I will be leading on the logistical arrangements for the visit which includes both the accommodation and transport elements.

In the past we have provided Mrs Hyslop with an Embassy car and driver for her visits to Paris. I can check to see if one is available. There might be a charge if these are needed out of hours but we can discuss that once [Redacted] has firmed up the Minister's programme.

- Please could you let me know how many people (name and job title please) will be travelling with the Minister, I can then reserve a vehicle and pass the relevant information to the MFA by Note Verbal.

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- Grateful for the full information about the flights in and out of Paris please – terminal, flight number and where the flight is coming in from and going out to please.
- Could you also let me know which of the members of the delegation would be accompanying the Minister for lunch. I'll then check with the Private Office and Residence the arrangements. Grateful if you would let me know if there are any particular dietary requirements.
- The hotel we use regularly, which is convenient for the Residence (five minutes walk away) is the:

Hotel Madeleine Plaza  
33, place de la Madeleine  
75008 Paris  
Phone : + 33 (0) 1 43 12 92 60

Shall I leave you to book this as they will need credit card details?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2017 13:48  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Restaurant recommendations

Thanks for all the responses.

With regard to getting to the airport – the biggest consideration to you, others and your home department, when members of their team are travelling abroad should be your safety. With this in mind, my suggestion would be you take a taxi. But, if there are policy or resource implications perhaps it would be worthwhile having a word with someone on your home team,

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2017 14:43  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Restaurant recommendations

Hi [Redacted],

Please see my responses below in red.

Thank you!  
[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2017 11:40  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Restaurant recommendations

Good morning [Redacted],

[Redacted- out of scope]

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – depart Edinburgh 08:40 – arrive Paris DE GAULLE, 11:30 – Air France - **AF 1687 – Terminal E**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – depart Paris DE GAULLE, 07:10 – arrive Edinburgh 07:55 – Air France - **AF 1686 – Terminal E**

I don't have flight numbers/terminal details for these but can get those to you later today if that's okay as I am waiting for them from Ms Hyslop's Private Office. Grateful if they could be sent through asap as I need to send off the Note Verbale to the French authorities informing them of the visit. **Please see above.**

Will it be okay for the Embassy car to take us to the hotel first to drop off our bags before heading to the Embassy for lunch with the Ambassador or do you think it's best to do this after our meetings at the Quai D'Orsay (which should finish around 5pm)? Best to do it after the meetings as you can only properly check into the room after 14h30 – so they risk not being ready. **Sounds good.**

Will it also be okay for the Embassy car to take Ms Hyslop from the hotel back to the Embassy for the reception later that evening? It's possible but there would be a charge as it's outside normal office hours. It's less than 5minutes walk. [Redacted] can come and collect you from the hotel and take you there. Are you sure you want the vehicle? **No, that's okay then. That's great if [Redacted] can come meet us – thank you!**

[Redacted – out of scope]  
Thank you!

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2017 16:05  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Ms Hyslop visit - Meeting with Junior Europe Minister

Hi [Redacted],

[Redacted]

Still waiting to hear back from Culture ministry.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Thursday, 18 May 2017 17:18

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To: [Redacted]  
Subject: Re: A pitch for Monday - Fiona Hyslop in Paris  
Hello [Redacted]

A chat with Ms Hyslop at the end of the afternoon next monday is welcome. Tell me when exactly and Xherdan, I'll be there.

Kind regards  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2017 13:26  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** A pitch for Monday - Fiona Hyslop in Paris

Hello [Redacted],

[Redacted] here from the Scottish Government – I would like to draw your attention to a visit to Paris on Monday (22 May) by our Europe Secretary, Fiona Hyslop.

Ms Hyslop is scheduled to meet with Secetaire General Christian Masset, where she will stress to the new French Government the importance Scotland places on its relationship with France, which Scotland intends to deepen in the future. Ms Hyslop will also use the opportunity to update Mr Masset on Scotland's constitutional journey while stressing the Scottish Government's commitment to the values of the EU and stated wish to be an EU member.

Would you or your colleagues be interested in interviewing Ms Hyslop before or during her visit? If before, to trail her visit, we could arrange for something over the phone.

If one of your colleagues would like to interview her in person on Monday, this can be arranged. She is due to speak at the British Embassy that evening at the launch of the Festival Interceltique de Lorient, where Scotland is country of honour. However, we could arrange something for 17:30, just after Ms Hyslop's meeting with Mr Masset.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

**[Email: RE: A pitch for Monday - Fiona Hyslop in Paris]**

Dear [Redacted],

I have just talked to my office in Paris, we would very much like to talk to Fiona Hyslop before her trip to Paris. Which means I would be the one interviewing her and then we could run the story on Monday morning or on Sunday.

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If she's in Scotland, I suppose we will need to organise it by phone. I could do anytime tomorrow afternoon ?

Let me know what could work,

Kind regards,  
[Redacted]

Hello [Redacted],

Thank you very much! Looking forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 18 May 2017 16:13

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: A pitch for Monday - Fiona Hyslop in Paris

Hello [Redacted],

Thanks for your email, I am talking to my colleagues in Paris right now and will come back to you asap.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]