

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government official and Ministerial private office**

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** Thursday, 23 February 2017 17:19

**To:** Minister for International Development and Europe

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; *[redacted]* Communications CTEA

**Subject:** Malawi - President Peter Mutharika Relieves Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, George Chaponda of his Ministerial Duties

*[redacted]*,

The Minister may wish to note that President Peter Mutharika relieved his Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, George Chaponda, MP of his Ministerial duties yesterday (22 February 2017).

The former Minister was relieved of his ministerial duties in connection to an on-going inquiry related to the purchase of Maize from Zambia by the Agricultural Development And Marketing Corporation Limited (ADMARC), which his Ministry oversees and he was intimately involved with. The National Assembly of Malawi's Joint Committee on Agriculture and Irrigation and Public Accounts on 12 February 2017 published an adverse report on the allegations of fraud in relation to the purchase of Maize from Zambia, members of ARDMARC and others. At the Conclusion of the report it states:

'The Committee further found the following matters to be *prima facie* evidence of fraudulent activities during the procurement of the maize (including):

d.) the interference by Hon. Dr. George Chaponda and his Zambian counterpart in granting Transglobe a maize export permit and in allowing Transglobe to supply maize to ADMARC when Transglobe did not have any contract with ADMARC.

e.) The repeated lies told by witnesses in both Malawi and Zambia in a gallant and spirited bid to mislead the Committee.'

It is thought that the findings of this report formed the basis for Mr Chabonda's removal. Subsequent to his removal he was found by the Malawian Government's Anti-Corruption Bureau to have K166 million (£182,000) stashed in suitcases at his house.

The Minister will wish to note that George Chiponda visited Scotland in an official capacity between 30 November - 04 December 2015 and met with Dr Allan's predecessor Mr Yousaf, the Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer, various MPs and others. The primary reason for the visit was to attend, with Mr Yousaf, the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation on the afternoon of 02 December 2014.

We will continue to monitor the situation and report as necessary to the Minister.

<http://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-president-fires-minister-chabonda-maizegate-scandal/>

<http://www.nyasatimes.com/chabonda-faces-similar-charges-cashgate-convict-sithole-malawi-fired-minister-assets-tour-acb/>

<http://www.orakonews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FINAL-REPORT-OF-THE-JOINT-PARLIAMENTARY-COMMITTEE-ON-AGRICULTURE5698.pdf>

**[redacted]**

**[redacted] | [redacted] International Development Team | The Scottish Government | [redacted] Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel [redacted] BlackBerry [redacted]**

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials and Ministerial private office**

**From:** *[redacted]* On Behalf Of Minister for International Development and Europe

**Sent:** 03 March 2017 14:13

**To:** *[redacted]*; Minister for International Development and Europe

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; *[redacted]*; Communications CTEA

**Subject:** RE: Malawi - President Peter Mutharika Relieves Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, George Chaponda of his Ministerial Duties

Hi *[redacted]*,

Thanks for this. Grateful if you could ensure that Mr Yousaf is sighted on this if not already. The Minister has also commented that in the FOI response, we may wish to clarify that we do not provide funding to the Government of Malawi.

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]* *[redacted]*

Office of Dr Alasdair Allan, MSP, Minister for International Development and Europe



Scottish Government, Room 2N.15, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I



*[redacted]* |  [MinisterIDE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterIDE@gov.scot) | [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

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**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 24 February 2017 09:20

**To:** Minister for International Development and Europe

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; *[redacted]*; Communications CTEA

**Subject:** RE: Malawi - President Peter Mutharika Relieves Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, George Chabonda of his Ministerial Duties

*[redacted]*

As a post Script the Minister will wish to be aware that some of the correspondence requested under Fol/EIR 17/00092 (see attached) are letters between Mr Yousaf and Dr Chabonda (in his then position as Minister for Foreign Affairs).

<< File: Letter SG Minister ID to GoM Minister FA November 2015#2.pdf >> << File: Letter SG Minister ID and GoM Minister FA 25 Jan 15#2.pdf >> << File: Letter GoM Minister FA to SG Minister ID 26 November 2014#2.pdf >> << File: Letter GoM Minister FA to SG Minister ID 11 December 2014#2.pdf >>

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]* *[redacted]* International Development Team | The Scottish Government |  
*[redacted]* | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel *[redacted]* BlackBerry *[redacted]*

**Emails correspondence between Scottish Government officials**

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 04 May 2017 17:12

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Cc:** News Desk; (*[redacted]*)Communications CTEA; *[redacted]*

**Subject:** Media Query - Malawi aid and corruption

*[redacted]*, lovely to speak to you on the phone there.

As discussed, the Mail on Sunday have a couple of questions regarding SG aid funding to Malawi following the corruption scandals surrounding the Malawian Agricultural minister, George T. Chaponda. (Full query below)

Specifically the journalist has asked:

- I understand Scotland gives £2.7m in aid to Malawi every year, via charities and organisations working there. Can you let me know if this is inaccurate?
- Can the Scottish Government offer an assurance that taxpayers money sent from Scotland will not be siphoned off by corrupt officials?
- Are there any investigations into this at the moment?
- Was any of the £470,000, either directly or indirectly, paid to the Malawian government?

Grateful for views.

Thanks,

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]* | Media Monitor

Media Monitoring Unit | Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, EH1 3DG

*[redacted]* | e: *[redacted]*

I'm writing about a piece for this week's Scottish Mail on Sunday about George T. Chaponda, who was recently fired as Malawi's Minister of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development.

In February, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officers invaded and confiscated money amounting to MK166 million from suitcases in the Minister's house.

In his role as agriculture minister he is accused of corruption over the emergency procurement of maize - a staple food - after severe rains and droughts in 2015 and 2016 left millions at risk of starvation.

As part of his simultaneous role as foreign minister, Scottish Government has hosted Mr Chaponda on several occasions.

He has met the Presiding Officer and the First Minister, as well as Humza Yousaf and discussed Scotland's aid donations to Malawi.

He has also written to Humza Yousaf's office asking for Â£4m in additional aid money, and asked for the Malawian government to be more involved in deciding which projects get funding.

Last year, the Scottish Government announced that an extra Â£470,000 would be provided to pay for basic food rations and seeds to help alleviate the same crisis Mr Chaponda is now alleged to have exploited.

This followed the Malawian High Commissioner in London writing to the Scottish Government asking for emergency funding.

Can you let me know the following:

1. I understand Scotland gives Â£2.7m in aid to Malawi every year, via charities and organisations working there. Can you let me know if this is inaccurate?
2. Can the Scottish Government offer an assurance that taxpayers money sent from Scotland will not be siphoned off by corrupt officials?
3. Are there any investigations into this at the moment?
4. Was any of the Â£470,000, either directly or indirectly, paid to the Malawian government?

## Emails between Scottish Government officials and Ministerial private office

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 05 May 2017 14:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

**Cc:** [redacted] Communications CTEA; [redacted] **Subject:** LINES TO CLEAR: Malawi aid and corruption

Thanks [redacted].

[redacted], the Mail on Sunday have asked for information and a comment on SG aid funding to Malawi following the corruption scandals surrounding the Malawian Agricultural minister, George T. Chabonda. The lines below have been cleared by officials and SpAd. Can you let me know if Ms Hyslop is content to clear?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“It is right and fitting that Scotland does its bit to help some of the world’s most vulnerable people. As a nation, we are playing our part as a good global citizen to tackle global challenges.

“Our IDF funding goes directly to Scottish International Development organisations to ensure the money produces the best possible outcomes for people living in partner countries, including Malawi, and the Scottish taxpayer. We do not provide funding to governments of partner countries.”

### **Background**

*I understand Scotland gives £2.7m in aid to Malawi every year, via charities and organisations working there. Can you let me know if this is inaccurate?*

The Scottish Government provides over £3 million funding from the International Development Fund directly to a number of Scottish based international development

organisations to carry out project work in Malawi. Information on current projects can be found online: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/International/int-dev/Maps/Malawi/2015projects>; and <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/International/int-dev/smallgrants>

*Can the Scottish Government offer an assurance that taxpayers money sent from Scotland will not be siphoned off by corrupt officials?*

All funding is given directly to Scottish-based INGOs, we do not provide direct funding to governments of partner countries. Our International Development Strategy is clear on this commitment. See page 13:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/International/int-dev/idstrategy>

*Are there any investigations into this at the moment?*

No.

*Was any of the £470,000, either directly or indirectly, paid to the Malawian government?*

No. All funding is given directly to Scottish-based INGOs, we do not provide direct funding to governments of partner countries. Recipients of the funds are detailed online: <https://news.gov.scot/news/hunger-in-malawi> and <https://news.gov.scot/news/help-for-malawi>

## **Extra information**

A request by Mr Chaponda for additional funding following the 2015-18 Malawi funding round was declined in the interests of procedural fairness, openness and transparency.

Thanks,

**[redacted]**

**[redacted]** | **[redacted]** | Communications Safer and Stronger (Justice and Education News Hub) | Scottish Government **[redacted]** | **[redacted]** | [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

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Out of hours: 0300 244 4000

## Emails between Scottish Government officials

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 05 May 2017 11:41

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Cc:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** FW: FOI - SO - Alasdair Allan and Malawian government officials - Katy Sutherland

**Importance:** High

Another one from Katy Sutherland. Again, focused on Chaponda, fraud. Pls take forward.

**From:** Central Enquiry Unit

**Sent:** 05 May 2017 11:07

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** FOI - SO - Alasdair Allan and Malawian government officials - Katy Sutherland

**Importance:** High

Good morning *[redacted]*

The email enquiry below was received at the Central Enquiry Unit today.

I would be grateful if you would deal with this or forward it to the appropriate person / area of business.

***You may wish to acknowledge receipt of this email to the enquirer, as the Central Enquiry Unit does not reply to the sender.***

Thank you

*[redacted]*

Ext *[redacted]*

Central Enquiry Unit

Reminder: If this email contains a request for information please remember that the Scottish Government is required to respond to all requests for information including e-mails, within 20 working days of receipt in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. Please refer to the [FOI Guidance](#).

All FOI requests received must be registered on the [FOI Tracker](#).

If the request is from a journalist, responses should be issued by the relevant communications team. Please ensure that you involve them throughout the process and also clear your draft response with SPADs and Ministers. Guidance on this is available at Steps 33 and 34 of the [Step-by-Step Guide to Handling FOI/EIRs Requests](#).



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

From: Katy Sutherland [<mailto:magicked879@gmail.com>]

Sent: 05 May 2017 10:54

To: Central Enquiry Unit

Subject: Alasdair Allan

To whom it may concern,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with the following information:

Copies of all correspondence between Alasdair Allan, in his role as Minister for International Development & Europe, and Malawian government officials.

Copies of all correspondence to or from Alasdair Allan that mention the word "corruption" "fraud" "maize" or "investigation" along with the word Malawi.

Copies of all correspondence to or from Alasdair Allan that mentions George Chaponda, foreign minister of Malawi.

Some parts of the request may be easier to answer than others. Should this be the case, I request that you release information as soon as possible.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material.

I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would prefer to receive the information electronically. If you require any clarification, I expect you to contact me under your section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance if you find any aspect of this FOI request problematic.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request, and I look forward to receiving the information in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

Katy Sutherland

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 05 May 2017 17:55  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Sunday Mail Article - George Chaponda

Thanks, [redacted], much appreciated but inevitably very sad

Best wishes  
[redacted]  
Mobile -[redacted]  
Land line -[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 May 2017 16:38  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Sunday Mail Article - George Chaponda

Hi,

Hope you are both well.

Just to let you know that we have been approached by a journalist from the Mail on Sunday regarding the Scottish Government's Malawi Development funding and our relationship with former Minister George Chaponda. The journalist is writing a piece about former Minister George Chaponda, and his removal from the Agricultural portfolio. We believe that the article is to be published in this weekend's edition of the Mail of Sunday.

I thought that you would wish to know about this in advance.

***[redacted]***

***[redacted] [redacted]*** International Development Team | The Scottish Government | Floor  
2GN*[redacted]* | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel *[redacted]* BlackBerry *[redacted]*

## Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials and Ministers

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 07 May 2017 08:54

**To:** News Desk; Minister for International Development and Europe; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: LINES TO CLEAR: Malawi aid and corruption

[redacted] et al,

If needed please contact me on my personal number – [redacted] as my BB on the blink.

Read through the article, which:

Mentions that George Chabonda ('GC') visited Scotland and met FM, PO and Mr Yousaf;

Tries to link SG and UK (DFID) International Development funding;

[redacted]

Jackson Carlaw has called for '... a full investigation into this individual to ensure that no foreign aid has been misspent.';

Links the request for the reallocation of MDF (discussed above) with the subsequent decision in relation to the Climate Just Fund, which is incorrect;

Mentions the match funding that we provided to SCIAF, Oxfam, EMMS International and Christian Aid, with (supportive) quotes from SCIAF and Oxfam in relation to the funding they received;

[redacted]

[redacted]

I don't think there is anything that we have to react to immediately, or probably at all. I'll discuss this on Monday with Comms colleagues.

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] International Development Team | The Scottish Government |  
[redacted] Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel [redacted] BlackBerry [redacted]

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials**

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 08 May 2017 10:49

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Cc:** *[redacted]*; News Desk; Minister for International Development and Europe; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

**Subject:** RE: LINES TO CLEAR: Malawi aid and corruption

*[redacted]*,

Having read the article I don't see a great deal of merit in asking the MoS to correct the record.

*[redacted]*

My view is we should send on some factual information making clear there was no link between Chaponda's request and the Climate Justice Fund, so that this can be made clear in any subsequent articles.

Are you happy to proceed on this basis?

Thanks

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]* Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

T: *[redacted]* | M: *[redacted]*

*[redacted]*

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials and UK Government officials**

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 08 May 2017 10:58

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** RE: Mail on Sunday Enquiry - Mr George Chaponda

Yes there was in the Sunday Times yesterday. Trying to get the link but you can read it on the main news item

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]* DDSC|Foreign & Commonwealth Office|King Charles Street|London SW1A 2AH|Tel:

*[redacted]*

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 08 May 2017 10:39

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** RE: Mail on Sunday Enquiry - Mr George Chaponda

*[redacted],*

I have just found out that there was also something in the Times, but not see that yet.

*[redacted]*

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 08 May 2017 10:35

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** RE: Mail on Sunday Enquiry - Mr George Chaponda

Thanks Ian. I've also forwarded to our press office here.

Regards,

**[redacted]**

**[redacted]** | DDSC | Foreign & Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH | Tel:  
**[redacted]**

**From:** **[redacted]**

**Sent:** 08 May 2017 09:36

**To:** **[redacted]**

**Cc:** **[redacted]**

**Subject:** RE: Mail on Sunday Enquiry - Mr George Chaponda

Dear all,

Please find attached a copy of the Mail on Sunday article discussed below.

**[redacted]**

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**From:** **[redacted]**

**Sent:** 05 May 2017 14:15

**To:** **[redacted]** **Cc:** **[redacted]**

**Subject:** Mail on Sunday Enquiry - Mr George Chaponda

Dear **[redacted]** et al.

I hope that this finds you well.

Just to let you know that we have been approached by a journalist from the Mail on Sunday regarding the Scottish Government's Malawi Development funding and our relationship with former Minister George Chabonda. The journalist is writing a piece about former Minister George Chabonda, and his removal from the Agricultural portfolio. We believe that the article is to be published in this weekend's edition of the Mail on Sunday.

I thought that you would wish to know about this in advance.

***[redacted]***

***[redacted]*** ***[redacted]*** International Development Team | The Scottish Government | ***[redacted]*** | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel ***[redacted]*** BlackBerry ***[redacted]***

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials**

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 08 May 2017 15:08

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** Re: Chaponda - MDP - Corruption Accusations FMQ Brief May 17

Thanks *[redacted]*

Shaping up ok

Main thing is FMQ approach - need to start with what has happened / what the issue is. I think it's then facts to draw on rather than "top lines" prob fine to use most of the material just in different style.

*[redacted]*

Suggest you reformat and submit for now

Ta

*[redacted]*

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** Monday, 8 May 2017 13:40

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** Chaponda - MDP - Corruption Accusations FMQ Brief May 17

*[redacted],*

Thanks for looking at this. I'll sent electronic copies of the articles separately as eRDM doesn't seem to working properly at present.

*[redacted]*

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials and Ministerial private office**

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 05 June 2017 10:09

**To:** Minister for International Development and Europe; *[redacted]*

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; *[redacted]*

**Subject:** RE: Background on FoIs

*[redacted]*,

With my apologies for the delay.

**FoI/17/01085**

Attached is a paper in relation to the alleged frauds.

**FoI/17/01074**

This request is in relation to any correspondence between Dr Allan and the GoM. There are 3 pieces of correspondence (one in relation to the addition to Renewable Energy as a new theme in the Cooperation Agreement and the other 2 each a thank You letters after you visit to Malawi). These have now been released.

**FoI17/01075**

This request is in relation to correspondence to Dr Allan mentioning the words “corruption” “fraud” “maize” or “investigation” together with the word “Malawi”. There is one piece of correspondence, a factual submission on the removal from the position of Minister of Agriculture of George Chaponda by the President of Malawi.

**FoI17/01076**

This request is in relation to correspondence to Dr Allan that mentions George Chabonda, Foreign Affairs Minister of Malawi.. There is one piece of correspondence, a factual submission on the removal from the position of Minister of Agriculture of George Chabonda (former Minister for Foreign Affairs) by the President of Malawi.

Is this sufficient for the Minister's use?

***[redacted]***

***[redacted]*** ***[redacted]*** International Development Team | The Scottish Government |  
***[redacted]*** Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel ***[redacted]*** BlackBerry ***[redacted]***

**Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials**

**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 19 July 2017 15:28

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Cc:** News Desk; *[redacted]*

**Subject:** RE: Malawi - President Peter Mutharika Relieves Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, George Chabonda of his Ministerial Duties

Hi *[redacted]*,

Could you please copy lines to my colleagues on the reactive news desk, they field media enquiries.

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]* Communications Tourism, Culture and External Affairs

The Scottish Government

*[redacted]*

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**From:** *[redacted]*

**Sent:** 19 July 2017 15:13

**To:** Minister for International Development and Europe

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; *[redacted]*; Communications CTEA

**Subject:** RE: Malawi - President Peter Mutharika Relieves Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, George Chabonda of his Ministerial Duties

Dear *[redacted]*,

Further to my e-mail below, the Minister will wish to note that the Malawian press are reporting (see below) that the former Minister George Chabonda has now been arrested by the country's Anti-Corruption Bureau in connection to the inquiry into the purchase of Maize from Zambia discussed below.

We can expect to be contacted by both the UK press and individuals regarding our relationship with Malawi and Mr Chabonda. I shall liaise with Comms colleagues to provide draft lines for the Minister's approval in due course.

<https://www.nyasatimes.com/chabonda-arrested-acb-quizzes-ex-malawi-minister-corruption-maizagate-case/>

<https://malawi24.com/2017/07/19/george-chabonda-arrested/>

***[redacted]***

***[redacted]*** | ***[redacted]*** International Development Team | The Scottish Government |  
***[redacted]*** Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel ***[redacted]*** BlackBerry ***[redacted]***

## Emails correspondence between Scottish Government officials and Ministers

**From:** *[redacted]* On Behalf Of [MinisterIDE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterIDE@gov.scot)

**Sent:** 25 July 2017 11:47

**To:** *[redacted]*

**Subject:** For Clearance

Hi *[redacted]*,

*[redacted]*

### 4. ID Submissions to Note

- *[redacted]*
- Malawi - President Peter Mutharika Relieves Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, George Chaponda of his Ministerial Duties

*[redacted]*

*[redacted]*

**Office of Dr Alasdair Allan, MSP, Minister for International Development and Europe**

 Scottish Government, *[redacted]* St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I

 *[redacted]*  [MinisterIDE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterIDE@gov.scot) | [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)