

Email correspondence between the First Minister's officials and Fergus Ewing and his officials regarding the event in Dumfries (from dates: 1/1/18-16/5/18)

From: First Minister

Sent: 15 May 2018 18:09

To: [REDACTED] First Minister

Cc: Communications First Minister; [REDACTED]; Lloyd E (Elizabeth); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser; Crawford E (Ewan); Higgins K (Kate); Bowman K (Katy); Maxwell S (Stewart) (Special Adviser); [REDACTED]; Communications Economy; [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: URGENT comms handling for clearance: National Economic Forum

[REDACTED]

The FM is content to clear the undernoted.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 May 2018 16:31

To: First Minister

Cc: Communications First Minister; [REDACTED]; Lloyd E (Elizabeth); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser; Crawford E (Ewan); Higgins K (Kate); Bowman K (Katy); Maxwell S (Stewart) (Special Adviser); [REDACTED]; Communications Economy; [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; [REDACTED]

Subject: URGENT comms handling for clearance: National Economic Forum

FMPO,

(Copying Mr Mackay and Mr Ewing for information)

The First Minister is speaking at NEF in Dumfries tomorrow and taking part in a Q&A with Lindsay McQuade from Scottish Power Renewables, Steve Dunlop from Scottish Canals and Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing. Ahead of the First Minister speaking, Mr Mackay is visiting Ninefold Distillery to highlight SG's work around business rates for small businesses.

We have issued an open invite to photographers to attend Mr Mackay's visit to the distillery and/or the First Minister's speech. We have also invited broadcasters to attend and record the speech, listen to the Q&A and get clips with the First Minister. ITV Borders have already confirmed they will attend and would like to do an 'as live' interview with the First Minister.

I plan to issue the below news release tomorrow morning. We can also give this to GMS to run in the morning.

The proposed handling and news release have been agreed between comms and spads. Grateful for the First Minister's clearance as soon as possible this afternoon.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

Driving forward the rural economy

Protecting rural Scotland from Brexit.

The Scottish Government will continue to support and invest in the rural economy despite Brexit, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said at the 20th National Economic Forum in Dumfries.

With 97% of Scotland's land mass classed as rural, the theme of the forum is 'driving forward the rural economy'.

Steps by the Scottish Government to support the rural economy include:

- Establishing the Scottish Rural Parliament
- Appointing a Council of Rural Advisers
- Establishing a south of Scotland development agency by 2020, and setting up the South of Scotland Economic Partnership
- Committing to publish proposals on ensuring a smooth transition in farming support as the UK leaves the EU
- Dualling the A9 and A96 and investing £35 million in the Maybole bypass between Stranraer and Ayr
- Implementing the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband scheme

The First Minister said:

"In many of the sectors that our economic future depends, rural communities make a massive contribution. So ensuring rural Scotland thrives is a fundamental part of ensuring our economy thrives.

"Scotland – including rural Scotland – has huge economic strengths and potential. Brexit makes it more important than ever that we build on those, which is why we must ensure the specific consequences of Brexit for rural communities are identified and addressed.

“By investing in innovation and infrastructure and providing the right support for business we can help rural Scotland to build on its strengths, overcome challenges such as Brexit and seize new opportunities.

“The importance of recognising rural needs is also why we are establishing a new south of Scotland development agency. And ahead of it being established, we have set up the South of Scotland Economic Partnership, backed by £10 million of additional funding.

“All of these steps will support the rural economy, and in turn drive Scotland forward.”

[REDACTED]

First Minister Communications

@scotgovFM

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of First Minister

Sent: 14 May 2018 11:12

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

Subject: FW: Ministerial Engagement Notification - Wednesday 16 May

FYI – attempted to send this today but undeliverable due to IT issue with parliament email addresses.

Will resend on behalf of all Ministers once fixed.

[REDACTED]

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG| [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of First Minister

Sent: 14 May 2018 11:08

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Ministerial Engagement Notification - Wednesday 16 May

Dear Sir/ Madam

FOR INFORMATION – MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT

This is a courtesy email to inform you that Scottish Ministers will be undertaking an engagement in your constituency area on Wednesday 16 May.

The Ministers will be attending the National Economic Forum at Easterbrook Hall, Crichton Campus, Bankhead Road, Dumfries DG1 4TA from 11:00.

Ministers in attendance:

First Minister
Deputy First Minister
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

FirstMinister.gov.scot

Fìrionn Mhinistear na h-Alba

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