

Document 1

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 May 2015 14:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] ;[redacted]); [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

[redacted]

<http://itspublicknowledge.info/ApplicationsandDecisions/Decisions/2012/201101968.aspx>

I hope this is helpful by way of background. As discussed, we will of course consult our Ministers and let them know that you have concerns, but I'm afraid we do need to respond to the requester by Monday on this.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 May 2015 12:05
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Further to our discussion yesterday I have spoken to our legal advisers and DPA colleagues about your concerns and considered all your points fully. They have confirmed that they would not regard us confirming that we do not hold any correspondence from the Duke of Rothesay on a particular subject over a specified period (in this case the referendum and independence) as breaching the Data Protection Act.

[redacted] This approach is also more consistent with the Scottish Government's commitment to being as open and accessible as possible.

[redacted]. As you know there has been a lot of recent interest in the Duke's letters (I think there are currently seven live cases), [redacted]

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 May 2015 11:59
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

<http://itspublicknowledge.info/ApplicationsandDecisions/Decisions/2011/201000570.aspx>

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for phoning. Please see attached above a copy of the decision I was referring to. As you'll see in this case the Commissioner did not agree with the Scottish Government's decision to neither confirm nor deny whether it held letters on certain subjects on the basis of it being the Prince of Wales' personal data.

I will speak to my DPA colleagues about this and get back to you as soon as possible.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 May 2015 11:02
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Thank you [redacted].

Could we agree on me giving you a bell at 11.30am tomorrow?

Kind regards,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 May 2015 10:32
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Hello [redacted]

I am around most of today, although in meetings between 3.30 and 4.30. Or tomorrow I'm free between 11.30 and 1 or after about 3pm. I hope that helps.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 May 2015 10:17

To: [redacted]

Subject: FW: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Good morning [redacted],

Could you please indicate a good time to call you to discuss the below?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 May 2015 09:49

To: [redacted] **Cc:** foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Thanks very much for your comments. [redacted]

Therefore, I'm afraid that in this case we wish to continue to provide a more open response, confirming that we don't have any letters on independence/the referendum during the specified time period. [redacted].

I hope that helps explain our reasoning a bit more, but please give me a call on the number below if you would like to discuss it.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 May 2015 16:42

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]); Freedom of Information; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this FOI request relating to the Prince of Wales.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of Scottish Government's views on this suggestion.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 14 May 2015 15:02

To: [redacted]

Cc: FOI; [redacted]; foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Further to [redacted]email of 5 May 2015 about an FOI request relating to the Prince of Wales and Scottish Government.

Please see attached the proposed reply to the request:

- *“Can you please supply any letters the Prince has written to Scottish Government ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2011-2014.”*

The Scottish Government does not hold any information within the scope of this request.

If you can let me know if you have any comments on this reply **by 1700 on Thursday 21 May** it would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted] | Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | 2 West, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 06 May 2015 10:06

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this request to the Scottish Government regarding correspondence between The Prince of Wales and Scottish Ministers. Thank you also for notifying the Household of your intention to split this request into two.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses to these requests, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 May 2015 12:32

To: FOI

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear FOI team

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received a further request for correspondence from the Prince of Wales to Scottish Ministers (this is a revised request after the cost limit was applied in relation to the requester's previous request). The request is as follows:

I am now writing to request all, if any, official letters and correspondence between Prince Charles and the Scottish Government over specific policy matters.

Can you please supply any letters the Prince has written to Scottish Government ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2011-2014.

Can you also supply any letters Prince Charles wrote to Scottish ministers in relation to environmental/wildlife issues in the last ten years.

We are proposing to split this into two separate requests, with the request about the referendum/ independence being handled under FOISA and the request about environmental/wildlife issues being handled under the EIRs. Clarification is being sought to see if the requester is willing to be more specific about the type of environmental issues they are interested in as that part of the request is still very broad.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests (our statutory deadline for responding to the referendum and independence-related request is 1 June), although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage. We may not actually hold any letters from the Prince of Wales within the scope of the request on the referendum/independence, although more searches are needed to be sure if that is the case or not.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 2

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 May 2015 17:04
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: section 18 of FOISA - public interest test

Dear [redacted]

As promised, I have considered the public interest arguments in this case and set out the initial arguments on each side. [redacted]

FOI/15/00719 – request for ‘any letters Prince Charles has written to Scottish Government Ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2011-2014’.

- [redacted]

As discussed [redacted] I hope this helps.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 3

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 May 2015 14:28
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]); [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

My colleague [redacted], in the Scottish Government Freedom of Information Unit, had notified you of a request from [redacted], a journalist with the Sunday Post, in relation to correspondence received by the Scottish Ministers from Prince Charles about windfarms or wildlife.

A search of our records has returned one letter [redacted] I attach a copy of that letter, as well as my draft response to [redacted], for your consideration.

[redacted]

I would be grateful for any feedback you have on this approach and the proposed response to [redacted], and would be very happy to provide any clarification you may need or to discuss further if that would be helpful.

The due date for response is 4 June.

Best regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] Development and Engagement Manager, Environment and Forestry Directorate
1-D North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted]

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

Sent: 06 May 2015 10:06

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this request to the Scottish Government regarding correspondence between The Prince of Wales and Scottish Ministers. Thank you also for notifying the Household of your intention to split this request into two.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses to these requests, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 May 2015 12:32

To: FOI

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear FOI team

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received a further request for correspondence from the Prince of Wales to Scottish Ministers (this is a revised request after the cost limit was applied in relation to the requester's previous request). The request is as follows:

I am now writing to request all, if any, official letters and correspondence between Prince Charles and the Scottish Government over specific policy matters.

Can you please supply any letters the Prince has written to Scottish Government ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2011-2014.

Can you also supply any letters Prince Charles wrote to Scottish ministers in relation to environmental/wildlife issues in the last ten years.

We are proposing to split this into two separate requests, with the request about the referendum/ independence being handled under FOISA and the request about environmental/wildlife issues being handled under the EIRs. Clarification is being sought to see if the requester is willing to be more specific about the type of environmental issues they are interested in as that part of the request is still very broad.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests (our statutory deadline for responding to the referendum and independence-related request is 1 June), although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage. We may not actually hold any letters from the Prince of Wales within the scope of the request on the referendum/independence, although more searches are needed to be sure if that is the case or not.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 4

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 June 2015 16:23
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Hynd JS (James); [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your comments. [redacted]

[redacted]

I hope that helps in explaining the decision we reached.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 June 2015 15:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Hynd JS (James); [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted],

Very many thanks for the clarifications.

[redacted]

We would be very grateful for further guidance on this.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,
[redacted]
[redacted]
Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 June 2015 11:37
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; James.Hynd@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

[redacted]

I hope that helps.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 June 2015 10:43
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Hynd JS (James); [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted],

Very many thanks for your email. Before I discuss the points you have raised with my colleagues, [redacted]

Many thanks.

Kind regards,
[redacted]
[redacted]
Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
[redacted]
E[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 June 2015 18:35
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [\[redacted\]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk); [redacted]
Subject: FW: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Further to our earlier discussions, apologies for the delay in coming back to you. We now have Ministerial clearance for our responses to [redacted] two requests (see attached) – we plan to issue these to him on Thursday.

[redacted]

Further response for comments

We will of course continue to look at any future requests on a case by case basis, although we do have one further request which I notified [redacted] about on 15 May [FOI/15/00785](#). Originally it stated:

Further to my recent request (Fol/15/00499), could you please provide me with copies of all correspondence between HRH Prince Charles (Duke of Rothesay) and the office of the Scottish Government's environment minister (or equivalent), prior to the exemption "Communications with Her Majesty etc. and honours" coming into force in the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act.

The requester has now narrowed it down as follows:

'Given the EIRs apply and there is no Royal exemption, could I request and correspondence from 2011 onwards? If that is too broad and you need to narrow it down to a subject area, I'll take a punt at wind farms.'

Therefore, given the request would still be manifestly unreasonable on grounds of cost if it was looking for any correspondence, we have narrowed down the search to wind farms. As for [redacted] request, there is no correspondence held on this subject so we would expect to issue the same response for this case as for the wind farms element of [redacted] request. A copy of the draft reply for case FOI/15/00785 [redacted] is attached in case you have any comments beyond those already made in relation to [redacted] requests. The deadline for responding is 24 June.

I hope this is helpful and am happy to discuss any queries.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 May 2015 12:05
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Further to our discussion yesterday I have spoken to our legal advisers and DPA colleagues about your concerns and considered all your points fully. They have confirmed that they would not regard us confirming that we do not hold any correspondence from the Duke of Rothesay on a particular subject over a specified period (in this case the referendum and independence) as breaching the Data Protection Act.

[redacted]

[redacted] This approach is also more consistent with the Scottish Government's commitment to being as open and accessible as possible.

[redacted] As you know there has been a lot of recent interest in the Duke's letters (I think there are currently seven live cases), [redacted]

Best regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 May 2015 11:59

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

<http://itspublicknowledge.info/ApplicationsandDecisions/Decisions/2011/201000570.aspx>

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for phoning. Please see attached above a copy of the decision I was referring to. As you'll see in this case the Commissioner did not agree with the Scottish Government's decision to neither confirm nor deny whether it held letters on certain subjects on the basis of it being the Prince of Wales' personal data.

I will speak to my DPA colleagues about this and get back to you as soon as possible.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 May 2015 11:02

To: [redacted] **Subject:** RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Thank you [redacted].

Could we agree on me giving you a bell at 11.30am tomorrow?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 May 2015 10:32

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Hello [redacted]

I am around most of today, although in meetings between 3.30 and 4.30. Or tomorrow I'm free between 11.30 and 1 or after about 3pm. I hope that helps.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]
See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 May 2015 10:17
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: 9416 - FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Good morning [redacted],

Could you please indicate a good time to call you to discuss the below?

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 May 2015 09:49
To: [redacted]
Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Thanks very much for your comments. We have considered this here, but under FOISA [redacted]

[redacted]

Therefore, I'm afraid that in this case we wish to continue to provide a more open response, confirming that we don't have any letters on independence/the referendum during the specified time period. [redacted]

I hope that helps explain our reasoning a bit more, but please give me a call on the number below if you would like to discuss it.

Best regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 21 May 2015 16:42
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Freedom of Information; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this FOI request relating to the Prince of Wales.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of Scottish Government's views on this suggestion.

Best wishes,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 May 2015 15:02
To: [redacted]
Cc: FOI; [redacted]; foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Further to [redacted] email of 5 May 2015 about an FOI request relating to the Prince of Wales and Scottish Government.

Please see attached the proposed reply to the request:

- "Can you please supply any letters the Prince has written to Scottish Government ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2011-2014."

The Scottish Government does not hold any information within the scope of this request.

If you can let me know if you have any comments on this reply **by 1700 on Thursday 21 May** it would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted] | Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | 2 West, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 06 May 2015 10:06

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this request to the Scottish Government regarding correspondence between The Prince of Wales and Scottish Ministers. Thank you also for notifying the Household of your intention to split this request into two.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses to these requests, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 May 2015 12:32

To: FOI

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear FOI team

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received a further request for correspondence from the Prince of Wales to Scottish Ministers (this is a revised

request after the cost limit was applied in relation to the requester's previous request). The request is as follows:

I am now writing to request all, if any, official letters and correspondence between Prince Charles and the Scottish Government over specific policy matters.

Can you please supply any letters the Prince has written to Scottish Government ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2011-2014.

Can you also supply any letters Prince Charles wrote to Scottish ministers in relation to environmental/wildlife issues in the last ten years.

We are proposing to split this into two separate requests, with the request about the referendum/ independence being handled under FOISA and the request about environmental/wildlife issues being handled under the EIRs. Clarification is being sought to see if the requester is willing to be more specific about the type of environmental issues they are interested in as that part of the request is still very broad.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests (our statutory deadline for responding to the referendum and independence-related request is 1 June), although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage. We may not actually hold any letters from the Prince of Wales within the scope of the request on the referendum/independence, although more searches are needed to be sure if that is the case or not.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[redacted]

Document 5

From: [redacted]

Sent: 15 May 2015 10:41

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted]

Just to update you regarding the requests below, [redacted] has already sent you a draft reply to the part about the referendum and independence. In relation to the second part about the environment (FOI/15/00721), the requester has agreed to narrow his request below to focus on any correspondence about wildlife and

windfarms. Colleagues are therefore carrying out searches to see if there is any relevant correspondence.

We have also received a further request as below:

FOI/15/00785 - Further to my recent request (Fol/15/00499), could you please provide me with copies of all correspondence between HRH Prince Charles (Duke of Rothesay) and the office of the Scottish Government's environment minister (or equivalent), prior to the exemption "Communications with Her Majesty etc. and honours" coming into force in the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act.

We are likely to seek clarification on this as I think the requester has misunderstood that the exemption has been in FOISA since it first came into force (and besides which this request would need to be considered under the EIRs). As it stands it'd be likely to be manifestly unreasonable on grounds of cost, but we'll need to confirm if the requester narrows down their subject matter.

I understand there are also a number of other similar requests received in the past few days so colleagues will notify you of those shortly.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 06 May 2015 10:06

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this request to the Scottish Government regarding correspondence between The Prince of Wales and Scottish Ministers. Thank you also for notifying the Household of your intention to split this request into two.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses to these requests, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 May 2015 12:32

To: FOI

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales

Dear FOI team

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received a further request for correspondence from the Prince of Wales to Scottish Ministers (this is a revised request after the cost limit was applied in relation to the requester's previous request). The request is as follows:

I am now writing to request all, if any, official letters and correspondence between Prince Charles and the Scottish Government over specific policy matters.

Can you please supply any letters the Prince has written to Scottish Government ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2011-2014.

Can you also supply any letters Prince Charles wrote to Scottish ministers in relation to environmental/wildlife issues in the last ten years.

We are proposing to split this into two separate requests, with the request about the referendum/ independence being handled under FOISA and the request about environmental/wildlife issues being handled under the EIRs. Clarification is being sought to see if the requester is willing to be more specific about the type of environmental issues they are interested in as that part of the request is still very broad.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests (our statutory deadline for responding to the referendum and independence-related request is 1 June), although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage. We may not actually hold any letters from the Prince of Wales within the scope of the request on the referendum/independence, although more searches are needed to be sure if that is the case or not.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[redacted]

Document 6

From: [redacted]

Sent: 19 May 2015 15:35

To: [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; Bird L (Lisa); [redacted]; First Minister

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of these three FOI requests concerning the Prince of Wales.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 15 May 2015 17:25

To: FOI

Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted];

[redacted] scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear FOI team,

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received 3 further requests for correspondence from HRH Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of the Scottish Government.

The requests are noted below:

1) "Could I ask for correspondence between Prince Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014"

2) "On Channel Four News last night, the former First Minister said that he had received "quite a few letters from Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. This is reported at the end of a story in The Scotsman today:
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/prince-of-wales-black-spider-letters-published-1-3771959>

Please could the government provide copies of all letters sent by the Prince to [the former First Minister] when he was First Minister, and any replies. Please could the government also provide copies of any letters from the Prince to other First Ministers, and any replies."

3) "Since 2008, communications between Prince Charles and the First Ministers of Scotland concerning the environment (those matters defined as "environmental information" according to the interpretation of the regulations). Please can I see the information. I believe that the information requested is required in the public interest for the following reasons: 1. To uphold public confidence that the opinions of Prince Charles are appropriately considered by the First Ministers; 2. To provide assurance that records are kept of communications between Prince Charles and First Ministers; 3. To ensure that money is correctly spent in handling communications between Prince Charles and First Ministers."

Our statutory deadline for responding to these 3 requests is w/c 8 June.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests, although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage.

Regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

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

Document 7

From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 June 2015 09:58

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted] [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI search - information in scope for consideration by the Royal Household

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email and for forwarding the four letters in scope of this FOISA request for correspondence between the Prince of Wales and the former First Minister.

[redacted]

We would be very grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on this suggestion and for sight of the draft response in due course.

We are currently reviewing the other request on this subject, as attached in your email, and will endeavour to respond with our views as soon as possible.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 June 2015 18:03

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI search - information in scope for consideration by the Royal Household

Dear [redacted], this is most helpful, thank you.

I would also welcome advice from the Royal Household on the FOI attached.

These are the last 2 in this batch of 4 on this subject received by the Scottish Government.

Kind regards, [redacted].

From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 June 2015 17:54

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI search - information in scope for consideration by the Royal Household

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. We are still liaising internally on this request but we will endeavour to respond with our views tomorrow morning.

I hope this is not an inconvenience,

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 01 June 2015 17:16

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: FOI search - information in scope for consideration by the Royal Household

[redacted] and FOI team colleagues,

I emailed you on the 15th May to notify the Royal Household that the Scottish Government has received 4 FOI requests relating to correspondence between HRH the Prince of Wales and the former First Minister of the Scottish Government.

I have now carried out a search of the information held by the Scottish Government in relation to the FOI request below and attach 4 documents, which we have found to be in scope, for consideration by the Royal Household.

1) "Could I ask for correspondence between Prince Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014"

[redacted]

Once I have received advice from the Royal Household, I will draft the response and would be happy to share a copy with you if that's helpful. I would be grateful for advice by Thursday 4 June if possible.

My colleague, [redacted], from the Scottish Government's FOI team would be happy to discuss this further with you if that would be helpful.

Many thanks,

[redacted].

From: [redacted]

Sent: 19 May 2015 15:35

To: [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; First Minister

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of these three FOI requests concerning the Prince of Wales.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 15 May 2015 17:25

To: FOI

Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear FOI team,

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received 3 further requests for correspondence from HRH Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of the Scottish Government.

The requests are noted below:

1) "Could I ask for correspondence between Prince Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014"

2) "On Channel Four News last night, the former First Minister said that he had received "quite a few letters from Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. This is reported at the end of a story in The Scotsman today:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/prince-of-wales-black-spider-letters-published-1-3771959>

Please could the government provide copies of all letters sent by the Prince to [the former First Minister] when he was First Minister, and any replies. Please could the government also provide copies of any letters from the Prince to other First Ministers, and any replies."

3) "Since 2008, communications between Prince Charles and the First Ministers of Scotland concerning the environment (those matters defined as "environmental information" according to the interpretation of the regulations). Please can I see the information. I believe that the information requested is required in the public interest for the following reasons: 1. To uphold public confidence that the opinions of Prince Charles are appropriately considered by the First Ministers; 2. To provide assurance that records are kept of communications

between Prince Charles and First Ministers; 3. To ensure that money is correctly spent in handling communications between Prince Charles and First Ministers.”

Our statutory deadline for responding to these 3 requests is w/c 8 June.

We will be in touch in due course about our responses to these requests, although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage.

Regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

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

Document 8

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 June 2015 17:55

To: [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; Communications First Minister; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOIs - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Great - thank you for the confirmation. We look forward to sight of the proposed draft response in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted] Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 June 2015 17:40

To: [redacted]

Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; CommunicationsFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOIs - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Of course - I hope the information below is helpful. Please do let me know if you need anything further.

I can confirm that no response to this FOI has issued from the Scottish Government. We are still agreeing our proposed response and once we have that I will send it to the Royal Household for their consideration.

In terms of the meaning of a review, the requestor has asked for a review because we were unable to respond to their FOI request within the 20 working days as set out by the FOI Scotland legislation.

I will be in touch once I have the proposed response.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 June 2015 17:28

To: [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted] [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; Communications First Minister; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOIs - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your swift response and for confirming that the outstanding request is the request for 'correspondence between Princes Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014'.

We would be grateful for clarification of what you mean when you say this case has gone to review. More specifically, we would be grateful if you could confirm whether this case is still in the initial response stage or whether a response has been issued.

Many thanks in advance,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 June 2015 17:14

To: [redacted]

Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; CommunicationsFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOIs - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you very much for your email.

I can confirm that the outstanding request which the Scottish Government is still working on is the request for 'correspondence between Princes Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014'.

[redacted].

I will provide a copy of our proposed response for the Royal Household's consideration this week. It may be helpful to note that this FOI has now gone to review.

Many thanks,

[redacted].

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 June 2015 16:57

To: [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; Communications First Minister; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOIs - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Many thanks for your helpful email outlining the status of five information requests received by the Scottish Government for correspondence between Ministers and The Duke of Rothesay. Thank you also for sight of the final responses for four of these requests.

With regards to the outstanding request which the Scottish Government are still working on, we would be grateful if you could confirm that you are referring to the request for 'correspondence between Princes Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014'. [redacted] According to our records, we are still awaiting confirmation of your views on our suggestions and sight of a draft response.

We are also aware of one further outstanding request received by the Scottish Government regarding correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay. On 17 June we were notified by [redacted] of a request for details of correspondence 'on the matter of the Constitution of the United Kingdom and how Scotland is affected, and the matter of the status of the Monarchy in the United Kingdom and its future in an independent Scotland.' We would be grateful for sight of any information in scope, and the draft response for this request in due course.

Again many thanks for the useful update,

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]
Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 June 2015 14:32
To: [redacted]
Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; CommunicationsFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]
Subject: Scottish Government FOIs - Duke of Rothesay correspondence
Importance: High

Dear [redacted],

Further to earlier correspondence on these four information requests which the Scottish Government has received asking for correspondence between Scottish Government Ministers and the Duke of Rothesay, please find attached the Scottish Government's responses, which will be issued by Scottish Government Communications this afternoon.

You will recall that we notified the Royal Household of each request and also sent copies of the proposed response for the Royal Household's consideration.

We have one further request which we are still working on - the Royal Household helpfully provided advice on the draft (you may recall it found four letters in scope) and I will be in touch in due course with the Scottish Government's response. This is not being issued today.

I hope this is helpful and please do let me know if any further information would be useful.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

Document 9

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 June 2015 11:52
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI/15/00800 - response

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. [redacted]we have decided with Ministers in this case that the public interest in release of the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it.

[redacted]

I hope this is helpful in explaining our position. I'm happy to discuss this.

Best regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 June 2015 10:22
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI/15/00800 - response

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email and for forwarding the draft response to this FOISA request for correspondence between the Duke of Rothesay and the former First Minister.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of your views on this suggestion.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 June 2015 10:34
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FOI/15/00800 - response

Dear [redacted]

This is further to [redacted] emails yesterday regarding FOI/15/00800 which asked for “correspondence between Prince Charles and Alex Salmond between January and October 2014”.

[redacted]

I hope this helps in explaining our decision. I have attached a copy of the response letter in case you have any comments on the wording of the response (as noted in Julie’s email it is now a review of failure to respond) – we hope to send this out shortly so I would be grateful for any comments this week if possible if you have any suggested changes to the text.

I am happy to discuss by phone if that would be helpful.

[redacted]

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew’s House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 10

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 May 2015 15:35
To: [redacted]
Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; First Minister
Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of these three FOI requests concerning the Prince of Wales.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted] **Sent:** 15 May 2015 17:25

To: FOI

Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear FOI team,

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received 3 further requests for correspondence from HRH Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of the Scottish Government.

The requests are noted below:

1) "Could I ask for correspondence between Prince Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014"

2) "On Channel Four News last night, the former First Minister said that he had received "quite a few letters from Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. This is reported at the end of a story in The Scotsman today:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/prince-of-wales-black-spider-letters-published-1-3771959>

Please could the government provide copies of all letters sent by the Prince to [the former First Minister] when he was First Minister, and any replies. Please could the government also provide copies of any letters from the Prince to other First Ministers, and any replies."

3) "Since 2008, communications between Prince Charles and the First Ministers of Scotland concerning the environment (those matters defined as "environmental information" according to the interpretation of the regulations). Please can I see the information. I believe that the information requested is required in the public interest for the following reasons: 1. To uphold public confidence that the opinions of Prince Charles are appropriately considered by the First Ministers; 2. To provide assurance that records are kept of communications between Prince Charles and First Ministers; 3. To ensure that money is correctly spent in handling communications between Prince Charles and First Ministers."

Our statutory deadline for responding to these 3 requests is w/c 8 June.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests, although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage.

Regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

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

Document 11

From: [redacted]

Sent: 19 May 2015 15:51

To: [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; First Minister

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your reply to my email of last week and I will send the draft responses, as well as any information in scope to the Royal Household in due course.

I would also like to make the Royal Household aware of a 4th request on this topic – details below:

- “ A request for access to all letters sent by the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland, during his time as First Minister, as well as all replies from the former First Minister, and all Ministerial and civil service correspondence resulting from these exchanges.
I would also like access to the same information on any letters sent by the Prince of Wales to previous First Ministers of Scotland [names provided].
Two additional requests, I would also like the same information on all letters sent by the Prince of Wales to the current First Minister of Scotland during her time as First Minister, and the same information on any letters sent by the Prince of Wales to any Scottish Government or Scottish Executive Minister since 1999.”

Similar to the 3 requests on this topic noted below, our statutory deadline for responding will be w/c 8 June.

I will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests, although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage.

If any further information would be helpful, please do let me know.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 19 May 2015 15:35

To: [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted] Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; First Minister

Subject: RE: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of these three FOI requests concerning the Prince of Wales.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses, plus any information in scope, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 15 May 2015 17:25

To: FOI

Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: FOI requests regarding letters from the Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of Scotland

Dear FOI team,

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received 3 further requests for correspondence from HRH Prince of Wales to the former First Minister of the Scottish Government.

The requests are noted below:

1) "Could I ask for correspondence between Prince Charles and [the former First Minister] between January and October 2014"

2) "On Channel Four News last night, the former First Minister said that he had received "quite a few letters from Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. This is reported at the end of a story in The Scotsman today:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/prince-of-wales-black-spider-letters-published-1-3771959>

Please could the government provide copies of all letters sent by the Prince to [the former First Minister] when he was First Minister, and any replies. Please could the government also provide copies of any letters from the Prince to other First Ministers, and any replies."

3) "Since 2008, communications between Prince Charles and the First Ministers of Scotland concerning the environment (those matters defined as "environmental information" according to the interpretation of the regulations). Please can I see the information. I believe that the information requested is required in the public interest for the following reasons: 1. To uphold public confidence that the opinions of Prince Charles are appropriately considered by the First Ministers; 2. To provide assurance that records are kept of communications between Prince Charles and First Ministers; 3. To ensure that money is correctly spent in handling communications between Prince Charles and First Ministers."

Our statutory deadline for responding to these 3 requests is w/c 8 June.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to these requests, although I would be grateful for any comments you may have at this stage.

Regards,

[redacted].

[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

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

Document 12

From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 June 2015 15:02

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Freedom of Information

Subject: RE: New FOI request - correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers

[redacted]

Thanks for your suggestion. [redacted] has passed this on to me. We have amended the draft response for FOI/15/00917 as attached based on your suggestion. [redacted]

[redacted].

I am happy to discuss.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 11 June 2015 10:15

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: New FOI request - correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response to this FOISA request for correspondence between the Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers.

The Royal Household would be broadly content with this draft, however we would suggest one minor amendment as indicated through tracked changes in the attached version.

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on this suggestion, and for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 09 June 2015 11:33

To: [redacted]

Cc: FOI

Subject: RE: New FOI request - correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers

Dear [redacted],

On the 05 June 2015 my colleague notified you of an FOI request relating to correspondence between Prince Charles and Scottish Government First Ministers.

The request is “can you please furnish me with copies of all correspondence between Scottish Government ministers and the Prince of Wales over the past three years?”.

I have drafted the attached response, which is consistent with lines you cleared last week to similar requests. We intend to refuse the request on the grounds of cost. If you could indicate your views that would be much appreciated. Our deadline for final response in 02 July 2015.

I am happy to provide any further information if you will find it of use.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Information Release Officer| People and Improvement Unit| [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 June 2015 10:27

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: New FOI request - correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this new FOI request for correspondence between the Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers.

We would be grateful for early confirmation of your intended approach, plus sight of any information in scope and the draft response in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 June 2015 10:17

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: New FOI request - correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers

[redacted],

We have received a new FOI asking for correspondence between the Duke of Rothesay and Scottish Government Ministers, which I would like to bring to the attention of the Royal Household. This is our fifth FOI on this subject. The request asks for:

“Under the above act, can you please furnish me with copies of all correspondence between Scottish Government ministers and the Prince of Wales over the past three years?”

Our initial view is that this request exceeds the cost limit. Once we have drafted a response we will share that with the Royal Household for their consideration and advice.

Please do let me know if any further information would be helpful.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

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

[redacted]

Document 13

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 July 2015 12:22

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your comments – noted. [redacted]

We would therefore have no comments to make on the draft response and would be grateful for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 July 2015 17:38
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. [redacted]

I hope that helps in explaining our thinking.

Best Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 July 2015 15:13
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email and for forwarding the additional letter in scope of this request.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for your views on this suggestion.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 08 July 2015 17:39

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Further to your email below, we have found an additional letter from 2010 within the scope of the request (this is attached). [redacted] I've attached a revised copy of the response for your information. I hope this is helpful.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 June 2015 17:04

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for confirmation of the deadline.

[redacted]

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 June 2015 15:10
To: [redacted]
Cc: FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. It would be really helpful if we could have comments back by **1500 on Wednesday 1 July**.

Grateful also if you can use this copy-list, when you respond, as I am taking annual leave from today for two weeks and won't have access to email.

Many thanks

[redacted]
[redacted] | Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | 2 West, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 June 2015 15:03
To: [redacted]
Cc: FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response and information in scope of this FOISA request relating to correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay.

We would be grateful for confirmation of the deadline for our comments on this information.

Best wishes,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From[redacted]

Sent: 25 June 2015 16:56

To: [redacted]

Cc: FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Further to [redacted]email below, please see the attached the draft reply and enclosures for your awareness.

Please let me or know if you have any queries.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | 2 West, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 June 2015 14:59

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk

Subject: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

This is to let you know that we have received a new FOI request (ref FOI/15/01018) which asks for:

‘the details of correspondence between The First Minister and other Ministers of the Scottish Government and HRH The Prince of Wales (Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay) in the period May 2007 to December 2014 on the matter of the Constitution of the United Kingdom and how Scotland is affected, and the matter of the status of the Monarchy in the United Kingdom and its future in an independent Scotland’.

Colleagues are currently carrying out searches for this information so we will let you see our draft response in due course.

Please let me know if there are any queries.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 14

From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 July 2015 17:32
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted],

Many thanks for sight of the final response to this request.

Best wishes,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 July 2015 14:40
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. Please find attached final response, which has just been issued, to FOI request (FOI/15/01018).

Best Regards

[redacted]
Elections and Constitutional Policy Officer
Elections and Constitution Division
Area 2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
EH11 3DG
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 July 2015 12:22
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your comments – noted. [redacted].

We would therefore have no comments to make on the draft response and would be grateful for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 July 2015 17:38
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email.

[redacted]

I hope that helps in explaining our thinking.

Best Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 July 2015 15:13
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]; [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email and for forwarding the additional letter in scope of this request.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for your views on this suggestion.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 July 2015 17:39
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Further to your email below, we have found an additional letter from 2010 within the scope of the request (this is attached). [redacted] I've attached a revised copy of the response for your information. I hope this is helpful.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 June 2015 17:04

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for confirmation of the deadline.

[redacted]

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 June 2015 15:10

To: [redacted]

Cc: FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. It would be really helpful if we could have comments back by **1500 on Wednesday 1 July**.

Grateful also if you can use this copy-list, when you respond, as I am taking annual leave from today for two weeks and won't have access to email.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | 2 West, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 June 2015 15:03

To: [redacted]

Cc: FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response and information in scope of this FOISA request relating to correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay.

We would be grateful for confirmation of the deadline for our comments on this information.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 June 2015 16:56

To: [redacted]

Cc: FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

Further to [redacted] email below, please see the attached the draft reply and enclosures for your awareness.

Please let me or know if you have any queries.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | 2 West, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 June 2015 14:59
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk
Subject: FOI request FOI/15/01018 - correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay

Dear [redacted]

This is to let you know that we have received a new FOI request (ref FOI/15/01018) which asks for:

'the details of correspondence between The First Minister and other Ministers of the Scottish Government and HRH The Prince of Wales (Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay) in the period May 2007 to December 2014 on the matter of the Constitution of the United Kingdom and how Scotland is affected, and the matter of the status of the Monarchy in the United Kingdom and its future in an independent Scotland'.

Colleagues are currently carrying out searches for this information so we will let you see our draft response in due course.

Please let me know if there are any queries.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 15

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 July 2015 12:52
To: [redacted]
Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; FOI; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request - HRH Prince of Wales correspondence with FMs regarding wildlife and agriculture

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email to [redacted]. Please see attached our draft response to the request below (ref FOI/15/01054). [redacted] We have confirmed that no information is held within the scope of this particular request.

[redacted]

Feel free to give me a call if you have any queries.

Best Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 June 2015 15:20
To: [redacted]; FOI
Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request - HRH Prince of Wales correspondence with FMs regarding wildlife and agriculture

Dear [redacted],

Many thanks for making the Royal Household aware of this request.

[redacted]

We would be grateful to have sight of the draft response in due course.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Research and Planning Officer | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]
Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 June 2015 07:56
To: FOI
Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FOI request - HRH Prince of Wales correspondence with FMs regarding wildlife and agriculture

Dear FOI team

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Government has received a request for "correspondence concerning wildlife and agriculture" from HRH Prince of Wales to the First Ministers of the Scottish Government since 2010.

Our deadline for responding to this request is 20 July 2015.

We will be in touch in due course about our draft responses to this request, although I would be grateful for any comments you have at this stage.

Regards,

[redacted]

Head of Information Governance | Agriculture Food and Rural Communities | The Scottish Government

[redacted]

Document 16

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 July 2015 15:52

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted] [redacted]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOI - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for this, as with previous correspondence on similar requests we have considered your views in the process of preparing our response. We will of course notify you of any future correspondence in this area.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 July 2015 15:29

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted] [redacted]

Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOI - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. We acknowledge the suggested response and we are grateful for the copy provided to the Household. [redacted]

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 July 2015 14:45
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOI - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Apologies for delayed reply in [redacted] absence.

[redacted] As per our previous correspondence and in line with our response to a similar recent request covering a slightly different time period, we have decided to confirm that we do not hold the information requested. The response as drafted (reattached for convenience) will issue later today.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted] | Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 July 2015 15:09
To: [redacted]
Cc: Freedom of Information; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOI - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email and for sight of the draft response to this FOISA request regarding correspondence with HRH The Prince of Wales on the referendum and Scottish independence.

[redacted],

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 July 2015 13:16
To: [redacted]
Cc: foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; FOI; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scottish Government FOI - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted]

Further to [redacted]email below, please see attached our draft response in this case (ref FOI/15/01055 and 1056). We are planning to issue this later this week.

In line with our response to a similar recent request which we discussed previously, we have decided to confirm in this case that we do not hold the information requested (these requests cover an older time period, but are otherwise the same).

I hope this is helpful, but feel free to give me a call if there are any queries.

Best wishes,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 June 2015 12:07
To: foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Freedom of Information; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Scottish Government FOI - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear FOI team

I am writing to notify you that the Scottish Government has received a further request for correspondence from the Prince of Wales to Scottish Ministers. Request as follows:

Can you supply any letters Prince Charles has written to Scottish Government Ministers regarding the referendum and Scottish Independence in the years 2005-2011.

I will be in touch about our draft reply to this request in due course and the statutory deadline for response is 20 July.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted] | Elections and Constitution Division | Scottish Government | 2 West, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

Document 17

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 July 2015 12:13

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI/15/01059 - Correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and former First Minister

Dear [redacted]

Thanks very much for your email. [redacted]

I hope this helps clarify things.

Also, just to check if you're want to discuss the BBC's response with the letters to and from Richard Lochhead about the North Highland Initiative. Today is the deadline so we're planning to release them this afternoon.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 July 2015 10:36

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI/15/01059 - Correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and former First Minister

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for the explanations offered below.

[redacted] As you are aware, the Information Commissioner recommends that public authorities consider the following questions when considering whether release of personal data would be fair within the context of freedom of information legislation:

- Would the disclosure cause unnecessary or unjustified distress or damage to the person who the information is about?
- Would the third party expect that his or her information might be disclosed to others?
- Had the person been led to believe that his or her information would be kept secret?
- Has the third party expressly refused consent to disclosure of the information?

I will give you a call shortly to discuss.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 July 2015 15:55
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI/15/01059 - Correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and former First Minister

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. [redacted]

I hope this is helpful in explaining our reasoning for releasing the letter. We are planning to issue the response on Wednesday this week, but feel free to give me a call if you have any queries.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 July 2015 17:08
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI/15/01059 - Correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and former First Minister

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email and for sight of the draft response to this FOI request.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on this suggestion.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 15 July 2015 16:22

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FOI/15/01059 - Correspondence between Duke of Rothesay and former First Minister

Dear [redacted]

I enclose a copy of our proposed response to an FOI request for:

“copies of all letters sent by Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, to Alex Salmond when he was First Minister, and any replies on the topics of climate change, food, devolution, the independence referendum, wildlife, agriculture and historic buildings”.

As for similar requests, we have found no information in scope on devolution, the independence referendum, or wildlife so we have confirmed that in the draft reply.

You'll see that we propose to release just one letter from the Duke's private secretary (attached), because it is similar in nature to other letters about the Ryder Cup which have already been released. As in other similar cases, we are not proposing to release any of the letters from the Duke himself or the former FM's replies (12 letters in total).

The deadline for responding to this request is 23 July so it would be helpful if you could send me any comments you may have by 20 July.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

Document 18

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 July 2015 15:44
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; 'FOI'
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

As requested, here is a copy of the response to the original request, along with the only letter we released.

The deadline for responding to the review request is 21 August. I've just started work on the review and will aim to send you a copy of all the documents and the draft review response well in advance of the deadline.


 **FOI_15_01059 -**
Prince's PS to HM Duke of Rothesa...
-- July 2010....

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 July 2015 12:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]FOI
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this internal review request.

We would be grateful for sight of all the documents in scope of this request and of the draft response in due course. We would also appreciate confirmation of your deadline for responding to this request for review.

In addition, we would be grateful for sight of your final response to the request at the initial stage, for our records.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 July 2015 09:31
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

[redacted]

Just to let you know that we have already received a review request for case FOI/15/01059 (Sunday Herald). I've copied the text of their request below for your awareness. I've asked [redacted] to undertake the review as he wasn't involved in the decision making for that request so he'll be in touch.

'I wish to request an internal review of the Scottish Government's decision to withhold correspondence between Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and Alex Salmond when he was First Minister. The government's letter of 23 July 2015 dealing with the matter is attached, and I would appreciate an acknowledgement of my request.

I accept that the government cannot provide any correspondence relating to devolution, the independence referendum and wildlife if none exists. What I would like the government to review, however, is the decision to withhold an unspecified amount of correspondence on climate change, food, agriculture and historic buildings.

The government argues that it is in the public interest to keep the correspondence secret in order not to "prejudice substantially the interests of His Royal Highness by inhibiting his ability to put forward his views on the subjects you have specified freely and frankly to Scottish Ministers in future".

I beg to differ. The views of Prince Charles on these topics are well known and have been well aired, and I doubt whether the release of this correspondence would deter him from writing again. In any case, I would argue that in a modern democracy there is an overwhelming public interest in knowing what suggestions the heir to the throne is making to political leaders. This was apparently the view taken in England and Wales, when many of his letters to UK ministers were recently released after a prolonged freedom of information case.

For these reasons I would be grateful if the decision could be reviewed.

Thank you for your help.'

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government

[redacted]

See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 July 2015 17:35

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Great, thanks [redacted].

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 July 2015 17:31

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Thanks [redacted]

That's fine. I have another meeting at 10am until about 11, but if you phone around 9.30 that'll be no problem.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 July 2015 17:25
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

[redacted],

[redacted]– my agenda for our chat tomorrow was much more general. I should be ok for 9.15am, but perhaps I could call you [redacted]

Best,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 July 2015 12:50
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

[redacted] – tomorrow's OK (although we do need to issue the reply to FOI/15/01059 today so I wasn't sure from [redacted] email if you were wanting to discuss that as well – that case is fairly clear cut from our perspective though in terms of us needing to release the letter).

Shall we say 9.15 tomorrow to discuss the BBC's request FOI/15/01111 (we have issued the remainder of the responses where no information was held, but held off responding to the one case about the Cab Sec for Rural Affairs where there are the 2 letters)?

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 July 2015 12:38
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Hi [redacted],

I'm in meetings almost back to back until 5pm now unfortunately – my diary is looking much less jammed tomorrow though; could we arrange a time to chat then? Feel free to suggest whatever suits you.

[redacted]
From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 July 2015 11:59
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

[redacted]

Is there a good time for me to call you today? I'm around until 3.30.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]
See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 July 2015 10:44
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted]

[redacted] is in a meeting this morning and will be out of the office for part of the afternoon so she asked me to reply to your e-mail.

I should explain that our knowledge of the Scottish Information Commissioner's approach isn't based only on her guidance. After 10 years' experience of appeals and decisions, as well as regular discussions with the Commissioner and her staff, we have developed a good understanding of how she approaches the application of

exemptions and the types of information she is likely to require us to release at appeal stage.

[redacted]

The Commissioner has made the point about not applying exemptions in a blanket fashion in various ways and on various occasions. This extract from her [Decisions Round-Up: 18 to 22 March 2013](#) is a good example:

Exemptions should only be applied to information which should be withheld

Often, an applicant will request a range of information, some of which is suitable for disclosure, and some of which might be withheld legitimately. In these circumstances, do not be tempted to apply a "blanket" exemption to all the information. Consider what you can release, and give it to the applicant, withholding only the information which is exempt. If the case is appealed to us, you will have to justify your decision to the Commissioner in relation to all of the information. If we find that some of the information cannot be withheld, you will have to release the information to the applicant anyway. It's much quicker, where you can, to simply provide it in the first place.

Here is a more detailed example from her [guidance on the section 30 exemptions](#):

23. Some public authorities have argued that disclosing any advice or views makes it inevitable that officials will conclude that other internal communications will probably have to be disclosed, thereby inhibiting the way in which advice or views are given in the future. This is sometimes known as "the cooling effect".

24. The Commissioner does not accept that the disclosure of advice or views in one case will have a substantially inhibiting effect in all others. The exemptions in section 30(b) must not be treated as "class exemptions". (Class exemptions – such as the exemptions in section 29 – allow information to be withheld if it falls into a particular category, e.g. Ministerial communications.) With section 30(b), authorities must consider the content of the information before deciding whether disclosure would, or would be likely to, cause substantial inhibition.

25. The Commissioner believes officials are capable of understanding that some information of a particular type may be disclosed, while other information of the same type may be withheld, depending on the circumstances. Decisions are always taken on a case-by-case basis: disclosing advice or views in one case does not imply that information in another case will also have to be disclosed. The Commissioner's decisions since FOISA came into force back

this up.

26. The Commissioner recognises that the general right of access provided by FOISA must be balanced against the need to protect genuinely sensitive information, but this does not justify a blanket exemption on all internal communications for fear that officials will react negatively to the release of information. Instead, public authorities should assess the effect of disclosing the information in question before applying either of the exemptions in section 30(b).

27. The Court of Session agreed with this approach in the case of *Scottish Ministers v Scottish Information Commissioner* [2006] CSIH 8 (see **Appendix 1 – Resources**). In their appeal, the Ministers argued that the Commissioner had erred in law by not recognising the possibility that, although the section 30 exemptions were not class based exemptions, they might apply to a class of documents, irrespective of the actual content of the documents. The Court disagreed, saying that individual documents had to be scrutinised to establish whether they contain information which, when read in the context of related information, would, or would be likely to, have the specified harmful effect. Only after such scrutiny is it possible to say whether the information concerned would, or would be likely to, have such an effect.

Although the above example is focused specifically on section 30, it is a good indication of the approach which the Commissioner expects us to take to the application of exemptions more generally.

I hope this helps and [redacted] or I will be happy to discuss further.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 July 2015 17:58
To: [redacted] [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email to [redacted] below. I note your point about the Information Commissioner with interest and would be grateful for more information on the Commissioner's stance as we are not aware of the relevant precedent-setting guidance.

Perhaps we could discuss over the telephone tomorrow?

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] / Private Secretary's Office / Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA / [redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 July 2015 13:53
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. [redacted]

I hope this helps explain our position.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 July 2015 12:14
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email and for outlining the Scottish Government's intention to release the two letters to and from the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs in scope of this request.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on this as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 20 July 2015 17:27

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted]

[redacted]

I have therefore attached again a copy of the two letters we plan to release. These are expected to be issued on Wednesday. Feel free to give me a call though if you want to discuss it before then.

Best Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 July 2015 14:41

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted]

[redacted] is on leave this week but I can confirm that these requests were all made by a BBC journalist, [redacted].

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted] Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **Sent:** 13 July 2015 14:24

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] Freedom of Information

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. We look forward to sight of the final response in due course.

In the meantime, we would be very grateful for confirmation of the name of the requester who made these 6 requests and 6 others (as listed below) relating to HRH The Prince of Wales' correspondence.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 July 2015 17:33

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted]

Thanks. I'll consult colleagues on this, although I think we'd be largely OK with making the changes you suggest. We'll confirm once we have clearance.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 July 2015 17:14

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Freedom of Information

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response to six of the FOISA requests for correspondence between HRH The Prince of Wales and various Cabinet Secretaries. Thank you also for forwarding the information in scope of one of these requests.

The Royal Household would be broadly content with this draft, however we would suggest a few small amendments as indicated through tracked changes in the attached version.

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on these suggestions, and for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 July 2015 12:59
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; foi@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - refs FOI/15/01111, 01112, 01113, 01114, 01132 and 01133

Dear [redacted]

Further to my emails about 4 of the FOI requests we notified below, I now attach a draft response covering 6 of the other requests listed (all except the ones for the former First Minister, where the cost limit will be applied in line with all the other similar requests).

[redacted]

I'd be grateful for any comments by next Monday 13 July to ensure we can meet the deadline.

Thanks for your help.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 June 2015 15:13
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of these 12 new FOI requests relating to correspondence with HRH The Prince of Wales. Thank you also for your helpful indication of the Scottish Government's intended approach where possible.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses, plus any information held, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 June 2015 13:39

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; FOI

Subject: further FOI requests

Dear [redacted]– please see below a further 12 FOI requests we received last week (all from the same person). I have indicated our planned replies for the first six of the requests. For the other six, we are trying to encourage the requester to narrow the scope of the requests to make them more manageable, but they are not currently available so we will be commencing searches in the meantime (there is unlikely to be much for any of those 6 [redacted])

1. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities](#) between [May 2007](#) and [December 2008](#). Please also include any responses sent by the minister to Prince Charles.
2. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities](#) between [January 2009](#) and [December 2010](#). Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

For the 2 above this Cab Sec post did not exist until 2011 so no information will not be held as it's not possible for the Duke to have written to a Cab Sec who didn't exist.

FM:

1. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the First Minister between [January 2007](#) and [December 2008](#). Please also include any responses sent by the minister to Prince Charles.
2. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the First Minister between [January 2009](#) and [December 2010](#). Please also include any responses sent by the minister to Prince Charles.

For the 2 requests above the cost limit applies as per the other similar requests we have received – the First Minister could have received correspondence on any subject so a government-wide trawl would be needed to find it.

Cab Sec Culture:

1. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.
2. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

For the 2 above this Cab Sec post did not exist until 2011 so no information will not be held as it's not possible for the Duke to have written to a Cab Sec who didn't exist.

Cab Sec Rural Affairs:

1. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.
2. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

Cab Sec Health:

1. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles
2. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

Cab Sec Education:

1. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.
2. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House

Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 19

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 August 2015 18:28
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your comments. That's helpful. [redacted]
Best regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 August 2015 15:23
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: FW: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for sending through the attached draft response to this Internal Review request.

The Royal Household would be broadly content with the intended approach. We would be grateful, however, if you would consider the following points:

[redacted]

We would be grateful for the Scottish Government's views on the above points and for sight of an amended draft in due course.

With many thanks and kind regards,

[redacted]
[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2015 10:23
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

[redacted]

Thanks. If you could reply by Thursday that'd be very helpful.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2015 09:43
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Apologies for any confusion caused with the Annex and thank you for sending through the updated version.

We will consult on this internally and get back to you by the end of the week, if that is okay? I appreciate that that is later than the deadline you originally proposed but, as it is August, it is taking us slightly longer than usual to consult with colleagues.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 August 2015 17:47
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Thanks. Apologies, I hadn't realised you were waiting to see the actual Annex.

See attached.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 August 2015 17:22
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: FW: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

I'm sorry to bother you but I was wondering if you had had a chance to update the proposed Annex below?

Once we have this, we can review and revert with our views.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 14:17
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

It would be useful if you could put extracts in the Annex, if that is okay.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 14:14
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

That sounds fine. [redacted]

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 07 August 2015 13:59

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

[redacted]

With many thanks and kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 07 August 2015 13:20

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. We had viewed these documents as pretty much all in scope so were planning to provide them in full, although let me know if you think that's not correct.

[redacted]

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 07 August 2015 12:20

To: [redacted] [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for sending through the other documents within scope. We will liaise internally and respond with our views. [redacted]

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 11:04
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Further to your call earlier, apologies for the confusion. I've checked and [redacted] meant to attach document 15 which his email below, but attached document 12 by mistake (the relevant in scope bits of document 12 were already included in the Annex to the covering letter). I've therefore attached document 15, which is a reply to document 6.

[redacted]

Please let me or [redacted] know if there are any queries.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05 August 2015 15:25
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; 'FOI'; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059
Importance: High

Dear [redacted]

I enclose a copy of my initial draft review response, along with the correspondence which I propose to release. [redacted].

I will be on leave from tomorrow evening so could you send any comments to [redacted], please. To help us meet the response deadline, it would be helpful to have your comments by 10 August, if possible.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 July 2015 08:53
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; FOI
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

In [redacted] absence, thank you for forwarding the response sent at the initial stage of this request, and the letter released.

We look forward to receiving the internal review draft response and information in scope in due course.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 July 2015 15:44
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; FOI
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

As requested, here is a copy of the response to the original request, along with the only letter we released.

The deadline for responding to the review request is 21 August. I've just started work on the review and will aim to send you a copy of all the documents and the draft review response well in advance of the deadline.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 July 2015 12:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] FOI
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this internal review request.

We would be grateful for sight of all the documents in scope of this request and of the draft response in due course. We would also appreciate confirmation of your deadline for responding to this request for review.

In addition, we would be grateful for sight of your final response to the request at the initial stage, for our records.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 July 2015 09:31

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

[redacted], [redacted]

Just to let you know that we have already received a review request for case FOI/15/01059 (Sunday Herald). I've copied the text of their request below for your awareness. I've asked [redacted] to undertake the review as he wasn't involved in the decision making for that request so he'll be in touch.

'I wish to request an internal review of the Scottish Government's decision to withhold correspondence between Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and Alex Salmond when he was First Minister. The government's letter of 23 July 2015 dealing with the matter is attached, and I would appreciate an acknowledgement of my request.

I accept that the government cannot provide any correspondence relating to devolution, the independence referendum and wildlife if none exists. What I would like the government to review, however, is the decision to withhold an unspecified amount of correspondence on climate change, food, agriculture and historic buildings.

The government argues that it is in the public interest to keep the correspondence secret in order not to "prejudice substantially the interests of His Royal Highness by inhibiting his ability to put forward his views on the subjects you have specified freely and frankly to Scottish Ministers in future".

I beg to differ. The views of Prince Charles on these topics are well known and have been well aired, and I doubt whether the release of this correspondence would deter him from writing again. In any case, I would argue that in a modern democracy there is an overwhelming public interest in knowing what suggestions the heir to the throne is making to political leaders. This was apparently the view taken in England and Wales, when many of his letters to UK ministers were recently released after a prolonged freedom of information case.

For these reasons I would be grateful if the decision could be reviewed.

Thank you for your help.'

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

Document 20

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 November 2015 12:31

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Application for Decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner - [redacted] -
FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Many thanks for sending the Royal Household a copy of the draft response to the Scottish Commissioner's questions. We have now had the time to consider the draft which contains very detailed argumentation, for which we are grateful. [redacted]

We would be grateful to learn of your views on the Household's suggestions. Please let me know if you would prefer for me to give you a call to discuss.

[redacted]

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 19 November 2015 14:44

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Application for Decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner - [redacted] -
FOI/15/01059

Importance: High

Dear [redacted], [redacted]

Further to [redacted] e-mail below, I enclose our draft response to the Commissioner's questions in relation to [redacted] appeal.

The first half of our submission is taken up with an outline of the history of this request, and his previous and subsequent related requests, which [redacted] has not mentioned in his appeal to the Commissioner. Parts of the rest of it deal with his complaints about our asking him to narrow the scope of his request and our refusal of his earlier request on cost grounds, which we're arguing shouldn't be part of the appeal because he didn't ask for a review on these points. Also, they have been overtaken by his subsequent request, which gave him most of what he asked for.

[redacted]

The deadline for sending our submission to the Commissioner is 25 November, so it would be helpful if you could let me have any comments by **close on 24 November**.

Please give me a call if you would like to discuss any of this.

Kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 November 2015 10:03

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk; [redacted] [redacted]

Subject: FW: Application for Decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner - [redacted] - FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Further to the helpful meeting yesterday, we have now received questions from the Commissioner's office in relation to [redacted] appeal. See attached their list of 13 questions. We will prepare our response to this, but please let me know if you wish to make any comments under any of the questions.

[redacted]

We have been given until 18 November to respond – I have asked for some more time as a week isn't very long, but I'd be grateful if you could send any comments by 18 November at the latest.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 November 2015 17:51
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Application for Decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner - [redacted] - 201501588

Our Ref: 201501588
Your Ref: FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Application for Decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner
Applicant: [redacted]

I refer to our telephone conversation today in connection with [redacted] application to the Scottish Information Commissioner. As explained, [redacted] case has been allocated to me for investigation.

I attach for your reference a copy of a letter being posted today, inviting submissions on the application. I have attached it both as a PDF and also in Word format for your assistance. I understand a copy of [redacted] application has already been sent to you by our Validation Officer, [redacted], on 24 September 2015. Please let me know if you require a further copy.

Scope of Investigation

My investigation will cover the matter raised by [redacted] in his application to the Commissioner, namely the withholding of information by the Ministers in terms of regulation 10(5)(f) of the EIRs.

With reference to the matter raised by [redacted] regarding whether it was reasonable for the Ministers to suggest his request be narrowed, on the basis that they hold no central record of correspondence with HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, the investigation will also look into how the Ministers hold such information, and how it is searched for and located, to consider whether they are complying with the EIRs in these respects.

Finally, comments are also invited on whether the Ministers consider that it represented good practice to provide only extracts of information, and whether they believe they have met the requirements of regulation 9 of the EIRs (Duty to provide advice and assistance).

Should you wish to discuss the contents of the letter, please contact me on my direct dial [redacted]. I am normally in the office Monday to Thursday each week.

I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this email.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

[redacted] Freedom of Information Officer

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road
St Andrews, KY16 9DS

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Web: www.itspublicknowledge.info

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Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS
Tel: 01334 464610 Fax: 01334 464611

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Think before you print

Document 21

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 July 2015 17:05

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; Freedom of Information; [redacted]
Subject: FOI issued - Duke of Rothesay correspondence

Dear [redacted],

Further to the emails below, I would like to advise the Royal Household that this FOI has just issued.



FOI - 17 July
2015(2).docx

The FOI asked for:

"Any written correspondence from HRH the Prince of Wales to Scottish Government Ministers, including correspondence sent as an email attachment from HRH the Prince of Wales' private office to Scottish Government officials."

The FOI does not specify a policy area or time frame and so exceeds the cost limit - no information has been released.

I hope this is helpful and please do let me know if you would like any further information.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 July 2015 14:30

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox

Subject: RE: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response to this FOISA request regarding correspondence between HRH The Prince of Wales and Scottish Government Ministers.

The Royal Household would be content with this draft.

We would be grateful for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course. We would also be grateful for confirmation, for our records, that your below email was the first time the Royal Household was notified of this request.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]
Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 July 2015 16:59
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration

Dear [redacted],

Please find attached the Scottish Government's proposed response to a second FOI on the subject of correspondence between Scottish Government Ministers and the Duke of Rothesay. It asks for information on:

"Any written correspondence from HRH the Prince of Wales to Scottish Government Ministers, including correspondence sent as an email attachment from HRH the Prince of Wales' private office to Scottish Government officials."

The FOI does not specify a policy area or time frame and so exceeds the cost limit.

Grateful for any advice/ amendments that the Royal Household may have by the end of the week if at all possible.

Many thanks,

[redacted].

Document 22

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 July 2015 12:41
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. Just to confirm that we have taken on board the minor changes you made in your email below and are issuing the response to the requester with your proposed changes.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 July 2015 10:21
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted])
Subject: RE: further FOI requests

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response covering four of the FOI requests received by the Scottish Government regarding correspondence with the Duke of Rothesay.

The Royal Household would be content with this draft, however we would suggest a few small amendments as indicated through tracked changes in the attached version.

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on our suggestions, and for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 July 2015 18:29
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests

Dear [redacted]

Please see attached our draft response which covers four of the requests below (the 2 on Cabinet for Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities and the 2 on the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs). These have reference numbers FOI/15/01115,16,17 and 18.

We are still in the process of searching and preparing responses for the other eight cases so will send drafts to you once they're ready.

Best Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 June 2015 15:13
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of these 12 new FOI requests relating to correspondence with HRH The Prince of Wales. Thank you also for your helpful indication of the Scottish Government's intended approach where possible.

We look forward to sight of the draft responses, plus any information held, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 June 2015 13:39
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; FOI
Subject: further FOI requests

Dear [redacted] – please see below a further 12 FOI requests we received last week (all from the same person). I have indicated our planned replies for the first six of the requests. For the other six, we are trying to encourage the requester to narrow the scope of the requests to make them more manageable, but they are not currently available so we will be commencing searches in the meantime (there is unlikely to be much for any of those 6 – so far we are only aware of the one letter about red squirrels).

3. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities](#) between May 2007 and

December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the minister to Prince Charles.

4. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

For the 2 above this Cab Sec post did not exist until 2011 so no information will not be held as it's not possible for the Duke to have written to a Cab Sec who didn't exist.
FM:

3. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the First Minister between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the minister to Prince Charles.
4. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the First Minister between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the minister to Prince Charles.

For the 2 requests above the cost limit applies as per the other similar requests we have received – the First Minister could have received correspondence on any subject so a government-wide trawl would be needed to find it.
Cab Sec Culture:

3. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.
4. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

For the 2 above this Cab Sec post did not exist until 2011 so no information will not be held as it's not possible for the Duke to have written to a Cab Sec who didn't exist.

Cab Sec Rural Affairs:

3. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.
4. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

Cab Sec Health:

3. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles

4. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

Cab Sec Education:

3. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning](#) between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.
4. Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the [Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning](#) between January 2009 and December 2010. Please also include any responses sent by the [Secretary](#) to Prince Charles.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 23

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 July 2015 16:04

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; Freedom of Information; Communications First Minister; [redacted]

Subject: FOI issued - Duke of Rothesay correspondence & First Minister of Scotland

Dear [redacted],

Further to the emails below, I would like to advise the Royal Household that this FOI response has now been issued by the Scottish Government to the requestor.

No information will be released as these 2 requests, answered in this 1 response, exceed the upper cost limit of £600.

Please do let me know if further information would be helpful. I have also copied in my Communications colleagues into this email should you require their contact details.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 July 2015 14:09

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox

Subject: RE: FOI - proposed response for consideration of the Royal Household

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response covering two FOI requests regarding correspondence between HRH The Prince of Wales and the First Minister.

The Royal Household would be content with this draft.

We would be grateful for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 08 July 2015 16:24

To: [redacted]

Cc: S[redacted] ; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: FOI - proposed response for consideration of the Royal Household

Dear [redacted],

Cc [redacted]

Further to the email from my colleague, [redacted] (Scottish Government's FOI team), notifying the Royal Household of a batch of 12 FOIs on correspondence between Scottish Government Ministers and the Duke of Rothesay, please find attached the proposed response to two of the FOIs in this batch on correspondence with the First Minister.

The FOI requests cover January 2007 to December 2010 and do not specify a subject/ policy area, and therefore locating, retrieving and providing any information would exceed the cost limit.

Grateful for any comments/ amendments that the Royal Household may have on the proposed response by the 10th July if at all possible.

Kind regards,

[redacted].



**FOI -17 July
2015.docx**

Document 24

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 August 2015 13:54
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI request to the Scottish Government - FOI/15/01315

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for sending through the attached draft response for the attention of the Royal Household.

We would be broadly content with the draft and the annexed extracts of the six letters in scope.
[redacted]

We would be grateful for your views on this. I am happy to discuss over the phone, if you prefer.

With many thanks and kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 August 2015 08:58
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; FOI
Subject: RE: further FOI request to the Scottish Government - FOI/15/01315

Dear [redacted]

Please see attached our draft reply to the further FOI request from the BBC (FOI/15/01315). You'll see that the information being provided in the Annex is mostly also all within the scope of the Sunday Herald request (although this request only covers 2007-08 and we have also viewed material relating solely to Historic Scotland's work as out of scope in this case; there is however some material on sustainable fisheries that did not fall within the scope of the Sunday Herald request, but is in scope here).

If possible, could you let me have any comments on the draft reply by Friday (21 August). Let me know if you want to see full copies of each of the six letters that are partly in scope. Thanks in advance.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 July 2015 13:51
To: foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: further FOI request to the Scottish Government - FOI/15/01315

Dear [redacted]

This is to notify you of a new FOI request from the BBC which is a follow up on the earlier cost limit response to cases FOI/15/01161 and 01162. The request is as follows:

"Please provide complete digital copies of correspondence sent by HRH Prince Charles to the First Minister between January 2007 and December 2008. Please also include any responses sent by the minister to Prince Charles.

As advised by [redacted] Head of First Minister Communications, I would like to limit this search to the two directorates of Enterprise, Environment and Innovation, and Strategy and External Affairs.

NOTE: I am aware that under Section 41 of FOISA information is exempt if it relates to communications with the Queen, with other members of the Royal Family, or with the Royal Household. However, this exemption is not absolute and I believe this information must be disclosed as the public interest in disclosure is greater than the public interest in withholding any information held."

I will ask the Directorates General concerned to undertake searches for all the relevant correspondence and then get back to you in due course with our draft response.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

[redacted]

Document 25

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 August 2015 17:31

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration - FOI/15/01350

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

The Royal Household has completed its review of the information in scope and draft response to this FOISA request concerning the Duke of Rothesay's correspondence.

The Royal Household would be broadly content with the draft response and the annexed extracts, however we would suggest a few minor amendments as indicated through tracked changes in the attached version. [redacted]

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on these suggestions, and for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

Ext: (71)3754

Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 August 2015 10:52

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration - FOI/15/01350

Thanks [redacted]

As long as you're able to respond by tomorrow that should be OK in allowing us to meet the deadline.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 August 2015 10:45
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration - FOI/15/01350

Dear [redacted],

We are aware that our views were requested for this request by today if possible, however we are still liaising internally. We will remind colleagues of this deadline and will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]
Website: www.royal.gov.uk

Dear [redacted]

Please see attached the copies of the documents included as extracts in the Annex.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 August 2015 11:07
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration - FOI/15/01350

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email and for sight of the draft response. We would be grateful if you could send through full copies of the redacted documents included in Annex B.

We will liaise internally and try to revert with our views by Tuesday 25 August.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

[redacted]

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 20 August 2015 10:54

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration - FOI/15/01350

Dear [redacted]

Please see attached our draft response to FOI/15/01350; I've also attached the schedule for information and copies of documents 5, 7, 8 and 14 which we are proposing to release in full. Many of the documents are the same as for the Sunday Herald and BBC cases so a number of the documents have already been released or will be shortly. [redacted]

[redacted] However, let me know if there are any comments on this.

I'd be grateful for any comments as soon as possible (by next Tuesday 25 August if you can). I think you already have full versions of most of the documents being provided as extracts, but let me know if you want me to provide them all.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

See the FOI SharePoint site for guidance

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 August 2015 14:40

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk

Subject: RE: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration

[redacted]

Further to the request handled by [redacted]below (FOI/15/01070), which exceeded the cost limit, we have received a further, narrower request from the same requester for the following:

1. Any written correspondence from HRH the Prince of Wales to Scottish Government Ministers, including correspondence sent as an email attachment from HRH the Prince of Wales' private office to Scottish Government officials, on rural affairs and the environment from 2007 to date.

2. Any written correspondence from HRH the Prince of Wales to Scottish Government Ministers, including correspondence sent as an email attachment from HRH the Prince of Wales' private office to Scottish Government officials, on culture and heritage from 2007 to date.

The reference for this latest request is FOI/15/01350. We will start carrying out searches now and send you a copy of the draft response once it's ready.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government

[redacted]

See the FOI SharePoint site for guidance

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 08 July 2015 16:59

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox

Subject: FOI 2 - Duke of Rothesay correspondence - for Royal Household consideration

Dear [redacted],

Please find attached the Scottish Government's proposed response to a second FOI on the subject of correspondence between Scottish Government Ministers and the Duke of Rothesay. It asks for information on:

"Any written correspondence from HRH the Prince of Wales to Scottish Government Ministers, including correspondence sent as an email attachment from HRH the Prince of Wales' private office to Scottish Government officials."

The FOI does not specify a policy area or time frame and so exceeds the cost limit.

Grateful for any advice/ amendments that the Royal Household may have by the end of the week if at all possible.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Document 26

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2015 10:10

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] [redacted] Freedom of Information

Subject: RE: Correspondence and meetings between the Prince of Wales and the First Minister - referendum

Hi [redacted]

Please find attached the final responses as issued to the requester.

Best regards

[redacted] Ministerial Private Offices

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

[redacted]



Fol_15_01503 -
Response.docx



Fol_15_01502 -
Response.docx

From: [redacted]]

Sent: 17 September 2015 09:55

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted] [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Freedom of Information

Subject: RE: Correspondence and meetings between the Prince of Wales and the First Minister - referendum

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. The Royal Household would be content with both responses as attached in your email of 11 September.

We would be grateful for sight of the final responses, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]]

Sent: 14 September 2015 14:55

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@gov.scot; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; foi@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Correspondence and meetings between the Prince of Wales and the First Minister - referendum

Hi [redacted]

If you could get back to me by Tuesday 22 September it would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 14 September 2015 14:53

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Freedom of Information

Subject: RE: Correspondence and meetings between the Prince of Wales and the First Minister - referendum

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft responses to these two FOIA requests concerning correspondence and meetings with HRH The Prince of Wales.

We would be grateful for confirmation of the deadline for our comments.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 September 2015 15:10
To: [redacted]
Cc: Protocol@gov.scot; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; foi@gov.scot
Subject: Correspondence and meetings between the Prince of Wales and the First Minister - referendum

Hi [redacted]

Further to my email below, I have now carried out a search of the information held by the Scottish Government in relation to these FOIs and I have found no documents in scope.

I would be grateful for any comments you may have on the attached draft responses.

Many thanks

[redacted]
Ministerial Private Offices
Fifth Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 August 2015 15:51
To: [redacted]
Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: New FOI requests - correspondence and meetings between the Prince of Wales and the First Minister

Hi [redacted],

We have received two new FOI requests asking for details of meetings and correspondence between the Prince of Wales and the First Minister, which I would like to bring to the attention of the Royal Household. The requests ask for:

1. Details of meetings between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales from January 2012. By 'meetings' I mean records of any gathering of any sort at which the First Minister and the Prince of Wales were present, including (but not limited to): the location of each and every meeting; the date of each and every meeting; the reason for each and every meeting; the topics discussed at each and every meeting; the recorded minutes from each and every meeting, the job titles of everybody who attended each and every meeting, the names of everybody who attended each and every meeting, etc.
 - 1) Please confirm or deny whether there have been meetings between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales.
 - 2) Please confirm or deny whether there have been meetings between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of the 2014 independence referendum.

- 3) Please provide details of all meetings between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of the 2014 independence referendum.
2. Details of correspondence between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales from January 2012. By 'correspondence' I mean details of any written communication of any sort, both internal or external, sent and received, including (but not limited to): emails; hand-written or typed letters; scrap notes; briefing notes; memoranda; working notes; transcripts of telephone conversations, etc.
 - 1) Please confirm or deny whether there has been correspondence between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales.
 - 2) Please confirm or deny whether there has been correspondence between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of the 2014 Scottish independence referendum.
 - 3) Please provide scanned digital copies of all correspondence between the First Minister and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of the 2014 Scottish independence referendum.

Once we have drafted a response we will share that with the Royal Household for their consideration and advice.

Please let me know if any further information would be helpful.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Ministerial Private Offices

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

[redacted]

Document 27

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2015 15:15

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for clarifying the information in scope of this request and for confirming that the letters regarding [redacted].

[redacted]

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2015 14:31

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Hi [redacted]

Yes, all five fall in scope of the request, but we only proposed to release the letters I originally attached (attachment 1 and 2). [redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

Ministerial Private Offices
Fifth Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2015 14:05

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your email.

[redacted] We would therefore be grateful if you could please confirm that the attached five letters constitute all of the information in scope of this request.

[redacted]

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2015 09:46

To: [redacted] **Cc:** Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Hi [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks for your comments. We will seek the views of the First Minister on the proposed draft and documents in scope.

Best regards

[redacted]

Ministerial Private Offices
Fifth Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 September 2015 16:00

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email.

[redacted]

We would be grateful for the Scottish Government's views on this matter.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 September 2015 10:55

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for your response. Just to clarify – we were proposing to release both attachments and were seeking your views on attachment two because it had not been in scope before and therefore not already released.

Thanks

[redacted]

Ministerial Private Offices
Fifth Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 September 2015 10:33

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Dear [redacted],

The Royal Household has completed its review of the draft and information in scope of this FOI request.

[redacted]

We would therefore be content with the draft response.

We would be grateful for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 15 September 2015 14:42

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@gov.scot; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response and information in scope of this FOI request concerning correspondence with HRH the Prince of Wales.

We will review this information and endeavour to respond with comments by 22nd September as requested.

Best wishes,

[redacted]


Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 14 September 2015 15:32

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol@gov.scot; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: FoI/15/001510 - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Hi [redacted]

Further to my email below, I have now carried out a search of the information held by the Scottish Government in relation to this FOI and I have found the attached documents in scope. We have released attachment 1 before, but I don't think we have ever released attachment 2 so I would be grateful for your comments.

If you could provide a response by Tuesday 22 September it would be very much appreciated, however, please do let me know if you need more time.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Ministerial Private Offices
Fifth Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 August 2015 13:02

To: [redacted]

Cc: Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: New FOI requests - correspondence between The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Hi [redacted],

We have received a new FOI requests asking for 'copies of all correspondence held by the Scottish Government between HRH The Prince of Wales and the offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister between the dates of 1 January 2013 and 31 June 2015'.

Once we have drafted a response we will share that with the Royal Household for their consideration and advice.

Please let me know if any further information would be helpful.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Ministerial Private Offices
Fifth Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Document 28

From: [redacted]

Sent: 01 September 2015 16:42

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: 'FOI (foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk)'

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Not unexpectedly, we've now received a follow-up request (copy attached) which, in essence, asks for all correspondence between the Duke of Rothesay and the former First Minister. We're considering how best to respond to this latest request and will be in touch again when we've reached some conclusions.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]



FW FOI - MI

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 August 2015 16:08
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

As promised, here is a copy of the review response we issued today.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 August 2015 18:28
To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your comments. That's helpful. [redacted]

I've attached a copy of the schedule so that'll help you check what documents there are. I think there were 15 documents at request stage, but you're correct that 3 documents are being withheld and 1 has already been released. Let me know if there are any of the documents in the list you don't think you've seen.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 August 2015 15:23

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] [redacted]

Subject: FW: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for sending through the attached draft response to this Internal Review request.

The Royal Household would be broadly content with the intended approach. [redacted]:

[redacted]

We would be grateful for the Scottish Government's views on the above points and for sight of an amended draft in due course.

With many thanks and kind regards,

[redacted]
[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 August 2015 10:23

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

[redacted]

Thanks. If you could reply by Thursday that'd be very helpful.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2015 09:43
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Apologies for any confusion caused with the Annex and thank you for sending through the updated version.

We will consult on this internally and get back to you by the end of the week, if that is okay? I appreciate that that is later than the deadline you originally proposed but, as it is August, it is taking us slightly longer than usual to consult with colleagues.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 August 2015 17:47
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Thanks. Apologies, I hadn't realised you were waiting to see the actual Annex.

See attached.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 August 2015 17:22
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FW: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

I'm sorry to bother you but I was wondering if you had had a chance to update the proposed Annex below?

Once we have this, we can review and revert with our views.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 14:17
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

It would be useful if you could put extracts in the Annex, if that is okay.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 14:14
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

That sounds fine. [redacted].

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 13:59
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

[redacted]
With many thanks and kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 13:20
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for your email. [redacted]
Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 August 2015 12:20
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for sending through the other documents within scope. We will liaise internally and respond with our views. Before doing so, however, we would be grateful if you could you clarify

whether you intend to redact those parts of documents 15, 16 and 17 that appear to be outside the scope of the request and insert what remains into the Annex, as you have done with the other correspondence within the scope of the request?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted], Research & Planning Officer | Secretariat | Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 07 August 2015 11:04

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; FOI; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

Further to your call earlier, apologies for the confusion. I've checked and [redacted] meant to attach document 15 which his email below, but attached document 12 by mistake (the relevant in scope bits of document 12 were already included in the Annex to the covering letter). I've therefore attached document 15, which is a reply to document 6.

As discussed, I'm afraid in doing further searches for another similar request, we also found the attached two documents of 15 August and 5 September 2008 (labelled as documents 16 and 17) regarding the North Highland Initiative which also fall within the scope of this request, but unfortunately I didn't locate them originally. Given that these are topics the Duke has spoken about publicly (and we have recently released similar content in the Duke's exchanges with the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment in response to FOI/15/01111), I think we would need to release these two letters.

We also found a final signed copy of document 9 (4 July 2008, previously marked as 19 June 2008) – this includes a couple of extra sections which weren't in the draft version we previously had so I have updated the relevant extract in the attached Annex to include them. Apologies for the confusion around this.

Please let me or [redacted] know if there are any queries.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05 August 2015 15:25
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; 'FOI'; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059
Importance: High

Dear [redacted]

I enclose a copy of my initial draft review response, along with the correspondence which I propose to release. As you'll see, this is mostly in the form of extracts from letters because the remaining parts of the letters are outwith the scope of the request. Only 2 complete letters would be released – see attached docs 6 and 15. I've still to clear this internally or with our Ministers but wanted to give you an early chance to comment. I've followed the approach which we discussed with [redacted] on Tuesday and am proposing to release correspondence only on subjects where the Prince's interest and involvement is already in the public domain.

[redacted]

I will be on leave from tomorrow evening so could you send any comments to [redacted], please. To help us meet the response deadline, it would be helpful to have your comments by 10 August, if possible.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 July 2015 08:53
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; FOI
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

In Confidence

Dear [redacted],

In [redacted] absence, thank you for forwarding the response sent at the initial stage of this request, and the letter released.

We look forward to receiving the internal review draft response and information in scope in due course.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 July 2015 15:44

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; FOI

Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted]

As requested, here is a copy of the response to the original request, along with the only letter we released.

The deadline for responding to the review request is 21 August. I've just started work on the review and will aim to send you a copy of all the documents and the draft review response well in advance of the deadline.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Head of FOI Casework
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 July 2015 12:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]FOI
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for making the Royal Household aware of this internal review request.

We would be grateful for sight of all the documents in scope of this request and of the draft response in due course. We would also appreciate confirmation of your deadline for responding to this request for review.

In addition, we would be grateful for sight of your final response to the request at the initial stage, for our records.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 July 2015 09:31
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: further FOI requests - ref FOI/15/01059

[redacted]

Just to let you know that we have already received a review request for case FOI/15/01059 (Sunday Herald). I've copied the text of their request below for your awareness. I've asked [redacted] to undertake the review as he wasn't involved in the decision making for that request so he'll be in touch.

'I wish to request an internal review of the Scottish Government's decision to withhold correspondence between Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and Alex Salmond when he was First Minister. The government's letter of 23 July 2015 dealing with the matter is attached, and I would appreciate an acknowledgement of my request.

I accept that the government cannot provide any correspondence relating to devolution, the independence referendum and wildlife if none exists. What I would like the government to

review, however, is the decision to withhold an unspecified amount of correspondence on climate change, food, agriculture and historic buildings.

The government argues that it is in the public interest to keep the correspondence secret in order not to "prejudice substantially the interests of His Royal Highness by inhibiting his ability to put forward his views on the subjects you have specified freely and frankly to Scottish Ministers in future".

I beg to differ. The views of Prince Charles on these topics are well known and have been well aired, and I doubt whether the release of this correspondence would deter him from writing again. In any case, I would argue that in a modern democracy there is an overwhelming public interest in knowing what suggestions the heir to the throne is making to political leaders. This was apparently the view taken in England and Wales, when many of his letters to UK ministers were recently released after a prolonged freedom of information case.

For these reasons I would be grateful if the decision could be reviewed.

Thank you for your help.'

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]
See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

Document 29

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 September 2015 12:20
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 1

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail.

As promised, I enclose our draft reply to [redacted] current FOI request. As you will see, it provides much of the correspondence he has asked for (a lot of which has been released to him or others previously – see attached schedule). [redacted]

[redacted]

As this request captures quite a lot of correspondence, I'm sending it in a series of e-mails to avoid crashing inboxes.

The deadline for answering the request is 28 September so, if possible, it would be helpful to have your views by Tuesday 22 September.

I will be on leave from this Thursday night but [redacted] will pick this up when she returns on Tuesday. I'm happy to discuss any questions or concerns any time today or tomorrow, if you would find that helpful.

Kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 September 2015 10:18
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scottish Government requests

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your time earlier this morning.

We are looking forward to receiving the paperwork for [redacted] request, which will be treated as a priority so that your deadlines are adhered to. We will also revert on the subject of the disclosure log next week, which I believe is in line with your plans, as discussed.

Kind regards,
[redacted]
[redacted]
Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 September 2015 10:22
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. [redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on our suggestions.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 September 2015 17:42
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

[redacted]

Thanks. [redacted]

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]
See the [FOI SharePoint site](#) for guidance

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 September 2015 17:35
To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. [redacted]

Please let me know if you require any further clarification. We look forward to confirmation of Scottish Government's views on these suggestions.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2015 16:38

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

[redacted]

Thanks for getting back to me. [redacted]

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Freedom of Information Unit

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2015 15:38

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

Dear [redacted],

The Royal Household has now completed its review of the 36 documents in scope of the current FOI request from [redacted].

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on these suggestions.

[redacted]

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

This information originates from the Royal Household. It may be exempt from disclosure obligations to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act. The Data Protection Act, copyright and other legislation may also apply. It is provided in confidence and must not be released by you as a public authority without prior reference to the Director of Records, Private Secretary's Office.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 18 September 2015 17:20

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the documents in scope of the current FOI request from [redacted] concerning HRH The Prince of Wales' correspondence. I can confirm that we have received all five emails with attachments.

We are currently consulting with internal colleagues and will endeavour to respond as soon as possible, however it may take a day or two longer than your requested deadline of 22 September.

Given the large amount of information in scope, we hope that you will understand and that this does not cause any inconvenience.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 September 2015 12:25
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

This is the final instalment!

Kind regards

[redacted]
From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 September 2015 12:20
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 1

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail.

As promised, I enclose our draft reply to [redacted]current FOI request. As you will see, it provides much of the correspondence he has asked for (a lot of which has been released to him or others previously – see attached schedule). Some information will continue to be withheld, mainly personal information about the Duke of Rothesay and information which if disclosed would prejudice the Duke's interests [redacted]– see the schedule.

[redacted]

As this request captures quite a lot of correspondence, I'm sending it in a series of e-mails to avoid crashing inboxes.

The deadline for answering the request is 28 September so, if possible, it would be helpful to have your views by Tuesday 22 September.

I will be on leave from this Thursday night but [redacted]will pick this up when she returns on Tuesday. I'm happy to discuss any questions or concerns any time today or tomorrow, if you would find that helpful.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Scottish Government

FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 September 2015 10:18
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scottish Government requests

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your time earlier this morning.

We are looking forward to receiving the paperwork for [redacted] request, which will be treated as priority so that your deadlines are adhered to. We will also revert on the subject of the disclosure log next week, which I believe is in line with your plans, as discussed.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

Document 31

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 October 2015 08:49
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: 'foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk'
Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

Dear [redacted]

As promised in From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 July 2015 16:04
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox; [redacted]; [redacted]; Freedom of Information; Communications First Minister; [redacted]
Subject: FOI issued - Duke of Rothesay correspondence & First Minister of Scotland

Dear [redacted],

Further to the emails below, I would like to advise the Royal Household that this FOI response has now been issued by the Scottish Government to the requestor.

No information will be released as these 2 requests, answered in this 1 response, exceed the upper cost limit of £600.

Please do let me know if further information would be helpful. I have also copied in my Communications colleagues into this email should you require their contact details.

Kind regards,

[redacted].

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 July 2015 14:09

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Protocol Mailbox

Subject: RE: FOI - proposed response for consideration of the Royal Household

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the draft response covering two FOI requests regarding correspondence between HRH The Prince of Wales and the First Minister.

The Royal Household would be content with this draft.

We would be grateful for sight of the final response, as issued to the applicant, in due course.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] Secretariat Assistant | PSO Secretariat
Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

Website: www.royal.gov.uk

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 08 July 2015 16:24

To: [redacted]

Cc: S[redacted] ; Protocol@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: FOI - proposed response for consideration of the Royal Household

Dear [redacted],
Cc [redacted]

Further to the email from my colleague, [redacted] (Scottish Government's FOI team), notifying the Royal Household of a batch of 12 FOIs on correspondence between Scottish Government Ministers and the Duke of Rothesay, please find attached the proposed response to two of the FOIs in this batch on correspondence with the First Minister.

The FOI requests cover January 2007 to December 2010 and do not specify a subject/ policy area, and therefore locating, retrieving and providing any information would exceed the cost limit.

Grateful for any comments/ amendments that the Royal Household may have on the proposed response by the 10th July if at all possible.

Kind regards,

[redacted] e-mail below, here is a copy of the final reply which was sent to [redacted].

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 October 2015 15:00
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk
Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

[redacted]

Thanks for your email and apologies for the delay in responding – unfortunately the reply got delayed. The response has now been cleared and we will be issuing it on Friday as well as publishing the package of correspondence we sent through to [redacted] and [redacted].

[redacted]

I hope this helps, but let me or [redacted] know if there are any queries.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Freedom of Information Unit
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 September 2015 15:38
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

Dear [redacted],

The Royal Household has now completed its review of the 36 documents in scope of the current FOI request from [redacted].

[redacted]

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Scottish Government's views on these suggestions.

[redacted]

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 September 2015 17:20
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for forwarding the documents in scope of the current FOI request from [redacted] concerning HRH The Prince of Wales' correspondence. I can confirm that we have received all five emails with attachments.

We are currently consulting with internal colleagues and will endeavour to respond as soon as possible, however it may take a day or two longer than your requested deadline of 22 September.

Given the large amount of information in scope, we hope that you will understand and that this does not cause any inconvenience.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 16 September 2015 12:25

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 5

This is the final instalment!

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 16 September 2015 12:20

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: FOI request - FOI/15/01516 - Part 1

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail.

As promised, I enclose our draft reply to [redacted] current FOI request. As you will see, it provides much of the correspondence he has asked for (a lot of which has been released to him or others previously – see attached schedule). Some information will continue to be withheld, mainly personal information about the Duke of Rothesay and information which if disclosed would prejudice the Duke's interests [redacted] – see the schedule.

[redacted]

As this request captures quite a lot of correspondence, I'm sending it in a series of e-mails to avoid crashing inboxes.

The deadline for answering the request is 28 September so, if possible, it would be helpful to have your views by Tuesday 22 September.

I will be on leave from this Thursday night but [redacted] will pick this up when she returns on Tuesday. I'm happy to discuss any questions or concerns any time today or tomorrow, if you would find that helpful.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 September 2015 10:18
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scottish Government requests

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your time earlier this morning.

We are looking forward to receiving the paperwork for [redacted] request, which will be treated as priority so that your deadlines are adhered to. We will also revert on the subject of the disclosure log next week, which I believe is in line with your plans, as discussed.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Research and Planning Officer

Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
[redacted]



response to FOI
request - redacted

Document 32

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 November 2015 11:05

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Invalid FOI request for correspondence between the Prince of Wales and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs {FOI/15/01893}

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for responding so promptly.

[redacted]

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 16 November 2015 13:48

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Invalid FOI request for correspondence between the Prince of Wales and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs {FOI/15/01893}

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for the below and for sight of the letter regarding marine management referenced in your draft response to the correspondent.

The Royal Household would be broadly content with this response [redacted]

We would be grateful for sight of the final response, as sent to the correspondent, in due course and for notification if they submit a further request under FOISA.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretariat Assistant

Private Secretary's Office

Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 November 2015 15:52

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Invalid FOI request for correspondence between the Prince of Wales and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs {FOI/15/01893}

Dear [redacted]

As discussed, here is the letter about marine management issues which hasn't yet been requested or published.

I should also have mentioned when we spoke that the journalist's main interest seems to be land reform, so telling him that the subjects of the 2008 letters are marine management issues and the Prince's North Highland Initiative does, we think, reduce the risk of him submitting a new request for those letters.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 November 2015 17:39

To: [redacted]

Cc: 'FOI (foi@royal.gsx.gov.uk)'

Subject: Invalid FOI request for correspondence between the Prince of Wales and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs {FOI/15/01893}

Importance: High

Dear [redacted]

I'm writing to ask for your comments on a draft response (pasted at the end of this e-mail) to a request for information (also pasted below) about correspondence between the Prince of Wales and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment.

It's a little complicated because the request was first submitted back in August but was overlooked at that time – it was also invalid because it wasn't properly sent to the Scottish Government. The requester has refused to resubmit the request in a way which would make it valid in terms of FOISA, so we're answering his questions but not formally under FOISA.

As you'll see, the answers to his questions are quite straightforward because there is no correspondence falling within the scope of three of his four questions. In relation

to the remaining question, he's only asked us to either confirm or deny the existence of correspondence, he hasn't asked for copies. So, our response simply confirms there was correspondence in 2008. There were only three letters, two of which were released in response to previous requests, but we're not releasing any of them now. My response mentions the subjects of the correspondence, partly to be helpful but also because he's more likely to submit a further request if he thinks we're trying to hide something by not saying what the letters were about.

As the response is long overdue, I'd be very grateful if you could let me have any comments you may have **by close on Monday 16 November**.

Please give me a call if you'd find it helpful to discuss any of this.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Scottish Government
FOI Unit
2W
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
Regent Road
EH1 6DG

[redacted]

Draft response:

I refer to your e-mail of 9 November, below.

We will respond to your original questions, as you have requested, but because your original request was not a valid FOI request our response is not a formal response under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). This means you will not have the right to request an internal review or to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner if you are dissatisfied with our response.

It may help if I explain that FOI is a statutory regime, which means that the Scottish Government is required to deal with information requests in accordance with the requirements of FOISA. The reason your original request was not a valid request in terms of FOISA was that your e-mail of 14 August was sent to your own e-mail address – it was only copied to the Scottish Government's Central Enquiry Unit, along with the Scottish Parliament's FOI Officer. The reason we asked you to resubmit your request was to make it valid in terms of FOISA and so ensure that you would have the statutory rights to a review and appeal if you were unhappy with the response to your request. I apologise that your e-mail of 14 August was overlooked until you reminded us recently, and that therefore we didn't ask you sooner to validate your FOI request.

The answers to each of your questions are as follows:

"I would like to request details of correspondence between the Cabinet Minister for Rural Affairs and the Prince of Wales.

By 'correspondence' I mean records of any communication of any sort, both internal or external, sent and received, including (but not limited to): emails; hand-written or typed letters; scrap notes; briefing notes; memoranda; working notes; transcripts of telephone conversations, etc.

The date range for my request is from January 2012 up until the date my request is answered."

There was no correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales during the period specified in this question.

"1) Please confirm or deny whether there has been correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales."

There was correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales in 2008 about marine management issues and the Prince's North Highland Initiative.

"2) Please confirm or deny whether there has been correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of land reform."

"3) Please provide scanned digital copies of all correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of land reform."

There has been no correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of land reform.

Request:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please **CONFIRM** receipt of this email.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.

I would like to request details of correspondence between the Cabinet Minister for Rural Affairs and the Prince of Wales.

By 'correspondence' I mean records of any communication of any sort, both internal or external, sent and received, including (but not limited to): emails; hand-written or typed letters; scrap notes; briefing notes; memoranda; working notes; transcripts of telephone conversations, etc.

The date range for my request is from January 2012 up until the date my request is answered.

If you judge the request to be too costly or time consuming to fit within the FOI limits, please reduce the date range until the request becomes manageable within cost/time restrictions.

1) Please confirm or deny whether there has been correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales.

2) Please confirm or deny whether there has been correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of land reform.

3) Please provide scanned digital copies of all correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food & Environment and the Prince of Wales about or mentioning the issue of land reform.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. 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 be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request. I understand that I do not have to specify particular files or documents and it is the department's responsibility to provide the information I require. If you need further clarification, my preferred method of contact is via email.

I look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days, as outlined by the statute.

Best wishes,



**Response - 17
November 2015...**