

Email trail 1

Hi Liz,

[REDACTED] from European Engagement team has been in touch (below) about the possibility of FM visiting Barcelona, on the back of her meeting with the President of Catalonia. Has there been any further discussion on this or any dates in mind?

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Diary Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2018 08:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FM Visit to Barcelona

Good morning,

Following the FM's meeting with Mr Quim Torra, I have been advised that an invitation was extended for First Minister to visit Barcelona and that this was something she would be keen to do.

Can I please ask more info about this as well as what dates would be appropriate for this visit?

Thank you!

[REDACTED]
Policy Adviser | European Engagement Team | European Relations | Scottish
Government | 2H-South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ |
Tel: [REDACTED]

Email Trail 2

This was covered in the National and on STV website at the time of the visit. Could we find those links and send too as this is being presented as news when it's just that they missed it at the time

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [REDACTED] (Comms)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 August 2018 13:47

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser; Lloyd E (Elizabeth); First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: [REDACTED]; Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Crawford E (Ewan); [REDACTED]; News Desk; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Herald - FM visit to Catalan president

Will send on now.

thanks

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser
Sent: 21 August 2018 13:47
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth); Brown L (Lesley) (Comms); First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Cc: [REDACTED]; Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Crawford E (Ewan); [REDACTED]; News Desk; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Herald - FM visit to Catalan president
Can the line also go to [REDACTED]at the Times please:

[REDACTED]

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth)
Sent: 21 August 2018 13:33
To: [REDACTED]First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Cc: Pescodd V (Victoria); Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Crawford E (Ewan); [REDACTED] News Desk; [REDACTED]; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Herald - FM visit to Catalan president

If the sentence can be tidied up spads can clear for Fm

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 21 August 2018 13:28

To: First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: [REDACTED]; Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Lloyd E (Elizabeth); Crawford E (Ewan); [REDACTED]; News Desk; [REDACTED] Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [REDACTED]

Subject: Herald - FM visit to Catalan president

Good afternoon,

The Herald picked up on the publication of the minutes of the First Minister's meeting with President Torra and asked about the last line which said that the FM had been invited to a reciprocal meeting in Barcelona.

It published a version of the story earlier today and I provided the line below on spad clearance. The BBC has since asked about this also. A full copy of the updated Herald story is below.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The First Minister had a productive meeting with President Torra and we will look towards opportunities to work together in the future."

Background

No arrangements for a reciprocal meeting have been made at this time.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Nicola Sturgeon to make official visit to Catalonia

NICOLA Sturgeon is to make an official visit to Catalonia in a sign of closer relations between the two pro-independence governments.

The First Minister has accepted an invitation from Catalan president Quim Torra to visit the regional capital Barcelona.

The trip was revealed in minutes of a meeting between Ms **Sturgeon** and Mr Torra at the First Minister's Bute House residence last month.

The Catalan **Government** said it hoped to set a date in the coming weeks.

Mr Torra's meeting with Ms Sturgeon was the first high-level discussion between the Scottish and Catalan governments since **Alex Salmond** visited Barcelona as FM in 2008.

However the president at that time was Socialist José Montilla, who opposed separatism.

Mr Torra had been in **Edinburgh** to discuss Clara Ponsati, the St Andrews **University** Professor then facing extradition to Spain on charges of rebellion and abusing public funds.

Prof Ponsati was a member of the Catalan government which held an independence referendum in October 2017 despite Spain's constitutional court ruling it illegal.

Spanish judges later threw out the case against her and the extradition case was dropped.

Mr Torra, a former journalist and lawyer, was sworn in as Catalan president in May after the previous Catalan president, Carles Puigdemont, went into exile to avoid arrest by Madrid.

Ms Sturgeon had backed the Catalan government's decision to hold the referendum, which produced a 90% vote for secession, and was marred by Spanish riot **police** attacking voters.

The minutes of the Bute House event, released under freedom of information, said the two leaders discussed the "challenging and complex situation" in Catalonia.

"They agreed that the way forward for Catalonia must be through peaceful and democratic solutions involving dialogue between the Spanish and Catalan authorities, respecting the right to self-determination of the Catalan people.

“The President extended an invite to the First Minister to visit Barcelona, the First Minister indicated she would be delighted to do so.”

The two governments also agreed to strengthen trading links, with the Catalan Secretary of Foreign Affairs offering to share experiences on creating a national investment bank.

The Scottish Government also offered lessons learned from holding a referendum through the “Edinburgh Agreement” process.

Ms Sturgeon’s briefing note emphasises “opportunities for bilateral cooperation”.

A spokeswoman for the Catalan government confirmed the Barcelona visit, and said there were hopes to fix a date after the summer recess in Catalonia.

She said: “It’s true that the last meeting between President Torra and the First Minister was a warm meeting and they agreed on a lot of issues and there was a good relationship between them. The aim [of the visit] is to strengthen that.”

A Scottish Government spokesperson: "The First Minister had a productive meeting with President Torra and we will look towards opportunities to work together in the future."

[REDACTED]

Newsdesk

[REDACTED]

Email trail 3

FYI

I have had a conversation with the CoS to President Torra...they contacted me after they were approached just to check this was just a reference to the discussion previously - we will speak soon to get the right people in contact re a possible visit and meeting.

To note that while President Torra is listed as speaking at Beyond Borders book festival this weekend he apparently has a personal issue and is unlikely to be there - though that's confidential at this point, and not confirmed.

[REDACTED]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser
Sent: 21 August 2018 15:58
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth); [REDACTED]; First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Cc: [REDACTED]; Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Crawford E (Ewan); [REDACTED]; News Desk; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Herald - FM visit to Catalan president

And:

[REDACTED]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser
Sent: 21 August 2018 15:40
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth); [REDACTED]; First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Cc: [REDACTED]; Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Crawford E (Ewan); [REDACTED] News Desk; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Herald - FM visit to Catalan president

And, if it's not already been sent to her, also to [REDACTED] at the Sun please:

[REDACTED]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser
Sent: 21 August 2018 13:47
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth); Brown L (Lesley) (Comms); First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Cc: [REDACTED] Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Crawford E (Ewan) [REDACTED] News Desk; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

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Sent: 21 August 2018 13:33

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Cc: Pescodd V (Victoria); Communications First Minister; Communications ICC; Lloyd E (Elizabeth); Crawford E (Ewan) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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A Scottish Government spokesperson: "The First Minister had a productive meeting with President Torra and we will look towards opportunities to work together in the future."

[REDACTED]

Newsdesk

[REDACTED]

Email Trail 4

[REDACTED]

The FM is content with the meeting note.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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

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

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From [REDACTED]

Sent: 24 July 2018 11:53

To: First Minister

Subject: Minutes of Meeting between the First Minister of Scotland and the President of Catalonia

<<Minutes of Meeting between the First Minister of Scotland and the President of Catalonia.docx>>

Minutes of Meeting between the First Minister of Scotland and the President of Catalonia

Wednesday 11 July 2018, Bute House.

Present: Rt. Hon. Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland
Rt. Hon. Quim Torra, President of Catalonia
Ms Natalia Mas, Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Mr Josep Lluís Alay, Coordinator of the International Policies of the Presidency
Mr Josep Rius, Chief of Staff of the President
Liz Lloyd, Chief of Staff of the First Minister
[REDACTED], Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Scottish Government

Minutes:

The First Minister welcomed President Torra and his colleagues to Edinburgh.

The President and First Minister discussed the challenging and complex political situation in Catalonia. They agreed that the way forward for Catalonia must be through peaceful and democratic solutions involving dialogue between the Spanish and Catalan authorities, respecting the right to self-determination of the Catalan people.

Both leaders expressed a desire to explore economic, trade and cultural opportunities, to further strengthen ties between Scotland and Catalonia. First Minister noted that SDI were already engaging with representatives from Catalonia and that a new post in Barcelona would help to strengthen this work. Ms Mas congratulated the First Minister on the establishment of the Scottish National Investment Bank, she indicated Catalonia would be happy to share its experiences from the establishment of the National Promotion Bank.

The President extended an invite to the First Minister to visit Barcelona, the First Minister indicated she would be delighted to do so.