

FW OSCR news item

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2018 10:56
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: OSCR news item

FYI...

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2018 09:05
To: REDACTED]
Subject: OSCR news item

[REDACTED],

FYI we've put out a news item on our inquiry into Institute for Statecraft.

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/oscr-opens-inquiry-into-the-institute-for-statecraft>

[REDACTED]

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BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S5W-20334

1. These questions are being asked by Neil Findlay MSP, Scottish Labour Party Member for Lothian. They are in response to recent news stories in the Daily Record on 2 December (Annex A), the Sunday Mail on 9 December (Annex B) and The Guardian on 10 December (Annex C) about the Institute for Statecraft. The articles are attached in Annexes for your information.
2. The Daily Record article describes the Institute for Statecraft as 'a controversial think tank set up to combat Russian misinformation'. The Sunday Mail and The Guardian claim that the charity has led attacks on Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party. The articles also make reference to a UK PQ (Annex D).
3. We have spoken to officials in International Relations and Defence Policy and neither hold any information on the Institute for Statecraft. The Defence Policy team advised that SG are aware that the Institute for Statecraft received funding through the UKG Covenant Fund in 2016/17 (but they have that information by way of a minute of a meeting and it's not a record they hold on the IfS separately).
4. It is understood that the Institute for Statecraft receives some funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The FCO's relationships with their stakeholders are not something that the Scottish Government can comment on.

Other Parliamentary Question from Neil Findlay MSP

5. Mr Findlay asked a supplementary question at FMQs on 13 December, asking the FM believes the Institute for Statecraft should continue to be registered as a charity, given the revelations that it has been engaged in partisan political activity. FM replied, expressing concern about the revelations and explaining that decisions on charitable status are made independently by OSCR and concerns should be raised with them directly.
6. Mr Findlay has also lodged an Oral PQ (S5O-02708 parliamentary deadline 20 Dec) to ask the Scottish Government what role Police Scotland has in monitoring political attacks on social media. Officials in Police Division, who are leading on a response, expect the supplementary questions to be about whether SG funds the Institute for Statecraft.

OSCR

7. OSCR was established by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. It is a constituent part of the Scottish Administration headed by a body corporate office holder. It is not part of the Scottish Government and for administrative purposes it is classified as a Non-Ministerial Department.
8. According to the framework agreement that is in place between the Scottish Government and OSCR, MSPs through Parliamentary Questions, may ask Scottish Ministers about their own relations with OSCR and Ministers will answer such questions. However, Scottish Ministers are not accountable for OSCR's operations and where questions are asked about matters that are the responsibility

of OSCR, the Minister's answer should state this position and refer the MSP to OSCR.

[REDACTED]

DAILY RECORD – 2 DECEMBER 2018

Derelict Scottish mill is shadowy hub in UK's fight against Putin's propaganda machine

Gateside Mills in rural Fife is the official headquarters of the controversial Institute for Statecraft (IFS) – a “think tank” set up to combat Russian disinformation.

For the tiny number of people aware of its existence, Gateside Mills is a derelict building in rural Fife without any obvious signs of life.

Anyone curious enough to carry out further investigation might find a seemingly small Scottish charity is registered there.

But the Sunday Mail can reveal the crumbling Victorian mill is actually the official headquarters of the controversial Institute for Statecraft (IFS) – a shadowy “think tank” whose Integrity Initiative programme has been set up to combat Russian propaganda.

Leaked documents prove the organisation received hundreds of thousands of pounds of funding from the British Government via the Foreign Office.

Spokesman Stephen Dalziel said: “The Institute is registered in Scotland because one of its founders is Scottish.

“It was set up 14 years ago and the Integrity Initiative programme was started three years ago to look at disinformation and malign influence on democratic societies and it just so happens it’s the Russians who are doing most of that at the moment.

“It’s the lies they put out about the Skripal poisoning and so on.

“What we have done is to set up this network across Europe of people who understand what the problem is.

“There’s talk about this being secretive but that’s nonsense. We go around Europe giving talks and speaking to people.

“Yes, this year we’ve got some funding from the Foreign Office as many organisations do because our aims fit in with their aims.

“The IFS is not funded by the Foreign Office but the Integrity Initiative, which is part of the IFS, is. These documents that were leaked have been stolen. Any organisation has internal documents and that’s what they have published.”

A message on the institute’s website added: “For its first two years, the Integrity Initiative was funded by private individuals.

“Funding for 2017 and 2018 was provided by a grant from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). It is inevitable that a programme tackling disinformation

in Europe finds itself spending much of its time addressing the activities of the Russian State, including those carried out through its intelligence services.”

But David Miller, a professor of Political Sociology in the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol, believes serious questions need to be answered. He said: “It seems extraordinary that the Foreign Office would be funding a Scottish charity to counter Russian propaganda which, for example, ends up soft-peddalling far-right politicians in the Ukraine because they happen to oppose Putin.

“It must raise questions with OSCR, the Scottish charity regulator, about breaching charitable rules. It would appear this organisation could have received almost £2million from the FCO, so people have a right to know what’s happening with their money.”

The IFS states in its filed accounts they are a registered charity based at the Fife address. Its financial statement to Companies House mentions the Integrity Initiative as one of its charitable activities along with running Duke of Edinburgh programmes.

The manager of the Integrity Initiative appears to be Christopher Donnelly. A website biography states he is a graduate of Manchester University and reserve officer in the British Army Intelligence Corps who previously headed the British Army’s Soviet Studies Research Centre at Sandhurst.

Between 1989 and 2003, he was a special adviser to Nato Secretaries General and was involved in dealing with the disintegration of the Soviet Union and reform of newly emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.

He left NATO in 2003 to set up and run the UK Defence Academy’s Advanced Research and Assessment Group. In 2010, he became a director of IFS.

A Foreign & Commonwealth Office spokesperson said: “The Integrity Initiative is a programme already in the public domain. Our funding helps ensure it can continue producing important work to counter disinformation and other malign influence.”

SUNDAY MAIL – 9 DECEMBER 2018

Secret Scottish-based office led infowars attack on Labour and Jeremy Corbyn

Explosive leaked documents passed to the Sunday Mail reveal the organisation's Integrity Initiative is funded with £2million of Foreign Office cash and run by military intelligence specialists.

A secret UK Government-funded infowars unit based in Scotland sent out social media posts attacking Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party.

On the surface, the cryptically named Institute for Statecraft is a small charity operating from an old Victorian mill in Fife.

But explosive leaked documents passed to the Sunday Mail reveal the organisation's Integrity Initiative is funded with £2million of Foreign Office cash and run by military intelligence specialists.

The "think tank" is supposed to counter Russian online propaganda by forming "clusters" of friendly journalists and "key influencers" throughout Europe who use social media to hit back against disinformation.

But our investigation has found worrying evidence the shadowy programme's official Twitter account has been used to attack Corbyn, the Labour Party and their officials.

One tweet quotes a newspaper article calling Corbyn a "useful idiot", that goes on to state: "His open visceral anti-Westernism helped the Kremlin cause, as surely as if he had been secretly peddling Westminster tittle-tattle for money."

A message from the UK Government-funded organisation promotes an article that states: "Unlike Galloway (former MP George Galloway) Corbyn does not scream conspiracy, he implies it," while another added: "It's time for the Corbyn left to confront its Putin problem."

A further message refers to an "alleged British Corbyn supporter" who "wants to vote for Putin".

It is not just the Labour leader who has been on the receiving end of online attacks. His strategy and communications director Seumas Milne was also targeted.

The Integrity Initiative, whose base at Gateside Mill is near Auchtermuchty, retweeted a newspaper report that said: "Milne is not a spy – that would be beneath him. But what he has done, wittingly or unwittingly, is work with the Kremlin agenda."

Another retweet promoted a journalist who said: "Just as he supports the Russian bombardment of Syria, Seumas Milne supported the Russian slaughter of Afghanistan, which resulted in more than a million deaths."

The Integrity Initiative has been accused of supporting Ukrainian politicians who oppose Putin – even when they also have suspected far-right links.

Further leaked documents appear to show a Twitter campaign that resulted in a Spanish politician believed to be friendly to the Kremlin being denied a job.

The organisation's "Spanish cluster" swung into action on hearing that Pedro Banos was to be appointed director of the national security department.

The papers detail how the Integrity Initiative alerted "key influencers" around Europe who launched an online campaign against the politician.

In the wake of the leaks, which also detail Government grant applications, the Foreign Office have been forced to confirm they provided massive funding to the Integrity Initiative.

In response to a parliamentary question, Europe Minister Alan Duncan said: "In financial year 2017-18, the FCO funded the Institute for Statecraft's Integrity Initiative £296,500.

"This financial year, the FCO are funding a further £1,961,000. Both have been funded through grant agreements."

Politicians and academics have reacted with fury to news a covert Government-funded unit had been attacking the official opposition in Parliament.

Labour MSP Neil Findlay said: "It would appear that we have a charity registered in Scotland and overseen by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator that is funded by the UK Government and is spewing out political attacks on UK politicians, the Labour Party and the Labour movement.

"Such clear political attacks and propaganda shouldn't be coming from any charity. We need to know why the Foreign Office have been funding it."

David Miller, a professor of political sociology in the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol, added: "It's extraordinary that the Foreign Office would be funding a Scottish charity to counter Russian propaganda which ends up attacking Her Majesty's opposition and soft-peddalling far-right politicians in the Ukraine.

"People have a right to know how the Government are spending their money, and the views being promoted in their name."

The senior manager of the Integrity Initiative appears to be Chris Donnelly. A website biography states he is a graduate of Manchester University and reserve officer in the British Army Intelligence Corps who previously headed the British Army's Soviet Studies Research Centre at Sandhurst.

Documents passed to the Sunday Mail suggest he was appointed an "Honorary Colonel in Military Intelligence" in 2015 – the year the Integrity Initiative was formed.

Papers we have viewed also suggest senior operative Dan Lafayeedney was an SAS soldier in 1978 and attached to a regiment which ran spy cells in Russia.

After contacting the Integrity Initiative through its website to ask about the Labour attacks, we received a call from spokesman Stephen Dalziel.

He said: "I'm not aware of that. I'm not the one who controls the Twitter account. If it was criticism of one of our politicians, then that shouldn't be on there."

When asked about the military background of Integrity Initiative employees, Dalziel denied any secret service involvement.

He added: "Chris Donnelly was in the TA for many years.

"Dan Lafayeedney, who is a Scot, that's why it is registered in Scotland, was many years ago in the Army.

"I did one year as a TA officer on attachment. The biggest chunk of my career, I was a BBC journalist. Definitely not secret service, I promise you."

Previous online biographies about Dalziel suggest he spent a year in the British Army in 1981, before joining the Soviet Studies Research Centre at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

The leaked documents show a funding application to the Foreign Office that details the unit's work.

Further papers reveal a unit in Lithuania which received overseas funding to "support a new hub/cluster creation and to educate cluster leaders and key people in Vilnius in infowar techniques".

The Foreign Office did not respond to a request for comment.

THE GUARDIAN – 10 DECEMBER 2018

Foreign Office investigates reports that state-funded body targeted Corbyn

Leaked documents suggest Fife-based company promoted anti-Labour tweets

The Foreign Office minister, Alan Duncan, has ordered an investigation into reports the government provided funding to a Scottish-based company meant to counter online Russian propaganda, which also spread unfavourable views about Jeremy Corbyn.

The Institute for Statecraft, based in Fife, received hundreds of thousands of pounds in Foreign Office money.

According to the Sunday Mail, leaked documents show it tried to promote tweets calling the Labour leader a “useful idiot” who helped the Kremlin cause, and attacked members of his staff.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, Duncan said he had learned about the allegations at the weekend and ordered an immediate investigation.

“I don’t know the facts but if there is any kind of organisation for which we are paying which is involved in domestic politics in that way, I would totally condemn it, and I have already over the weekend asked for a report to be on my desk by 10 o’clock this morning to say if there is any such activity,” he said.

Asked if this meant anti-Labour attacks by Statecraft must stop, Duncan said: “Not only must it stop, I want to know why on earth it happened in the first place.”

Duncan has previously responded to a parliamentary written question on the subject. His answer showed that in the 2017-18 financial year the Foreign Office funded the Institute for Statecraft’s Integrity Initiative with £296,500. This financial year, the sum was due rise to £1,961,000, the answer said.

According to the report, the body’s programme is supposed to counter Russian disinformation by using “clusters” of journalists and others throughout Europe – with a unit reportedly proposed in Lithuania - using social media to respond.

But its official Twitter feed retweeted anti-Corbyn messages such as the one calling the Labour leader a “useful idiot”. It added: “His open visceral anti-westernism helped the Kremlin cause, as surely as if he had been secretly peddling Westminster tittle-tattle for money.”

Other messages targeted Corbyn’s chief aide, Seumas Milne. The Institute for Statecraft retweeted a newspaper report that said: “Milne is not a spy – that would be beneath him. But what he has done, wittingly or unwittingly, is work with the Kremlin agenda.”

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Integrity Initiative: Written question – 196177

Asked by: Chris Williamson (Derby North)

Asked on: 27 November 2018

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Integrity Initiative

Question

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has (a) funded, (b) provided contracts to and (c) procured the services of the Integrity Initiative in each financial year since 2015/16.

Answered by: Sir Alan Duncan

Answered on: 03 December 2018

Answer

The Institute for Statecraft is an independent, Scottish, charitable body whose work seeks to improve governance and enhance national security. They launched the Integrity Initiative in 2015 to defend democracy against disinformation.

In financial year 2017/18, the FCO funded the Institute for Statecraft's Integrity Initiative £296,500. This financial year, the FCO is funding a further £1,961,000. Both have been funded through grant agreements.

At the Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2017, the Prime Minister announced that the UK Government has committed £100m over five years to tackling this threat internationally.

Such funding furthers our commitment to producing important work to counter disinformation and other malign influence.

A spokesman for the organisation told the Sunday Mail that he was not aware of the tweets criticising Corbyn. "I'm not the one who controls the Twitter account," Stephen Dalziel said. "If it was criticism of one of our politicians, then that shouldn't be on there."

RE Institute for Statecraft

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2018 15:35
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Institute for Statecraft

You may also wish to be aware that Neil Findlay asked about IfS at FMQs today too:

a. Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Lab):
The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator states that an organisation cannot continue to be a charity if
“it is set up to be or advance a political party”

or

“its governing document allows it to use its assets ... for non charitable purposes”.

Does the First Minister believe that the Institute for Statecraft, based in Fife, should continue to be registered as a charity with OSCR, given the revelations this week that it has been engaged in partisan political activity?

b. The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):

I was concerned about the revelations published in the Sunday Mail on Sunday involving alleged actions of the Foreign Office. It is not for me to investigate their veracity or otherwise, but it was certainly, on the face of it, a concerning report, and I hope that there will be a full investigation and full answers to the questions that people will rightly and understandably have.

On the question whether an organisation is a charity as far as OSCR is concerned, I absolutely understand the sentiment behind Neil Findlay’s question and why he is asking me it, but I know that he will appreciate that OSCR takes these decisions independently—and rightly so. I am sure that OSCR keeps the charitable status of a range of organisations under review if concerns are raised about them. If, as he clearly and understandably does, Mr Findlay has concerns about this issue, I encourage him to raise those concerns directly with OSCR.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2018 13:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Institute for Statecraft

Hi [REDACTED]

Just to let you know that OSCR have been in touch to give us their latest position on the

RE Institute for Statecraft

Institute for Statecraft.

An OSCR spokesperson said:

'We can confirm OSCR has opened an inquiry into the charity The Institute for Statecraft (SC040870). As such it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.'

You may wish to include this in your background note. As you will likely be aware, Scottish Ministers also cannot comment on ongoing investigations by OSCR.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2018 10:25
To: [REDCATED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Institute for Statecraft

I think that's the best possible answer you could have given us - many thanks.

Once pulled together, we can share what we're thinking in terms of background. Needless to say the answer to the basic question will be very straight but we're expecting him to stray into a variety of quarters thereafter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2018 10:22
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Institute for Statecraft

Hi [REDACTED]: we've had some written PQs (for Ms Campbell) from Neil Findlay about the charitable aspects of IfS. [REDACTED] has submitted (awaiting clearance) and can share material.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2018 10:19
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Institute for Statecraft

RE Institute for Statecraft

[REDACTED],

Apologies if this isn't one for you to consider - in perusing the third sector section of the directory, your's was the only name that was familiar to me.

The Justice Secretary has had an oral PQ lodged about whether Police Scotland monitor online political attacks. It's from Neil Findlay and we're confident he will ask whether the SG funds the Institute for Statecraft (also known as the Integrity Initiative) in supplementaries. From doing a bit of digging it seems to be a charity registered in Scotland but recent newspaper reports have linked it to online attacks on prominent left-leaning members of the Labour Party; it seems that UKG helps fund it.

Is there an easy way to find out whether any branch of SG funds these guys even if it's not via your team?

Many thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE Written PQs2

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 10:00
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

I had a chat with [REDACTED] about this this morning.

She thinks it is worth adding to the background note that the SG are aware that the IfS received funding through the UKG Covenant Fund in 2016/17 (although we have that information by way of a minute of a meeting, it's not a record we hold on the IfS separately)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 18:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Written PQs

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 18:05:23 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs
Thanks - that's fine, if you don't have anything to offer I will just go back with general info about reporting charities to OSCR etc. Just helpful to establish if SG has (or has ever had) any type of funding relationship with them.

Thanks again

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 17:59
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

RE Written PQs2

Subject: Fw: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED],

Just received now. Having looked at the questions, I very much doubt we will have anything to add to the answers ?and beyond the papers you found on erdm I don't expect we will have anything else to add but I will check further tomorrow and confirm. Sorry to not be of more help.

Speak to you tomorrow.

[RECATED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From:

>

Sent: Thursday, 6 December 2018 17:36

To:

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]- sorry if you receive this twice - I thought I had sent it, but I cannot see it in my sent folder or drafts!

If you scroll to the bottom of the trail you will see the 3 PQs (and a news article which has likely prompted the questions).

I have attached the email that I found in erdm that makes reference to the Institute of Statecraft receiving Covenant funding (that was saved by [REDACTED] in your team). Would you be able to take a look and see if you have anything to contribute to the answers/background note? I can provide general info about the charity test and OSCR but I don't have anything (other than what Mark has provided) to say about the charity itself.

The answers are due on Monday so if you could get back to me tomorrow I would be really grateful. Sorry for the tight deadline.

If you would like to discuss further tomorrow I will be working from home in the afternoon and you can get me on [REDACTED] (I am on leave in the morning).

Thank you.

RE Written PQs2

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 14:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you're well and thanks for your time on the phone.

I've attached below information I can find regarding the Institute of Statecraft SC040870.

Institute of Statecraft:

They describe themselves as an independent think tank which carries out research, mentoring, projects and publishes papers. There is very little detail on their website about their projects, however they have a list of publications which they've commissioned on various topics. There doesn't appear to be any information on the Institute of Statecraft stored by the Scottish Government

The Institute of Statecraft was incorporated as a charity in 2006 - it appears that they passed the OSCR charity test:

- * an organisation has to show that it has only charitable purposes and
- * that it provides public benefit in achieving those purposes

Institute of Statecraft Objectives:

In its registration documents the institute outlines its objectives which the OSCR appeared to approve when they provided them with charity status.

Objectives:

1) To advance education in the fields of governance and statecraft, and in particular focussing on the leadership, direction, management and administration of public and private institutions, major organisations and other bodies (whether incorporated or otherwise), and the skills needed by those in authority within such institutions, organisations or bodies to enable them to deal effectively with current and future challenges particularly in respect of security

(2) To advance human rights, conflict resolution and/or reconciliation and

RE Written PQs2

religious/racial/ethnic harmony, to promote equality and diversity, citizenship and community development, and to advance national and international security; and in particular through assisting governments (including emerging democracies and countries in transition) and other institutions, organisations or bodies (whether in the UK or abroad) to respond to the challenges posed by new developments in the world (whether social, political, economic or technological) and to develop and embed structures and institutions that reflect principles of best practice in governance and statecraft.”

If there are areas of concern:

OSCR also outlines that an entity cannot be a charity if it:

- * it is set up to be or advance a political party
- * its governing document allows it to use its assets (cash or property) for non-charitable purposes
- * its governing document allows Scottish Ministers to direct or control its activities.”

The Institute of Statecraft appears to have fulfilled these requirements in their registration. We don't hold any information about them however their accounts are publicly available online. I've attached their registration documents and most recent financial returns from 2017 which are publicly available online and not stored by the Scottish Government.

If a member of the public has an area of concern that a charity is in breach of any guidelines or regulations. they can fill out a concern form with the OSCR.

Official Response FCO

The Devolution Unit has come back with the following suggestion on any questions regarding the FCO's relationship with the Institute of Statecraft or funding of the Institute of Statecraft's projects.

“the FCO's relationships with their stakeholders are not something that the Scottish Government can comment on; these are a matter for the FCO.”

Sorry I know it's not much but if you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

RE Written PQs2

[REDACTED]

From: Mc[REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 09:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi - deadline seems to be Monday, so if you could get any info to me by tomorrow that would be great - thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 08:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email, I'll put a request in to the Devolution unit now and start looking into the Institute of Statecraft.

Can I ask what the deadline is for getting the information back to you? If it's tight I'll keep chasing the Devolution unit through the day.

Also [REDACTED], I don't have an extension yet but if you need anything urgently please feel free to call me on [REDACTED].

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 18:59
To: [REDACTED]

RE Written PQs2

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

The things we have to deal with!

I'll ask my colleague [REDACTED] (by dint of copying him into this email) to look into Statecraft and their relationship with FCO (Mark, great if you could put out a request to Devolution Unit).

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 16:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

I have been asked if I would be the policy lead for these PQs...

I can provide general info on OSCR and their role, but I was wondering if you or your team would be able to provide any input on the organisation Institute of Statecraft (they seem to get some funding from Foreign Office)?

Any help/ideas welcome!

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 15:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

RE Written PQs2

These are the PQs I mentioned, the Daily record ran a story on the Institute for Statecraft a few days ago, <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/derelict-crumbling-scots-mill-shadowy-13674992> which must have prompted Neil Findlay into action

S5W-20336

To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to invite the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to investigate the activities of the Institute of Statecraft. Neil Findlay 03/12/2018 10/12/2018
17/12/2018

S5W-20334

To ask the Scottish Government what information it holds on the charity, the Institute of Statecraft, and what its position is on whether it meets the definition of a Scottish charity. Neil Findlay 03/12/2018
10/12/2018 17/12/2018

S5W-20337

To ask the Scottish Government what action it can take against registered charities that breach their charitable objectives. Neil Findlay
03/12/2018 10/12/2018 17/12/2018

[REDACTED]

Written PQs 3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 13:57
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Great, thanks all.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 13:47
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Many thanks.

[REDACTED] - on that basis we can confirm that there has been no engagement between Connected Communities and this organisation.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 11:33
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

[REDACTED] -

[REDACTED] and I have both searched the files without turning anything up. I also asked [REDACTED], but he can find no trace either. It strikes me as very unlikely we would have engaged with them unless in the context of training, as the email from [REDACTED] suggests.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 18:35
To: [REDACTED]

Written PQs 3

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Written PQs

[REDACTED]

Can you please have a look to see if there's been any engagement between the team and Institute for State craft. The project rings a bell but I think only from the army's description of it, but there may have been engagement that I wasn't aware of.

Thanks
Jo

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the EE network.

FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

See email trail below.

I just had a quick word with [REDACTED] about these as Institute for Statecraft are mentioned in an email from [REDACTED] (attached) about the Etihad Programme. He suggested checking in with you in case you know anything about the charity/have had any dealing with them at all?

The deadline is Monday so if you were able to get back to me Monday morning, I would be really grateful.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 17:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED] - sorry if you receive this twice - I thought I had sent it, but I cannot see it in my sent folder or drafts!

If you scroll to the bottom of the trail you will see the 3 PQs (and a news article which has likely prompted the questions).

I have attached the email that I found in erdm that makes reference to the

Written PQs 3

Institute of Statecraft receiving Covenant funding (that was saved by Morag in your team). Would you be able to take a look and see if you have anything to contribute to the answers/background note? I can provide general info about the charity test and OSCR but I don't have anything (other than what Mark has provided) to say about the charity itself.

The answers are due on Monday so if you could get back to me tomorrow I would be really grateful. Sorry for the tight deadline.

If you would like to discuss further tomorrow I will be working from home in the afternoon and you can get me on [REDACTED] (I am on leave in the morning).

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 14:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you're well and thanks for your time on the phone.

I've attached below information I can find regarding the Institute of Statecraft SC040870.

Institute of Statecraft:

They describe themselves as an independent think tank which carries out research, mentoring, projects and publishes papers. There is very little detail on their website about their projects, however they have a list of publications which they've commissioned on various topics. There doesn't appear to be any information on the Institute of Statecraft stored by the Scottish Government

The Institute of Statecraft was incorporated as a charity in 2006 - it appears that they passed the OSCR charity test:

- * an organisation has to show that it has only charitable purposes and
- * that it provides public benefit in achieving those purposes

Institute of Statecraft Objectives:

In its registration documents the institute outlines its objectives which the OSCR appeared to approve when they provided them with charity status.

Objectives:

1) To advance education in the fields of governance and statecraft, and in particular focussing on the leadership, direction, management and administration of public and private institutions, major organisations and other bodies (whether incorporated or otherwise), and the skills needed by those in authority within such institutions, organisations or bodies to enable them to deal effectively with current and future challenges particularly in respect of security

(2) To advance human rights, conflict resolution and/or reconciliation and religious/racial/ethnic harmony, to promote equality and diversity, citizenship and community development, and to advance national and international security; and in particular through assisting governments (including emerging democracies and countries in transition) and other institutions, organisations or bodies (whether in the UK or abroad) to respond to the challenges posed by new developments in the world (whether social, political, economic or technological) and to develop and embed structures and institutions that reflect principles of best practice in governance and statecraft.”

If there are areas of concern:

OSCR also outlines that an entity cannot be a charity if it:

- * it is set up to be or advance a political party
- * its governing document allows it to use its assets (cash or property) for non-charitable purposes
- * its governing document allows Scottish Ministers to direct or control its activities.”

The Institute of Statecraft appears to have fulfilled these requirements in their registration. We don't hold any information about them however their accounts are publicly available online. I've attached their registration documents and most recent financial returns from 2017 which are publicly available online and not stored by the Scottish Government.

If a member of the public has an area of concern that a charity is in breach of any guidelines or

Written PQs 3

regulations. they can fill out a concern form with the OSCR.

Official Response FCO

The Devolution Unit has come back with the following suggestion on any questions regarding the FCO's relationship with the Institute of Statecraft or funding of the Institute of Statecraft's projects.

"the FCO's relationships with their stakeholders are not something that the Scottish Government can comment on; these are a matter for the FCO."

Sorry I know it's not much but if you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 09:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi - deadline seems to be Monday, so if you could get any info to me by tomorrow that would be great - thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED])
Sent: 05 December 2018 08:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email, I'll put a request in to the Devolution unit now and start looking into the Institute of Statecraft.

Can I ask what the deadline is for getting the information back to you? If it's tight I'll keep chasing the Devolution unit through the day.

Written PQs 3

Also [REDACTED], I don't have an extension yet but if you need anything urgently please feel free to call me on [REDACTED].

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 18:59
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

The things we have to deal with!

I'll ask my colleague [REDACTED] (by dint of copying him into this email) to look into Statecraft and their relationship with FCO ([REDACTED], great if you could put out a request to Devolution Unit).

Cheers
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 16:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

I have been asked if I would be the policy lead for these PQs...

I can provide general info on OSCR and their role, but I was wondering if you or your team would be able to provide any input on the organisation Institute of Statecraft (they seem to get

Written PQs 3

some funding from Foreign Office)?

Any help/ideas welcome!

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 December 2018 15:37

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

These are the PQs I mentioned, the Daily record ran a story on the Institute for Statecraft a few days ago, <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/derelict-crumbling-scots-mill-shadowy-13674992> which must have prompted Neil Findlay into action

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[REDACTED]

Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 16:49
To: Bird L (Lisa)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday
Attachments: PQ - Institute of Statecraft.docx

Importance: High

Hi Lisa

We have received 3 written PQs from Neil Findlay about a charity called Institute for Statecraft. Please could you check over the proposed answer and BG note and let me know if you are content. [REDACTED] has seen and cleared.

The answers are due with PO on Monday, so if you could get back to me before COP then, I would be really grateful.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED])
Sent: 04 December 2018 15:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: PQs S5W-20334, S5W-20336 and S5W-20337

Hi [REDACTED]

These for you?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 15:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>
Subject: PQs S5W-20334, S5W-20336 and S5W-20337

Hello [REDACTED]

I would appreciate it if you could take a look at the below PQ and let me know if this is for your area?

S5W-20334 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government what information it holds on the charity, the Institute of Statecraft, and what its position is on whether it meets the

Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday
definition of a Scottish charity.
S5W-20336 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to
invite the
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to investigate the activities of the
Institute of
Statecraft.

S5W-20337 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government what action it can take
against registered charities that breach their charitable objectives.

PQ deadline is 10/12/2018

If not your area, grateful if you could let me know why and point me in the
right direction
of who you think may be able to lead.

Thanks in advance
[REDACTED]

RE Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

From: Bird L (Lisa)
Sent: 10 December 2018 11:59
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

Yes copy text into the annex
Thanks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 11:57
To: Bird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

[REDACTED] who flagged the story to me has also sent a link to a UK PQ

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-27/196177>

might be worth adding this as an annex too?

[REDACTED]

From: Bird L (Lisa)
Sent: 10 December 2018 11:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

Ok agree - thanks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 11:54
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

Thanks

There has been another news story (which is more likely the reason for the question) so I will add this to the BG note too.
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/10/foreign-office-investigates-report-state-funded-body-targeted-corbryn>

[REDACTED] from Defence Policy has also been back in touch and said she thinks it is worth adding to the background note that the SG are aware that the IfS received funding through

RE Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday
the UKG
Covenant Fund in 2016/17 (although we have that information by way of a minute
of a meeting,
it's not a record we hold on the IfS separately)

So if you are content, I will add both to the BG note, amend the Q and send on.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 10:37
To: Bird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

Thanks, Lisa (intended meaning was "any information or any position").
[REDACTED], pls can we go with text below then.

[REDACTED]

From: Bird L (Lisa)
Sent: 10 December 2018 10:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday

Thanks - fine with this - think there is a word missing in the first line - do
you mean we
don't have 'a' position or know of the 'position' - would read better with that
part
removed or word added.

The Scottish Government does not have a position or hold any information or
position
on the Institute for Statecraft in respect of its charitable status or
activities.

Lisa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 16:49
To: Bird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]>
Subject: Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday
Importance: High

Hi Lisa

We have received 3 written PQs from Neil Findlay about a charity called
Institute for

RE Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday Statecraft. Please could you check over the proposed answer and BG note and let me know if you are content. Dougie has seen and cleared.

The answers are due with PO on Monday, so if you could get back to me before COP then, I would be really grateful.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 15:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: PQs S5W-20334, S5W-20336 and S5W-20337

Hi [REDACTED]

These for you?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 15:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>
Subject: PQs S5W-20334, S5W-20336 and S5W-20337

Hello M[REDACTED]

I would appreciate it if you could take a look at the below PQ and let me know if this is for your area?

S5W-20334 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government what information it holds on the charity, the Institute of Statecraft, and what its position is on whether it meets the definition of a Scottish charity.

S5W-20336 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to invite the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to investigate the activities of the Institute of Statecraft.

S5W-20337 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government what action it can take against registered charities that breach their charitable objectives.

PQ deadline is 10/12/2018

If not your area, grateful if you could let me know why and point me in the

RE Written PQs for clearing before close of play on Monday
right direction
of who you think may be able to lead.

Thanks in advance
[REDACTED]

RE Written PQs

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 12:18
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Thank you! :)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 11:56
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Also to note the related UK PQ.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-27/196177>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 10:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

[REDACTED] – I imagine you've seen this organisation has been in the news over the weekend in relation to Labour:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/10/foreign-office-investigates-report-state-funded-body-targeted-corbys>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 14:48
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Thanks all :)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 11:33

RE Written PQs

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

[REDACTED] -

[REDACTED] and I have both searched the files without turning anything up. I also asked [REDACTED], but he can find no trace either. It strikes me as very unlikely we would have engaged with them unless in the context of training, as the email from [REDACTED] suggests.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 18:35
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Written PQs

[REDACTED]

Can you please have a look to see if there's been any engagement between the team and Institute for State craft. The project rings a bell but I think only from the army's description of it, but there may have been engagement that I wasn't aware of.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the EE network.

From:
[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 December 2018 5:39PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: {REDACTED}
Subject: FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

See email trail below.

I just had a quick word with [REDACTED] about these as Institute for Statecraft are mentioned in an email from [REDACTED] (attached) about the Etihad Programme. He suggested checking in with you in case you know anything about the charity/have had any dealing with them at all?

RE Written PQs

The deadline is Monday so if you were able to get back to me Monday morning, I would be really grateful.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 17:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED] - sorry if you receive this twice - I thought I had sent it, but I cannot see it in my sent folder or drafts!

If you scroll to the bottom of the trail you will see the 3 PQs (and a news article which has likely prompted the questions).

I have attached the email that I found in erdm that makes reference to the Institute of Statecraft receiving Covenant funding (that was saved by [REDACTED] in your team). Would you be able to take a look and see if you have anything to contribute to the answers/background note? I can provide general info about the charity test and OSCAR but I don't have anything (other than what Mark has provided) to say about the charity itself.

The answers are due on Monday so if you could get back to me tomorrow I would be really grateful. Sorry for the tight deadline.

If you would like to discuss further tomorrow I will be working from home in the afternoon and you can get me on [REDACTED] (I am on leave in the morning).

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 14:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

RE Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you're well and thanks for your time on the phone.

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Institute of Statecraft:

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The Institute of Statecraft was incorporated as a charity in 2006 - it appears that they passed the OSCR charity test:

- * an organisation has to show that it has only charitable purposes and
- * that it provides public benefit in achieving those purposes

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In its registration documents the institute outlines its objectives which the OSCR appeared to approve when they provided them with charity status.

Objectives:

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(2) To advance human rights, conflict resolution and/or reconciliation and religious/racial/ethnic harmony, to promote equality and diversity, citizenship and community development, and to advance national and international security; and in particular through assisting governments (including emerging democracies and countries in transition) and other institutions, organisations or bodies (whether in the UK or abroad) to respond to the challenges posed by new developments in the world (whether social,

RE Written PQs

political, economic or technological) and to develop and embed structures and institutions that reflect principles of best practice in governance and statecraft.”

If there are areas of concern:

OSCR also outlines that an entity cannot be a charity if it:

- * it is set up to be or advance a political party
- * its governing document allows it to use its assets (cash or property) for non-charitable purposes
- * its governing document allows Scottish Ministers to direct or control its activities.”

The Institute of Statecraft appears to have fulfilled these requirements in their registration. We don't hold any information about them however their accounts are publicly available online. I've attached their registration documents and most recent financial returns from 2017 which are publicly available online and not stored by the Scottish Government.

If a member of the public has an area of concern that a charity is in breach of any guidelines or regulations, they can fill out a concern form with the OSCR.

Official Response FCO

The Devolution Unit has come back with the following suggestion on any questions regarding the FCO's relationship with the Institute of Statecraft or funding of the Institute of Statecraft's projects.

“the FCO's relationships with their stakeholders are not something that the Scottish Government can comment on; these are a matter for the FCO.”

Sorry I know it's not much but if you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

RE Written PQs

Sent: 05 December 2018 09:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi - deadline seems to be Monday, so if you could get any info to me by tomorrow that would be great - thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 08:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email, I'll put a request in to the Devolution unit now and start looking into the Institute of Statecraft.

Can I ask what the deadline is for getting the information back to you? If it's tight I'll keep chasing the Devolution unit through the day.

Also [REDACTED], I don't have an extension yet but if you need anything urgently please feel free to call me on 07796754768[REDACTED]
Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: REDACTED
Sent: 04 December 2018 18:59
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

The things we have to deal with!

I'll ask my colleague [REDACTED] (by dint of copying him into this email) to look into Statecraft and their relationship with FCO (Mark, great if you could put out a

RE Written PQs

request to
Devolution Unit).

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 16:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Written PQs

Hi [REDACTED]

I have been asked if I would be the policy lead for these PQs...

I can provide general info on OSCR and their role, but I was wondering if you or your team would be able to provide any input on the organisation Institute of Statecraft (they seem to get some funding from Foreign Office)?

Any help/ideas welcome!

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2018 15:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Written PQs

Hi Claire

These are the PQs I mentioned, the Daily record ran a story on the Institute for Statecraft a few days ago, <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/derelict-crumbling-scots-mill-shadowy-13674992> which must have prompted Neil Findlay into action

S5W-20336

To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to invite the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to investigate the activities of the Institute of

RE Written PQs

Statecraft. Neil Findlay 03/12/2018 10/12/2018
17/12/2018
S5W-20334

To ask the Scottish Government what information it holds on the charity, the Institute of Statecraft, and what its position is on whether it meets the definition of a Scottish charity. Neil Findlay 03/12/2018

10/12/2018 17/12/2018

S5W-20337

To ask the Scottish Government what action it can take against registered charities that breach their charitable objectives. Neil Findlay

03/12/2018 10/12/2018 17/12/2018

[REDACTED]