

**Exert from Letter from Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work 22 January 2020.**

Finally, we spoke about the Glasgow Science Centre. As you are aware our preference would be to use the Science Centre as the COP26 Green Zone so as to ensure that there is sufficient space to fulfill the specific criteria of the United Nations. Police Scotland have advised that this location is also the best option for the security arrangements. I know that our officials are continuing to discuss this but I hope this issue can be resolved within the coming days.

**Extract from Peter Hill's email to Liz Ditchburn dated 16 January 2020**

On the venue, which we discussed briefly, Vic and Kersti have spoken about the potential use of the Science Centre as the COP26 Green Zone. [Redacted]. What is the best way for us to resolve this?

**Extract from Liz Ditchburn's letter to Peter Hill dated 29 January 2020.**

Meanwhile, we are considering internally how best to progress discussions on the use of the Glasgow Science Centre and I am grateful for the additional information you have provided on the security and operational considerations to support these discussions. I know this was raised in the recent meeting between Ministers on 20th January. I agree there is a need to resolve this issue quickly and I will ask my team to make contact with yours so that we can work towards getting greater clarity on this matter.

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 12:33:53 PM

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]**Subject:** Friday's visit to Glasgow Science Centre

Dear [Redacted]

I lead the Major Events team in the Scottish Government and will be working with Cabinet Office and DCMS on the our surrounding events and engagement programme on COP26. I had a catch up with David McQueen at the Glasgow Science Centre today to talk about how we and COP partners will use the venue next year. He mentioned that you were coming up this Friday to discuss the external areas and I thought it might be of use if I attend too, so I'm not working at cross purposes? Would that be helpful?

[redacted] in DCMS has asked for a chat tomorrow so we'll hopefully discuss the Science Centre then too.

Do let me know the arrangements for Friday if that's agreeable.

With kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted] | Major Events Unit | Directorate for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs | Scottish Government | 2G South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

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**From:** Berge K (Kersti)

**Sent:** 27 November 2019 13:32

**To:** Matt Toombs <[matt.toombs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:matt.toombs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Russell GE (Gillian) <[Gillian.Russell@gov.scot](mailto:Gillian.Russell@gov.scot)>; Peter Hill <[peter.hill@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hill@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>; Victoria Busby <[victoria.busby@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.busby@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>; [Redacted]; Hamilton C (Clare) <[Clare.Hamilton@gov.scot](mailto:Clare.Hamilton@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Science centre

Matt, the SC contract was signed by both parties yesterday.

Kersti

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**From:** Matt Toombs <[matt.toombs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:matt.toombs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 27 November 2019 11:30

**To:** Berge K (Kersti) <[Kersti.Berge@gov.scot](mailto:Kersti.Berge@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Russell GE (Gillian) <[Gillian.Russell@gov.scot](mailto:Gillian.Russell@gov.scot)>; Peter Hill <[peter.hill@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hill@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>; Victoria Busby <[victoria.busby@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.busby@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>; [Redacted]

**Subject:** Science centre

Kersti

Thank you for the call earlier. I have now heard that, while the Scottish Government has provided a signed contract to the Science Centre along the lines of the SG press release, this has not yet been signed by the SC itself. We also understand that Police Scotland were not consulted on the decision and, because the SC is potentially within the Blue Zone for COP26, this may create operational difficulties with hosting the event in line with our plans. I have checked with colleagues in the COP26 Unit and they confirmed that SG colleagues were aware of plans of the different possible boundaries of the Blue and Green zones, as are Police Scotland.

Pls can you confirm that the contract has not yet been signed by SC? It would significantly help in planning the operational delivery of the event if you can encourage SC to pause on signing the contract until we have an agreed approach with Police Scotland to the different venues needed for COP26 to take place in Glasgow

Regards

Matt

Matt Toombs

Director, Partnerships and Engagement

COP26

Cabinet Office

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]>  
**Sent:** 28 January 2020 16:35  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Thursday meeting with Vic

Hi [Redacted]

That sounds good to me, might be worth adjusting a scheduler if one has gone out to half an hour rather than an hour. Do you have any more information on what Michelle will want to cover re Science Centre/Green Zone,

Best,

[Redacted]

On Tue, 28 Jan 2020 at 15:47, <[Redacted]> wrote:

Hi [Redacted],

It's just Michelle and Vic meeting on Thursday at 12noon - is that your understanding? I believe it was just to be an informal intro chat, but with a focus on discussing the Glasgow Science Centre / Green Zone idea. If Vic only has 30mins I suspect that will probably cover the time allowed. I wasn't planning to do a briefing or agenda, just some background info for Michelle on what green zones are usually like.

Do let me know if that all sounds OK

Many thanks

[Redacted] **Redacted** | Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events | Scottish Government | 2G South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | tel: [Redacted] | mob: [Redacted] | email: [Redacted] | web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 28 January 2020 13:32  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Thursday meeting with Vic

Hi [Redacted],

Sorry to start another thread since but just wanted to keep this separate for clarity. Great to hear you are pulling together the briefing for the Michelle-Vic call on Thursday. If you have any idea of agenda items beyond the Green Zone and what you might like covered within each agenda item, please do let me know.

Vic may only be able to join for the first half an hour so would be helpful to note any ordering of the agenda, as well as ensuring all the right people are in the room.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

COP26 Unit, Cabinet Office

151 Buckingham Palace Road

**From:** Hamilton C (Clare) <[Clare.Hamilton@gov.scot](mailto:Clare.Hamilton@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 26 November 2019 17:18

**To:** [victoria.busby@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.busby@cabinetoffice.gov.uk); Jon Geddes (Sensitive) <[Jon.Geddes@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Jon.Geddes@fco.gov.uk)>;

Archie Young <[Archie.Young@beis.gov.uk](mailto:Archie.Young@beis.gov.uk)>; [Matt.toombs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Matt.toombs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk);

[Peter.Hill@cabinetOffice.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Hill@cabinetOffice.gov.uk)

**Cc:** [Redacted]; Berge K (Kersti) <[Kersti.Berge@gov.scot](mailto:Kersti.Berge@gov.scot)>; [Redacted]; Redacted; Davies,

Huw (International - Climate and Energy) <[Huw.Davies@beis.gov.uk](mailto:Huw.Davies@beis.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Scotland's base for COP26

Dear Colleagues

I'm delighted to be able to let you know that the Scottish Government has entered into a partnership with the Glasgow Science Centre for the Science Centre to be Scotland's base for COP26. We are working with GSC to design an inclusive programme for people and community groups from across Scotland, as well as on a programme of events in the run up to COP and during the UK's Presidency.

Please find attached the press release announcing the partnership, which issued earlier today.

Kind Regards

Clare

Clare Hamilton | Deputy Director – Head of International Climate Change Division & COP26 | Scottish Government

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow | Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

Tel: [Redacted] | Mob: [Redacted]

**NEWS RELEASE INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER EMAIL**

**NEWS RELEASE**

News

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**Tuesday 26 November 2019**

**Scotland's base for climate summit  
Glasgow Science Centre to host COP26 events.**

**Glasgow Science Centre will be Scotland's base for a series of events during the COP26 UN Climate Summit.**

**The Scottish Government has formed a partnership with the centre, and will work with them to design an inclusive programme for people and community groups from across the country.**

**Climate Change Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said:**

**"COP26 is a unique opportunity for Scotland to take part in the global debate on how to tackle the climate emergency. We are determined that community groups, campaigners and people of all ages from across Scotland are able to be involved, and have their views heard.**

**"That is why I am delighted that we have entered into this partnership with Glasgow Science Centre to host a series of events during COP26.**

**"I look forward to working with them in the coming year to develop a programme that is enjoyable and informative, and one that showcases Scotland's ambition and innovation in tackling climate change."**

**Stephen Breslin, Chief Executive of Glasgow Science Centre said:**

**"In November 2020, governments, industry, civil society and other international organisations will come together in Glasgow for COP 26 to tackle the climate crisis. We are delighted to be working with the Scottish Government to ensure that as many people as possible across Scotland can hear their messages so that we can develop a shared understanding of how we must respond, individually and collectively, to the climate emergency."**

**Background:**

- **COP26 is the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Summit and will take place in Glasgow between 9 and 20 November 2020**
- **more than 30,000 delegates are expected to attend the event, which will be held at Glasgow's SEC campus**
- **the COP25 summit will take place in Madrid between 2 and 13 December 2019**

**Section 28(1) – relations within the UK [in relation to communications between the SG and another UK administration]**

An exemption under section 28(1) of FOISA (relations within the UK) applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially relations between the Scottish Government and the UK Government. It is essential for the effective administration of the UK as a whole that there should be regular, and often private, communications between the Scottish Government, the UK Government and the other devolved administrations. The release of these communications about hiring of the Glasgow Science Centre during COP26 will mean that the UK Government is likely to be more reluctant to share such information with the Scottish Government in future, which would reduce both the frequency and openness of communications between the Scottish Government and other UK administrations.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in maintaining good relations between the Scottish Government and the UK Government, and in protecting the free exchange of information between the administrations to ensure that we keep each other fully and regularly informed about matters of mutual interest, such as hiring of the Glasgow Science Centre during COP26. There is no public interest in disclosing information when that will damage relationships and disrupt future communications.

**Section 30(c) – substantial prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs in relation to communications with external stakeholders]**

An exemption under section 30(c) of FOISA (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs) applies to some of the information requested. It is essential for officials to be able to communicate, often in confidence, internally and with external stakeholders on a range of issues, including hiring of the Glasgow Science Centre during COP26. Disclosing the content of these communications, particularly without the consent of the stakeholder, is likely to undermine their trust in the Scottish Government and will substantially inhibit communications on this type of issue in the future. These stakeholders will be reluctant to provide their views fully and frankly if they believe that their views are likely to be made public, particularly while these discussions are ongoing. This would significantly harm the Government’s ability to carry out many aspects of its work, and could adversely affect its ability to gather all of the evidence it needs to make fully informed policies.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing Ministers and officials a private space within which to communicate with appropriate external stakeholders as part of the process of exploring and refining the

Government's position on hiring of the Glasgow Science Centre during COP26, until the Government as a whole can adopt a decision that is sound and likely to be effective. This private space is essential to enable all options to be properly considered, so that good decisions can be taken based on fully informed advice and evidence, such as that provided by the stakeholders involved. Premature disclosure is likely to undermine the full and frank discussion of issues between the Scottish Government and these stakeholders, which in turn will undermine the quality of the decision making process, which would not be in the public interest.