

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 June 2016 14:54

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs <CabSecCTEA@gov.scot>; Minister for International Development and Europe <MinisterIDE@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Note of meeting between FM and Irish President - Note of Scottish/Irish Cultural event (Ceangal) - Monday 27th June

PS/First Minister

PS/DFM *(for sight in advance of tonight's University of Edinburgh Summer Graduation Dinner)*

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs *(for sight in advance of tonight's University of Edinburgh Summer Graduation Dinner)*

PS/Minister for International Development and Europe

On behalf of [REDACTED], please find attached a readout of the meeting between FM and the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, and of the Scottish/Irish cultural event ("*Ceangal - A celebration of Ireland and Scotland*"), both of which took place on Monday 27th June 2016.

Best,

[REDACTED]

PS/First Minister

Copy for info:PS/DFM

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
PS/Minister for International Development and Europe

Note of meeting with Irish President - Monday 27th June 2016

Attendees: First Minister
President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins
Sabina Higgins, Wife of President
Joe McHugh, Minister of State for Diaspora and Overseas

Development Aid

Daniel Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland
Colin Imrie, Head of European Relations, SG
Hazel Wilson, PS, SG
[REDACTED], Secretary General to the President
[REDACTED], Secretary General
[REDACTED], Adviser to the President
[REDACTED] Consul General of Ireland to Scotland

The First Minister welcomed President Higgins and Sabina Higgins to Scotland and wished them well for a successful visit. President Higgins said he was very pleased to be here and recalled his visits to the Celtic Film Festival in Edinburgh and later as President in 2013 to Iona.

President Higgins said he was very struck by the many similarities and synergies between Scotland and Ireland and was keen to promote greater collaboration in future years. In particular he highlighted:

- The niche advantages in the creative industries. Scotland was very strong in animation, and Ireland very strong in ICT given the strength of the cluster around companies like Google.
- The importance of educational and academic cooperation – he highlighted his strong admiration for Scottish scholarship at its best and its focus on values as in Adam Smith, which should give a positive inspiration to young people. Sabina Higgins stressed the importance of integrated education and the First Minister pointed to progress in the curriculum for excellence.
- Opportunities for collaboration in areas such as climate change, alternative energy and oceanography.
- Very strong growth in bilateral trade and the opportunities for commercial partnerships in new sectors.

The First Minister said that she was increasingly worried about the disconnect between politicians and Governments. There were too many negative messages about the economy which reinforced alienation. We should focus instead on positive messages around inclusive growth to encourage young people. President Higgins agreed, saying that the market based economic model had failed. We needed a new vision based upon human skills and adaptability – ICT salaries were now higher than those in law. The EU needed to change its discourse away from austerity and growth

towards more positive aspirations for the future of humanity. Paris had shown that young people were very energised by tackling climate change; Governments and other actors needed to change their discourse. He also wanted more emphasis on human rights; tackling the gender gap; international development; and technology transfer.

He gave his personal thanks to all in Scotland who had responded with such compassion to the murder of the Irish student last year – people in Ireland had much appreciated the response of the first responders and the community. Scotland was increasingly popular for Irish students and it was good that in tragedy common bonds of humanity could be strengthened.

Note of event, “Ceangal - A celebration of Ireland and Scotland” - Monday 27th June 2016

NB: Ceangal [key-AI] means ‘bonds’ or ‘ties’

Around 140 invited guests, from the culture and business sector in Scotland along with the Irish diaspora, attended a pre-concert reception hosted by the First Minister and Daniel Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland in honour of the President of Ireland Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina.

The VIP party, including Sadie Docherty, Lord Provost of Glasgow, received a standing ovation from the public when they entered the main auditorium. After speeches they enjoyed first class performances from:

- [REDACTED]

Post-performance the VIPs had the opportunity to meet, speak and take pictures with the musicians, much to the delight of the young people.

Briefing below.

[REDACTED] | Office and Events Manager & Culture Secretary | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 June 2016 12:29

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Enterprise, Environment & Innovation <DGEEI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: VISIT BY MICHAEL D. HIGGINS, THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016

Andy,

Please find attached briefing and speaking note ahead of the President's visit to Parliament on Wednesday.

[attachments sent separately]

I also attach a scene setter for the visit by [REDACTED] for background information. [REDACTED] will be supporting official and will be available for a pre-brief with the Minister if required.

[attachments sent separately]

Please note that the Ambassador should be referred to as the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins. When speaking to him directly he should be addressed as President Higgins.

His wife should be referred to as Sabina Higgins, and when spoken to directly she likes to be addressed as Sabine. Note that she does not like the use of the phrase 'First Lady'.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 22 June 2016 08:30

To: [REDACTED] Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Cc: [REDACTED] DG Enterprise, Environment & Innovation; McAllister C (Colin); Communications DFM & Education; First Minister; Minister for Parliamentary Business; [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: VISIT BY MICHAEL D. HIGGINS, THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016

Importance: High

[REDACTED]

We spoke yesterday in regards to the visit to Parliament by the President of Ireland next Wednesday. I appreciate the briefing is a work in progress but just to confirm it would be good to have a draft speaking note by no later than 4pm on Monday, 27th July. This will allow us to get it to the DFM for him to consider.

I would also be grateful at this stage for any more information you have around what is expected of the DFM next Wednesday ie where he is to be and at what time. All we have in the diary just now is that the DFM will be required to be free between 1230 and 1430. Can you give us any other info so we can update his diary?

Happy to discuss further if necessary.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business

Sent: 20 June 2016 10:11

To: DL Cabinet Secretaries; DL Ministers

Cc: Minister for Parliamentary Business; DL SPADS; [REDACTED]

Subject: VISIT BY MICHAEL D. HIGGINS, THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016

Importance: High

All

Please note that Michael D. Higgins, the President of Ireland, will visit the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 29 June 2016 and during the visit will address a meeting of Members of the Scottish Parliament in the Debating Chamber at 12.45pm.

Ministers are asked to attend.

To avoid a diary clash the weekly SNP Group meeting has been moved to 13:00 on Tuesday 28 June.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary

Minister for Parliamentary Business

T4.21

Scottish Parliament

☎ [REDACTED]

Please see the Ministers Preferences which may be of assistance to you.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another 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 primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

BRIEFING NOTE FOR JOHN SWINNEY, DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

VISIT BY MICHAEL D HIGGINS, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, TO PARLIAMENT

Wednesday 29 June

Date and Time	<p>Wednesday 29 June</p> <p>12:35pm Presentation to party leaders, Members' Lobby</p> <p>Presidential Party will then be escorted to the Presiding Officer's Gallery</p> <p>12:40pm Presiding Officer welcomes President to Parliament</p> <p>12:45pm President gives speech (30 minutes)</p> <p>1:15pm Deputy First Minister thanks the President (5 minutes)</p> <p>1:30pm Presiding Officer's reception in the Members' room</p>
Where	<p>Scottish Parliament</p>
Key Messages	<p>The Scottish Government is committed to developing its relationship with Ireland. On 5th January 2016 the Scottish Government opened an Innovation and Investment Hub in Dublin. In 2015 there were 18 Ministerial engagements reflecting the value that both nations place on this relationship.</p>
Who	<p>HE Michael D. Higgins, President of the Republic of Ireland</p> <p>The President will be accompanied by:</p> <p>Sabina Higgins, President's wife</p> <p>Joe McHugh, Minister of State for Diaspora & Overseas Development Aid</p> <p>[REDACTED] Secretary General to the President</p> <p>[REDACTED] Secretary General</p> <p>Daniel Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland</p> <p>[REDACTED] Adviser to the President</p> <p>Mark Hanniffy, Consul General of Ireland to Scotland</p>
Why	<p>The President is in Scotland for a four day programme during which he will engage with Irish community groups in Govanhill (Monday morning), host a cultural reception alongside the FM (Monday eve), receive an honorary degree at the University of Edinburgh (Tuesday) address the Scottish Parliament (Wednesday) and visit a Celts Exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland (Thursday).</p> <p>His programme in Parliament will comprise: a courtesy call with the Presiding Officer, presentation to Parliamentary party leaders; address to a meeting of members in the Chamber; tour of the Scottish Parliament, and a reception hosted by the Presiding Officer</p>
Official Support	<p>[REDACTED] Head of the Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Hub in Ireland, Mobile: [REDACTED]</p>
Attached documents	<p>Annex A: Key brief</p> <p>Annex B: Biographies</p> <p>Annex C: Scotland-Ireland relations</p>

KEY BRIEF

President's speech

We expect the President to address the following themes:

- Historic connections between Scotland and Ireland
- Role of Parliaments
- Role of likeminded countries in exerting soft power to achieve progress in the world
- Potential for future cooperation

Key messaging

- The Scottish Government is committed to developing its relationship with Ireland.
- On 5th January 2016 the Scottish Government opened an Innovation and Investment Hub in Dublin. In 2015 there were 18 Ministerial engagements reflecting the value that both nations place on this relationship.
- The Scottish Government values the contribution of the Irish community and the important role it plays in enriching Scotland socially, culturally & economically

Key links with Ireland

- Ireland is a valuable trade partner, as Scotland's 6th largest export market overall with £1.125 billion exported to its shores in 2014 (up 11.3% from 2013). Ireland is also the 2nd largest export market for Scottish food.
- There is potential for increased activity in trade and investment across various sectors including food & drink, low carbon technology, energy, finance and IT.
- Collaboration with Ireland in attracting EU competitive funding is of key interest to Scotland, including H2020 and Transnational Co-operation Programmes. European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) 2014-2020 Programmes have so far seen 9 projects approved with partnerships that include both Ireland and Scotland (7 from the Northern Periphery and Arctic and 2 from the North West Europe programmes) These project have a combined ERDF value of £18.920 million across all partners, with £5.676 million of this awarded to Scottish partners.

Recent ministerial engagement

- 17 June 2016 – First Minister, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism & External Affairs, and Minister for Public Health and Sport met the Taoiseach and Minister for Mental Health & Older People at the British Irish Council Summit in Glasgow
- 09 June 2016 – Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek McKay, met with the Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD.
- 08 June 2016 – Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, attended the launch of the Irish Business Network Launch, also attended by the Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD.
- 16 March 2016 - Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, met with Sean Sherlock TD, Minister of State at Department of Foreign Affairs with Special Responsibility for ODA, Trade Promotion and North South Co-operation.



Michael Daniel Higgins, M.A., Hon.LL.D., Hon.D.Litt. Michael D Higgins was inaugurated as the ninth President of Ireland on 11 November 2011. A passionate political voice, a poet and writer, academic and statesman, human rights advocate, promoter of inclusive citizenship and champion of creativity within Irish society, President Higgins has previously served at almost every level of public life in Ireland, including as Ireland's first Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht. Born in Limerick city in 1941 and raised in County Clare, he was a factory worker and a clerk before becoming the first in his family to access higher education.



Sabina Higgins. Sabina Higgins was born in Cloonrane on the Galway/Mayo border. She moved to Dublin where she worked in the Land Commission. She studied Speech and Stage Craft at the Brendan Smith Academy. When Deirdre O'Connell came from the Actor's Studio in New York and founded the Dublin Stanislavski Studio, Sabina was one of her first students. She married Michael D. Higgins in 1974 and has worked as a partner with Mr Higgins in every campaign and in public life for over thirty years, as well as maintaining her involvement with Theatre and Community Arts, and with Womens' Groups. They have four children.



Joe McHugh. Joe McHugh was appointed Minister of State for Diaspora and Overseas Development Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 12th May 2016. He was previously Minister of State at the Department of for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs. He was also co-chairperson of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly in July 2011. He became a Fine Gael representative in June 1991.



Daniel Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the UK. Daniel Mulhall joined the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland in 1978 and has held positions in the Department's Economic, Political, Development Cooperation and Press Sections. He has had diplomatic postings in New Delhi, Vienna, Brussels and Edinburgh (Consul General in Scotland). Prior to his appointment in London he was Ireland's Ambassador to Berlin and previously to Malaysia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. He is Ambassador to the UK since September 2013. Married with two children.



Mark Hanniffy, Consul General of Ireland to Scotland. Born in 1982 in Clonmel, County Tipperary. Mark graduated from the National University of Ireland in Galway with a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry then a PhD in Organic Chemistry. He joined the MFA in November 2007 and has been Consul General in Scotland since May this year.

SPEAKING NOTE

- Welcome the President to the Scottish Parliament on his first official visit to Scotland. Also extend welcome to Sabina Higgins, Minister Joe McHugh, Ambassador Daniel Mulhall, and accompanying delegation
- As we have heard the histories of our two countries have always been closely intertwined, and our strong connections continue today
- New Innovation and Investment Hub in Dublin demonstrates the importance this Government places on that relationship. The Hub is focussed on developing collaboration with Irish partners across a range of areas of shared interest, such as: economic development; research, development and innovation; and development of renewable technologies; as well as supporting Government to Government links
- Proud of progress hub has made so far. We welcomed a trade delegation in May led by the British Irish Chambers of Commerce and look forward to a reciprocal mission of Scottish exporters to Ireland later this year. We have also developed our engagement with the Irish state energy board, who have decided to open an office in Glasgow this year with a view to future, long term investment in the Scottish energy renewables sector
- Ireland is a valuable trade partner as Scotland's 6th largest export market and there are clear opportunities for increased activity which the hub will support. I am also delighted that we now have an Irish Business Network in Scotland, which was launched earlier this year, and which will help to connect our businesses and identify and explore new collaborative opportunities
- We are also fortunate to have a large Irish community in Scotland and we welcome their vibrant contribution to our communities and our

culture. I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the First Minister's message to the Irish diaspora, and other EU citizens living in Scotland, that you are welcome here, and that the Scottish Government will do all it can to protect the interests of those who call Scotland home

- The Scottish Government strongly believes in working together with our neighbours. In times like these, while there is uncertainty about the UK's future relationship with Europe, our cooperation is more important than ever, and I am convinced that Scotland's relationship with Ireland will continue to thrive

The President of Ireland Michael D Higgins's Visit to Scotland : Scene-setter

Summary

The President is greatly looking forward to his visit to Scotland, which will take place in a spirit of growing friendship and partnership between our two countries. Because of our physical and cultural proximity, this inward visit will be special – richer, deeper and with more points of contact than others. HM The Queen's visit to Ireland five years ago transformed relations on these islands for the better, and president Higgins return State visit in 2014 consolidated progress. His visit to Scotland will inject further depth and momentum into those relations.

Detail

1. President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina will pay a visit to Scotland from 27-29 June. This is not the President's first visit to Scotland, although it is his first official visit since taking office in 2011. He made a private visit to Iona in 2013, on the occasion of the 1,450th anniversary of Colmcille/St.Columba and his disciples' arrival on the island.
2. The visit is the latest in a series of visits President Higgins has enjoyed to the UK in the last 5 years, the highlight of which was undoubtedly his historic State Visit in April 2014 – the first by a serving Irish President.
3. President Higgins has deep and personal ties to the UK. Half his family emigrated to and now live in Britain. He himself studied at Manchester University. Having family across these islands is all too typical for the Irish. As the President has said: "Britain and Ireland are truly interdependent in so many and complex ways."
4. The complexity includes our shared history, of course. 100 years ago, as the third Home Rule Bill was about to be passed, few could have foreseen how relations between Britain and what became the Republic would unfold. Again to quote the President, in that century, we have gone "from revolution, to separation, to estrangement, to partnership and now to an acknowledged interdependence and friendship".
5. The President's description reads like the story of family breakdown and eventual reconciliation. And a family is not a far-fetched simile. Some 10% of the residents of the UK have or had an Irish grandparent, which means there are more people who qualify for an Irish passport on this side of the Irish Sea than in the Republic.
6. The Irish writer, Joseph O'Connor, has argued that: "The book that reveals most about the relationship between Ireland and Britain is no novel or historical study...but the telephone directory of any major British city, in which thousands of people bearing my own surname and every other Irish surname will be found. The Irish and British are more mulatto than we ever acknowledge."

8. At the last census, just under 50,000 people living in Scotland were identified as white Irish. Exact numbers are harder to come by, but estimates suggest that people of Irish ancestry (either protestant or catholic, from north or south) make up some 20% of the Scottish population. Nowhere are the deep, personal nature of the ties between Scotland and Ireland demonstrated more than those that bind Donegal to Scotland. The Irish Government Minister who will accompany the President to Scotland, Joe McHugh TD, Cabinet Minister for International Development, is a Donegal native and TD for the North East ward of that county.

9. This visit will not have the transformational impact of The Queen's to Ireland, or for that matter President Higgins' return State Visit in 2014, for the simple fact that the transformation has already happened. But it will nonetheless add energy and momentum to relations, consolidating the great improvement that has recently taken place, and in particular reflecting the recent strengthening of diplomatic relations between Scotland and Ireland. What the President's visit will also do is to acknowledge the special role of the Irish community in Scotland.

10. The contribution of the Irish to Scottish life will be a theme of the President's visit, and he will engage with Irish community groups in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In the 18th century, Irish workers serviced the boom in construction of Scottish housing and infrastructure. In the 19th, Irish immigrants often provided blood, sweat and toil to help fuel the industrial revolution here. Today, in Scotland, as across the UK, Irish citizens and Scots with Irish ancestry hold influential positions across the full spectrum of our society and professions, including in our parliament.

11. The visit will draw attention to and celebrate all that shared space where the Venn diagram of Irish and Scottish interests and culture overlap. The President will recognise our science and research links during a ceremony and dinner at Edinburgh university. At a symposium on the life of James Connolly, he will remember Connolly's contribution to the formation of the Irish free state, and his role as an internationalist. He will, together with the First Minister celebrate the deep links between Scottish and Irish music and prose in a concert at the Royal Concert Hall. He will address the Scottish Parliament and speak warmly of the parliamentary tradition and the importance of open, transparent democratic institutions to our shared society.

12. As has been the case for his Presidency, certain themes will predominate during his visit, some of which he will be keen to discuss with the First Minister when they meet Glasgow on the 27th of June. The President has been a strong advocate for a more inclusive macro-economic model. He has called for a more sustainable model of economic development, and for the fight against climate change – Scotland's focus on inclusive growth and a low carbon economy are therefore of huge interest. He has publicly spoken of the need for the EU to reform in a way that can better reconnect with its citizenry – in the days following the 23 June vote, he will be concerned about the future of the Union. Lastly, he is a life-long admirer of the Scottish intellectual tradition, a student of the Scottish enlightenment, and deep admirer of the lasting legacy of Adam Smith.

12. Let me leave the last (preparatory) word to President Higgins. Ahead of his 2014 State visit to the UK he wrote something that remains highly relevant ahead of his visit to Scotland: "This historic State Visit reminds us that while the passage of time

can change the contours of political maps and perhaps even community allegiances, it does not alter the challenges and possibilities of our shared humanity with its innate decency and dignity. The values which unite the British and Irish people are ones I look forward to affirming and celebrating”.

Date/time	what	Who is involved from SG	Action required	Lead on action	status	comment
27th – 29th	COMMS		Liase with COMMS & Consulate re media activity	[REDACTED]	On-going	Liaised with Comms – on-going communication
Monday 27th 11:15	President arrives at airport	No SG presence	Confirm with PO who will greet President	[REDACTED]	Complete	[REDACTED] both unavailable. No SG rep at the airport.
15:00-15:45	Bilateral President FM at AQ	[REDACTED] official support to FM	Confirm room available	[REDACTED]	Complete	Rooms booked for meeting
			Confirm [REDACTED] attending meeting; other official?	[REDACTED]	Complete	[REDACTED] official support to FM
			Briefing for FM - Confirm discussion points - commission contributions - write	[REDACTED]		Draft briefing done. Attendees (& biogs), room & media handling tbc. Europe section to go on Friday.
	FM & Pres at community engagements		Confirm with PO whether FM intends to accompany President			
	Cultural event	FM & [REDACTED]	Briefing for FM & [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Complete	[REDACTED] confirmed [REDACTED]
			Speech	[REDACTED]		
			OPS note	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED] feed in
Tuesday 28th	Dinner at Edin Uni	Cab Sec & DFM	Need to confirm attendance to Edin Uni; Official support tbc Briefing for Cab Sec;	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED] has confirmed with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] completed MACCS case & confirmed with Edinburgh Uni. [REDACTED] doing briefing.
Wed 29th	Speech by President in Parliament; response by DFM;	DFM, [REDACTED] support	Confirm DFM response in chamber; Confirm arrangements for DFM	[REDACTED]	complete	Appointment confirmed in DFM's diary.

	Reception for all MSPs					[REDACTED] in touch with DFM's office & Parliament.
			Briefing & Draft response by 16:00 27 th June			Briefing requirements same as FM

**PS/Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
PS/Minister for International Development and Europe**

Purpose

1. To seek the Cabinet Secretary and the Minister's agreement to attend a Scottish/Irish relations event on Monday 27th June in honour of Irish President Higgins' visit to Scotland.

Priority

2. Routine.

Background

3. President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, is planning to visit Scotland on 27 – 30 June 2016 and will meet the First Minister on Monday 27th June as part of his programme. This will be President Higgins' first formal visit to Scotland since he took office in November 2011.
4. A draft programme for his visit is attached in Annex A. Irish officials will continue to work closely with us as the programme develops. The intention is that he will arrive on Monday morning to spend the day and night in Glasgow, ending the day with an event that will celebrate Scottish/Irish cultural links. The following morning, he is expected to meet members of the Irish diaspora in Glasgow, after which he will travel to Edinburgh to be awarded an honorary degree by the University of Edinburgh. Day three will be centred at the Scottish Parliament, where the President is expected to address the Chamber.
5. The First Minister has agreed to co-host a cultural reception and concert with the Irish Government in honour of the President's visit. A draft programme for the event is attached for your information in Annex B.

Conclusion

6. The Cabinet Secretary and Minister are both invited to:
 - **Note the content of this submission;**
 - **Indicate whether you are both content to attend the event in honour of President Higgins visit and to celebrate and promote Scottish-Irish relations in the evening on Monday 27th June in Glasgow.**

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister					X
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs	X				
Minister for Europe and International Development	X				

[REDACTED]

Visit by President Michael D Higgins and Sabina Higgins to Scotland

27th to 29/30th June 2016

DRAFT – Programme under development

Monday 27 June [GLASGOW]

Morning TBC – Arrival at Glasgow

Meeting with the First Minister

Evening – Irish community reception and/or Scottish/Irish Relations Event

Tuesday 28 June

Morning – engagement with Irish community groups support by the Irish Government’s Emigrant Support Programme

[Travel to Edinburgh]

1500 Graduation ceremony

Award of honorary degree of Doctor of Laws to President Higgins

Dinner hosted by [REDACTED], Principal and Vice Chancellor

Wednesday 29 June [EDINBURGH]

Morning – (TBC) possible Academic Symposium on the life and legacy of James Connolly, University of Edinburgh.

1200 Arrival Scottish Parliament

Brief meeting with the Presiding Officer

1230 Address to Members of parliament in parliament chamber

Response by First Minister or Deputy First Minister

1300 Lunch

1430 Depart parliament

Thursday 30th June

Depart

SCOTTISH/IRISH CULTURAL EVENT – DRAFT PROGRAMME

Title: 'Ceangal – A Celebration of Ireland and Scotland'

Date: Monday 27th June 2016

Venue: RSNO New Auditorium

Proposed Running Order:

6:45 – 7:20pm Reception and speeches, Strathclyde Suite (approx. 200)

7.30pm – 8.45pm Concert

Concert Performers (Not final running order)

Alan Kelly Quartet	4 piece	8 mins	Ireland
Eddi Reader and Alan Kelly Quartet	5 piece	20 mins	Scotland / Ireland
Landless	4 piece	8 mins	Ireland
Feis Rois Ceilidh Trail	6 piece	8 mins	Scotland
Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson	3 piece	8 mins	Scotland / Ireland
Rody Gorman – poetry	Solo	3 mins	Scotland
Colette Bryce - poetry	Solo	3 mins	Ireland
Jackie Kay – poetry	Solo	3 mins	Scotland
MC – Intros	Solo	10 mins	
	Total	75 mins	

First Minister

PRESIDENT OF IRELAND'S VISIT TO SCOTLAND – 27-30 JUNE 2016

Purpose

1. **To seek your agreement to meet with the President of Ireland during his visit to Scotland on 27 – 30 June 2016 and to co-host an event to celebrate and promote Scottish-Irish relations.**

Priority

2. **Urgent.** An early indication of your availability will enable officials in Ireland to develop the President's programme.

Background

3. President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, is planning to visit Scotland on 27 – 30 June 2016 and has requested a meeting with the First Minister on Monday 27th June as part of his programme. This will be President Higgins' first formal visit to Scotland since he took office in November 2011.

4. A draft programme is attached for your information in Annex A. Irish officials will continue to work closely with us as the programme develops. President Higgins is expected to visit Scotland for 3 days. The intention is that he will arrive on Monday morning to spend the day and night in Glasgow, ending the day with an event that will celebrate Scottish/Irish cultural links. The following morning, he is expected to meet members of the Irish diaspora in Glasgow, after which he will travel to Edinburgh to be awarded an honorary degree by the University of Edinburgh. Day three will be centred at the Scottish Parliament, where the President is expected to address the Chamber.

5. It is a constitutional requirement for all overseas travel by the President to receive approval from the Government. Approval is expected shortly and planning for the visit is now fully underway.

6. Scottish/Irish relations have never been stronger. In the last 12 months, the Irish government have strengthened their diplomatic presence in Edinburgh. The Scottish Innovation and Investment Hub in Dublin, opened on 5 January this year. Coming, as it does, at an important point in the Irish decade of centenaries, President Higgins' visit is a symbolic opportunity to mark the importance to both countries of the relationship, and to look forward to future collaboration.

7. Private Office have indicated that a meeting with the President on Monday 27th June in Glasgow may be possible, to facilitate your constituency business and at the

same time enable the President to engage with the large Irish diaspora in the West of Scotland.

Conclusion

8. You are invited to:

- **Note the content of this submission;**
- **Indicate whether you are content to meet President Higgins during the day on Monday 27th June in Glasgow;**
- **Indicate whether you are content to co-host an event with President Higgins to celebrate and promote Scottish-Irish cultural relations in the evening on Monday 27th June in Glasgow.**

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs Minister for Europe and International Development	X		X X		

[REDACTED]

Visit by President Michael D Higgins and Sabina Higgins to Scotland

27th to 29/30th June 2016

DRAFT – Programme under development

Monday 27 June [GLASGOW]

Morning TBC – Arrival at Glasgow

Meeting with the First Minister

Evening – Irish community reception and/or Scottish/Irish Relations Event

Tuesday 28 June

Morning – engagement with Irish community groups support by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme

[Travel to Edinburgh]

1500 Graduation ceremony

Award of honorary degree of Doctor of Laws to President Higgins

Dinner hosted by [REDACTED], Principal and Vice Chancellor

Wednesday 29 June [EDINBURGH]

Morning – (TBC) possible Academic Symposium on the life and legacy of James Connolly, University of Edinburgh.

1200 Arrival Scottish Parliament

Brief meeting with the Presiding Officer

1230 Address to Members of parliament in parliament chamber

Response by First Minister or Deputy First Minister

1300 Lunch

1430 Depart parliament

Evening depart for Dublin

Thursday 30th June

Depart