

From: Stephen Montgomery [REDACTED]
Date: 12 July 2020 at 19:53:33 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP" <Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Cancellations

Hi Fergus

I hope this finds you well.

Please see below email received by me today from one of our hotels in my area of SW Scotland today and also below this, one of the emails from one of his cancelling customers.

He has now lost £3.2k in one day because of the continual talk of 14 day quarantine and the lack of a definite answer from the FM on this.

Whilst I appreciate the health issue here, I feel there is something that needs said to some degree as the uncertainty is causing unrest in both the customer eye and also the business owner.

If this uncertainty continues, we may as well just write the season off. I have been pressing for positive statements to come from MSPs, but I'm not sure what is best here where it is business and health combined.

I'd welcome your thoughts.

Hi Stephen

I only just saw it on the 6.30 border news, I had cancellations start at about 3.15pm so must have been on a news after lunch time. It was only after the telephone cancellation that I had it explained to me what had been said. I have just had a fourth cancellation and am up to 3.2K down. Its great when you can say what you like and still keep a salary coming in. I am very happy to use this example if Fergus would like I am happy to send him copies of the emails that I have received with two of the guests cancellations, they really put the situation in black and white.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Hello

Hope all well. I am noting the latest discussion in the press re the potential quarantining of visitors from England. Still feels like a pretty unlikely / unenforceable idea but I am concerned about any impact on our visit. It simply isn't possible for us with children to quarantine in Scotland for 14 days.

We are absolutely still hoping to come. However, I want to confirm that if such a quarantine policy is introduced that we will not incur any cancellation charge on our end if we therefore decide we cannot come as a result.

Thanks and look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: Stephen Montgomery [REDACTED]
Date: 1 July 2020 at 09:42:17 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP" <Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Papers Again

Hi Fergus

Please forgive me for again going on a rant, but I really believe that something needs to be done about these media reports.

We all know that the media love a story to sell the paper, but these headlines are seriously doing our industry absolutely no good at all.

I am not sure what is the best route, however, a strong message at a FM briefing may be a good start. Things are going to be hard enough for us in the time that is left of the summer, without these headlines.

Of course I am as always available for a chat to discuss ways around this if you need to talk about it.



Kim Kardashian is a billionaire...and feminism is dead

SARAH VINE SEE PAGE 17

Tourism chiefs warn of threat to industry as holidaymakers say they'll cancel trips to Scotland over threat of quarantine

STURGEON BORDER BACKLASH

ENGLISH tourists have threatened to cancel plans to visit Scotland after Nicola Sturgeon warned they may need to go into quarantine.

The First Minister faced a backlash yesterday after again insisting she would be prepared to introduce the measure to 'protect the Scottish popula-

By **Michael Buckley**
Scottish Political Editor

tion'. Tourism bosses warned of a big impact on an industry hit hard by the coronavirus crisis.

They revealed some firms have been contacted by people south of the Border concerned at the threat of 14 days' quarantine and wanting a full refund if it comes into effect.

More than two-thirds of tourists in Scotland come from the UK mar-

ket. Opposition politicians accused Miss Sturgeon of a 'deplorable' attempt to turn the public health crisis into a constitutional battle.

It comes as a UK-wide analysis shows some of the top Covid-19 hotspots are in Scotland, while some parts of England have much lower numbers of cases.

Hotels, bed and breakfasts and other accommodation providers are currently taking bookings ahead of Scotland's tourism sector finally

Turn to Page 4



Trump 'bullied and humiliated' Theresa May

SEE PAGES 14-15



Boris will invest in Union to speed up Covid-19 fightback

SEE PAGE 6



I dreamt up idea for new British 4x4 down the pub

MEGS CHILF'S BOLD NEW VENTURE • PAGE 11

TOURISTS SAY THEY'LL SNUB SCOTLAND



FIRST MINISTER: 'Hard-headed'

Visitors ready to cancel holidays over Sturgeon quarantine threat

ENGLISH holidaymakers are poised to scrap Scottish staycations after Nicola Sturgeon threatened to force them into quarantine.

Barely 24 hours after the First Minister revealed she could impose new curbs, tourism chiefs are already fielding queries from travellers seeking refund details.

Ms Sturgeon yesterday doubled down on her warning that people arriving from England could face confinement if there is a surge in

By Tom Martin
Scottish Political Editor

Covid-19 cases there. People crossing the Border may have to self-isolate for up to 14 days or face fines for breaching regulations.

Making 100 days since the country went into lockdown, Ms Sturgeon again insisted that she would do what is "necessary to protect the Scottish population".

The SNP leader also said she "cannot guarantee" visitors from other home nations would be

TURN TO PAGE 4



Boy, 3, dies as car crashes into shop

SEE PAGE 4

S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association



From: Stephen Montgomery [REDACTED]
Date: 1 July 2020 at 13:05:41 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP" <Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>
Cc: Colin SLTA <theslta@aol.com>
Subject: Local Cluster

Hi Fergus

Further to our news that there is a local cluster outbreak in D&G, I am wondering with the 6th and 15th July drawing close, will there be a possibility that we will not be able to open as planned?

Obviously ordering and staffing is of importance and we do not wish to do all this and spend if we are not going to be able to open

Regards
Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: The SLTA <theslta@aol.com>
Sent: 09 June 2020 16:24

To: Forbes K (Kate), MSP <Kate.Forbes.msp@parliament.scot>
Cc: Ewing F (Fergus), MSP <Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>; Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>; Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP <Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: SLTA - CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE



TO KATE FORBES - CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

The SLTA refers to your recent announcement that small businesses which share properties, but do not pay business rates, are now eligible to apply for grants to help with the impact of COVID-19.

The fact that you now have allowed people sharing office spaces etc, where many do NOT pay any rates at all, to apply for grant aid is yet further evidence that you are continually ignoring the pleas for support from those with a rateable value of over £51,000 in the Tourism and Hospitality sector.

Every day we now see more and more businesses in this sector closing their doors, facing bankruptcy, or entering into redundancy consultation phases within their business to allow them to fight for survival. This recent development only shows that the Scottish Government is turning its back on the very businesses who pay more than their fair share into a system that is already unfair and a disproportionate burden to this sector.

The Association also notes within your announcement that the closing date for applications for the initial grants will now close on the 10th of July as it is *“essential that we do not allow funds to sit for too long in schemes that are attracting few applications, so we have decided to bring these to a close next month. That will mean that any remaining money can be re-routed to help businesses in other ways, as we have already started to do for the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund.”*

Perhaps now Cabinet Secretary you might just do more to focus on helping all those businesses who have still had no support from the Scottish Government. There are of course the Hardship and Pivotal Schemes in place, but their introduction was too late in coming for many. We appreciate that these schemes can approve grants of more than £25,000, but our research shows that, as of last week, only 14% of applicants have been successful with their applications for these grants, the rest either having failed or still waiting to hear.

The above shows that this is not the way forward to support this forgotten sector. We do not wish to hear the repeated remark, that the "UK Government hasn't given anything for those over £51,000 RV". The fact remains that the Scottish Government

has the discretion to distribute available grant funding as it sees fit, and so far, it has not seen fit to support those businesses in the over £51,000 RV Hospitality and Tourism sector. These businesses need to be rescued now.

On the matter of the announced closing date for grants, the SLTA seeks your clarification on a particular scenario.

What is the situation if a business has a rates appeal against their rateable value already in place before the 17th March 2020 and this appeal then adjusts the rateable value to an amount below the £51,000 threshold, but not heard before or confirmed before 10th July?

Can you please confirm that, as the appeal claim was already live before the 17th of March, there will be an allowance for those businesses affected to still be able to apply for a grant after the 10th July cut-off date, and before the 31st March original deadline?

We look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Montgomery

President
The Scottish Licensed Trade Association
CBC House, 24 Canning Street,
Edinburgh EH3 8EG
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Scotland's Pubs and Bars - A Story To Tell
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From: Stephen Montgomery
Date: 2 June 2020 at 18:55:37 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
Cc: "Forbes K (Kate), MSP" , "Colin Wilkinson (info@theslta.co.uk)"
Subject: Off Line Call

Hi Fergus

I felt compelled to drop you an email this evening after our call this morning. I've had a little time to cool down now, because I honestly despair at the minute with the way things are going.

Whilst I appreciate totally, your input and time which you dedicate to the STA conference calls, and to the calls I have had with you also, we just seem to be banging our heads off a brick wall.

I first made contact with Kate Forbes Cab Sec on 20th April, and I have made several attempts through email correspondence since, and as of today, 43 days on, we as an association have had ZERO reply, not even a complimentary email to say that someone will be in touch, however today I see a B&B owner who doesn't pay rates, or ANY of the financial hardships that we do, and doesn't even have a business bank account, getting a personal email reply from Kate.

I also emailed on 21st May, where indeed Mr Ewing you replied straight away, and I thanked you for this, and you said you would pass my email to your office and reply further.....again, we still await this.

It is now a reality that many in my sector stare into the abyss of bankruptcy, especially those with an RV over £51k, and staff being made redundant. This is not on. Whilst I totally understand that there is no way of saving every business, I ask you, please, at least show them something.

In all honesty, and I lay my cards on the table here, if I hear any more about small B&Bs, who in the broad reality of it all contribute very very little to the broader economy in Scotland, getting more help, and those in self catering fitting in some way into the same bracket.....whilst my more needing sector with higher RVs are left high and dry.....honestly, I give up.

I wish however to place on record, that I fully understand, and 100% appreciate that it takes all forms of business, from self catering, B&Bs, etc to make up the complete tourism industry here in Scotland, and I am in no way knocking what they do, however I fail to understand how a husband and wife team with a house no bigger than a normal marital home, with a couple of spare rooms listed on a B&B OTA or AirBnB, and whose owners possibly have second jobs, as if they are only open 140 days will need further income outside the season, needs more financial support than those with an RV over £51k.

I would like if possible to arrange a call with yourself, Kate Forbes Cab Sec and Colin our MD at a time suitable with yourself.

I have for the record also copied & pasted the first correspondence below for your attention, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

"Dear Minister,

As President of the Scottish Licensed Trade Association, which represents independent licensed on-trade establishments, including pubs, bars, hotels, restaurants, and late-night premises, and personal licence holders, I am compelled to write to you regarding the Scottish Government's grant scheme and the eligibility for applications to receive the grant funding.

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the world. It is something that no-one ever would have envisaged, and certainly not something that this industry would ever have thought would have left us in the situation we all now face, one where we do not know if or when we will ever recover from, and if we do, how we do it.

On being told that our businesses had to close, the industry met it with heavy heart, but as we locked our doors for the last time on the 20th March, we were left feeling uncertain of our future. The question we all asked ourselves as we walked away was "will we ever open that door again?".

The Westminster Government was very quick to announce unprecedented support to save businesses in the Hospitality, Tourism and Retail sectors. The SLTA was also initially pleased to hear that the Scottish Government would mirror this.

On first release, our sector was appreciative of the help which they were more than happy to receive, and many of these businesses went on to make immediate financial decisions, important decisions, with regards to staff retention, commitments to lenders, suppliers and other business requirements.

The sudden realisation that the Scottish Government had then seemed to have "moved the goalposts" on the "criteria" for application, was met with dismay, unease, and heartbreak. The change to "one grant one business" and not "per property", as first suggested, was totally unexpected.

On reading the announcement of the remaining money being released, it was met with some relief to those who had more than one property, although only at 75%, again not in line with Westminster, as was previously stated.

Our question now is this:

When is a business actually a business?

Is it a business when it employs staff, pays VAT, pays PAYE, pays Tax, pays Business Rates, pays Water Rates, pays Licensing Fees, pays PPL/PRS, and many other standing costs?

or

Is it a business when it is a small B&B (let's say 2 bedrooms) paying only council tax, paying no staff wages, no business rates, no PAYE, no VAT, no commercial water rates etc?

Whilst we totally appreciate that every "business" as such needs help in some way during this unprecedented time, and knowing how tourism in Scotland is so important to the economy and its GDP, from a small B&B to a large hotel, it is totally baffling as to why the Scottish Government has yet again dismissed the plight of the businesses in the hospitality sector who have a rateable value of over £51k.

The fact that these businesses have a higher RV, does not mean to say they are big businesses, and nor does it mean in any way that they are more cash rich, less at risk, or not in need of help. The fact is these businesses have paid into the system for many years and also need help now.

It is our understanding that the second tranche of funding released will lead to the following scenarios:-

- 1) A pub, hotel or restaurant with an RV of between £18,001 and £50,999 will be eligible for a grant of £25k*
- 2) The owner of 2 self-catering places may qualify for £17.5k, or £25k for 3 etc, etc.*
- 3) A simple 2 bedroomed B&B property ran by a husband and wife will be eligible for £10k*
- 4) A Hotel, Bar or Restaurant with an RV of more that £51k will get nothing.*

In fact, here is a scenario based on actual businesses:-

- 1) A hotel in Kirkcudbright, with a rateable value over £51k, who has also paid a rates supplement in previous years, who has owned his hotel for 30 years, with 16 bedrooms, employing 20 staff, to date has paid £740,000 in rates, paid his taxes, VAT and all the rest of the costs incurred by his business in the tax system, is now up to his overdraft limit, receives nothing.*
- 2) A small B&B in Moffat, husband and wife, (As reported in the Annandale Herald, page 2 on 16th April) with no staff wages, no PAYE, no VAT, no business rates, no corporation tax, and only pays normal council tax is now looking at an entitlement to a grant of some kind, possibly £10k?*

Who is the one in more need here?

The Association emphatically wishes to place on record that it does not intend to cause division within the hospitality industry, our intention is to highlight the disparity of the grant support levels and qualification criteria currently in the grant allocation system.

The SLTA is calling on you as Cabinet Secretary for Finance, to come out and support those businesses who we represent that are over the £51,000 RV threshold, and show them that you have their interests at heart also, because at the moment, they have been shown no worth at all, left helpless, left isolated whilst they now stare into the abyss, many whom now face certain bankruptcy, and also their employees who could ultimately end up having to be supported by the welfare system.

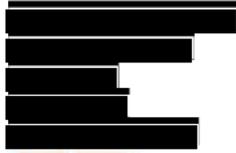
This is not a time for political or geographical blame, it is a time for the Scottish Government to show that they are leaders and show that those who have been left out to graze on the bare field are actually just as important as the small B&B highlighted in scenario above.

The SLTA looks forward to hearing from you in the very near future that further action will be taken to support those who have been currently ignored."

The Scottish Licensed Trade Association,
CBC House, 24 Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EG.

Regards
Stephen

Stephen Montgomery
President: Scottish Licensed Trade Association



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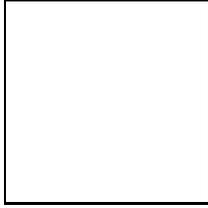
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From: Stephen Montgomery
Date: 15 June 2020 at 21:17:56 BST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Grant Application/Occasional Licence

Hi [REDACTED]

Only me again!!

I have had a call this evening from [REDACTED] address below.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
GLENROTHES
FIFE
[REDACTED]

He is the named person on the rates, and is STILL awaiting his grant money with a rateable value of [REDACTED]

I am very worried just now on the new closing date of 10th July for applications, as we are as you can see still awaiting payment of many who have already applied, and I would hate it that if applications already submitted are not paid before the 10th July, they will fall into the same category.

Mr Ewing:

I hope you are well.

Just a quick one, I was wondering if there is anything back on the "wish list" for licensing on outdoor areas, where we discussed the use of occasional licences for these areas without the need for an end date. With the opening of outside areas due to start on 18th June, many who are wanting to open still find themselves in a position of not knowing where they stand.

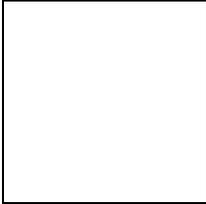
Thank you as always to the both of you for your continued support in helping sort out any issues.

Regards
Stephen
Stephen Montgomery
President: *Scottish Licensed Trade Association*

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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From: Stephen Montgomery
Date: 17 June 2020 at 23:53:54 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
Cc: Colin SLTA
Subject: Task Force

Good evening Fergus

Firstly may I thank you for taking my impromptu call this afternoon.

With regards to the Scottish Recovery Tourism Taskforce, Colin and I both think it would be good if the SLTA were Directly involved in this, so I said I would drop you over an email in that regard.

I hope that you will afford The SLTA a part at the table, and i look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Regards
Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

[Redacted signature block]

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From: Stephen Montgomery
Date: 20 June 2020 at 18:37:13 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
Cc: Colin SLTA
Subject: Outdoor areas

Good evening Fergus

Firstly my apologies for emailing on a Saturday, however, as President my job never stops.

I am receiving many messages over outside areas in Finnieston Glasgow, being used today by pubs etc.

These areas seem to be the streets surrounding the areas of the pubs.

As an association, this gives me great concerns, after what we saw in Edinburgh previously as few weekends ago.

We are telling our members and wider audience that they are to stay closed, however it seems that whilst we play our part others just do what they wish.

I felt it imperative that I draw this to your attention, and we will of course be looking into this further

Regards
Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

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From: Stephen Montgomery
Date: 24 June 2020 at 09:25:17 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
Cc: Colin SLTA
Subject: GDPR

Good morning Fergus

Just a quick one from me this morning you will be pleased to hear

In England we hear that when people go into Licensed places, they will need to leave details including name, address, contact number etc.

With the GDPR regulations I am not sure what way that leaves things, and if this is something that the FM is considering in Scotland, we will need to take a look at this and see what way we will handle it.

Whilst all of us currently handle the details of residents staying with us, I am already seeing people on social media saying they would not be prepared to come in to a pub if they needed to leave these details when just going for a meal or a drink.

It also begs the question on what happens when people from Scotland go on holiday to England and need to leave these same details.

I think we need to really look at this, as again this is a customer confidence issue for our trade.

Regards
Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

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From: Stephen Montgomery
Date: 29 June 2020 at 08:23:17 BST
To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
Cc: Colin SLTA
Subject: News Report

Good morning Mr Ewing

I hope this finds you well, and having enjoyed a nice weekend.

I think I need to draw your attention to a news report in the Herald over the weekend, which if actually true, will effectively put the final nail in the coffin for our sector until such time's that these quarantine measures are changed.

I really feel that clarification needs to be made on this from ScotGov, and I would ask that the First Minister, yourself, or someone in Government would make comment on this to confirm or deny this report, and in doing so bring some much needed confidence back to both us as business operators in a sector hardest hit by COVID, and also to our tourist guests who wish to come to Scotland to holiday.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18546954.english-tourists-could-face-14-day-quarantine-scotland-covid-19-cases-flare/>

Regards
Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

[REDACTED]

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From: Ewing F (Fergus), MSP <Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 05 July 2020 11:50
To: Stephen Montgomery <thetownhead@gmail.com>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Borders Scenes

Stephen

Thanks for the email and I have now seen the publicity and find it repugnant vile and utterly unacceptable.

In 1994, when I was an Vice Convenor of the SNP I moved a motion which has remained policy ever since. That anyone found to have expressed racist views would be expelled from the SNP.

I abhor these comments - And I note that a number of my colleagues including Humza Yousaf the Justice Minister have already made clear that they do not in any way represent my party.

The need to tackle the virus and actions taken make lines on a map irrelevant whether they are borders or not, and I hope you can see from the universal reaction of my colleagues that this is not on.

It appears to have involved a handful of individuals so far as I can see - but I have not seen the video only press publicity of the incident this morning

I value the working relationship we have and your role on the taskforce. I would be keen to have a chat with you about the recommendations it may make in your own sector.

Maybe we can do that this week

Fergus

Sent from my iPad

On 5 Jul 2020, at 10:04, Stephen Montgomery wrote:

Good morning Mr Ewing

Shocked, dismayed, emotional, upset, challenged, and disgusted.

Some of the words from the calls I have been receiving after the scenes emerged of those who gathered at the border areas yesterday.

I wish to make clear that there are no politics in this email, and it is purely on the basis that now businesses in my sector not just in my area of D&G, have yet again been put at risk by the events of yesterday which are now all over the media, and also posted over twitter by those who actually made the video. It also has to be taken into account that in my area we are on a localised lockdown to a degree, so this has really incensed and aggrieved many.

Yesterday alone and as of 9am this morning, I personally in one of my sites just 20 miles into Scotland, have lost bookings just short of £2k on accomodation.

I have been getting calls from other hoteliers, pubs and restaurants not just in my area of D&G, who have worked so so hard over the last 3 months to stay alive and save their businesses, saying they are now majorly concerned, and quite rightly so.

I think it is well documented that I have been calling for major positive messages to be put out by MSPs and by our FM, but the power of the media over the weekend has seriously set us back.

As you know, over the past 3 or 4 months, you and I have forged what I would call a great working relationship, which I respect and feel lucky to have.

I am really not sure what can be done to put these events right, but something needs to be done, so in wearing my two hats, as a business operator, and president of the SLTA, I am calling on you, the FM, and your colleagues in the Scottish Government to please come up with something to help us put these scenes right.

Fergus just as we are about to see the start of our industry recovery, which will as you know be a long road, these events have really set us back, and not through fault of our own, but by the fault of those who have very little understanding of the absolute devastating effect of their stunt.

On one persons page alone, on twitter who retweeted the video, it has been viewed by 577k people, and further retweeted 2229 times as can be seen in the attached screen shot.

We really do need your help on this



577K views

13:33 · 04/07/2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

2,229 Retweets 2,006 Likes

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Regards

Stephen

S Montgomery

President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

From: Stephen Montgomery <thetownhead@gmail.com>
Sent: 06 July 2020 09:48
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Borders Scenes

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email this morning.

Yes that is totally fine for 3pm on Wednesday.

Fergus should have my number but just in case, it is [REDACTED]

Regards
Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.townheadhotel.co.uk

www.theslta.co.uk

On 6 Jul 2020, at 09:37, CabSecRET@gov.scot wrote:

Good Morning Mr Montgomery,

We would be able to offer 15:00 on Wednesday 8th July for a chat with Mr Ewing. If this would be suitable, could you please confirm the best number for Mr Ewing to contact you on?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED] **Deputy Private Secretary**
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
[REDACTED]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: Stephen Montgomery
Sent: 05 July 2020 11:55
To: Ewing F (Fergus), MSP
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
Subject: Re: Borders Scenes

Hi Fergus

I totally agree and stand by you on your stance on this.

I am more than happy as always to make time to have a chat and see where we can take this to win back our customer confidence, so whenever you have a free bit of time, just lift the phone, I am happy to take a call at any time.

Regards
Stephen
S Montgomery
President: Scottish Licence Trade Association

[REDACTED]

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