

ANNEX

1. EMAIL CHAIN ON 03 AUGUST 2020 15:32

To/From details redacted

Thanks very much – the reference to ‘takeaway voting’ is interesting – would be good if you get a reply!

Extract from New Zealand Electoral Commission webpage:

We have plans for different COVID-19 Alert Levels

Our planning for the election is based on:

- being in a position to meet the requirements of Alert Level 2, and
- being able to deliver to small clusters of up to 500 voters affected by local Alert Levels 3 or 4, to a maximum of 5,000 voters nationwide, using takeaway voting.

If an outbreak occurs during the voting period, there are some emergency powers available to the Chief Electoral Officer to delay election day voting by up to seven days at a time.

<https://vote.nz/covid-19/covid-19/>

Sent: 29 July 2020 14:51

To/From details redacted

Subject: RE: Triggering of Covid-19 precautions at a future SP election - New Zealand approach

Hi [redacted],

Thanks, just to note, I’m waiting on a response from the contact in NZ (see below) but, from the delay, it may be that these questions are not very easy to answer even in the NZ context just yet (unless I’ve over-complicated issues in my email!)

[Embedded email to/from New Zealand Electoral Commission]

To/From details redacted

Sent: 24 July 2020 01:33

Subject: RE: Election preparations in the context of Covid-19

Hi,

Indeed we are quite busy, but we will try and get to this next week.

Cheers

[redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2020 12:08 PM

To/From details redacted (email to New Zealand Electoral Commission)

Subject: Election preparations in the context of Covid-19

Dear *redacted*,

Redacted as not relevant to request

The next Scottish Parliament election is due to take place next May, and I am currently pulling together information on the experiences of other countries preparing for elections in the context of Covid-19 in advance of our own.

I see from your Electoral Commission [Covid-19](#) page that your planning for the September election and referendums is based on being in a position to meet the requirements of Alert Level 2, and being able to deliver to small clusters of up to 500 voters affected by local Alert Levels 3 or 4, to a maximum of 5,000 voters nationwide, using takeaway voting. I just have a few queries on this if that's ok:

- Is takeaway voting already provided for in existing NZ electoral law (is it part of special voting in the [Electoral Regulations 1996](#)) or are you having to introduce new primary or secondary legislation on this or any other part of your contingency planning for the election in response to Covid-19? Do you have any shareable information on how this will work in practice in the case of small clusters affected by levels 3 or 4, including how late in the day you might envisage being able to respond to local outbreaks in advance of the election date.
- Do you have any information on any emergency provisions there may be if a voter has planned to vote on election day (i.e. hasn't voted in advance) and is required to isolate at the last minute?
- Am I right in saying that you do not usually have postal voting for national elections, but that local elections are all-postal votes? Has an all-postal vote been ruled out for the September election, even if the whole country moved to level 3 or 4?
- Do you have any shareable information on how decisions will be triggered (if this has been explicitly set out) in the event of a larger outbreak in the run up to the election, e.g. would the exceeding of the maximum of 5,000 voters nationwide being affected by local Alert Levels 3 or 4 trigger an automatic postponement (use of emergency powers by the Chief Electoral Officer?), or would this be based on the advice of the lead medical / public health official at the time, or other decision-making framework? Is there a limit to the number of seven day delays the Chief Electoral Officer is allowed to 'use'? What would happen in NZ if a longer delay is required/recommended but Parliament has already been dissolved?

I appreciate you're likely to be very busy just now, so please do just say if you don't have capacity to respond on any or all of these queries at the moment, or if there's anyone else you might be able to point me to.

Thanks very much in advance.

Kind regards,

*[name redacted]
Embedded email ends]*

Not sure if you've come across this page which details various notices and orders including those establishing and revoking alert level 2 for example.:
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-epidemic-notice-and-orders>. And the detailed description of their alert levels in case you don't have it:
<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/tables/COVID-19-alert-levels-detailed.pdf>.

So this does perhaps suggest their alert levels are statutory in a way that ours aren't? But as [redacted] notes, this perhaps doesn't rule out using it as a reasonable and widely recognised public health basis for decision-making, and to aid communication and public messaging so that it feels tied to something understood, and not arbitrary?

[redacted under s.29(1) FOISA]

Sorry, the world has probably moved on umpteen times since this correspondence!

To/From details redacted

Sent: 27 July 2020 16:25
Subject: RE: Triggering of Covid-19 precautions at a future SP election - New Zealand approach

Hi

Thanks again for this. I have done a bit more digging on the New Zealand approach and found this interesting blog:
<https://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/18-03-2020/the-nz-election-is-a-big-event-could-it-be-delayed-in-a-covid-19-world/>

It looks as if the NZ law on this (ss. 195 to 195E) is a permanent 'in case of emergency provision', *[redacted under section 29(1) FOISA]*. The reference to an epidemic notice given under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006 seems to make the reference to a pandemic statutory in the way our phases are not:
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0087/latest/whole.html#DLM310056>

Some interesting features:

- The Chief Electoral Officer is to consult the Prime Minister; the Leader of the Opposition; and any person or organisation that in the Chief Electoral Officer's opinion is able to give information about the scale and duration of the unforeseen or unavoidable disruption
- The Chief Electoral Officer must give public notice of the adjournment
- The Chief Electoral Officer must have regard to: (a) the need to ensure the safety of voters and electoral officials; (b) the need to ensure that the election process is free from corrupt or illegal practices; and (c) the need to ensure that the election process is concluded in a timely and expeditious manner.

To/From details redacted

Sent: 24 July 2020 08:24

Subject: Triggering of Covid-19 precautions at a future SP election - New Zealand approach

To details redacted

Policy discussion redacted under section 29(1)

To/From details redacted

Morning,

Just to confirm, I emailed with queries re the NZ approach last night, so hopefully will hear back soon.

A couple of articles with snippets of info I came across in passing are here in case useful:

<https://publicaddress.net/legalbeagle/pandemic-preparedness-and-the-new-zealand/>
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/416429/new-zealand-general-election-at-level-2-or-lower-pm-jacinda-ardern-confirms>

What I'd written up previously is below, but hopefully should get further details to flesh out the details:

Box 1: New Zealand example of linking election planning to Covid alert system

New Zealand has linked its election planning to its alert system¹ (see adjacent). The country is currently at Level 1 (disease is contained) but their Electoral Commission states that their planning for the election is based on meeting the requirements of alert level 2 (disease is contained but risks of community transmission growing). Their alert levels do not map exactly on the Scottish Government's Covid Routemap², but NZ Level 2 may be somewhere between SG Phases 2 and 3.

The NZ Electoral Commission is also making provisions for 'takeaway voting' within their current plans in case there are localised Covid-19 outbreaks, even while the country as a whole is at Level 2:

"Voting services can be delivered to small clusters of up to 500 voters affected by local Alert Levels 3 or 4, to a maximum of 5,000 voters nationwide, using takeaway voting".

If an outbreak occurs in a large area of the country during the voting period, there are emergency powers available to the Chief Electoral Officer to delay election day voting by up to seven days at a time.



¹ <https://uniteforrecovery.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-alert-system/alert-system-overview/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis/>

The safety of delivering an election at a nationwide Alert Levels 3 or 4 is a public health decision that would need to be taken by the Government".³
<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

To/From details redacted

Thanks – that would be very helpful, especially on how any decision would be triggered. You might find this email exchange of interest:

To/From details redacted

Sent: 22 July 2020 15:27
Subject: RE: Call

Ha!

I was just wondering if you'd seen the NZ Electoral Commission page on their plans for their election in September? <https://vote.nz/covid-19/covid-19/>

I have a contact on the legal side in the NZ Electoral Commission from when I was asking about their referendums legislation. Would you be happy for me to ask if there's anything more detailed they can share on how they're linking their planning to alert levels?

To/From details redacted

Redacted as not relevant to request

2. EMAIL CHAIN ON 05 AUGUST 2020 09:17

To and From details redacted
Subject: RE: Singapore legislation

Sorry – meant the pre-Covid Act!

To and From details redacted

Sent: 05 August 2020 09:15
Subject: RE: Singapore legislation

Hi

Thanks – I guess that is similar to our current power, as our dissolution is normally a month and a half before polling day, so in effect our rule is to allow a new poll within 2 and a half months of dissolution.

From details redacted

³ <https://vote.nz/elections-and-more/all-events/2020/2020-general-election/covid-19-and-the-2020-general-election/>

To and From details redacted

Sent: 05 August 2020 08:52

Subject: Singapore legislation

Hi [redacted],

Just going through some of this but just sending this in the meantime in case useful to see Singapore's [Parliamentary Elections \(COVID-19 Special Arrangements\) Act 2020.](#)

The Act refers to Section 56C of the [Parliamentary Elections Act](#) re postponement, which looks at a glance to give the power to the Returning Officer to delay an election (including due to health risks), but it must be held within 3 months after the dissolution of Parliament.

All there legislation is listed here: <https://www.eld.gov.sg/legislation.html>.

3. EMAIL CHAIN - 24 AUGUST 2020 16:22

Subject: RE: New Zealand

[names redacted]

As discussed, a bit more on the timeline:

- The (NZ) House adjourned on Thursday 6 August, ahead of the scheduled dissolution of Parliament on Wednesday 12 August.
- Parliament was due to be dissolved on Wed 12th August (ahead of 19th Sept election). On the 12th the Prime Minister delayed dissolution until the following Monday (17th).
- On Monday 17 August, the Prime Minister announced the 2020 general election would be postponed until 17 October
- Parliament will now be dissolved on Sunday 6 September 2020 (just under 6 weeks before the election).

I will try to find out whether it would always have been their intention to have a clear 5-6 weeks between dissolution and the election, or whether the dissolution could have taken place much closer to the election, and what the rules would have been around that for campaigning.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/the-house/audio/2018759138/dissolving-parliament-what-is-that>

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/what-happens-to-parliament-with-a-delayed-2020-general-election-date/>

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/parliament-in-election-year/election-timeline-2020/>

There are also some further details available now re 'takeaway voting'. Takeaway voting seems to use the same packs (incl declarations, pre-paid envelopes etc) as for postal voting – see <https://vote.nz/voting/get-help-to-vote/cant-get-to-a-voting-place/> and the takeaway element is that you can authorise a friend or family member to pick up your voting papers from a polling place for you, and they just need to be returned to a polling place by 7pm on the day of the election.

When they say their planning is based on “*being able to deliver to small clusters of up to 500 voters affected by local Alert Levels 3 or 4, to a maximum of 5,000 voters nationwide, using*

takeaway voting", it's not clear if this means having capacity for electoral officials to deliver and collect up to 5,000 takeaway voting packs nationwide, or if using takeaway voting would still require a friend or family member collecting your voting pack, which would be tricky in certain lockdown scenarios. I'll try to find out more.

If you've any further questions for me to ask or any comments on the above, just give me a shout.

Cheers,

[name redacted]

Sent: 24 August 2020 13:57

[names redacted]

Subject: RE: New Zealand

Hi

Thanks again for this. When you do hear back from your contact, would it be possible to ask what impact there has been on the campaign in terms of the ability of sitting members to continue to act as such during a campaign period? E.g. continuing to pursue issues and correspondence as members during an election period?

[names redacted]

Sent: 17 August 2020 11:06

To: EFD : Elections <DLCEABEFDE@gov.scot>; >

Subject: New Zealand

Hi all,

You've probably all caught the news already re New Zealand delaying their election by a month due to their recent outbreak. They currently have 78 active cases (an increase of 9 in the last 24 hours), and twenty active cases in managed isolation and quarantine facilities. Everywhere in NZ except Auckland moved to alert [level 2](#) on 12th august, which is the alert level that the NZ Electoral Commission had based their planning on. But Auckland region moved to [Alert level 3](#), and previous info from the NZ EC had said they only had limited capacity to provide voting services (takeaway voting etc) to areas on alert level 3.

Further info direct from Electoral Commission including some info on their timescales is here: <https://elections.nz/media-and-news/2020/election-day-will-be-17-october/>. I still haven't received a response from my contact there, but I imagine he has been ridiculously busy over the last week so haven't chased.

And more detail in this article: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/300084530/election-2020-how-the-government-is-delaying-the-election-and-why>

And in the NZ Herald info on a poll which said that 60% of the public wanted it postponed https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12357017, although it suggests this was driven by opinion in Auckland (the most populous area).

There is political consensus around the delay, although it might have been a different story if others had been ahead in the polls.

[information not relevant to request redacted]

[name redacted]

4. EMAIL CHAIN - 28 SEPTEMBER 2020 16:49

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Crawford E (Ewan) <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Curtis PS (Penelope) <Penelope.Curtis@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot> [other names redacted]

Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW PLS: Media enquiry - Lab NR - Election 2021 contingency - Daily Mail

Happy to issue on SPAD clearance.

From: *Redacted*
Sent: 28 September 2020 16:23
To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Crawford E (Ewan) <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; [other names redacted]; Curtis PS (Penelope) <Penelope.Curtis@gov.scot>; < Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW PLS: Media enquiry - Lab NR - Election 2021 contingency - Daily Mail

Thanks – need to go to Minister or can I reissue on SpAd clearance please?

[name redacted]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 September 2020 16:01
To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Crawford E (Ewan) <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Curtis PS (Penelope) <Penelope.Curtis@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot> [other names redacted]

Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW PLS: Media enquiry - Lab NR - Election 2021 contingency - Daily Mail

Agreed – stick with existing lines.

S

Email - 28 September 2020 15:59

From [redacted]

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 September 2020 16:01

To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Crawford E (Ewan)

<Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Lloyd E

(Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister

<CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Curtis PS (Penelope)

<Penelope.Curtis@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director)

<David.Rogers@gov.scot> [other names redacted]

Subject: SPAD VIEW PLS: Media enquiry - Lab NR - Election 2021 contingency - Daily Mail

SPADS,

With thanks to [redacted] for taking a look over,

We've received the below from the *Daily Mail* on the possibility of disruption to next year's election. I'm aware DFM spoke on this subject yesterday: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54316214>

Officials agree that from his remarks the below recent line needs no updating – Grateful for a SpAd view:

Q

As discussed, on the postal vote option, Richard Leonard said: "The concern I would have about holding a national election solely on the basis of postal votes, is that it could drive down turnout.

"While it is vitally important to ensure that people who want a postal vote are signed up well in advance of any election, taking away the right of voters to go the polling booth on election day, is not where we should be."

I'd appreciate a line on where the Scottish Government is regarding consideration of contingency options, what timescales there are for a decision etc.

SG LINES – ISSUED 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We expect the election to go ahead as scheduled but we are working with the Electoral Management Board, the Electoral Commission, Scottish Parliament and political parties to look at options for potentially running an election in different circumstances from the norm if required."

Background

The Presiding Officer has the power to recommend a change to the date of a Scottish Parliament Election by 1 month, either side of the scheduled date. Beyond this, the date would need to be changed by primary legislation which would need to be passed by the Scottish Parliament.

ENDS

Many thanks,

Name redacted

Material redacted where not relevant or subject to section 29(1) exemption

From: *redacted*

Sent: 28 September 2020 15:31

Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director)

<David.Rogers@gov.scot><Penelope.Curtis@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister

<CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>

Subject: POLICY VIEWS BY 1550 PLS: Media enquiry - Lab NR - Election 2021

contingency - Daily Mail

Redacted and colleagues,

We've received the below from the *Daily Mail* on the possibility of disruption to next year's election. I'm aware DFM spoke on this subject yesterday:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54316214>

From his remarks it doesn't look like the below recently cleared line needs any updating – **I'll put to SpAds at 1550** for their view if no policy views.

Q

As discussed, on the postal vote option, Richard Leonard said: "The concern I would have about holding a national election solely on the basis of postal votes, is that it could drive down turnout.

"While it is vitally important to ensure that people who want a postal vote are signed up well in advance of any election, taking away the right of voters to go the polling booth on election day, is not where we should be."

I'd appreciate a line on where the Scottish Government is regarding consideration of contingency options, what timescales there are for a decision etc.

SG LINES – ISSUED 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We expect the election to go ahead as scheduled but we are working with the Electoral Management Board, the Electoral Commission, Scottish Parliament and political parties to look at options for potentially running an election in different circumstances from the norm if required."

Background

The Presiding Officer has the power to recommend a change to the date of a Scottish Parliament Election by 1 month, either side of the scheduled date. Beyond this, the date would need to be changed by primary legislation which would need to be passed by the Scottish Parliament.

ENDS

Contact details and query email from journalist quoted above redacted

5. EMAIL ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2020 10:45

Forwarding email redacted as not relevant to request

To and From details redacted

Subject: RE: Scottish Parliament Election - meeting between comms and elections team

Ahead of our meeting later this morning, please find below the full transcript of what DFM said on Sunday Politics at the weekend.

thanks

name redacted

GB: Now, can I ask you about something that's come up this morning, there are suggestions that your government is in discussion about postponing next year's election. What's happening?

JS: Obviously, there's a [clip skips] of uncertainty about the period that lies ahead, and the Government's plan and Parliament's plan is that the election should take place as scheduled on the first Thursday in May. Obviously, there are some contingencies being looked at by Parliament, by all parties, and obviously we will continue to discuss those issues because it's vital that we have that democratic process to enable the people of Scotland to choose their Government and certainly from the Government's point of view, we want the election in May to go ahead as timetabled already.

GB: This is about like some of the other issues we've had, isn't it, wouldn't... the counterargument to that would be, look, this isn't going away this virus, it seems to be getting worse, wouldn't it be better to just... its not the end of the world if it was postponed to, say, October, wouldn't it be better to do that now so we've got clarity.

JS: The Government's priority is to make sure the election can take place as timetabled in May. I think people would expect that. It's the moment in the electoral cycle where Parliament should be re-elected, and the public should have their choice about who should represent them in Parliament. I think it's important that we focus on that as the timetabled priority for the people to decide and obviously it's appropriate that we look at contingencies in case that is not practical. But the Government's priority is to make sure that the elections take place in May a scheduled and we're working towards that objective.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: redacted

Sent: 16 September 2020 11:13

To: redacted

Subject: Scottish Parliament Election - meeting between comms and elections team

When: 29 September 2020 11:30-12:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Skype Meeting

Hi all,

Please let me know if you are able to dial in to discuss communications activity for the Scottish Parliament election in May 2021 in the context of Covid-19.

Thanks,
Elections Team

6. EMAIL ON 01 OCTOBER 2020 09:05

To and From details redacted

Subject: FW: Media Digest - Thursday 1 October 2020

Some more media interest!

The Scotsman 28 **All postal-vote election is a way to reinvigorate democracy in Scotland** Next year's Holyrood poll is under discussion with consideration being given to a delay or an all-postal ballot. It may be that everything will be hunky dory by next May and life has returned to normal but I very much doubt that. It's unlikely that there'll even be a vaccine on the go, never mind it having been rolled out widely, so finding the option of a wait unhealthy

Kenny MacAskill, Thursday, 1st October 2020:

"Like many, I have a postal – most candidates do, other than party leaders delivering the photoshoot at polling booths on election day. It's not just where you might live but you've too much to do, so better to have it done. But this is a chance to get as many as possible, not just the politically motivated to participate. That can only be good for democracy, but the process requires to be known and understood. Why not then have somebody like the Electoral Reform Society in charge of delivering ballots and arranging for accredited staff to collect, socially-distanced and following guidance?"

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/covid-why-scottish-parliament-elections-next-year-should-be-decided-all-postal-voting-kenny-macaskill-2988611>

Daily Express (Scotland) 13 **Who wins if poll is late?** RUMOURS continue to circulate that May's Scottish Parliament elections might be delayed because of the effects of the pandemic, given both Nicola Sturgeon and Boris Johnson say the current restrictions might last six months. That would take us up to March or April - right into the middle of a bitter campaign. How could political meetings and even canvassing take place within the present tough social distancing rules? And who

From details and email not relevant to request redacted

7. EMAIL ON 12 OCTOBER 2020 13:10

To and From details redacted

Subject: NZ cabinet papers

Hi,

Still can't access most websites. But have discovered government ones are ok! On our call with NZ, they mentioned these papers would be proactively released – they look as though they have a lot of useful material in them.

Supporting the delivery of the 2020 election in a COVID-19 environment

- Cabinet paper - <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/SE21-Paper-Supporting-the-Delivery-of-the-2020-Election-in-a-Covid-19-Environment-17-Jun-2020.pdf>
- Cabinet minute - <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/SE20-Minute-Supporting-the-Delivery-of-the-2020-Election-in-a-Covid-19-Environment-17-June-2020..pdf>

Electoral Amendment Regulations:

- Cabinet paper - <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/AL13-Paper-Electoral-Amendment-Regulations-No-2-2020-22-July-2020.pdf>
- Cabinet minute - <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/AL12-Minute-Electoral-Amendment-Regulations-No-2-2020-22-July-2020.pdf>

Best wishes,

Sender details redacted

8. EMAIL ON 13 OCTOBER 2020 14:04

To and From details redacted

Subject: RE: This Morning's News - Tuesday 13 October 2020

Hi

I've listened to the Good Morning Scotland piece by David Lockhart today (2 hours 41 mins into the programme). A quick run through of the issues – not really anything especially to note though:

- Reference to social distancing at council by-elections.
- Reference to cross party talks, moves to increase postal voting and to encourage vulnerable to vote by post.
- Highlighted two day voting a possibility – issues on staffing and best to make an early decision.
- 100% postal voting unlikely for administrative reasons
- Power to postpone for 1 month.

Rebecca Wagner (AEGEE Election Observation) highlighted the need for clear and continuous engagement with public

Sender details and preceding email of 13 October 2020 10:30 not relevant to request redacted aside from:

Broadcast summaries

BBC Scotland

Postal voting may be extended for Holyrood election It's likely there'll be a push to extend postal voting ahead of Scottish Parliament elections next year. Cross party talks are currently looking at options for how the vote can go ahead while the pandemic is ongoing.
Rep Scotland

GMS0800	<i>Report</i>	David Wallace Lockhart
GMS0840	<i>Report</i>	David Wallace Lockhart
	<i>Clip</i>	Rebecca Wagner (AEGEE Election Observation)
	<i>Clip</i>	Chris Curtis (Yougov)