

From: [Redacted > On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 16 December 2020 19:08
To: [Redacted >
Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

[[Redacted

Just to confirm we have received your email and once we have had the opportunity to discuss with the First Minister I will be able to get back to you.

Kind regards

[Redacted
[Redacted | PS/First Minister | T: 0131 24 ([Redacted

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

From: [Redacted >
Sent: 16 December 2020 12:37
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

P/S First Minister,

As you know, James Hamilton is currently conducting an investigation into the First Minister's self-referral under the Ministerial Code. The First Minister has provided a written statement to Mr Hamilton.

As set out in his letter of September 2020, Mr Hamilton may wish to invite those who have provided written statements to him to participate in an interview to discuss the content of the written statement and to allow Mr Hamilton to ask any supplementary questions.

Mr Hamilton is finalising his consideration of written statements, and would like to ask whether the First Minister would be available to participate in a video interview in the week commencing 11th or 18th of January 2021?

Best wishes,

[Redacted

From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 18 January 2021 19:02
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

Thanks [Redacted], we will hold the afternoon of the 1st February.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | P5/First Minister | T: 0131 24 [Redacted]

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 18 January 2021 18:11
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

Hi [Redacted]

Many thanks. I think Mr Hamilton now has other commitments on the 29th so can we hold a slot on the afternoon of the 1st?

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] > On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 18 January 2021 16:14
To: [Redacted] >; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

Hi [Redacted],

Could we pencil in for 29 January and/or 01 February.

I can keep both dates available for Mr Hamilton to try and make it work?

Let me know what times would best suit.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted | PS/First Minister | T: 0131 24 ([Redacted

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From [Redacted

Sent: 12 January 2021 17:56

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

Hi [Redacted,

Mr Hamilton can do the 25th and the 29th, and possible the 26th (would be able to confirm next week).

Any time in the week of the 1st would be ok.

Best wishes,

[Redacted

From: [Redacted

Sent: 12 January 2021 17:11

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

Hi [Redacted,

Many thanks, I will ask Mr Hamilton for his availability in those two weeks and get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

[Redacted

From: [Redacted > On Behalf Of First Minister

Sent: 11 January 2021 11:20

To: [Redacted >]; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

[Redacted,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you and no worries for cancelling the meeting – I know how busy everyone is just now.

The week commencing the 25th January is when we are expecting the First Minister to be at committee. What dates and times would suit Mr Hamilton for that week? Would you be able to identify some dates for WC 25 January and also WC 01 February so we can give both Mr Hamilton and the First Minister a bit of flexibility?

As always happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted PS/First Minister | T: 0131 24 ([Redacted

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From: [Redacted]

Sent: 06 January 2021 17:00

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

Hi [Redacted,

With apologies for any trouble caused, could we cancel the meeting arranged for next week?

Mr Hamilton is considering some additional written statements and documents and would like to defer any meeting with the First Minister until he has finished this work, so he can be sure of which issues he might want to discuss.

Mr Hamilton has indicated he may have some questions he would like to discuss with the FM- would it be possible to have a provisional slot in the diary in the week of the 25th in case this is required?

Happy to discuss.

Best wishes,

[Redacted

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 30 December 2020 16:45

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

Hi [Redacted,

Many thanks for suggesting these dates and understand that the date may need to change depending on any emergency business that might arise. Mr Hamilton would prefer the 13th if that would be possible?

I need to do a couple of things to finalise arrangements for the video interviews, but once I have done that I will send over some joining instructions. It would also be helpful to arrange a technical test with someone from the private office a couple of days before the meeting just to check everything works.

Best wishes,

[Redacted

From: [Redacted > **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 22 December 2020 19:29
To: [Redacted >; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

[Redacted,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

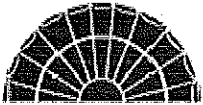
Can we suggest two dates please – Wednesday the 13th and Wednesday the 20th, both around 1500hrs . I do want to add a caveat (as I have to do with any meetings I currently arrange) that the First Minister may have to react to urgent business and I therefore may ask to reschedule. This would only be in an emergency situation and I will make all attempts to ensure the meeting takes place.

Grateful if you could send me the details of the video interview so I can arrange set up.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or queries.

Best wishes

[Redacted
[Redacted Private Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [Redacted



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

FirstMinister.gov.scot

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

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Subject: Ministerial Code investigation- video interview- availability

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