

## Document 1

**From:** Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 12:15

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

**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Comms, can you make sure DfM has the SG lines on the FFM accusations in his briefing pack please

[redacted], - I will forward the spad line we were issuing separately. I will also do a round up of political stories of the papers early tomorrow for DfM to see before his interview

kate

Kate Higgins

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Economy and Connectivity

[redact]

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If your business is impacted by coronavirus, and you need support, visit

<https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/>

Scottish Government

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

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 12:03

**To:** [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills ; [redacted] ; [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] ; News Desk ; [redacted] ; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) ; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser ; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) ; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport ; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing ; Higgins K (Kate) ; [redacted] (Communications) ; [redacted] [redacted] ; Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) ; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]v[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] ; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit ; Leitch J (Jason) [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] **Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Thank you [redacted] – it just happened to be that [redacted] was the first person to respond, but very much welcome any help you and your team can provide.

Many thanks

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 3650 | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 11:27

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot](mailto:FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot)>; Leitch J (Jason) <[Jason.Leitch@gov.scot](mailto:Jason.Leitch@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <[David.Rogers@gov.scot](mailto:David.Rogers@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Thanks for sight of this. I lead on compliance, with Matt Allan as DD, so not sure why this has gone to [redacted] (although it's kind of him to offer). I'll ask Matt to provide some lines.

[redacted]

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

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 09:52 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; News Desk

<[Newsdesk@gov.scot](mailto:Newsdesk@gov.scot)>;; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>; [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <[FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot](mailto:FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot)>; Leitch J (Jason) <[Jason.Leitch@gov.scot](mailto:Jason.Leitch@gov.scot)>; [redacted] Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <[David.Rogers@gov.scot](mailto:David.Rogers@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Morning [redacted]

Thank you – look forward to hearing from you again shortly. DFM's skype is [redacted]

Just to confirm to the copy list, [redacted] has kindly replied to me separately confirming that Organisational Readiness should be able to provide some briefing on compliance – I'm copying in [redacted] and [redacted] here to keep them in the loop and everything in the same chain.

DFM has confirmed that his Committee briefing pack from yesterday – attached – should be ok to serve as the main background briefing, **unless** there are new stories over the weekend which require new briefing to be provided.

So I think that really leaves ‘**whether there's a need for further measures**’ as the unassigned element which DFM will need briefing on, but I realised I hadn’t copied [redacted] in previously, apologies [redacted]! Is this something you can help with please?

I have further expanded the copy list to include others who may have an interest/anything to contribute.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 3650 | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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**From:** [redacted] >

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 09:31

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>; [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] <[Newsdesk@gov.scot](mailto:Newsdesk@gov.scot)>; [redacted] McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) <[Ken.Thomson@gov.scot](mailto:Ken.Thomson@gov.scot)>; Griffin J (Joe) <[Joe.Griffin@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Griffin@gov.scot)>; [redacted] Rogers S (Shirley) <[Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot](mailto:Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot)>; DG Constitution and External Affairs <[dgcea@gov.scot](mailto:dgcea@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday’s Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Morning [redacted],

Many thanks – I’ll confirm with the Sunday Politics Team and come back with a further logistical update shortly.

Grateful if you could confirm the DFM’s Skype details.

To confirm, duty comms will provide running stories/lines in the morning. Copying in my overnight colleague, [redacted] and Sunday morning colleague, [redacted]

Thanks,

[redacted]

Duty comms

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 09 January 2021 09:22  
**To:** >; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>; DG Constitution and External Affairs <[dgcea@gov.scot](mailto:dgcea@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Morning folks

DFM will accept the bid and do it live – could you please confirm what time it will be at and also that they will contact DFM on Skype?

For benefit of those newly added, Sunday Politics would like to speak to DFM, specifically focusing on restrictions, adherence and whether there's a need for further measures.

With the focus on restrictions and compliance, I'm copying in [redacted], [redacted] [redacted] & [redacted] who I hope might be able to point me in the direction of who would be available to provide briefing by 8pm tonight? Although focusing on compliance/restrictions DFM has also asked for briefing on other topical issues, including information on running Government stories over the weekend.

Comms – if DFM could also have running stories/lines asap tomorrow morning as usual please.

Many thanks to you all

[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 3650 | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 08 January 2021 19:35  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser)

<[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] **Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Thanks [redacted],

Copying in duty colleagues to take forward and get back to Sunday Politics either way tomorrow.

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

**Sent:** 08 January 2021 18:40

**To:** [redacted] ; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

<[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser)

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<[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>;

Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate)

<[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Hi[redacted]

DFM is aware of it and is considering. I will come back as soon as I can.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 3650 | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 08 January 2021 18:34

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser)

<[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser)

<[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>;

Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate)

[<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Apologies for chasing, but has the DFM had a chance to consider this bid?

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 08 January 2021 13:58

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser)

<[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart)

Special Adviser <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser)

<[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>;

Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <[MinisterPHSW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHSW@gov.scot)>; Higgins K (Kate)

<[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Private Office

*Copying in Cab Sec Health for awareness*

Sunday Politics would like to speak to DFM, specifically focusing on restrictions, adherence and whether there's a need for further measures.

While they also would be happy to accept Cab Sec Health, given the focus on restrictions, comms & SpAds recommend an accept for DFM, given his comments at covid committee today, and need to push adherence to measures as a key message. They can clip some of the comments and will run on wider news bulletins, so it will reach a greater amount of people throughout the day, as well as on other programs.

Grateful if you could ask DFM if he would be content to undertake this bid?

They'd prefer live, but are very happy to accept a prerecord earlier in the morning, from 9-9.45. The presenter would be Lynsey Bews.

Best,

[redacted]

## Document 2

**From:** Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 12:13

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>;

[redact] [redact] [redact] McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <[Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot](mailto:Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot)>;

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser

<[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <[Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot)>;

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <MinisterPHSW@gov.scot>; [redact] [redact] [redact] (Ken) (Director-General) <Ken.Thomson@gov.scotv[redact] [redact] >; DG Constitution and External Affairs <dgcea@gov.scot[redact] [redact] [redact] [redact] [redact] [redact]>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scott [redact] [redact] [redact]>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

All

On the need for further measures, we could use what FM has been saying in recent days on this to create lines, if these are not already in the core briefing?

Kate Higgins  
Special Advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted]

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If your business is impacted by coronavirus, and you need support, visit <https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/>

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

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 12:03

**To:** [redacted] ; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) ; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser ; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) ; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport ; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing ; Higgins K (Kate) [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]; Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) ; [redacted] Rogers S (Shirley) ; DG Constitution and External Affairs [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit ; Leitch J (Jason) [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director)

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

Thank you Joe – it just happened to be that Jim was the first person to respond, but very much welcome any help you and your team can provide.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 3650 | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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### **Document 3**

**From:** Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 12:42

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

**Subject:** RE: DFM view - Sunday's Politics Scotland bid for Health Secretary or DFM

[redacted], I'm sure he already has these – if we update anything through the day I will send on. Have also included the (rough and ready as it's ours) transcript of Ian Blackford on Any Questions last night too for info

A spokesperson for Nicola Sturgeon said:

“The First Minister entirely rejects Mr Salmond’s claims about the Ministerial Code.

“We should always remember that the roots of this issue lie in complaints made by women about Alex Salmond’s behaviour whilst he was First Minister, aspects of which he has conceded. It is not surprising therefore that he continues to try to divert focus from that by seeking to malign the reputation of the First Minister and by spinning false conspiracy theories.

“The First Minister is concentrating on fighting the pandemic, stands by what she has said, and will address these matters in full when she appears at committee in the coming weeks.”

***Here you go roughly –***

Presenter asks for comments on FFM comments. If its provide she misled

Ian –

I'm absolutely sure that the first minister will be vindicated when she does (go to committee)

so this is a distraction from what is going on we just talked about some of the problems we face through this pandemic. but my goodness, my colleague my friend our leader in Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon has done an absolutely outstanding job of making sure that she is.. interrupted

presenter

but on the principle if it was proved she had misled Parliament would she have to resign .I take the point that we still await to hear from her but on that principle - its yes no answer

Ian t

the FM has been clear about what took place between herself and the FFM, this is a distraction about what's going on .. interrupted

presenter

but the answer is surely yes to that question

Ian

but you are asking me where you are putting to me an accusation which has been made which I don't believe to be correct.

I believe that the first minister has acted in an honourable way she is someone that I have every faith and trust in

presenter

you say that this is a distraction and yet these are the two biggest advocates of Scottish independence alive today could this be a fatal blow to your reason for being in politics the idea of an independent Scotland when those two figures are at loggerheads

Ian

the idea of independence for Scotland is about a future for all of us and of course Nicola rightly is leading our country and will lead our country to independence as well. , you often find situations where leaders find if I could put it this way that previous leaders have a habit of being a bit of a pain in the neck. I can tell you that the approval ratings for the first minister, the respect that she has right up and down the country in Scotland is enormous and this is something that will be pass when she appears in front of the committee these matters will be dealt with, she'll be getting on with that day job of making sure she is leading Scotland through this pandemic.

Kate Higgins  
Special Advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted]

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#### Document 4

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 09 January 2021 19:27  
**To:** Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot [redacted] Cc: [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Covid-19 Director <covid-19.director@gov.scot>; LeitchJ (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>; [redacted] [redacted] OCENHS Mailbox <OCENHS@gov.scot>; Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Minister for Public Health and Sport <MinisterPHS@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance: Media enquiry: Asymptomatic testing - Mail on Sunday

Thanks Kate.

**I'd be grateful if officials on the copy list could provide the info Kate recommends that DFM has on community testing asap tonight.**

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 3650 | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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**From:** Higgins K (Kate)

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 19:17

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills ; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport ; [redacted]

**Cc** [redacted] [redacted] Covid-19 Director ; Leitch J (Jason) [redacted] [redacted] OCENHS Mailbox ; Communications Healthier [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] ; Minister for Public Health and Sport

**Subject:** RE: For clearance: Media enquiry: Asymptomatic testing - Mail on Sunday

[redacted]

In case DfM hasn't seen, Ms Freeman's lines on this are given below – it might be useful for DfM to also get some info about our own community testing programme in briefing:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman said:

“I announced just before Christmas, that following successful trials earlier in December, we would be introducing a Community Testing Programme in January 2021.

“This will target testing and other resources at communities with high transmission rates with the aim of identifying positive cases and breaking chains of transmission.

“Local authorities and NHS Boards have been working together to develop Community Testing bids which were submitted to the Scottish Government last

Friday (8 January). These are now being considered and we will make decisions as soon as possible. We continue to work with other governments in the UK to share learning and plan how we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Kate Higgins  
Special Advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted]

Please follow the public health guidance on coronavirus at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>  
If your business is impacted by coronavirus, and you need support, visit  
<https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/>

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

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 18:54

**To:** Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; Covid-19 Director <[covid-19.director@gov.scot](mailto:covid-19.director@gov.scot)>; Leitch J (Jason) <[Jason.Leitch@gov.scot](mailto:Jason.Leitch@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] OCENHS Mailbox <[OCENHS@gov.scot](mailto:OCENHS@gov.scot)>; Communications Healthier <[CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Minister for Public Health and Sport <[MinisterPHS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHS@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For clearance: Media enquiry: Asymptomatic testing - Mail on Sunday

Hi all,

Is there any briefing on this which I can share with DFM please (ahead of his Politics Scotland interview in the morning), other than the lines below? I have got a copy of the UKG release and will share that with him.

Thanks

[redacted] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: 0131 244 3650 | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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**From:** Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 09 January 2021 17:58

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>; [redacted] **Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Covid-19 Director <[covid-19.director@gov.scot](mailto:covid-19.director@gov.scot)>; Leitch J (Jason) <[Jason.Leitch@gov.scot](mailto:Jason.Leitch@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted]; OCNHS Mailbox <[OCNHS@gov.scot](mailto:OCNHS@gov.scot)>; Communications Healthier <[CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Minister for Public Health and Sport <[MinisterPHS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHS@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance: Media enquiry: Asymptomatic testing - Mail on Sunday

Can we make sure that DfM and Professor Leitch are briefed on this for tomorrow, and any further detail on the UKG announcement would be useful for that, if at all possible

Kate Higgins  
Special Advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted]

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If your business is impacted by coronavirus, and you need support, visit <https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/>

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**From:** [redacted] > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport  
**Sent:** 09 January 2021 17:43  
**To:** [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Covid-19 Director <[covid-19.director@gov.scot](mailto:covid-19.director@gov.scot)>; Leitch J (Jason) <[Jason.Leitch@gov.scot](mailto:Jason.Leitch@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] OCNHS Mailbox <[OCNHS@gov.scot](mailto:OCNHS@gov.scot)>; Communications Healthier <[CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Minister for Public Health and Sport <[MinisterPHS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHS@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance: Media enquiry: Asymptomatic testing - Mail on Sunday

[redacted] – the Cab Sec is content with these lines.

Separately do we have any idea what Hancock is doing and announcing? Any info would be most welcome.

Many thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 09 January 2021 17:29  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <[CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] Higgins K (Kate) <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted] Covid-19 Director

<[covid-19.director@gov.scot](mailto:covid-19.director@gov.scot)>; Leitch J (Jason) <[Jason.Leitch@gov.scot](mailto:Jason.Leitch@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted]  
OCENHS Mailbox <[OCENHS@gov.scot](mailto:OCENHS@gov.scot)>; Communications Healthier  
<[CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot)> [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Minister for Public Health  
and Sport <[MinisterPHS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHS@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and  
Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** For clearance: Media enquiry: Asymptomatic testing - Mail on Sunday

PS / Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Hi [redacted]

The Mail on Sunday have asked us about asymptomatic testing.

Under embargo for tomorrow, Matt Hancock has said he is rolling out asymptomatic testing for the whole of the UK and is working with devolved administrations to do so. They want to know if this is this separate from Ms Freeman's announcement on 23rd Dec, and have asked for comment.

I'd be grateful for Ms Freeman's clearance on the following lines, which SpAds and officials are content with.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman said:

"I announced just before Christmas, that following successful trials earlier in December, we would be introducing a Community Testing Programme in January 2021.

"This will target testing and other resources at communities with high transmission rates with the aim of identifying positive cases and breaking chains of transmission.

"Local authorities and NHS Boards have been working together to develop Community Testing bids which were submitted to the Scottish Government last Friday (8 January). These are now being considered and we will make decisions as soon as possible. We continue to work with other governments in the UK to share learning and plan how we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic."

[redacted] | **Media Manager | Health & Communities Hub  
Communications | Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[redacted]

**@ScotGovHealth @ScotGovFairer**