

The following information is an email exchange between Scottish Government civil servants about correspondence the Scottish Government is receiving from members of the public.

From: [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Sent: 07 January 2021 17:04
To: [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Cc: Curtis PS (Penelope) [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Subject: RE: MiCase surge

At a quick glance though the version below seems to be a very full statement of the gist of these letters. I'm happy to have a first go at a draft response and alert Ewan.

STARTS

Hi First Minister,

Hope you had a good Christmas & a happy new year to you and yours.

As we head into 2021 it is clear Westminster has upped the ante as they desperately try to hang onto this failing union. They've decided to try and prevent Scotland taking its place at the EU table by talking to EU members about making our route back near impossible. They'll probably go to the Governments in Eastern Europe as they are predominantly of the same cut as the mob in Westminster and will be more likely to listen to them.

We need to show that Scotland's will has irrevocably changed since 2014 and the subsequent exposure of the lies made about our future in the UK as leaders.

The election in May provides a legitimate opportunity for Scotland to express its determined will for independence. To achieve this and send a clear, unequivocal, message not just to Westminster but the International Community as well that we are taking a democratic, responsible approach to the will of the Sovereign People of Scotland by declaring the election a plebiscite.

The Scottish Government must put in place the appropriate bill for such a decision. Then the Independence Parties must stand on that basis.

Following the outcome, we should then set out clearly the route to independence a clear timetable. Westminster can be asked to agree that process, within a given timeframe, but must be told it is a courtesy not their consent we seek.

A refusal will make clear to the International Community that they are not prepared to listen to a partner in a long standing Union.

It is time to be bold, to deliver on those mandates, to be the Country we strive for. We have run out of time if we wait any longer. I hope you will show us the grit, spirit and determined attitude we gave come to love this past year as you steered us through what has truly been a test unknown in modern times for any leader.

ENDS

From: [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2021 16:58
To: [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Cc: Curtis PS (Penelope) [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Subject: RE: MiCase surge

Thanks [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)], I think we need to get a standard line agreed quickly – involving elections colleagues (copied); once we have a line we can share the cases out; worth also alerting SPADs and comms to this new variant of correspondence....

[Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]

From: [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Sent: 07 January 2021 16:11
To: [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]
Subject: MiCase surge

[Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]

Cc [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]

I've had notification of a further 12 MiCases assigned to [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)] in the last hour. Most appear to be calling on the FM to declare the forthcoming Scottish elections to be a plebiscite on independence. They're not using consistent language but the request is essentially the same.

I will stop re-assigning cases to [Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)], as that solves nothing. If we can agree upon a generic response then I'll try to respond to as many as possible.

Happy to discuss

[Redacted - Section 38(i)(b)]