

Email 1

From: Evans L (Leslie) [redacted]
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:51
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Briggs M (Miles), MSP
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:49:29 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London
To: Evans L (Leslie)
Subject: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba
www.parliament.scot : [facebook.com/scottishparliament](https://www.facebook.com/scottishparliament) : twitter.com/scotparl

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Miles Briggs MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Lothian

28.01.21. By email.

Dear Permanent Secretary,

I write to you in relation to a social media post by the First Minister's Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Lloyd.

Paragraph 14 of the Scottish Government Code of Conduct for Special Advisers states that "*Special advisers must not take public part in political controversy, through any form of statement whether in speeches or letters to the press, or in books, social media, articles or leaflets. They must observe discretion and express comment with moderation, avoiding personal attacks, and would not normally speak in public for a Minister, or the Scottish Government.*"

However the Tweet sent by the First Minister's Chief of Staff this morning (28 January) at 7:24am is a clear and flagrant breach of this section of the code. It criticises the Prime Minister's visit to Scotland in the most politically controversial way, and is the opposite of the discretion and moderation required by the Code of Conduct.

This breach is so blatant that it requires no further investigation. I therefore write to you to ask what action you will be taking against this Special Adviser.

Yours sincerely,

Miles Briggs MSP

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5944

Email: Miles.Briggs.msp@parliament.scot
Follow Miles on Twitter: [@MilesBriggsMSP](https://twitter.com/MilesBriggsMSP)

Email 2

From: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) <[redacted]>
Sent: 29 January 2021 13:04
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) [redacted] >; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted] >
Cc: Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>; DG Organisational Development & Operations <DGODO@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) [redacted] >; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Thank you [redacted].

Nicky, James, [redacted], [redacted] and I have discussed. Draft response for the Perm Sec to consider is below.

Happy to discuss,
Julie

[redacted]

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Permanent Secretary
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:56
To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) ; Hynd JS (James) ; Richards N (Nicola)
Cc: Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace ; DG Organisational Development & Operations ; Permanent Secretary ; Bruce A (Andrew)
Subject: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

James, Julie, Nicky

Grateful for your advice please on Miles Briggs MSP letter to Perm Sec concerning Liz Lloyds tweet. Pasted below –

Elizabeth Lloyd @elizabethlloyd · 9h
My family don't live in Scotland, I've not been able to see them since August (and some since 2019) because it's important we stay at home and don't travel. Yet the PM is coming to Scotland when he could see the vaccine roll out and thank the army by zoom #notessential

👤 836

🗨️ 344

❤️ 19K



Thanks v much

[redacted]-(she/her)

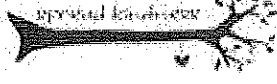
Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary | [redacted] | I lead on DG ECJ, DG HSC & DG ODO
Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaidh na h-Alba
gov.scot



THANK YOU FOR
your contribution
Celebrate our diversity



From: Evans L (Leslie) [redacted]
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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba
www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

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Email 3

From: Hynd JS (James[redacted])
Sent: 28 January 2021 17:34
To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD[redacted]); Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Cc: Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>; DG Organisational Development & Operations <DGODO@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Of course

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]
Sent: 28 January 2021 17:27
To: Permanent Secretary [redacted]; Hynd JS (James) [redacted]; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Cc: Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>; DG Organisational Development & Operations <DGODO@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Thank you [redacted]

James -- we are due to speak about other issues at 6 might we pick up in the margins?

Thank you
Julie

From: [redacted] > On Behalf Of Permanent Secretary
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:56
To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]; Hynd JS (James) [redacted]; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Cc: Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>; DG Organisational Development & Operations <DGODO@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) [redacted]
Subject: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

James, Julie, Nicky

Grateful for your advice please on Miles Briggs MSP letter to Perm Sec concerning Liz Lloyds tweet. Pasted below –

Elizabeth Lloyd @eliz_lloyd · 9h
My family don't live in Scotland, I've not been able to see them since August (and some since 2019) because it's important we stay at home and don't travel. Yet the PM is coming to Scotland when he could see the vaccine roll out and thank the army by zoom #notessential

636 344 1.4K

Thanks v much

[redacted] (she/her)

Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary [redacted] | I lead on DG ECJ, DG HSC & DG ODO
Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



From: Evans L (Leslie) <[redacted]>
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:51
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
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To: Evans L (Leslie)
Subject: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba
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Email 4

From: Hynd JS (James) <[redacted]>
Sent: 29 January 2021 09:42
To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] ; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Screenshot 2021-01-29 at 09.22.18

For awareness.

I have just discussed with Liz. Her decision to delete the Tweet is not because she regards it as a breach of the Code. She considers that her Tweet reflects the SG line as set out by the First Minister and was not a personal or party political attack.

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) [redacted] To: Hynd JS (James) [redacted] ; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Screenshot 2021-01-29 at 09.22.18

Morning

I'm aware Perm Sec and FM received a letter from a Tory MSP yesterday in regard to twitter. To assist, the screenshot is below.

Given a concern has been raised, it's my intention to delete it, so I wanted to make sure you had it.

Liz

Elizabeth Lloyd
Chief of Staff to the First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel: [redacted]

Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information.

Sent: 29 January 2021 09:23

To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) [redacted]

Subject: Screenshot 2021-01-29 at 09.22.18

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Elizabeth Lloyd

19.9K Tweets

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Like

Scottish budget 'most important since devolution' claims Kate Forbes dailyrecord.co.uk

34

60

177



Elizabeth Lloyd @eliz_lloyd · 1d

My family don't live in Scotland, I've not been able to see them since August (and some since 2019) because it's important we stay at home and don't travel. Yet the PM is coming to Scotland when he could see the vaccine roll out and thank the army by zoom [#notessential](#)

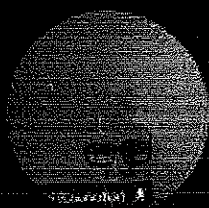
767

441

1,881



You Retweeted



Mhairi Hunter @MhairiHunter · 1d

Obviously pleased with Nicola's video but it's not just up to her. She is knocking her pan in with Covid on top of

Email 5

From: Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 11:56
To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] ; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted] ; Fraser L (Lesley) <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot [redacted]>
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

I am happy with Nicky's suggestion. Thanks

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 11:37
To: Richards N (Nicola) [redacted] >; Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Nicky – that works better for me

Thank you
Julie

From: Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 11:37
To: Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted] ; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Thanks all

[Redacted].

N

From: Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted]
Date: Friday, 29 Jan 2021, 11:31 am

To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] Hynd JS (James) [redacted] Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Many thanks Julie

I am content with this revision. Thanks

L

Lesley

Lesley Fraser | Interim Director General
Organisational Development and Operations
Scottish Government | [redacted]

This mailbox is for my urgent personal attention only. Please send other mail to DGODO@gov.scot. I work Monday to Friday when the DG ODO inbox is normally covered from 8.45am-5pm. If you need an urgent response outside those hours, please call or text.

From: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 11:21
To: Hynd JS (James) [redacted] ; Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted] ; Richards N (Nicola) <[redacted]>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

James, Nicky, Lesley

Thank you for your comments. Given things have moved on slightly James Hynd and I have briefly discussed and think that we should adjust slightly – starter for ten to achieve that in yellow below.

Julie

[redacted]

Yours etc

From: Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 08:35
To: Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted] ; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Thanks Julie

I have made some suggested revisions to the final sentence.

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division

Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 07:42
To: Richards N (Nicola) [redacted] ; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Many thanks from me too Julie

This also looks good to me, subject to any further views from colleagues copied.

Thanks

L

Lesley Fraser
Interim DG, Organisational Development and Operations
Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Date: Thursday, 28 Jan 2021, 9:38 pm
To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] , Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Cc: Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted] , [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Thanks Julie

Kind of you to draft this up.

Couple of small amendments suggested:

[redacted]

From: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]
Date: Thursday, 28 Jan 2021, 8:13 pm
To: Hynd JS (James) [redacted], Richards N (Nicola) [redacted] , [redacted]
Cc: Fraser L (Lesley) [redacted] , [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

Grateful for views on the draft below:

[redacted]

From: [redacted] > **On Behalf Of** Permanent Secretary
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:56
To: Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) [redacted] ; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Cc: Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>; DG Organisational Development & Operations <DGODO@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) [redacted]
Subject: Urgent - Advice please: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

James, Julie, Nicky

Grateful for your advice please on Miles Briggs MSP letter to Perm Sec concerning Liz Lloyds tweet. Pasted below –

Elizabeth Lloyd @eliz_lloyd · 9h
My family don't live in Scotland, I've not been able to see them since August (and some since 2019) because it's important we stay at home and don't travel. Yet the PM is coming to Scotland when he could see the vaccine roll out and thank the army by zoom #notessential

🗨 636 🔄 344 ❤️ 1.4K 📎

Thanks v much

[redacted] (she/her)

Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary | [redacted] | [redacted] | I lead on DG ECJ, DG HSC & DG ODO
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Sent: 28 January 2021 16:51
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Subject: FW: Tweet by First Minister's Chief of Staff

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Briggs M (Miles), MSP
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:49:29 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London
To: Evans L (Leslie)
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Email 6

From: Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 16:22
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted] ; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]
Cc: Somers J (John) [redacted]
Subject: RE: Tweet by your Chief of Staff

Hi [redacted]

Mr Briggs has sent a near identical letter to the Perm Sec. Advice on that is being prepared, which I think will also serve for the handling of this letter. Julie Humphreys is in the lead but there are a number of interests involved. Advice will come up next week.

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 29 January 2021 15:29
To: Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Somers J (John) [redacted]
Subject: FW: Tweet by your Chief of Staff

James,

I would appreciate your input on this please?

Not quite sure how to respond.

Many thanks
[redacted]
[redacted] | PS/First Minister | [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]> **On Behalf Of** Briggs M (Miles), MSP
Sent: 28 January 2021 16:50
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Tweet by your Chief of Staff

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba
www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Miles Briggs MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Lothian

28.01.21. By email.

Dear First Minister,

I write to you in relation to a social media post by your Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Lloyd.

Paragraph 14 of the Scottish Government Code of Conduct for Special Advisers states that *“Special advisers must not take public part in political controversy, through any form of statement whether in speeches or letters to the press, or in books, social media, articles or leaflets. They must observe discretion and express comment with moderation, avoiding personal attacks, and would not normally speak in public for a Minister, or the Scottish Government.”*

However the Tweet sent by your Chief of Staff this morning (28 January) at 7:24am is a clear and flagrant breach of this section of the code. It criticises the Prime Minister’s visit to Scotland in the most politically controversial way, and is the opposite of the discretion and moderation required by the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct also states that *“The responsibility for the management and conduct of special advisers, including discipline, rests with the First Minister. It is also the First Minister’s responsibility to ensure that their special adviser(s) adhere to this Code of Conduct”*.

This breach is so blatant that it requires no further investigation. I therefore write to you to ask what disciplinary action you will be taking against your Chief of Staff.

Yours sincerely,

Miles Briggs MSP

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5944

Email: Miles.Briggs.msp@parliament.scot
Follow Miles on Twitter: [@MilesBriggsMSP](https://twitter.com/MilesBriggsMSP)

Email 7

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 January 2021 18:23
To: Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot[redacted]> Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted] ; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted] Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) <[redacted]> Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Subject: RE: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF SPAD CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

Thank you Nicky.

I'll issue to the Mail, and to the Telegraph - who have also rung.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Team Leader | Newsdesk | Scottish Government | news.gov.scot | Desk: 0131 244 8865 Mobile: [redacted]

From: Richards N (Nicola)
Sent: 28 January 2021 18:13
To: [redacted]
Cc: News Desk ; [redacted] Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser ; McAllister C (Colin) ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) ; [redacted] ; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) ; [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) ; [redacted]
Subject: RE: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF SPAD CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

Hi [redacted]

Content with the line and we'll prepare a response for Perm Sec.

Nicky

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 January 2021 18:04
To: [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted] ; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted] ; [redacted]; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] ; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Subject: RE: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF SPAD CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

Thank you [redacted], much appreciated.

Unless there any further views, I will issue this line:

SG spokesperson: "The letter has been received and will be responded to shortly."

Best wishes,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 January 2021 17:54

To: [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) [redacted] ; [redacted]

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Scott J (Jenny) [redacted]; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted] >; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted] ; [redacted]; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] ; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]

Subject: RE: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF SPAD CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

[redacted]

Not sure if Nicky is around, she was meant to be on annual leave this afternoon.

[redacted]

Not for getting into at this stage with the journalist, but it might be helpful for your awareness to see the full section of the SpAd code of conduct that Mr Briggs has extracted one paragraph (para 14) from. For para 14 to be in context it has to be read in conjunction with paras 12 and 13.

[redacted]

Contacts with the media

12. Special advisers, when authorised, are able to represent Ministers' views on government policy to the media with a degree of political commitment that would not be possible for other civil servants. However, briefing on purely party political matters must be handled by the Party machine.

13. All contacts with the media should be authorised by the First Minister and/or other Ministers in the Scottish Government, and should be conducted in accordance with the Government Communication Service's *Propriety Guidance - Guidance on Government Communications*.

14. Special advisers must not take public part in political controversy, through any form of statement whether in speeches or letters to the press, or in books, social media, articles or leaflets. They must observe discretion and express comment with moderation, avoiding personal attacks, and would not normally speak in public for a Minister, or the Scottish Government.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 January 2021 17:46

To: Hynd JS (James) [redacted] ; [redacted]

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[redacted]>; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted] ; [redacted]; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted] ; Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]

Subject: RE: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF SPAD CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

Thank you James – and thank you [redacted].

Adding Nicky Richards and [redacted] here as the SPAD code of conduct is overseen by HR.

Nicky and [redacted]: would you be content for this line to issue please?

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Team Leader | Newsdesk | Scottish Government | news.gov.scot | Desk: 0131 244 8865 Mobile:
[redacted]

From: Hynd JS (James) <[redacted]>

Sent: 28 January 2021 17:43

To: [redacted] >

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot> [redacted]; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted]; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted]; [redacted]; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]

Subject: RE: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF MINISTERIAL CODE BREACH

[redacted]

As [redacted] has pointed out, the DM incorrectly refers to the Min Code. Mr Briggs letter in fact references the SpAd Code of Conduct.

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: Hynd JS (James)

Sent: 28 January 2021 17:36

To: [redacted]

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted]; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted]; [redacted]; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]

Subject: RE: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF MINISTERIAL CODE BREACH

[redacted]

[redacted]

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 January 2021 17:32

To: Hynd JS (James) <[redacted]>

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted] Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted]; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted]; Humphreys J (Julie) (ETSD) [redacted]

Subject: DAILY MAIL QUERY RE CLAIM OF MINISTERIAL CODE BREACH

James, [redacted] and [redacted],

Please accept my apologies for the timing here.

The Daily Mail (and others are likely to call too) are asking for SG comment on a claim by the Conservatives that Liz Lloyd has breached the Ministerial Code – please see reporter's email below.

Would you be content for this line to issue:

[redacted]

With best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Team Leader | Newsdesk | Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot) | Desk: 0131 244 8865
Mobile [redacted]

From [redacted] >

To [redacted] >

Subject: Liz Lloyd

Hi [redacted],

As mention, the Scottish Conservatives have written to the Permanent Secretary and First Minister claiming that Liz Lloyd has breached the ministerial code. They claim this is due to her tweet this morning on Boris Johnson's visit. Her tweet is copied below as is a comment from Miles Briggs.

Has the SG received the letters? And what is your response?

Kindest.

[redacted]

My family don't live in Scotland, I've not been able to see them since August (and some since 2019) because it's important we stay at home and don't travel. Yet the PM is coming to Scotland when he could see the vaccine roll out and thank the army by zoom#notessential

Scottish Conservative chief whip Miles Briggs MSP said: "The First Minister's chief of staff is a civil servant and must adhere to the strict rules in place."

"Her tweet about the Prime Minister's perfectly legitimate and welcome visit to Scotland may appear petty but it constitutes a flagrant breach.

"The rules are clear. As civil servants paid from public funds, special advisers must not engage in political controversy using social media or by any other means.

"That is why I have written to both the First Minister and the Permanent Secretary to ask what action they now plan to take.

"Doing nothing is not an option. Scotland's civil service cannot become an extension of the SNP propaganda machine. There cannot be one rule for the SNP and another for everyone else."

[redacted]
Deputy Political Editor
Scottish Daily Mail

[redacted]

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Email 8

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 January 2021 17:25
To: [redacted]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Liz Lloyd - FOR ALLOCATION

Thanks [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 January 2021 17:22
To: [redacted]
Cc: News Desk
Subject: RE: Liz Lloyd - FOR ALLOCATION

[redacted]

From: [redacted] >
Sent: 28 January 2021 17:16
To: [redacted] Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Liz Lloyd - FOR ALLOCATION

Hi all

Pls see the below from the Mail.

Presume we'd need to check on letter(s) being received but, [redacted], you may be best-placed to take forward a response or arrange next steps (and appreciate timings here).

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 January 2021 17:06
To: [redacted]
Subject: Liz Lloyd

Hi [redacted],

As mention, the Scottish Conservatives have written to the Permanent Secretary and First Minister claiming that Liz Lloyd has breached the ministerial code. They claim this is due to her tweet this morning on Boris Johnson's visit. Her tweet is copied below as is a comment from Miles Briggs. Has the SG received the letters? And what is your response?

Kindest,
[redacted]

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"Doing nothing is not an option. Scotland's civil service cannot become an extension of the SNP propaganda machine. There cannot be one rule for the SNP and another for everyone else."

--
[redacted]
Deputy Political Editor
Scottish Daily Mail

[redacted]

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Email 9

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 17:01
To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Tweet

Open to views... but as it wont be answered till next week I don't really want it sitting there

Elizabeth Lloyd
Chief of Staff to the First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information.

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser
Sent: 29 January 2021 16:57
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth)
Subject: RE: Tweet

[redacted]

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) [redacted] >
Sent: 29 January 2021 16:30
To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted] >
Subject: Tweet

I hear it's not being resolved until next week, so suggest... something like

[redacted]
Elizabeth Lloyd
Chief of Staff to the First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

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Email 10

From: Hynd JS (James) [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 17:32
To: Richards N (Nicola) [redacted]
Subject: FW: First Minister chief of staff Liz Lloyd

Nicky

For info.

James

James Hynd
Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext [redacted]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[redacted]>
Sent: 29 January 2021 17:15
To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted] >; Hynd JS (James) <[redacted]> >; Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>
Cc: McAllister C (Colin) <[redacted]> >; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: First Minister chief of staff Liz Lloyd

Dropping Liz herself from the copy list and adding Newsdesk.

Can we go back to the Herald and any others asking about this with the line below.

Thanks

SG spokesperson:

"Mr Briggs's letter will be properly considered and replied to in due course. The Chief of Staff removed the tweet of her own volition as a courtesy while that takes place."

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <[redacted]>
Sent: 29 January 2021 15:32
To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted] >; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted] ; Hynd JS (James) [redacted] ; Director of Communications, Ministerial Support & Workplace <directorcmsw@gov.scot>
Cc: McAllister C (Colin) [redacted]
Subject: RE: First Minister chief of staff Liz Lloyd

Actually adding James & Julie... I'll leave you all to it

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth)
Sent: 29 January 2021 15:31
To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted]
Cc: McAllister C (Colin) [redacted]
Subject: RE: First Minister chief of staff Liz Lloyd

Cc'ing James Hynd, as I think whether or not it's a breach has already been considered.... I'm wondering when that would go back to the Tories, and go back to the media with the outcome of that consideration, but that I deleted it of my own volition as a courtesy

Elizabeth Lloyd
Chief of Staff to the First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information.

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2021 15:26
To: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[redacted]>
Cc: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <[redacted]> ; McAllister C (Colin) [redacted]
Subject: RE: First Minister chief of staff Liz Lloyd

I'm not proposing to respond to this – they have our line.

S

From: [redacted] >
Sent: 29 January 2021 15:17
To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <[redacted]> Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted]
Subject: Fw: First Minister chief of staff Liz Lloyd

Hi there

Any response to this?
Deleting the tweet does suggest it was a problem..

[redacted]

[redacted] Political Editor
The Herald
Media Tower
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

[redacted]

From: Findlay, Russell <Russell.Findlay@scottishconservatives.com>

Sent: 29 January 2021 14:40

Subject: First Minister chief of staff Liz Lloyd

***** External Email *****

Please see the following Scottish Conservative response to the deletion of a tweet from the account of the First Minister's chief of staff Liz Lloyd.

The tweet, which is attached, constitutes a clear breach of the Code of Conducts for Scottish Government special advisers (Scottish Government: [LINK](#))

Scottish Conservative chief whip Miles Briggs MSP said: "It seems the First Minister's chief of staff has deleted her tweet only because the Scottish Conservatives reported her for breaching the code of conduct. "This appears to be the SNP's stock response to rule breaking - get rid of the evidence and pretend it never happened.

"While the quick action in this case could mitigate any consequences, it remains concerning when highly-paid public servants act as SNP propaganda mouthpieces.

"I hope we will now see action to prevent any future blurring of lines between taxpayer-funded advisors and the SNP."

NOTES:

Scottish Conservative chief whip Miles Briggs MSP yesterday wrote to the First Minister and the Permanent Secretary Leslie Evans over a tweet posted on the account of Liz Lloyd. (Scottish Sun newspaper: [LINK](#))

ENDS

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