

[Email 19 March 2021 Scottish Government staff to RZSS, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland and FCDO]

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 19 March 2021 07:31

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Initial Discussion

Colleagues,

I wanted to share a slight update to our minute from the meeting back in February. I have attempted to reflect the clarifications and corrections offered by [Redacted]. As ever, please do let me know if there remains anything to be corrected in this draft.

While we agreed there wasn't a need for a further meeting in the short term, if there were updates on Actions from our last, please do feel free to share this via email. I'll reconvene the group after Easter.

Very best wishes,  
Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 22 February 2021 13:38

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.com>; <[Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]  
<@scotlandoffice.gov.uk>; [Redacted] @scotlandoffice.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]<@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk;

[Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Initial Discussion

Colleagues,

Many thanks for your time last Wednesday – I hope you found the discussion as insightful, and useful, as I did.

As promised, please see the note of the meeting – please shout if I have misrepresented anything.

I've also attached a Roles and Responsibilities document from the previous panda project that we managed to locate in our files. We can use this as an indication of aspects we may wish to cover in future meetings and to think if there are other partners to engage. For the moment, I wasn't planning to create Project Documentation, but we can bear this in mind for the next conversation.

Very happy to stay in touch on this, and please do come back on actions or further commentary in the coming weeks.

Best wishes,  
Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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[Attachment to email of 19 March]  
**Initial Discussion on Pandas**

Wednesday 17 February

**Attendees**

Edinburgh Zoo: [Redacted]  
FCDO: [Redacted]  
Scotland Office: [Redacted],  
Scottish Government: Edinburgh - [Redacted]  
Beijing - [Redacted]

Update from the Zoo

David Field, CEO of RZSS, gave an overview about current position, preferred future outcome and understanding of next steps.

[Redacted]

Tiantian (Female Panda) is coming to the end of her reproductive life and Yang Guang (Male Panda) is not fertile following treatment for testicular cancer.

Following work to source semen from China for previous Artificial insemination attempts, a further attempt will be attempted in April.

[Redacted]  
Asks from the Zoo

[Redacted]  
General Discussion

[Redacted] said two years ago the American Embassy brought together Embassies of countries who have pandas. It was explained then that all agreements are different. Something hasn't happened before doesn't mean it wouldn't be agreed to in future negotiations. [Redacted] will discuss with [Redacted] to engage countries who have pandas to find out what we can on contract renegotiations and extensions.

[Redacted] agreed that other likely governments (e.g. US, West European) have varied deals and that it is very difficult to get official lines on positions or contract terms.

[Redacted] talked about bilateral relationship - easy/difficult, the best time for discussion, political impact from London side.

In terms of other supporting opportunities, [Redacted] suggested to look at if there are any other projects associated with the zoo, like Chevening. [Redacted]

[Redacted] will continue to develop relationship with zoos around the world.

[Redacted]  
SG post-Covid funds to support Zoos and similar institutions, could be directed to support overall research, [Redacted] Another opportunity could be around COPs 26 and 15, and each department was asked to consider what opportunities could be created to add support to the Panda Project.

[Redacted] said the Scotland Office have relationship with Chinese Embassy in London. Happy to help Zoo set up the link.

#### Actions

1. Engagement of Embassies – [Redacted] to consider what is possible in Beijing, All to consider how and when to engage with Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh and Embassy in London;
2. All to consider opportunities to engage in COPs and how to play in Panda Project;
3. All departments to consider what financial support could be possible, and/or other routes of support that could be directed to the zoo, including existing scholarship, research or other grants that could be suitable.
4. RZSS to share a note on the background, their priorities and negotiating position, as well as the next report to be submitted to CWCA
5. All Departments to search back through records to see if there are relevant papers from the original contract negotiations.

#### Next Steps and Timing

- Paying next contribution is due in June.
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]In the meantime, all will keep email contact over next couple of months or so.
  
- [Redacted]
  
- Another call will be arranged after April.

AOB

[Redacted]

[April 2021 Scottish Government to RZSS]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 12 April 2021 11:11

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

**Cc:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information: Request for communication and information between SG & RZSS: August 2020 to March 2021

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your response which I will give full consideration when preparing documents for release.

Your sincerely

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

**Sent:** 12 April 2021 09:36

**To:** [Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information: Request for communication and information between SG & RZSS: August 2020 to March 2021

Dear [Redacted]

Many thanks for the notification.

[Redacted]This information is particularly sensitive at this time and I would request that this is not released. [Redacted]

Yours sincerely

David Field

**David Field**

Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]

**THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

**From:** [Redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 09 April 2021 15:03  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Cc:** [Redacted] @fco.gov.uk; [Redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information: Request for communication and information between SG & RZSS: August 2020 to March 2021  
**Importance:** High

Dear [Redacted]

The Scottish Government has received a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

- All correspondence and information including but not limited to documents, reports, calls logged, notes of meetings and emails between **Scottish Government and Edinburgh Zoo/RZSS in relation to the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo**. I am looking for this information for dates from 01/08/2020 up until today's date (16/03/2021) or more recent (when this information is being collated). This would include permits, inspections and licences. Or incident investigations.

- All correspondence and information including but not limited to documents, reports, calls logged, notes of meetings and emails between **Edinburgh Council and Scottish Government in relation to the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo**. I am looking for this information for dates from 01/08/2020 up until today's date (16/03/2021) or more recent (as above). This would include permits, inspections and licences. Or incident investigations.

You have an interest in the information which has been requested because it relates to exchanges between RZSS and discussions with Scottish Government staff [Redacted] possible negotiations with the Chinese Government/CWCA, and a reference to a letter from RZSS to the PRC Consul General in Edinburgh.

Therefore, I am writing to ask you for your views on whether this information should be disclosed before we make a decision on the request. Please note that this consultation is a courtesy, not a statutory obligation, and you do not have a veto on disclosure of the information. Under the terms of FOISA, the decision on whether or not to release the information is for the Scottish Government alone. However, we will take account of your views.

I should also explain that we can withhold information only if an exemption under FOISA applies to that information and, where applicable, the public interest in disclosure is not outweighed by the public interest in upholding the exemption. You can find detailed information about FOISA on our website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/about/foi> or on the Scottish Information Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/home/ScottishInformationCommissioner.asp>

In order to ensure that we meet our statutory duty to respond to the request not later than 20 working days of from the day following the date of receipt, I must ask for your views by close of play Monday 12 April 2021.

Thank you for your help with this request.

[Redacted]; ARD – Animal Health & Welfare; P Spur; Saughton House; Broomhouse Drive; Edinburgh; EH11 3XD;

[Redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

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Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

[21 May 2021 Letter from RZSS to China Wildlife Conservation Association]  
21 May 2021

[Redacted]  
Deputy Secretary General of China Wildlife Conservation Association

Dear [Redacted]

I do sincerely hope that you and all colleagues at CWCA are well and recovering from any effects of the last 12 months. I am so sorry and disappointed that I have still been unable to come over and meet with you all and very much look forward to that day.

I am delighted to report that Tian Tian and Yang Guang are in the very best of health. [Redacted] Your teams have taught us well and we are good students.

This week was the official Annual General Meeting of the RZSS: [Redacted] Yours sincerely

David Field  
CEO

[31 May Scottish Government staff to RZSS]

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 31 May 2021 03:36  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Updated Panda Report - Confidential

[Redacted]

Many thanks indeed for this update. I've now had a chance to read through the report - strikes me as a fair and honest assessment of the benefits and challenges over the last ten years - with a clear statement on the preferred approach moving forward.

As we discuss previously, I'll now email round our group to convene a further meeting, and will ask you to give an update along the lines of this report. It is for you to decide if you want to share this report around the wider group.

[Redacted] and I, based in the Embassy, are at your disposal for arranging meetings with CWCA, or to have a separate call in advanced of our meeting - you'll see an email about that letter today also.

Best wishes,  
Martin

Martin McDermott 孟华轩  
Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy  
11 Guanghua Lu I Beijing 100600 China

[Redacted]

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---

**From:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 10:20:18 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Updated Panda Report - Confidential

Hi [Redacted]  
CWCA requested some changes so here is revised version.  
Regards  
David

**David Field**  
Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND  
RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh EH12 6TS  
[Redacted] [rzss.org.uk](http://rzss.org.uk) @RZSS /RZSSofficial

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC004064



Please consider your environment:  
Before printing this e-mail, ask yourself whether you need a hard copy

[09 June 2021, Scottish Government to RZSS]  
**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 June 2021 08:51  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - second meeting - Confidential Proposal

Thanks [Redacted]  
Good to know – and thanks for the understanding on scheduling.

Hope to catch up soon.

Best,  
Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]

**#SCOTLAND  
SNOW**  
苏格兰·正当时

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**From:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 June 2021 15:39  
**To:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - second meeting - Confidential Proposal

Thanks [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
**David Field**

Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]

**THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 09 June 2021 08:22

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - second meeting

Hi ALL,

With apologies, we have not been able to find a date that suits in the times offered.

I'm pushing the time back a week in the hope that one of the new dates suits better. If you wouldn't mind, could you fill in the doodle again, please?

Here is the

link: [https://doodle.com/poll/wz8z63f8426r2aaq?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/wz8z63f8426r2aaq?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)

I'll try to pin down the date asap – apologies again!

[Redacted]

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China

[Redacted]



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**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 07 June 2021 11:14

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>;  
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[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - second meeting

Hi All,

It seems that a number of colleagues were on leave last week, and so did not have a chance to fill in the doodle poll. Hopefully they will be able to come back this week and we'll focus on the dates for next week to have our meeting. The favourite at the moment is Monday 14 June.

I'll be in touch again later this week when I have received more responses.

Many thanks again,  
Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy I 11 Guanghua Lu I Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 02 June 2021 16:24  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk  
[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot [Redacted]@gov.scot'  
[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
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[Redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk'  
[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk' [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - second meeting

Hi All,

As agreed during our last call, I'm looking to reconvene our group for our next meeting.

The main focus for our next discussion will be to have [Redacted] give us an update from the zoo and to agree our next actions in terms of engagement with Chinese partners.

I have again set up a doodle poll for availability in the coming weeks and will issue a team meeting request for the most 'popular' date. Here is the link:  
[https://doodle.com/poll/ie8u4ezawz7bu5ze?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/ie8u4ezawz7bu5ze?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)

Please do pass on this invite to others who have joined your teams in the interim and have an interest in this discussion.

Best wishes,  
Martin

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Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy I 11 Guanghua Lu I Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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**Sent:** 19 March 2021 15:31

**To:** [Redacted]@rzs.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
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While we agreed there wasn't a need for a further meeting in the short term, if there were updates on Actions from our last, please do feel free to share this via email. I'll reconvene the group after Easter.

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Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China

British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 22 February 2021 13:38

**To:** [Redacted]@[rzss.org.uk](#)>; [Redacted]@[fco.gov.uk](#)>;  
[Redacted]@[scotlandoffice.gov.uk](#)>; [Redacted]@[scotlandoffice.gov.uk](#);  
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[Redacted]@[gov.scot](#); [Redacted]@[fco.gov.uk](#)>; [Redacted]@[fco.gov.uk](#)>;  
[Redacted]@[gov.scot](#)

**Cc:** [Redacted]@[ukgovscotland.gov.uk](#); [Redacted]@[ukgovscotland.gov.uk](#);  
[Redacted]@[rzss.org.uk](#)>; [Redacted]@[fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk](#);  
[Redacted]@[fco.gov.uk](#)>

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Best wishes,  
Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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[21 June 2021 Scottish Government, RZSS, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland and FCDO]

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

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 16 June 2021 07:52

**To:** [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk; [Redacted]; [Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk

**Subject:** Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Follow up meeting

**When:** 21 June 2021 16:00-17:00 (UTC+08:00) Beijing, Chongqing, Hong Kong, Urumqi.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

With apologies for the delay, here is the link for our next meeting – I hope the time suits most, it was the most popular on the poll.

A very short agenda for the meeting, leaving lots of time for comments, questions and discussion on next steps:

- Update from [Redacted] on current position with the zoo and contact with Chinese partners
- Feedback on Actions from last meeting (All)
- Consideration of next steps and contacts with Chinese partners
- AOB

Please feel free to add other business, or bring questions forward on the day.

Looking forward to speaking on Monday.

Best,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

[30 June 2021 Scottish Government to RZSS]

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 30 June 2021 04:08

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

**Cc:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Online meeting - CWCA Confidential

[Redacted],

Very good to hear - and we're happy to support however we can.

I wonder what is meant by 'sponsoring' a meeting. I would imagine that we'll likely use Teams or similar to convene the meeting, and we are happy to help work out how best to deploy translators etc - so happy to have a quick call to bottom that out.

Happy also for me and [Redacted] (my FCDO Embassy contact) to arrange to meet [Redacted] and flesh out the agenda and work out how best to put the formal request for the meeting to the Ministry.

In the meantime, I have attached a draft note from our meeting last week, would you mind having a quick read before I send it to the group - any comments or corrections welcome!

Hope to catch up soon - and good to see some progress here too!

Martin

Martin McDermott 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China British Embassy | 11  
Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

Sent: 29 June 2021 19:29

To: [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Online meeting - CWCA Confidential

Dear [Redacted]

A positive note from CWCA. On a practical note what online system can we use for such a meeting? Is it something we can do through the embassy and is there any support for translation. I even wonder if it might be useful if you are present?

[Redacted]

Thanks  
David

David Field  
Chief Executive Officer  
[Redacted]THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

Sent: 29 June 2021 10:09  
To: [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
Subject: Online meeting

Hi, [Redacted]

I got a phone call from CWCA this morning, discussing CWCA's feeling about the cooperation overview. They are so impressed with your hard work on the document, [Redacted]... Based on the phone talk, may I suggest you sponsor an online meeting with CWCA? It's the best time to propose it now[Redacted]. If you are happy to do so, please prepare an agenda and send to me. I will forward it to CWCA. According to the working situation of Chinese government sectors, you may propose the meeting at a point around July 15. They are extremely busy before and after July 1st which is the jubilee of the Chinese Communist Party (100 years) , so a point around the mid-July will be a proper time. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best,

[Redacted]

[Attachment to email of 30 June]  
**Discussion on Pandas**

Monday 21 June

#### **Attendees**

Edinburgh Zoo: [Redacted]  
Scotland Office: [Redacted]  
Scottish Government:  
    Edinburgh – [Redacted]  
    Beijing - [Redacted]

#### **Update from the Zoo**

1. Report and protection fund

David Field, CEO of RZSS, updated the attendees that their final overview report had been shared with the CWCA, highlighting the successes over the last 10 years. CWCA appreciated the report and would translate it into Chinese for formally reviewing. RZSS is waiting for CWCA's reply over the report.

Action: A copy of the report would be shared with meeting attendees.

[Redacted]

#### **General Discussion**

- **Contract negotiations and likely consequences**

[Redacted]

However, the contract being near complete, it is right that the Zoo and CWCA clarify next steps and plans for the coming years. RZSS is reviewing in relation with the contract and licensing.

[Redacted]RZSS has a legal obligation on pandas' well beings in the future.

[Redacted]

- **Will it benefit for colleagues in the Embassy to meet with [Redacted] (Zoo's Representative in China)?**

David felt that this would be useful. [Redacted] is very keen to looking for research opportunities and education opportunities for collaborative researches for China.

Action: Redacted to contact [Redacted] to set up a meeting.

- **Consideration of research/training opportunities [Redacted]**

It's a challenging time for the universities as Covid, and enabling student return, is the priority.

It would be useful though to consider what research or training opportunities could be highlighted as the UK's contribution to Panda Research etc – not likely new or bespoke, but existing research grants or positions that could have a focus here.

**Action: All colleagues to consider possibilities.**

#### **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that a further meeting would be organised once [Redacted] heard back from CWCA.

[1 July 2021 Scottish Government to RZSS]

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 01 July 2021 10:56

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

**Subject:** Re: CWCA meeting

Hi [Redacted]

Not a problem - only wish to be involved if helpful.

Happy to chat through whenever suits.

Best,  
Martin

Martin McDermott 孟华轩  
Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy  
11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 5:54:26 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** CWCA meeting

Hi [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
Thanks

David

**David Field**  
Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]  
**THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**  
RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh EH12 6TS  
[Redacted] [rzss.org.uk](http://rzss.org.uk) @RZSS /RZSSofficial

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC004064



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[1 July 2021 RZSS staff to RZSS and SG staff]  
**From:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 01 July 2021 08:50  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Introduction

Good day to you both

Sorry this is an e introduction but one day we will meet.

I thought it be useful if we discuss together the forthcoming meeting with CWCA and how the embassy can support if needed. So a few questions from me

[Redacted]

- Does sponsoring meeting mean anything more than just organising it ?
- You suggest that zoom is the best platform
- Translation – rather than the meeting translated, I am suggesting its better for each party to have their own translator sitting in the room with them. So CWCA will have their own translator – is that correct ?
- Can you confirm that it is okay for [Redacted] to attend and that CWCA will not query [Redacted] attendance ?

[Redacted]

- Just looking for advice from your end on structure of these meetings.
- As it will be bilingual – can the embassy help with some meeting notes ?

The proposed date would be after the 15<sup>th</sup> July at about 8am Edinburgh time which I think is around 3pm Beijing ?

I will come back with a provisional agenda shortly.

David

**David Field**  
Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]

**THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh EH12 6TS

[Redacted] [@RZSS](#) /[RZSSofficial](#)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC004064



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[07 July 2021 Scottish Government to RZSS, FCDO and Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland]

**From:** [Redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 07 July 2021 03:38

**To:** [Redacted][@rzss.org.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@rzss.org.uk)>; [Redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@scotlandoffice.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@scotlandoffice.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted][@rzss.org.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@rzss.org.uk)>; [Redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted][@ukgovscotland.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@ukgovscotland.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk)>; [Redacted][@fcowebmail.fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fcdo.gov.uk)

**Cc:** [Redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Follow up meeting

Colleagues,

With apologies for my tardiness in getting this note around, please see attached minute from our meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Any comments, corrections or queries welcome.

As promised in the meeting, I have attached [Redacted]'s 10 Year Report on the Pandas at Edinburgh Zoo. He is still waiting on a formal response to this report, but

initial feedback has been positive – “*They are so impressed with your hard work on the document, [Redacted]*”

Since our meeting, [Redacted] has taken forward initial plans for a meeting with CWCA, we’ll keep you posted on outputs and next steps as this develops.

Happy to discuss further.

Best wishes,  
Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 16 June 2021 14:52

**To:** [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];  
[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk; [Redacted]; [Redacted]@gov.scot;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]; [Redacted];  
[Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]; [Redacted] @gov.scot;  
[Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [Redacted] @ukgovscotland.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Follow up meeting

**When:** 21 June 2021 16:00-17:00 (UTC+08:00) Beijing, Chongqing, Hong Kong SAR, Urumqi.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

With apologies for the delay, here is the link for our next meeting – I hope the time suits most, it was the most popular on the poll.

A very short agenda for the meeting, leaving lots of time for comments, questions and discussion on next steps:

- Update from [Redacted] on current position with the zoo and contact with Chinese partners
- Feedback on Actions from last meeting (All)
- Consideration of next steps and contacts with Chinese partners
- AOB

Please feel free to add other business, or bring questions forward on the day.

Looking forward to speaking on Monday.

Best,  
[Redacted]

---

[Redacted]

---

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[Attachment to email of 7 July]  
**Discussion on Pandas**

Monday 21 June

**Attendees**

Edinburgh Zoo: [Redacted]  
Scotland Office: [Redacted]  
Scottish Government:  
    Edinburgh – [Redacted]  
    Beijing - [Redacted]

**Update from the Zoo**

1. Report and protection fund

David Field, CEO of RZSS, updated the attendees that their final overview report had been shared with the CWCA, highlighting the successes over the last 10 years. CWCA appreciated the report and would translate it into Chinese for formally reviewing. RZSS is waiting for CWCA's reply over the report.

Action: A copy of the report would be shared with meeting attendees.

In summary, [Redacted]

The zoo are also keen for recognition that RZSS is the only organisation currently hosting pandas which is registered as a charity, the others all being 'for profit' organisations. RZSS has indicated this and will be keen to increase a research programme in education with China.

CWCA will review the project and proposal for their next step. Intensive negotiations will be expected.

[Redacted]

## General Discussion

- **Contract negotiations and likely consequences**

[Redacted]

However, the contract being near complete, it is right that the Zoo and CWCA clarify next steps and plans for the coming years. RZSS is reviewing in relation with the contract and licensing.

[Redacted]RZSS has a legal obligation on pandas' well beings in the future.

[Redacted]

- **Will it benefit for colleagues in the Embassy to meet with [Redacted] (Zoo's Representative in China)?**

[Redacted] felt that this would be useful. [Redacted] is very keen to looking for research opportunities and education opportunities for collaborative researches for China.

Action: [Redacted] to contact [Redacted] to set up a meeting.

- **Consideration of research/training opportunities [Redacted]**

It's a challenging time for the universities as Covid, and enabling student return, is the priority.

It would be useful though to consider what research or training opportunities could be highlighted as the UK's contribution to Panda Research etc – not likely new or bespoke, but existing research grants or positions that could have a focus here.

**Action: All colleagues to consider possibilities.**

### Next Meeting

It was agreed that a further meeting would be organised once [Redacted] heard back from CWCA.

[07 July 2021 RZSS to Scottish Government and FCDO]

**From:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

**Sent:** 07 July 2021 08:22

**To:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Pandas - CWCA meeting - Embassy Pre-Brief

Thanks you both that's ideal for me.

[Redacted]

Look forward to talking with you both.

David

**David Field**  
Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]

**THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

**From:** [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 July 2021 04:18  
**To:** [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Pandas - CWCA meeting - Embassy Pre-Brief

Thanks [Redacted] – 12 July works for me!

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 July 2021 10:45  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Edinburgh Pandas - CWCA meeting - Embassy Pre-Brief

[Redacted]

We thought it worthwhile to have a smaller GROUP DISCUSSION AHEAD OF David's planned meetings with CWCA in the coming weeks.

Would you both be free at 10am UK/5pm China time on Monday, 12 July?

If not we'll find another time, but good to chat early next week.

Best,  
Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]

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SNOW**  
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[Redacted]

[25 July 2021 Scottish Government to RZSS]

**From:** [Redacted ]@fco.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 25 July 2021 15:36

**To:** [Redacted]; [Redacted]

**Subject:** Edinburgh Zoo catch up

**When:** 26 July 2021 17:00-17:45 (UTC+08:00) Beijing, Chongqing, Hong Kong, Urumqi.

**Where:**

[Redacted]

Apologies for the delay in confirmation of meeting.

Best,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[29 July 2021 Scottish Government to RZSS, FCDO and Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 29 July 2021 15:20

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Re: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Follow up meeting

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to drop a short note by way of update since our last meeting.

[Redacted] and I have had a couple of short calls to consider how best to engage with the CWCA, [Redacted]

[Redacted] has forwarded the report he shared with us with the CWCA and they have begun negotiations on next steps. Following an introductory meeting between the zoo and CWCA in the last couple of weeks, [Redacted] plans a follow up in the middle of August.

We plan to reconvene the group after that meeting to consider onward activity and next steps.

Happy to field any questions meantime and I'll update again as we hear more.

Best wishes,  
Martin

Martin McDermott 孟华轩  
Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy  
11 Guanghua Lu I Beijing 100600 China

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:38:24 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk  
<[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot  
[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot  
[Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot [Redacted]@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk>;  
[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk <[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Follow up meeting

Colleagues,

With apologies for my tardiness in getting this note around, please see attached minute from our meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Any comments, corrections or queries welcome.

As promised in the meeting, I have attached [Redacted] 10 Year Report on the Pandas at Edinburgh Zoo. He is still waiting on a formal response to this report, but initial feedback has been positive – *"They are so impressed with your hard work on the document, [Redacted]"*

Since our meeting, [Redacted] has taken forward initial plans for a meeting with CWCA, we'll keep you posted on outputs and next steps as this develops.

Happy to discuss further.

Best wishes,  
Martin

Martin McDermott 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy I 11 Guanghua Lu I Beijing 100600 China  
[Redacted]



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

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 16 June 2021 14:52

**To:** [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];  
[Redacted]@scotlandoffice.gov.uk; [Redacted]; [Redacted]@gov.scot;  
[Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]; [Redacted];  
[Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]; [Redacted]@gov.scot;  
[Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [Redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk;  
[Redacted]@fcowebmail.fco.gov.uk

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Edinburgh Zoo - Pandas - Follow up meeting

**When:** 21 June 2021 16:00-17:00 (UTC+08:00) Beijing, Chongqing, Hong Kong SAR, Urumqi.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

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- Feedback on Actions from last meeting (All)
- Consideration of next steps and contacts with Chinese partners
- AOB

Please feel free to add other business, or bring questions forward on the day.

Looking forward to speaking on Monday.

Best,

[Redacted]

---

[Redacted]

[1 September 2021 Scottish Government to RZSS]

**From:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 01 September 2021 10:29

**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Latest

Thanks [Redacted],

Good to hear.

I'll include [Redacted] too – and arrange a Teams call for Tuesday.

All the best.

Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China

[Redacted]



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**From:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>

**Sent:** 01 September 2021 17:18

**To:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Latest

You read my mind...I was just about to email. We have had some reasonable conversations and some progress which I can update you on. [Redacted] Perhaps we can chat next week possibly Tuesday at 8.30 unless I advise you of events beforehand!

Thanks

David

**David Field**

Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]

**THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

**From:** [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 01 September 2021 09:59  
**To:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Latest

Hi [Redacted]

Just wanted to check in – anything more we can do from this side, or any benefit catching up.

Let me know if I can help.

Martin

**Martin McDermott** 孟华轩

Counsellor - Head of the Scottish Government Office in China  
British Embassy | 11 Guanghua Lu | Beijing 100600 China



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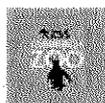
**From:** [Redacted]@rzss.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 18 August 2021 02:56  
**To:** [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Latest

Dear both  
Just to let you know there in no panda news yet. [Redacted]  
Kind regards  
David

**David Field**  
Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted]THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND  
RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh EH12 6TS  
[Redacted] [rzss.org.uk](http://rzss.org.uk) [@RZSS](https://twitter.com/RZSS) [/RZSSofficial](https://www.facebook.com/RZSSofficial/)

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