

Annex A: Email Correspondence Between Scottish Government Officials on the Subject of Antisemitism 04 August to 09 September 2021

1) Email Correspondence, 09 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 September 2021 17:07
To: Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Briefing for meeting with Paul Edlin on 10th September

Hi Robert,

Last week, you asked for some bullet points/info, in relation to your meeting tomorrow with Paul Edlin.

I've put the following together, with much assistance from [redacted –s38(1)(b)]. It covers what are hopefully the most recent and current issues relating to Paul and the wider Jewish community. If you need anything else prior to the meeting, let me know

[redacted –s38(1)(b)]

- **Meeting with First Minister**
- Paul (GJRC) met with the FM on 11th August (along with Nicola Livingston (new Chair) and Ephraim Borowski from SCoJeC) in response to concerns about her earlier comments around the conflict in the Middle East, and to her apparent refusal to meet the Israeli Ambassador on his recent visit to Scotland in March 2021.
- The main concerns raised at the meeting were on the increase in antisemitism, including at schools and universities which was exacerbated by events in Gaza.
- Concerns were also raised about the forthcoming agreement or coalition that may be entered into in the future with the Scottish Green Party given they are

the only party (previously and currently) that will not support their manifesto. The First Minister was clear that the SNP and the Scottish Green Party will remain distinctive voices in Scotland and that should any agreement be entered into, the Scottish Government will not compromise on its values and remain absolutely committed to tackling antisemitism.

- This has now obviously developed with the formal agreement with the SGP. There has been activity on Twitter and other media regarding the Green Party stance on the IHRA definition. The following are the main ones:

Jackson Carlaw tweets: ‘Nicola Sturgeon currently welcoming 2 Greens who have refused to support the IHRA definition on Antisemitism into her government. Given ScotGov supports IHRA, how does she square this with Govs commitment to tackling antisemitism? Or is her commitment to Scottish Jews a sham.

Campaign Against Antisemitism have said that the Scottish Green Party’s position on antisemitism was ‘abhorrent to British Jews and to opponents of antisemitism everywhere. The Green Group’s position was also raised at a recent meeting between the First Minister, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council.

Lines to take:

- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland.
- The First Minister recently met with Scottish Jewish leaders, where she restated the Scottish Government’s **commitment to tackling antisemitism – that has not changed.**
- There is no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The attendees appeared content with the responses throughout the meeting and following this, an article was published in the Jewish Chronicle where it was expressed that the FM’s willingness to support the Jewish community across Scotland to feel safe and tackle rising antisemitic hate crime, and other matters of concern, is welcomed. Paul Edlin commented that the meeting had been ‘most productive on a number of levels’.
- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Antisemitism in further education**
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)]
- At the meeting with the FM, SCoJeC also indicated that they would raise the issue with the Jewish Student Chaplaincy to pick up directly with institutions.

- **Meetings with SCoJeC, CST and others (inc GJRC)**
- At the meeting in June, you provided reassurance to attendees that this engagement would not prevent other engagement across teams.
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)], we responded to a request for a further meeting to discuss the rise in antisemitism. Given the current resourcing situation, as concerns had been discussed at the meeting in June and again at the meeting with the FM, we rejected the request advising that we had taken note of the issues raised at the meetings and would take them forward. We advised that we would be happy to meet if there was anything additional to discuss.
- [redacted – out of scope]

- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s389(1)(b)] | Faith & Belief Team | Connected Communities | Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

2) Email Correspondence, 09 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 September 2021 16:52

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Robert meeting with Paul Edlin

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

The new issues are:

- Jackson Carlaw tweets: ‘Nicola Sturgeon currently welcoming 2 Greens who have refused to support the IHRA definition on Antisemitism into her government. Given ScotGov supports IHRA, how does she square this with Govs commitment to tackling antisemitism? Or is her commitment to Scottish Jews a sham.
- Campaign Against Antisemitism have said that the Scottish Green Party’s position on antisemitism was ‘abhorrent to British Jews and to opponents of antisemitism everywhere. The Green Group’s position was also raised at a recent meeting between the First Minister, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council.

Lines to take:

- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland.
- The First Minister recently met with Scottish Jewish leaders, where she restated the Scottish Government’s **commitment to tackling antisemitism – that has not changed.**
- There is no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.

Let me know if there’s anything else.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 September 2021 14:57

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: Robert meeting with Paul Edlin

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

Re the meeting Robert is scheduled to have with Paul Edlin tomorrow, you'll remember he'd asked me to put some bullets together for any recent and current issues. Below is what we got to last week as a draft. Just wondering if there's anything else from your end that would need to go in or get changed? I presume that in the first section, we now have an agreement with the SGP, so that will need changed? I know there's been some comments on twitter about how the SGP can be in Government if they haven't adopted to IHRA definition, but wondered if you had any line to use?

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

- **Meeting with First Minister**
- Paul (GJRC) met with the FM on 11th August (along with Nicola Livingston (new Chair) and Ephraim Borowski from SCoJeC) in response to concerns about her earlier comments around the conflict in the Middle East, and to her apparent refusal to meet the Israeli Ambassador on his recent visit to Scotland in March 2021.
- The main concerns raised at the meeting were on the increase in antisemitism, including at schools and universities which was exacerbated by events in Gaza.
- Concerns were also raised about any agreement or coalition that may be entered into in the future with the Scottish Green Party given they are the only party (previously and currently) that will not support their manifesto. The First Minister was clear that the SNP and the Scottish Green Party will remain distinctive voices in Scotland and that should any agreement be entered into, the Scottish Government will not compromise on its values and remain absolutely committed to tackling antisemitism.
- The attendees appeared content with the responses throughout the meeting and following this, an article was published in the Jewish Chronicle where it was expressed that the FM's willingness to support the Jewish community across Scotland to feel safe and tackle rising antisemitic hate crime, and other matters of concern, is welcomed. Paul Edlin commented that the meeting had been 'most productive on a number of levels'.

- [redacted – out of scope]

- [redacted – out of scope]

- **Antisemitism in further education**
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)]
- At the meeting with the FM, SCoJeC also indicated that they would raise the issue with the Jewish Student Chaplaincy to pick up directly with institutions.

- **Meetings with SCoJeC, CST and others (inc GJRC)**
- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)], we responded to a request for a further meeting to discuss the rise in antisemitism. Given the current resourcing situation, as concerns had been discussed at the meeting in June and again at the meeting with the FM, we rejected the request advising that we had taken note of the issues raised at the meetings and would take them forward. We advised that we would be happy to meet if there was anything additional to discuss.
- [redacted – out of scope]

- [redacted – out of scope]

- [redacted – out of scope]

- [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Faith & Belief Team | Connected Communities | Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

3) Email Correspondence, 02 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 02 September 2021 12:58
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] |, <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Short briefing request - Paul Edlin/Robert Marshall call - Fri 10th September

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)], I've removed Robert for the time-being so his Inbox doesn't get filled with all updates/discussions on the draft briefing.

I've made a few amendments below. The issue the SGP was raised at the meeting with the FM so I have included the point raised by [redacted – s38(1)(b)], in that section. The FM was clear that both parties were distinctive voices and any possible future agreement would not erode Scottish Government values and that we remain committed to tackling antisemitism. All attendees, including Paul, indicated that they were content with the response.

[redacted - 30(b)(i)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 September 2021 11:32
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Short briefing request - Paul Edlin/Robert Marshall call - Fri 10th September

Looks good. Just wondered if we need to also provide Robert with a short line covering concerns about the Green stance on the anti-semitism definition in light of the coalition?

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 02 September 2021 11:27

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Short briefing request - Paul Edlin/Robert Marshall call - Fri 10th September

Hi Robert,

Re your Teams meeting on Friday with Paul Edlin from GJRC, I met with Vivienne yesterday to go over any emerging/current issues for you to be aware of from their area of work, and I've detailed them below, along with other general items that may be relevant. If you need more detail on any of the items, or additional material, let me know

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

- **Meeting with First Minister**
- Paul (GJRC) met with the FM on 11th August (along with **Nicola Livingston (new Chair)** and Ephraim Borowski from SCoJeC) in response to concerns about her earlier comments around the conflict in the Middle East, and to her apparent refusal to meet the Israeli Ambassador on his recent visit to Scotland in March 2021.
- **The main concerns raised at the meeting were on the increase in antisemitism, including at schools and universities which was exacerbated by events in Gaza.**
- **Concerns were also raised about any agreement or coalition that may be entered into in the future with the Scottish Green Party given they are the only party (previously and currently) that will not support their manifesto. The First Minister was clear that the SNP and the Scottish Green Party will remain distinctive voices in Scotland and that should any agreement be entered into, the Scottish Government will not compromise on its values and remain absolutely committed to tackling antisemitism.**

- The attendees appeared content with the responses throughout the meeting and following this, an article was published in the Jewish Chronicle where it was expressed that the FM's willingness to support the Jewish community across Scotland to feel safe and tackle rising antisemitic hate crime, and other matters of concern, is welcomed. Paul Edlin commented that the meeting had been 'most productive on a number of levels'.
- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Antisemitism in further education**
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)]
- At the meeting with the FM, SCoJeC also indicated that they would agree to raise the issue with the Jewish Student Chaplaincy to pick up directly with institutions.
- **Meetings with SCoJeC, CST and others (inc GJRC)**
- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)], we responded to a request for a further meeting to discuss the rise in antisemitism. Given the current resourcing situation, as concerns had been discussed at the meeting in June and again at the meeting with the FM, we rejected the request advising that we had taken note of the issues raised at the meetings and would take them forward. We advised that we would be happy to meet if there was anything additional to discuss.
- [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Faith & Belief Team | Connected Communities | Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

4) Email Correspondence, 09 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 September 2021 10:34
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Documents
Importance: High

Hi both

See urgent request from [redacted – s38(1)(b)] below:

I have the following lines which [redacted – s38(1)(b)] provided last week and wondered if there is anything further to add?:

We remain absolutely committed to action to address antisemitism.

- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland and there are a limited number of matters we have agreed to exclude from this Agreement, including international relations (with the exception of the few matters addressed in the shared programme).
- In June 2017 the Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism that position has not changed.
- Formally adopting this definition demonstrates the Scottish Government's determination that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of anti-Semitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The definition helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue. It helps to send a clear statement that anti-Semitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.

[redacted – out of scope]

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 September 2021 10:28
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Documents

[redacted – s38(1)(b)],

Thank you for your time this morning.

As discussed, please find the links below to the letter and [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope]

I would appreciate any updated lines on Antisemitism in regards to the Green deal for including in the briefing pack.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

[redacted – out of scope]

'EHRCJC Evidence session briefing - Draft Briefing Pack - August 2021' – [redacted – See Annex B]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Equality and Human Rights Division | Area 3H North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | Pronouns: She / Her

5) Email Correspondence, 03 - 07 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2021 13:45
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: CCD Copy list - Anti semitism follow up - IHRA

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

That sounds grand. Agree that we should loop international colleagues for a view, as well as constitution colleagues re: expectations for new Ministers/any related challenging areas (such as this!).

Cheers,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2021 11:58
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: CCD Copy list - Anti semitism follow up - IHRA

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I'd welcome a chat about this, and should we loop in international colleagues for a view?

Many thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 September 2021 10:27

To: Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: CCD Copy list - Anti semitism follow up - IHRA

Hi Robert,

Copied to: Unit heads, Faith team + Hate crime team for awareness/initial views.

[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

I would welcome other's views on this and am happy to chat if easier. [redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

Cheers,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 September 2021 16:17

To: Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

<CommunicationsSocialJusticeHousing&LocalGovt@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Primrose J (John) <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

<[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

<[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and

<CommunicationsSocialJusticeHousing&LocalGovt@gov.scot>

Subject: Media enquiry - Anti semitism follow up - Daily Mail

Colleagues

As a follow up from the story below, the Daily Mail have asked about the Scottish Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism and whether ministers are bound by its principles.

I'd suggest reissuing the following lines and info – is there anything helpful we would add to the background on this?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

Background

[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Social Justice, Housing & Local Government | Scottish Government

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 September 2021 17:27

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights

<MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

<MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>;

Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted –

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Primrose J (John) <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; Marshall R (Robert)

<Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted –

s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted –

s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <directorEIHR@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: For Cabinet Secretary approval - Lines on Antisemitism - Sun, Jewish Chronicle

Cabinet Secretary Private Office,
Ministerial Private Offices (cc) for awareness.

We have received queries from the Sun and the Jewish Chronicle asking for a response to a news release by the Campaign Against Antisemitism, which is copied below for your information.

We propose the below lines in response, as composed with policy officials and reviewed by Spads.

Grateful to know if the Cabinet Secretary is content with the below:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

Background

[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

Jewish Chronicle query

The Campaign Against Antisemitism has called on the Scottish Government to urgently clarify its position following the new power sharing agreement with the Scottish Greens,

In 2015 the Scottish Greens adopted Policy Motion Two which:

- States Zionism is a racist ideology
- Demands an end to the 'law of return' - aliyah
- Demands that Hamas is no longer designated a terrorist organisation
- Supports the anti-Israel BDS boycott movement

Do you accept these positions are:

- Anti-semitic
- Incompatible with being in Government

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Office: +44 (0)330 822 0321 (option 1) or media@antisemitism.org

CAA deeply troubled by policies of Scottish Greens, now in Scottish Government, who believe Zionism is a “racist ideology”, oppose ‘aliyah’ and want Hamas taken off list of terrorist groups

Campaign Against Antisemitism is deeply troubled by certain policies of the Scottish Greens, the Green Party’s branch in Scotland which as of this week sits in the Scottish Government.

In 2015, the Scottish Greens adopted [Policy Motion 2](#) (which has never been rescinded), which “condemn[ed] Israel’s claim to be ‘the Jewish State’” and “condemn[ed] Zionism as a racist ideology based on Jewish supremacy in Palestine.” The motion went on to declare that “Israel’s claim to be a Jewish and democratic state, the home of all Jews in which non-Jews have inferior rights, constitutes apartheid and is unacceptable. It is not supported by the Scottish Green Party.”

The Party also “call[s] on Israel to repeal its ‘law of return’ as this is incompatible with the full exercise of human rights and is discriminatory” and the Scottish Greens pledge to “work towards...repeal of Israel’s law of return (Aliyah).”

The motion also called for “the removal of Hamas from the designation as a terrorist organisation” and supported the BDS movement—the campaign to boycott the Jewish state—the tactics of which an overwhelming [majority](#) of British Jews find intimidating.

[Hamas](#) is an antisemitic genocidal terrorist organisation, and Campaign Against Antisemitism has written to the Home Secretary calling on her to proscribe Hamas in full, and has [urged](#) all MPs to do the same.

The debate on Policy Motion 2 was [held](#) on a Saturday, when observant Jews would be unable to participate, and it passed easily. It became Party policy and remains so even as the Scottish Greens join the Scottish devolved Government for the first time. Indeed, it is the first time that a Green Party has joined any Government in the United Kingdom.

Recently, Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who invited the Scottish Greens into her administration, sought to [reassure](#) the Jewish community that she is “committed to tackling” antisemitism after the recent surge in racism against Jews in the UK. The Scottish Greens are currently led by Patrick Harvie and Lorna Slater.

Although the agreement between Nicola Sturgeon’s SNP and the Scottish Greens excludes international relations, as one journalist has [pointed out](#) this is the worst of both worlds, as it means that the two parties and their politicians can speak freely on the subject, allowing the Scottish Greens to promote their Party’s positions without the hindrance of collective responsibility.

Joe Glasman, Head of Political Investigations at Campaign Against Antisemitism, said: “The positions adopted by the Scottish Greens in 2015 and not since rescinded are abhorrent to British Jews and to opponents of antisemitism everywhere. All decent Scots will have been appalled by the surge in racism against the Jewish community during the recent conflict between Hamas and Israel, which saw demonstrations featuring antisemitic chanting and the display of the Hamas

insignia. Now, as campaigns for Hamas to be proscribed in full by the British Government are in full swing, a Party whose stated policy is the very opposite now sits in the Scottish Government.

“The Party’s rise to national prominence in Scotland demands immediate review of its position on Zionism, ‘aliyah’ and Hamas. With the privilege of participation in national government comes the responsibility to govern on behalf of all Scotland, including its minorities.

“Nicola Sturgeon, who invited the Scottish Greens into her administration, must also urgently clarify the policy of the Scottish Government. If she fails to control the extremist elements of her new governing partner, she will be to blame for elevating those views into Scotland’s national conversation and giving such views standing within the UK polity.”

Campaign Against Antisemitism has extensively [documented](#) alleged antisemitism among officers of the Green Party of England and Wales, including the Party’s former Equalities and Diversity Coordinator who now holds the International Coordinator portfolio, on which the Green Party has [failed](#) to act. We are also monitoring the Greens’ leadership primary, where [differences](#) on whether and how to address antisemitism have arisen.

Campaign Against Antisemitism’s [Antisemitism Barometer 2019](#) showed that antisemitism on the far-left of British politics has surpassed that of the far-right.

Campaign Against Antisemitism advocates for zero tolerance of antisemitism in public life. To that end we monitor [all political parties](#) and strive to ensure that any cases of concern are properly addressed.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Communications | Scottish Government | [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

6) Email Correspondence, 03-07 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 September 2021 17:51

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI Request

Importance: High

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Hope you're both well.

Sorry, I should have said before that the reply deadline is **Monday 20 September 2021**. However, I'm also attending to seek clearance from the FOI team and colleagues so would be most grateful for a quick response.

Many thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 03 September 2021 10:48

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI Request

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Very grateful to you both for responding to me so quickly ([redacted – s38(1)(b)] - since I received separate replies, I have included yours as an attachment).

I attach the full FOI request for [MiCase - View Case 233372](#), which relates to the Scottish Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

The correspondent asks a number of questions (some which can be covered with answers provided for the previous FOI request under [MiCase - View Case 4948](#) in 2019). However, I would be most grateful if could consider sections, 'Q.2 Codes of Conduct', 'Q3. Complaints' and 'Q4. Equality, diversity & training', in particular and offer any appropriate comments or text for the reply letter. You'll note in my draft response, I've made a start at this but I appreciate what has currently written may be inaccurate so happy to take on board any changes.

If you require further clarification or additional information please just ask.

Many thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities | Scottish Government

3H North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] Mobile: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

e: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]



7) Email Correspondence, 06 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 September 2021 13:05

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FMQ - Hate Crime - 06 September 2021 (A34554367)

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I've just updated the FMQ to cover the stories re: Jackson Carlaw retweet of the Sun Scottish article regarding antisemitism in the Green Party [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

Happy to make any further amends.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

FMQ - Hate Crime - 06 September 2021

[redacted – See Annex B]

8) Email Correspondence, 01 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 September 2021 13:58
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Primrose J (John) <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; Bain R (Russell) <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FMQ - SG SGP -Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Please find attached an updated FMQ brief with suggested lines in response to Jackson Carlaw's tweet highlighted in yellow.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 September 2021 13:36
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1pm please

Thanks for your help [redacted – s38(1)(b)]. I'll flag to [redacted – s38(1)(b)] that the antisemitism lines are also in the FMQ on hate crimes.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 September 2021 13:35
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1pm please

Sorry for only replying now; these look grand. I see you have sent on already.

Cheers,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 September 2021 13:13

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1.30pm please

With thanks to [redacted – s38(1)(b)] for the suggested lines on antisemitism. Circulating to the wider copylist in case anyone wants to suggest any additional points or lines?

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

We remain absolutely committed to action to address antisemitism.

- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland and there are a limited number of matters we have agreed to exclude from this Agreement, including international relations (with the exception of the few matters addressed in the shared programme).
- We formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism in June 2017 - our position has not changed.
- Formally adopting this definition demonstrates the Scottish Government's determination that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of anti-Semitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The definition helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue. It helps to send a clear statement that anti-Semitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 September 2021 13:58

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FMQ - SG SGP -Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 September 2021 12:43
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1pm please

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly [redacted – s38(1)(b)]. I've strengthen a bit you let me know if this would work for you?

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 September 2021 12:34
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1pm please

Hello,

Here you go (these lines will be reproduced in our hate crime FMQ – a revised version of this is going up shortly):

We are taking action to address antisemitism.

- We formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism in June 2017
- Formally adopting this definition demonstrates the Scottish Government's determination that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of anti-Semitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The definition helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue. It helps to send a clear statement that anti-Semitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.

[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

Cheers,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 September 2021 12:26

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1pm please

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]/[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Can you suggest some short succinct lines please that I can slot into the FMQ brief before 1pm?

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 September 2021 12:16

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1pm please

Importance: High

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I've copied to colleagues in our hate crime team who should be able to provide some lines.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)], [redacted – s38(1)(b)] happy to have a chat.

Many thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities | Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights Directorate | Scottish Government | Mobile: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I work Tuesday – Friday

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 01 September 2021 12:06

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FMQ - Jackson Carlaw claims about Greens and antisemitism - feedback by 1pm please

Importance: High

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Please see the forwarded question from the FMQ team on Jackson Carlaw's points about antisemitism and the Greens. can you please provide some brief lines and background on the SG's stance on antisemitism so that we weave together a line for the FMQ brief?

International relations is an area excluded from the agreement, so our existing SG policy will continue regardless of the new cooperation agreement.

We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland and in the Scottish Parliament and there are a limited number of matters we have agreed to exclude from this Agreement, including international relations (with the exception of the few matters addressed in the shared programme).

Copying in [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)] in case there's anything additional we might want to include from an international relations perspective?

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 September 2021 11:34
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Greens Partnership Brief - to review against Parly nomination debate and Wed AM press.

Many thx [redacted – s38(1)(b)].

Apologies, just spotted this from Jackson Carlaw.

[Jackson Carlaw on Twitter: "Nicola Sturgeon currently welcoming 2 Greens who have refused to support the IHRA definition on Antisemitism into her government. Given ScotGov supports IHRA, how does she square this with Goves commitment to tackling antisemitism? Or is her commitment to Scottish Jews a sham." / Twitter](#)

Grateful if you could pls note it in Background and provide relevant lines pls.

Thx again

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] [redacted – s38(1)(b)], Scottish Government | [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

----- Find out more on [Preparing First Minister's Questions \(FMQs\)](#) -----

9) Email Correspondence, 26 August 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 August 2021 16:22
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: BRIEFING REQUEST: Equalities, Human Rights & Civil Justice Committee

Hi both,

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)] for pulling this together, and to [redacted – s38(1)(b)] for the changes. I have made some comments that I would be grateful if someone could take forward this evening? Mainly about removing stuff and shortening sections.

This doesn't have to be perfect right now, and there is plenty of time after the pre-meet (next Friday) to make changes.

[redacted – see Annex B]

Thanks,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 26 August 2021 12:39
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: BRIEFING REQUEST: Equalities, Human Rights & Civil Justice Committee

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Please see draft briefing attached. Sought to cover the points you have outlined while following a (similar) structure to what is already in the overall briefing. I've taken lines from various sources, previous FMQs, Core Brief etc.

Happy to makes any changes that are necessary.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 August 2021 08:38
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: BRIEFING REQUEST: Equalities, Human Rights & Civil Justice Committee

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – out of scope]

I spoke with [redacted – s38(1)(b)] late yesterday afternoon and the key issues to include are [redacted – out of scope], antisemitism [redacted – out of scope]. The style of briefing will be similar to our core brief where we have top lines then issues with lines to take on each. I'm hoping that this won't take up too much of your time. Would you be able to have a draft briefing with [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and I by lunchtime today?

Happy to have a chat about it if that would help.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Barnes D (David) <David.Barnes@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: For Awareness: FM meeting with SCoJeC and GJRC - 11 August 2021

Colleagues

With thanks to [redacted – s38(1)(b)], please see attached a note of FM’s meeting with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council on Wednesday 11 August. The briefing papers are also attached.

I have also attached a report by SCoJeC that will be published in this week’s Jewish Telegraph.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities Division | Scottish Government

3H North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

📞 Ext [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | 📧 [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | ✉️ [redacted – s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot

Please note that I am currently working remotely and can only be contacted on [redacted – s38(1)(b)], eMail or MS Teams

3H North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

☎ Ext [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | 📞 [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | ✉ [redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Please note that I am currently working remotely and can only be contacted on [redacted – s38(1)(b)], eMail or MS Teams

12) Email Correspondence, 10-11 August 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 11 August 2021 09:21
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM Meeting with SCoJeC/GJRC - 11 February 2021

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I think that will likely be the chunk of the discussion, but when it comes to Ministerial engagements it's difficult to predict! Hopefully we have everything covered in the briefing for what may come up – [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities Unit

 [redacted – s38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 August 2021 18:53
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM Meeting with SCoJeC/GJRC - 11 February 2021

Great, thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)]. I'd seen that but I felt the last meeting had focussed on anti-Semitism in Scotland with the reasons for this (those being the conflict, SG's approach to it and this twitter statement) as part of that wider conversation. We spent time discussing an old example of anti-Semitic behaviour at a school for example. [redacted - 30(b)(i)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]/[redacted – s38(1)(b)] - hope it goes well.

Thanks,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | 2H South, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | ✉: [\[redacted – s38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot) | 📞 [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 August 2021 17:51
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM Meeting with SCoJeC/GJRC - 11 February 2021

Sorry – should have added the agenda SCoJeC provided:

- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – out of scope]
- and the rise in antisemitism in Scotland

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities Unit

📄 Redacted – [redacted – s38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 10 August 2021 17:49
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM Meeting with SCoJeC/GJRC - 11 February 2021

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Apologies I missed the deadline so I had to get the briefing up, but I tweaked the issues slightly. The meeting is partially about anti-semitism in Scotland [redacted - 30(b)(i)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities Unit

 [redacted – s38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 August 2021 16:27

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FM Meeting with SCoJeC/GJRC - 11 February 2021

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)], [redacted - 30(b)(i)]

Thanks,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | 2H South, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [✉:\[redacted – s38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot) |  [redacted – s38(1)(b)] [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 August 2021 15:42

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FM Meeting with SCoJeC/GJRC - 11 February 2021

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]/[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I'd be grateful if you could confirm whether you have any comments on the briefing for tomorrow's meeting.

Thanks!

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities Division | Scottish Government

3H North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

 [redacted – s38(1)(b)] |  [redacted – s38(1)(b)] |  [\[redacted – s38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)

13) Email Correspondence, 11 August 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 11 August 2021 16:46

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] ([redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot) <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: MiCase 202100227179

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

This is the second of the three antisemitism cases. I think I've determined that the response can be of a very similar wording to the previous one with some minor amendments.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] from Education Scotland, confirmed the lines in respect to education for the last case. She is now on leave till the end of the month but based on my communication with her I don't think there is anything further she would have to add.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

14) Email Correspondence, 05-11 August 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] ([redacted – s38(1)(b)]) <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 11 August 2021 16:18
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MiCase 202100227176

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)]!

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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 11 August 2021 14:53
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MiCase 202100227176

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Thank you. I have accepted your changes so that's much appreciated! I will issue the response shortly.

In terms of the Core Brief I have amended the references from 'Anti-Semitism' in the core brief to 'antisemitism' apart from in one instance where I have a comment.

Thanks again

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 11 August 2021 09:11
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MiCase 202100227176

This is looking good, [redacted – s38(1)(b)]! Few small tweaks and happy for you to issue once you are content.

Perhaps you (or [redacted – s38(1)(b)]) could amend 'Anti-Semitism' in the core brief to 'antisemitism'. I think it varies where you look online (and not even sure if it there is a right/wrong), however all documentation by SCoJeC and CST uses 'antisemitism'. It also needs to remain consistent in our documents/correspondence and I am seeing that it is varying significantly, including within one doc (that's not you - it's a general observation across the board). So, I think, if it's amended in the core brief that will help to ensure some consistency.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Connected Communities Division | Scottish Government 3H
North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ ☐ Ext [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
|☐[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | ☐ [redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Please note that I am currently working remotely and can only be contacted on
[redacted – s38(1)(b)], eMail or MS Teams

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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 August 2021 13:51
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: MiCase 202100227176

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I attach a draft response to this MiCase.

Many thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

15) Email Correspondence, 06 August 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 15:59

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: Hand Over Issues

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

Here are the key issues for the week I am off. My mobile is [redacted – s38(1)(b)].

| Topic | Relevant Papers | Action Required | Timescale |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | Week commencing 9 August |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] review this and let Roddy see. | [redacted – out of scope] |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] |
| [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] | [redacted – out of scope] |
| Anti-semitism | [redacted – 29(1)(a)] | | I can pick this up week commencing 16 August |

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

The Scottish Government, Advanced Learning and Science Directorate, Higher Education and Science
7th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

Telephone: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]



16) Email Correspondence, 04-05 August 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>
Sent: 05 August 2021 07:13
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: PS/Education Scotland <ps/educationscotland@educationscotland.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Please Protect Israel and Remember Our Own Plight

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Content with that.

Cheers

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 August 2021 15:58
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: PS/Education Scotland <ps/educationscotland@educationscotland.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Please Protect Israel and Remember Our Own Plight

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

I'm doing ok (!) and thank you for this information.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] - If I've understood correctly may I just clarify that the best line to use in this instance might be:

“In respect to your concerns over teaching in Scottish schools, as you may already appreciate, Education Scotland does not set a curriculum for Scotland’s schools and does not oblige schools to deliver lessons on any particular topic. Instead, the Curriculum for Excellence, Scotland’s national curriculum framework, empowers individual schools and teachers to develop and deliver a curriculum that is informed by, and relevant to, the needs of learners.

Any concerns you may have about the curriculum being implemented in any school in Scotland should be raised with the relevant local authority.

However, Education Scotland would anticipate any learning on the topic of Israel, Palestine, or any potentially sensitive or controversial subject, to be delivered in a balanced and objective manner.”

If you are able to confirm that the line is appropriate to use in the context of the correspondence or suggest any relevant amends I would be most grateful.

Thanks again

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>

Sent: 04 August 2021 15:23

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: PS/Education Scotland <ps/educationscotland@educationscotland.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Please Protect Israel and Remember Our Own Plight

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Yes that is our standard response as we don't host those resources any longer. For a further line please see the latest response sent out at the end of July.

Hope that helps.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Click on the link to open '202100224665 Final Response' - [redacted]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 August 2021 14:50

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Please Protect Israel and Remember Our Own Plight

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

I'm doing good, thanks for asking! How are you? I actually don't but, our colleague [redacted – s38(1)(b)] helped out on another case regarding education... though I'm not too sure if these are connected the comment that [redacted – s38(1)(b)] was:

Education Scotland do not own or host the resource any longer. Due to the lack of agreement it was transferred to the EIS and has been owned and hosted on their website for a couple of years now. In order not to go back over the old ground all our replies simply state that and advise people to get in touch with the EIS, whilst advising that the resources used and teaching is down to the Local Authority and schools, not ES.

Hello [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

Sorry if I have misdirected this – are you able to provide any lines to [redacted – s38(1)(b)], please, or suggest someone who might?

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)], International Division, External Affairs Directorate, The Scottish Government

☎ [redacted – s38(1)(b)] | ✉ [redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Due to Covid-19, I am working from home as are the majority of Scottish Government employees.

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 August 2021 13:12

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Please Protect Israel and Remember Our Own Plight

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

How are you?

Just a quick question on this case. Are you aware of any previous lines that would cover the educational aspect? You'll note the correspondent is stating that there is anti-Semitic rhetoric taking place in Scottish schools.

Grateful for any advice!

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Annex B: Attachments Included in Email Correspondence Between Scottish Government Officials on the Subject of Antisemitism 04 August to 09 September 2021

Attachment from '4) Email Correspondence, 09 September 2021'

Extract of Draft Briefing Pack for the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Evidence Session with the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee (EHRCJC) - August 2021

Antisemitism

- The First Minister recently met with Scottish Jewish leaders, where she restated the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling antisemitism.
- There is no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in June 2017 – that has not changed.
- As the First Minister has outlined, the Scottish Government's position on antisemitism and the IHRA definition is clear - all Ministers are bound by the definition.

Hate Crime – Antisemitism and Islamophobia

ISSUE: The First Minister has been questioned on the fact that the Scottish Green Party has not endorsed the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, and what that means for new Green Ministers in the Scottish Government (the Scottish Government endorsed the IHRA's definition in 2017).

ISSUE: The Community Security Trust have recently published reports that have highlighted an increase in antisemitic incidents in the UK, particularly over the period of conflict between Israel and Palestine from 8 May – 7 June 2021. What is the Scottish Government doing to tackle antisemitism?

Lines to take

- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland.
- The First Minister recently met with Scottish Jewish leaders, where she restated the Scottish Government's **commitment to tackling antisemitism**.
- There is no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- In June 2017, the Scottish Government published the Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan and established a ministerial-led Action Group to take this work forward.

- At the same time, we formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism – **that has not changed**.
- As the First Minister has outlined, the Scottish Government's position on antisemitism and the IHRA definition is clear - all Ministers are bound by the definition.
- The definition helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue. It helps to send a clear statement that antisemitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.
- Formally, adopting this definition demonstrates the Scottish Government's determination that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- We will publish a progress report on implementation of the Action Plan and will begin work later this year in conjunction with a wide range of stakeholders to **develop a new hate crime strategy**. The strategy will support implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act.

Background

- Jackson Carlaw tweets: 'Nicola Sturgeon currently welcoming 2 Greens who have refused to support the IHRA definition on Antisemitism into her government. Given ScotGov supports IHRA, how does she square this with Govs commitment to tackling antisemitism? Or is her commitment to Scottish Jews a sham.'
- Campaign Against Antisemitism have said that the Scottish Green Party's position on antisemitism was 'abhorrent to British Jews and to opponents of antisemitism everywhere. The Green Group's position was also raised at a recent meeting between the First Minister, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council.
- The Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 1,308 antisemitic incidents across the UK in the first six months of 2021, the highest total reported to CST in the January-June period of any year. This is an increase of 49% from the first half of 2020,
- In Scotland there were 22 incidents between January and June this year, compared to 21 for the same period in 2020.
- CST reported separately over the period from 8 May to 7 June 2021, when tensions were highest in relation to the conflict in the Middle East. CST recorded 628 antisemitic hate incidents across the UK, the highest number CST has ever recorded in any month-long period. There were 93 antisemitic incidents related to schools and 61 incidents related to universities across the UK. There were 11 antisemitic incidents reported in Scotland over this period.
- Religiously aggravated offending remains the third-most common type of hate crime recorded by the Police (8% of all hate crimes recorded in 2019-20). However it should be noted that hate crime, across all strands, remains under-reported.
- In February this year we published a research report, 'A Study of the Characteristics of Police Recorded Hate Crime in Scotland' which indicates that in around 7% of religiously aggravated hate crimes recorded in 2018-19, the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Jewish community.

Attachment from '7) Email Correspondence, 06 September 2021'

Extract of First Minister's Questions Hate Crime Briefing – 06 September 2021

ISSUE 03 Sept: Scottish Sun article published on the 'abhorrent views' of the Scottish Green Party, referencing a 2015 motion on Israel passed by the party:

- Campaign Against Antisemitism said the party's position was 'abhorrent to British Jews and to opponents of antisemitism everywhere', calling for urgent clarification of the Scottish Government's own policy.

ISSUE 05 Aug: The Community Security Trust published reports on antisemitic incidents in the UK. Key findings include:

- a UK increase of 49% from 2020 (note number are relatively low at 1308);
- 22 incidents in Scotland from January to June 2021, compared to 21 for the same period in 2020;
- sharp increase in incidents when Middle East tensions were at their highest;
- 11 incidents occurred in Scotland from 8 May to 7 June 2021.

We remain absolutely committed to taking action to address antisemitism.

- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland.
- I recently met with Scottish Jewish leaders, where I restated the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling antisemitism – that has not changed.
- The Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in June 2017.
- Formally adopting this definition demonstrates the Scottish Government's determination that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The definition helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue. It helps to send a clear statement that antisemitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.

Attachment from '8) Email Correspondence, 31 August - 01 September 2021'

Extract of First Minister's Questions Scottish Green Party Co-Operation Agreement Briefing – 06 September 2021

31 Aug: Jackson Carlaw tweets: 'Nicola Sturgeon currently welcoming 2 Greens who have refused to support the IHRA definition on Antisemitism into her government. Given ScotGov supports IHRA, how does she square this with Govs commitment to tackling antisemitism? Or is her commitment to Scottish Jews a sham.'

ANTISEMITISM

We remain absolutely committed to action to address antisemitism.

- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland and there are a limited number of matters we have agreed to exclude from this Agreement, including international relations (with the exception of the few matters addressed in the shared programme).
- In June 2017 the Scottish Government We formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism that position has not changed.
- Formally adopting this definition demonstrates the Scottish Government's determination that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of anti-Semitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The definition helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue. It helps to send a clear statement that anti-Semitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.

Attachment from '9) Email Correspondence, 26 August 2021'

Extract of Hate Crime Policy Briefing for the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Evidence Session with the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee (EHRCJC) - August 2021

ISSUE: The Community Security Trust has published two reports on antisemitic incidents in the UK. Key findings include:

- **An increase of 49% from 2020 (note number are relatively low at 1308),**
- **22 in Scotland from January to June 2021, compared to 21 for 2020,**
- **sharp increase in incidents when Middle East tensions were at their highest**
- **11 incidents occurred in Scotland from 8 May to 7 June 2021**

Lines to take

- We are taking action to address antisemitism
- We formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism in June 2017
- Formally, adopting this definition demonstrates the Scottish Government's determination that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of anti-Semitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.
- The definition helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue. It helps to send a clear statement that anti-Semitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.

Attachment from '10) Email Correspondence, 13-19 August 2021' and '11) Email Correspondence, 13 August 2021'

Extract of First Minister's Meeting with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council (GJRC) – 11 August 2021

Note of FM meeting with Meeting with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council (GJRC)

11 August 2021 @ 13:00 hours.

Discussion (including actions):

Ephraim – welcomes and reiterates that this meeting is about FM comments and CST – spike in antisemitism. Mentions manifesto – FM has supported this activity on their webpages.

Discussions with the Scottish Green Party

Nicola – Green party is the only party of which hasn't supported their manifesto. They find this quite concerning given the possibility of an SNP coalition. Suggest that this impacts on equalities, and hierarchies too. *Faith should not take a lesser place.*

FM advises that she doesn't speak for the Greens and that conversations on all aspects of relationships are still in discussion... though they do not necessarily agree on all aspects of policy. FM confirmed that there won't be any compromise on the SG's values should any agreement be entered into.

Rise in antisemitism

Paul – Glasgow Jewish community, increase in antisemitism – 22 antisemitic incidents reported by CST over the past six months which were exacerbated by events in Gaza. Mearns Castle High School – two incidents. It's distressing as Muslim and Jewish children have ended friendships. GJRC has developed relationships with Muslim communities. Have tried to address these issues through a Rabbi and Imam entering schools together to educate and improve relationships.

FM advises that she is keen to help with this issue. Community coherence is paramount. Conflicts heighten these situations domestically, which is unavoidable. FM would not want to inflame these situations and will reflect on the content of the correspondence. There is no justification for antisemitism, of which FM will continue to communicate. Has aspirations to bring the Jewish and Muslim community together – while recognising differing views on the situation in Gaza. These should not impact domestically – hopes to reduce these tensions in Scotland.

Colin – happy about the community relations exploration. Seeks a public endorsement.

FM – happy to support but needs to know what is involved. A detailed request would need to be received. If this can be achieved in practice, out with hypothetical, and in to detail, then this can be evaluated.

Antisemitism in universities

Ephraim – There are no institutions in Scotland particularly bad but recent incidences have been concerning, and mentions a text message received at the University of Glasgow..

Nicola – campuses are important as these are the future populous of communities. There are issues with Jewish students feeling disconnected from community and this is a point in their lives when they are testing their identity. Now students are considering not representing as Jewish. FM met with group of students some years ago.

FM – would attend a similar event if that would be useful. Is there a SCOJEC ask through Universities Scotland to seek their cooperation? Nicola will take this to Chaplaincy and follow up.

Underreporting of antisemitism/hate crime

Ephraim – back to antisemitism in Scotland. Antisemitism is more underreported than any other form of hate crime because of the thin spread of Jewish community across Scotland. Mentions census stats/demographic. *The only Jew in the village*. Advises that reporting of incidents does not happen. Asks what practical things SG can do to encourage reporting, considering those who feel isolated or insecure. The impact/fear of antisemitism runs deeper as the Holocaust is still in memory, therefore need to think about how to encourage people to report.

FM – agrees that underreporting of hate crime is an issue and that messaging needs to be strengthened within the Jewish community. ACTION POINT: Asks officials to take this away and consider, report back to FM.

[redacted – out of scope]

Article from Glasgow Jewish Representative Council

Nicola Sturgeon has agreed to a public meeting with members of Scotland's Jewish communities.

Covid-19 conditions permitting, it is hoped to stage this hybrid event, in person and digitally, before the end of this year.

The tentative arrangements were discussed when the First Minister held talks with officials from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council on Wednesday afternoon.

Attending the digital mini conference were Nicola Livingston and Ephraim Borowski, Chair and Director respectively of SCoJeC, along with Glasgow Rep Council President Paul Edlin and the Rep Council's Public Affairs Advisor, Colin Grant.

Ms Sturgeon affirmed that she would be happy to meet and talk to as many members of the Jewish community as possible, and not restrict the dialogue to officials.

Wednesday's wider discussions focused on issues of great importance to Jewish communities throughout the country.

They included concerns about a possible coalition involving the SNP Government and the Green Party, the only political party not to endorse the Jewish Manifesto, published to coincide with the recent Holyrood elections.

Patrick Harvie and his colleagues refused to even acknowledge the document.

The First Minister said she could not speak on behalf of the Green Party but she understood the Jewish community's concerns.

Also on the agenda were antisemitic attacks which intensified during the Israel-Gaza conflict, particularly against Jewish students, efforts to bolster interfaith relations in light of anti-Israel actions in a secondary school, and the First Minister's availability for a meeting with the Israeli Ambassador.

Ms Sturgeon stated that she had reflected deeply on the issues raised in Scotland as a consequence of the Israel-Gaza conflict and reaffirmed her opposition to antisemitism in this country.

She added that she understood that many incidents go unreported because people who are isolated because they don't consider themselves part of the settled communities, or live in remote parts of Scotland, feel vulnerable and are worried about repercussions.

And she acknowledged that there are others, first, second and now third generation survivors who are terrified of antisemitism because of their memories of the Holocaust.

Nicola Livingston reminded the First Minister that she had held a very successful meeting with Jewish students some years ago and wondered if another meeting might be possible, in view of the rise of attacks on Jewish students.

Ms Sturgeon acknowledged the request and indicated she would view it positively. Her suggestion that SCoJeC might consider meeting with university chancellors to discuss antisemitism on campuses was unanimously welcomed.

Regarding a potential meeting with Israel's Ambassador, the First Minister said she does not have any objection in principle, provided a suitable opportunity and time could be found.

She stated that she meets ambassadors all the time the last time a meeting was proposed with the Israeli ambassador it was not suitable for her and then Covid intervened preventing a subsequent meeting.

Responding to Paul Edlin's question about the disturbing incidents in secondary schools, Ms Sturgeon confirmed that she endorses all efforts by the Jewish community to reach out to other faiths and suggested she might be able to support a specific initiative if it falls within the Government's remit.

Nicola Livingston thanked the First Minister for agreeing to the meeting and said: "We appreciate Ms Sturgeon's understanding of these sensitive and complex issues. Her willingness to suggest ways in which she can support the Jewish community across Scotland to feel safe and tackle rising antisemitic Hate Crime as well as other matters of concern, is particularly welcomed."

Paul Edlin said: "The meeting was most productive on a number of levels and I would like to thank the First Minister for giving us her time today."

Attachment from '12) Email, Correspondence, 10-11 August 2021'

Extract of First Minister's Briefing for Meeting with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council (GJRC) – 11 August 2021

Sensitivities

Issued raised at officials meeting on 11 June

- SCoJeC and GJRC felt that the statements made by the FM and Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care on the situation in the Middle East were not balanced and did not consider the impact the conflict was having on Jews in Scotland. Concerns were raised that the statement and failure to condemn activity directed towards Jews emboldened some Muslims and pro-Palestine protestors to engage in antisemitic behaviours.

Meeting with Israel's Ambassador

- It was suggested by GJRC that the FM's unwillingness to meet the Israeli Ambassador and the perceived bias in the statements on events in Israel and Gaza have been viewed as bordering on antisemitism by some members of the Jewish community.

KEY ISSUES

Antisemitism statistics

- In February 2021, the Scottish Government published the report 'A Study of the Characteristics of Police Recorded Hate Crime in Scotland'. The police recorded 6,448 hate crimes in 2019-20. Around 65% included a race aggravator and 10% a religion aggravator. It also found that in 2018-19, where the victim wasn't police, 7% of religiously aggravated hate crimes involved the perpetrator showing prejudice towards the Jewish community.
- The Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 1,308 antisemitic incidents across the UK in the first six months of 2021, the highest total reported to CST in the January-June period of any year. This is an increase of 49% from the first half of 2020,
- In Scotland there were 22 incidents between January and June this year, compared to 21 for the same period in 2020.
- CST reported separately over the period from 8 May to 7 June 2021, when tensions were highest in relation to the conflict in the Middle East. CST recorded 628 antisemitic hate incidents across the UK, the highest number CST has ever recorded in any month-long period. There were 93 antisemitic incidents related to schools and 61 incidents related to universities across the UK. There were 11 antisemitic incidents reported in Scotland over this period.

Anti-semitism in schools/universities

- Officials have been made aware by SCoJeC and GJRC of antisemitic incidents at Mearns Castle High School and at universities.
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)]
- [redacted – 29(1)(a)]

Top lines

- There is no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives.



FOI Request – 202100238820

Annex C

Reasons for Not Providing Information

Section 29(1)(a) – formulation or development of government policy

An exemption under section 29(1)(a) of FOISA (formulation or development of government policy) applies to some of the information requested because it relates to the development of the Scottish Government’s policy on tackling antisemitism.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the discussions on tackling antisemitism will be disclosed in the near future, when it may undermine or constrain the Government’s view on that policy while it is still under discussion and development.

Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice

An exemption under section 30(b)(i) of FOISA (free and frank provision of advice) applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank provision of advice. This exemption recognises the need for officials to have a private space within which to provide free and frank advice to other officials before the Scottish Government reaches a settled public view. Disclosing the content of free and frank advice on tackling antisemitism will substantially inhibit the provision of such advice in the future, particularly because these discussions are still ongoing and decisions have not been taken.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing a private space within which officials can provide full and frank advice to other officials, as part of the process of exploring and refining the Government’s position on tackling antisemitism, until the Government as a whole can adopt a decision that is sound and likely to be effective. This private thinking space is essential to enable all options to be properly considered, based on the best available advice, so that good decisions can be taken. Premature disclosure is likely to undermine the full and frank discussion of issues between Ministers and officials, which in turn will undermine the quality of the decision making process, which would not be in the public interest.

Section 30(b)(ii) – free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation

An exemption under section 30(b)(ii) of FOISA (free and frank exchange of views) applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. This exemption recognises the need for Ministers and officials to have a private space within which to discuss and explore options before the Scottish Government reaches a settled public view. Disclosing the content of free and frank discussions on tackling antisemitism will substantially inhibit such discussions in the future, particularly because these discussions are still ongoing and decisions have not been taken.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing Ministers and officials a private space within which to explore and refine the Government’s position on tackling antisemitism, until the Government as a whole can adopt a decision that is sound and likely to be effective. This private thinking space is essential to enable all options to be properly considered, so that good decisions can be taken. Premature disclosure is likely to undermine the full and frank discussion of issues between Ministers and officials, which in turn will undermine the quality of the decision making process, which would not be in the public interest.

Section 38(1)(b) – applicant has asked for personal data of a third party

An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA (personal information) applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party, i.e., names, email addresses, telephone numbers and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.