

Schedule of Documents

FOI reference number: 202100262502

Title	Description of information	Information withheld
Annex A	Email correspondence between Scottish Government officials on the subject of antisemitism from 10 September 2021 to 17 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 29(1)(a) (formulation or development of government policy) • Section 30(b)(i) (free and frank provision of advice) • Section 30(b)(ii) (free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation) • Section 38(1)(b) (personal information) • Information that is out of scope
Annex B	Attachments included in email correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2) Email Correspondence, 27 September 2021 • 4) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021 • 5) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 29(1)(a) (formulation or development of government policy) • Section 30(b)(i) (free and frank provision of advice) • Information that is out of scope

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13) Email Correspondence, 16 September 2021 	
Annex C	<p>Attachment included in email correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6) Email Correspondence, 21 - 23 September 2021 	N/A
Annex D	<p>Attachment included in email correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9) Email Correspondence, 21 September 2021 	N/A
Annex E	Explanation of exemptions	N/A

Annex A: Email Correspondence Between Scottish Government Officials on the Subject of Antisemitism 10 September to 17 October 2021

1) Email Correspondence, 13 October 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 October 2021 15:32
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Israel/Green Party - MiCase 202100238621

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

I'm good, thanks – I hope you are too! Thanks for sharing this one, again – I think we discussed it a wee while back. I think your draft is fine as it/the correspondent isn't actually asking for any update/info on the actions of the Government/crisis. Its focussed on the specific policy of antisemitism. Our International policy lines haven't changed, though.

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](mailto:[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: 12 October 2021 18:18
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Israel/Green Party - MiCase 202100238621

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

How are you?

Would you possibly be able to take a look at the following MiCase and attached response and let me know if there is anything further you might wish to include?

Many thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

2) Email Correspondence, 27 September 2021

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

Sent: 27 September 2021 13:38

To: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>

Cc: Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <directorEIHR@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>; [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>; [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: Hate Crime FMQ

Colleagues

Please see attached the FMQ brief for hate crime (inc antisemitism and islamophobia).

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 by eMail, MS Teams or on [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

- [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 scope]

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

FOI

- Government correspondence on anti-Semitism sitting with the Hate Crime team

MiCases

- Public campaign on Scottish Palestine solidarity campaign to rescind the IHRA definition. Expecting high volumes of MiCases on this topic soon.

[redacted – out of scope]

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

[redacted – out of scope]

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

4) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 23 September 2021 10:58
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQ S6W-02816 & S6W-02815 - Minister Query + Redraft Request

Hi Roddy,
I am finally on line – grateful if you could please clear this so that I can get a reply over to PO (via [redacted – s38(1)(b)]) by lunch time -1pm.
Thanks

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 22 September 2021 16:23
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQ S6W-02816 & S6W-02815 - Minister Query + Redraft Request

Click on the link to open 'S6W-02815' - [redacted – See Annex B]

Hi Roddy,

1. In light of the Minister's comments (reproduced below)

*“Mr Hepburn is content with PQ S6W-02816 so I have cleared it on the tracker.
[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]*

Secondly, he has not cleared S6W-02815 as he said it should refer to S6W-02816 in its response. I have sent S6W-02815 back to you on the tracker. Grateful if you could issue a redraft back to us whenever possible.”

Please see attached ERDM link to a the revised answer. [redacted – s38(1)(b)] in Cohesive Communities is content.

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

[redacted – s29(1)(a)]

Universities Scotland and all 19 HEIs are clear that there is no place for antisemitism in higher education. Institutions are aware of the IHRA definition of antisemitism and many are actively consulting within their communities on the definition and on whether or not the institution should adopt it.

As autonomous bodies, this a matter for each institution to consider individually, with its staff and student communities. [redacted – s30(b)(i)]

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

Grateful for your views.

Regards

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 September 2021 15:23
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ S6W-02816 & S6W-02815 - Minister Query + Redraft Request

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)] – happy with the small changes to 02815.

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 September 2021 14:32
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQ S6W-02816 & S6W-02815 - Minister Query + Redraft Request

Click on the link to open 'S6W-02816' –
[redacted - see Annex B]

Click on the link to open 'S6W-02815' –
[redacted – see Annex B]

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)] – please see attached and request for a change in 02815.
Minister is content with 02816 Grateful for your views.

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training
Sent: 22 September 2021 14:12
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ S6W-02816 & S6W-02815 - Minister Query + Redraft Request

Thanks for pass this on [redacted – s38(1)(b)]!

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] to Mr Hepburn: Minister for Higher/Further Education, Youth Employment & Training

T: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] |

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

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

Sent: 22 September 2021 14:05

To: Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ S6W-02816 & S6W-02815 - Minister Query + Redraft Request

Thanks, [redacted – s38(1)(b)].

I uploaded these on the PQ tracker for [redacted – s38(1)(b)] as he was having access issues, so cc'ing [redacted – s38(1)(b)] to take forward the necessary actions.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] –let me know if you're still having issues and need me to submit re-drafts on the system.

Thanks,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Further and Higher Education Governance, Workforce and Union Engagement

Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

Scottish Government

✉ [redacted – 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot



From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training

Sent: 22 September 2021 14:03

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

Cc: Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

Subject: PQ S6W-02816 & S6W-02815 - Minister Query + Redraft Request

Hi both,

Hope you are well!

Couple of things regarding the above PQs.

Mr Hepburn is content with PQ S6W-02816 so I have cleared it on the tracker.
[redacted – s30(b)(ii)]

Secondly, he has not cleared S6W-02815 as he said it should refer to S6W-02816 in its response. I have sent S6W-02815 back to you on the tracker. Grateful if you could issue a redraft back to us whenever possible.

Many thanks,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] to Mr Hepburn: Minister for Higher/Further Education, Youth Employment & Training

T: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] |

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From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> on behalf of: Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

Date: Wednesday, 22 Sep 2021, 10:02 am

To: Hepburn J (Jamie) <Jamie.Hepburn@gov.scot>

Subject: PQ S6W-02816 - DUE 24 SEPTEMBER

Content with response?

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] to Mr Hepburn: Minister for Higher/Further Education, Youth Employment & Training

T: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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5) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 23 September 2021 10:27

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@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: RE: Hate Crime (incl sectarianism and antisemitism) FMQ brief - near final version attached

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

To confirm – the letter to Jackson Carlaw has now been issued.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Private Office to the First Minister

5th Floor| St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016.

See www.lobbying.scot

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

Sent: 22 September 2021 16:28

To: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@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: RE: Hate Crime (incl sectarianism and antisemitism) FMQ brief - near final version attached

Colleagues,

For records, printing this version now for the FMQ folder.
[redacted – out of scope]. And likewise, we will establish whether or not a reply has gone to Mr Carlaw before FMQs.

Thx

[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 \(FMQs\)](#) -----

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 22 September 2021 14:14

To: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@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: RE: Hate Crime (incl sectarianism and antisemitism) FMQ brief - near final version attached
Spads, FMPO,

With thanks, noting the attached FMQ Hate Crime briefing note [redacted – out of scope] and Jackson Carlaw letter to FM re antisemitism) I would be grateful if you can confirm if the letter of reply has now been sent to Mr Carlaw, or otherwise if it is due to be sent before FMQs?

[redacted – out of scope]

[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 \(FMQs\)](#) -----

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

Sent: 22 September 2021 10:31

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>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@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>; [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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Hate Crime Brief - for update by 10.30 Wed pls

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

There has been quite a substantial amount of engagement with Jewish representative organisations so I have included a note below which should help identify what should be included in the FMQ brief.

Meetings in 2021:

12 March – Meeting with hate crime policy officials

11 June – Meeting with Connected Communities/International Relations officials

29 June – Meeting with Connected Communities DD

[redacted – out of scope]

11 August – Meeting with the FM: the FM also committed to meet with the wider Jewish community.

[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]
- Regular meetings on antisemitism in Scotland/Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan with Hate Crime Policy officials.

[redacted – out of scope]

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

Let me know if you need anything further.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 21 September 2021 20:09

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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] (Justice) <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@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>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Hate Crime Brief - for update by 10.30 Wed pls

[redacted – s38(1)(b)], [redacted – s38(1)(b)], colleagues,
I've tracked one or two hopefully final questions from, for which **I'd be grateful for a response from policy colleagues in an updated note, by 10.30 am please** – subject to any other overnight developments too; on that score, I note the letter of reply to Mr Carlaw is now w FMPO.

[redacted – out of scope]

Thanks,

[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 \(FMQs\)](#) -----

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 16:59
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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@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: Hate Crime Brief - for update by 4.30 pls

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],
Left changes in track and have replied to couple of your comments.
Thanks,
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 15:18
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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] (Justice) <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@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: Hate Crime Brief - for update by 4.30 pls

Hi colleagues,
Many thanks for your work on this.
Please see attached some amends and questions, tracked.
With thanks, grateful if you can pls review, respond to the Qs and check I've not introduced any errors.

Could I get an updated brief by 4.30 pls

Thx

[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 \(FMQs\)](#) -----

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 13:31
To: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>

6) Email Correspondence, 21 - 23 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 23 September 2021 12:16
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>; [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>; Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism - Letter from FM to J Carlaw MSP

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)], very useful to see

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 23 September 2021 11:41
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>; [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>; Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Antisemitism - Letter from FM to J Carlaw MSP

Faith team
CC Robert, [redacted – s38(1)(b)], [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

For info – attached letter issued to Mr Carlaw, on IHRA and Greens.

Best,
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 23 September 2021 11:36
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Thank you for the quick turnaround, much appreciated, the letter issued this morning, copy attached for your information

Thanks
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Mobile [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 17:57
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Hirst B (Brian) <Brian.Hirst@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

Please find attached response.

Best,
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 21 September 2021 12:57
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>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Antisemitism

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Grateful if FMPO can have the response by 5pm today please, MiCase ref 238935.

Thanks
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government

5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Mobile [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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

7) Email Correspondence, 21 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 21 September 2021 17:36
To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

Thanks Stuart. I will reflect tweaks and get this up.

Best,
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 17:24
To: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

I'd tweak slightly as below.

S

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

From: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 17:14
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

Adding Stuart N.

Regards

Colin McAllister
0131 244 3248
07557 744868



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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 16:20
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

SpAds, please see attached proposed response to MiCase 238935. Grateful if you could confirm that you are content so that it can be uploaded onto the system prior to the 5:00pm deadline.

Many 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

8) Email Correspondence, 21 September 2021

From: Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 15:53
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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

James

James Hynd
Director for Cabinet
Room 4N:03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
Internal ext 43223
0131 244 3223

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 15:45
To: Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@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>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

Thanks James, I have included this as we have it in our FMQ brief together with other lines on antisemitism and the IHRA definition.

Best,
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 15:44
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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Antisemitism

Dear all

Here is the line approved by FM last week. Should we just repeat this in the response?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“As the First Minister made clear, anti-Semitism is utterly unacceptable and there is no place for it in Scotland. This is the Scottish Government position and it applies to all ministers, including Green ministers.”

Background

In June 2017 the Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism - and that position has not changed.

James

James Hynd
Director for Cabinet
Room 4N:03
St Andrew’s House
Edinburgh
Internal ext 43223
0131 244 3223

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 14:54
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@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>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Antisemitism

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Copying to wider colleagues – Have suggested the below as from the tweet and subsequent exchange on 1st September. Grateful if colleagues could make any further suggestions or revisions as necessary.

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).

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 14:31
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Antisemitism

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Hope you are keeping well and enjoyed the long weekend.

I am preparing a draft response for the attached letter and would be grateful if you could send me any lines that would be helpful to include in the response regarding the Cooperation Agreement between the Scottish Government and the Greens.

You will see that FMPO are requesting a draft to be with them by 5:00pm this evening and would therefore appreciate a quick response.

Many 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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 21 September 2021 12:57
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>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Antisemitism

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Grateful if FMPO can have the response by 5pm today please, MiCase ref 238935.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Office of the First Minister

Scottish Government

5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road

Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Mobile [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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

9) Email Correspondence, 21 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 13:08
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@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>; 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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)], also copying in colleagues for awareness.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] - The Open letter was allocated to me this morning so I can add the campaign messaging to the MiCase if it will allow me to do so.

[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](mailto:[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

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2021 12:47
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@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: Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

I hope that you are well, and enjoyed the long weekend. Thanks for sharing – I have copied this to [redacted – s38(1)(b)] in Connected Communities, for policy lead on antisemitism (domestic).

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

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

From: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 September 2021 09:40
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

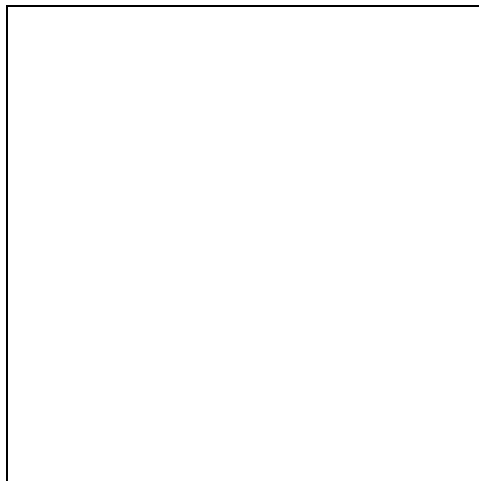
Forwarding for awareness – please distribute wider if necessary.

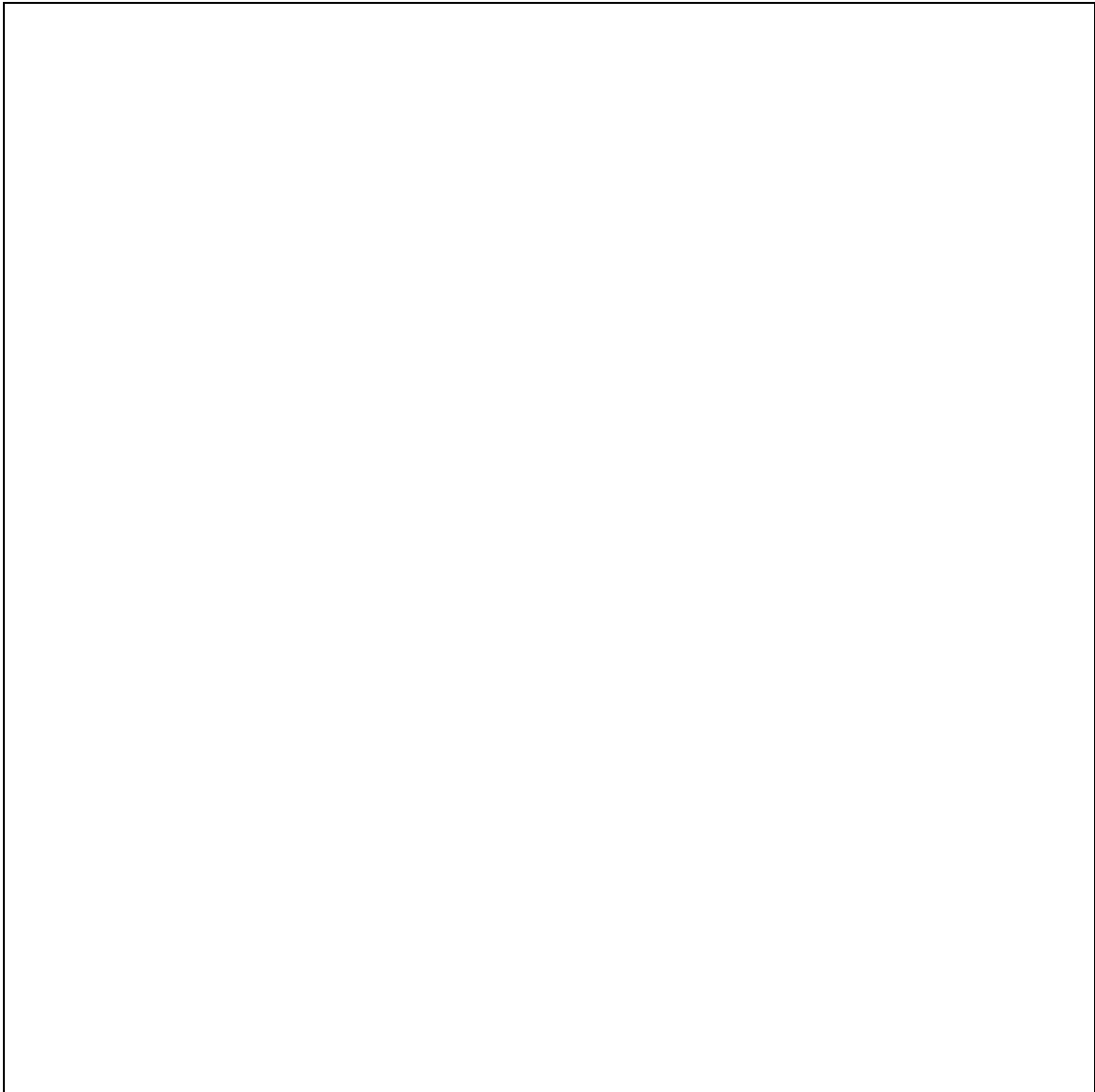
We haven't added to micase but can do if required

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]
[redacted – s38(1)(b)] | Public Engagement Unit
Room 1E.10 | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)], <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gmail.com>
Sent: 15 September 2021 20:13
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign

[View this email in your browser](#)





SPSC Statement: Israel lobby attack on Scottish Green Party

Nicola Sturgeon has come under pressure over the Scottish Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism with respect to the 'confidence and supply' agreement with the Scottish Green Party (SGP) which includes elected

representatives of the Green Party in government. The Scottish Green Party have refused to sign up to the IHRA definition.

MSP Jackson Carlaw has written to the First Minister making reference to specific clauses of the IHRA definition of antisemitism that he believes debars SGP MSPs from serving in the Scottish Government, in particular that “denying the rights of Jews to self-determination, including claiming the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavour”. By highlighting this particular section of the IHRA definition, Mr Carlaw has demonstrated its fallacy as a definition of antisemitism since it refers to a claim about a political entity, not Jews as Jews. Indeed Mr Carlaw’s intervention demonstrates that the purpose of IHRA is precisely to silence criticism of Israel, to prevent critical analysis of Israel as a settler colonial state and to undermine the campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against the state of Israel (BDS) whilst it continues to be in breach of international law. This much has been admitted by [Gilad Erdan](#), Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, when he was Israeli Minister for Public Security.

The SNP Government needs to rescind its adherence to the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The definition was authored by the U.S attorney Kenneth Stern, however in written evidence submitted to the US Congress, Stern charged that his original definition had been used for an entirely different purpose to that for which it had been designed i.e to curb freedom of speech.

[Read full statement](#)

[Read our open letter to the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon](#)

Please write your own personal letter to the Scottish First Minister. Nicola Sturgeon.

TAKE ACTION: Email Nicola Sturgeon

Some of the following points may be useful. Please send a copy of your letter to us for publication, with your name published or withheld, to info@scottishpsc.org.uk

1. Apartheid, according to the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which includes the UK Gov, is a 'crime against humanity'
2. Israeli Human rights group B'Tselem, Human Rights Watch, the UN regional body for the Middle East (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and many others recognise Israel as an apartheid state.
3. The Scottish Government condemned the "deep inhumanity" of Israel's massacre of Palestinians in 2014 and called for an arms embargo against the State of Israel.
4. The IHRA bogus definition of antisemitism seeks to criminalise the recognition of Israel as a racist endeavour, i.e. as an apartheid state.
5. The Chair of the UK Equalities and Human Rights Commission says the IHRA definition 'directly conflicts with the duty to protect free speech'.
6. If Nicola Sturgeon were to force others to accept this definition, she would be protecting an apartheid state, protecting a state committing crimes against humanity.
7. Israel continues their "deep inhumanity" towards the Palestinian people - soldiers killing with impunity, settlers beating, burning and

destroying Palestinian property with army support, a justice system with 100% (rounded up from 99.7%) conviction rates for Palestinians.

8. The drafter of the IHRA definition, Kenneth Stern, has criticised the definition being used to silence criticism of Israel.
9. A legal study by Lord Bracadale, commissioned by the Scottish Government, implicitly opposed the IHRA's 'working definition of antisemitism' and the creation of "a statutory aggravation to cover hostility towards a political entity". States must not be protected, as the IHRA definition blatantly seeks to do.

Bannockburn of all places the site of a shameful surrender

Scottish media are reporting that the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has closed an exhibit at the The Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre of work by young people expressing sympathy for the plight of the Palestinian people. NTS censorship of the testimonies is reported to have been based on some complaints against the airing of views supportive of the Palestinian people. These complaints aim to silence views opposed to the actions and policies of the State of Israel. The censorship came from NTS HQ in Edinburgh and not staff at the Bannockburn centre.

If this is true it is extremely disturbing that young people (and others) expressing their views on a matter of justice and opposition to human rights abuses have been told that they should not have done so. The exhibition dealt with the involvement of young people generally in current protest movements and included views on Black Lives Matter , Extinction Rebellion and Palestine - only the materials on Palestine were removed.

It is essential that NTS supports the children's freedom of expression or specify the content that led to the removal of their work; otherwise the message to all of us is that any discussion of Palestinian human rights is in danger of being attacked and censored.

Has the NTS caved in to pressure from groups using vexatious complaints to smear and silence critics of the Israeli state? This can not be allowed to stand.

[Read full article](#)

Are you a member of the NTS? If so, you have an opportunity to participate in the upcoming AGM on Saturday 18 September and to raise your concerns. You can submit a question in advance by email to: trustsecretary@nts.org.uk

[TAKE ACTION: Register for the NTS AGM and submit a question in advance by email to: trustsecretary@nts.org.uk](#)

Please send your own personal letter to the National Trust for Scotland and send us a copy to info@scottishpsc.org.uk

1. The National Trust for Scotland closed an exhibit at The Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre of work by young people expressing sympathy for the Palestinian people
2. NTS HQ was responding to complaints against the airing of views supportive of the Palestinian people
3. One so far anonymous complaint was from a single MSP

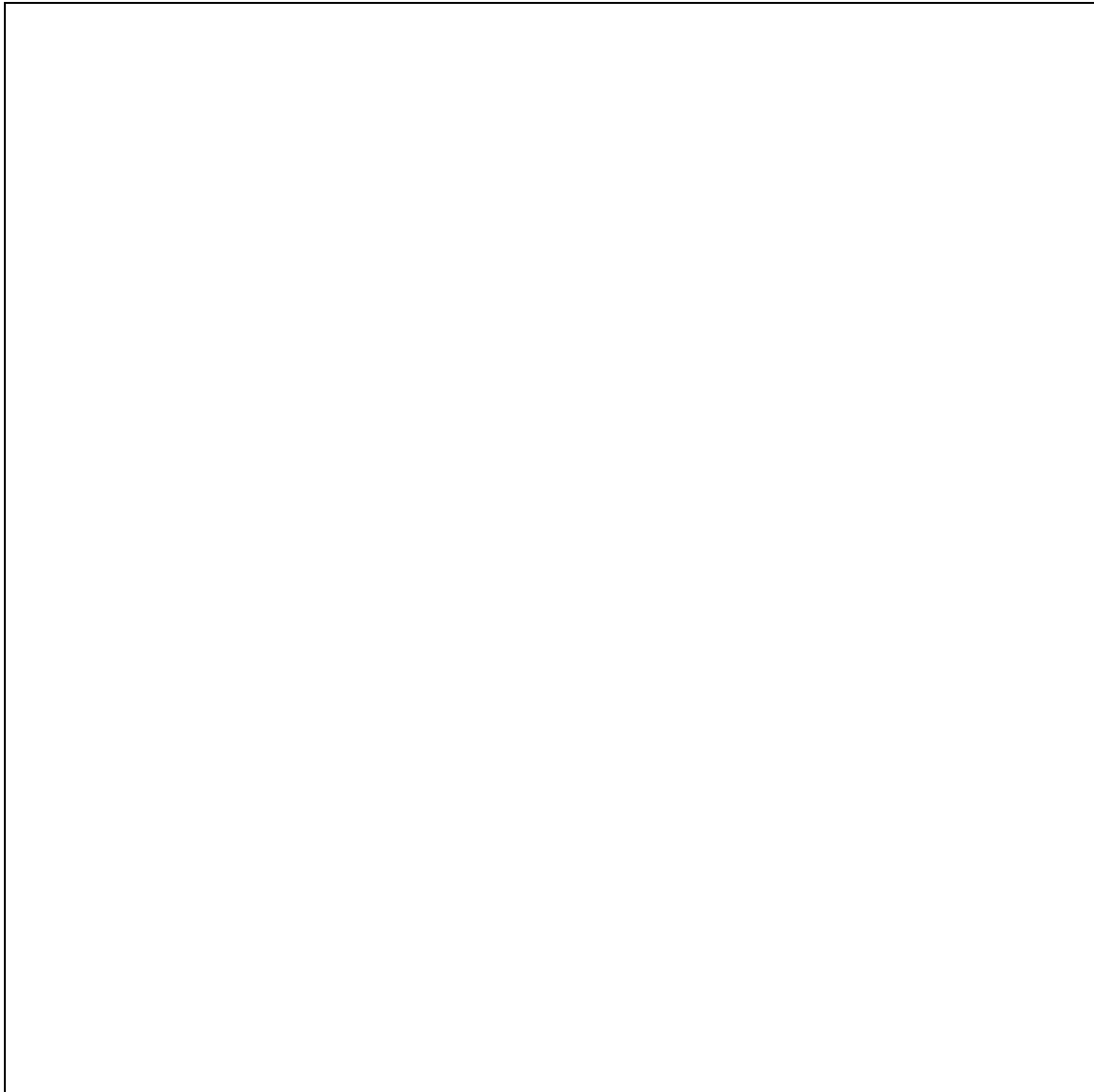
4. The complaints aim to silence views critical of the State of Israel
5. The censorship came from NTS HQ in Edinburgh
6. The NTS action implies that young people's views on this issue should not have been expressed
7. The exhibition included views on Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion and Palestine - only the Palestine materials were removed
8. Young people's freedom of expression must be protected
9. What kind of discussion of Palestinian human rights is NTS to allow?
10. NTS should apologise to the young people involved
11. The pro-Israel complainers objected to recognition that "Israel had pushed out Arabic communities from their homes by force" and "Israel has continued to impose institutionalised discrimination against Palestinians living in Israel"
12. Israeli human rights group, B'tselem, concludes that Israel is an apartheid state denying basic human rights to millions of Palestinians
13. Human Rights Watch also concludes that Israel is an apartheid state
14. The International Criminal Court defines apartheid as a "crime against humanity"
15. The ICC has opened an investigation into Israeli war crimes
16. Amnesty International supports the ICC investigation

17. Report from Defence of Children International, Palestinian Child Prisoners: The systematic and institutionalised ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities

18. We should praise young people who express sympathy for their Palestinian counterparts, not not demean them

19. NTS should restore the exhibit without delay, and apologies to the creators of the exhibition, to Palestinians living in Scotland and to those living under Israeli apartheid

[TAKE ACTION: Email The National Trust for Scotland](#)



The Lothian Pension Fund Committee meets on 29 September.

If you live in the Lothians area, please write to your Councillors and ask them to add their voice to the call on Lothian Pension Fund to DIVEST from companies complicit in illegal Israeli settlement building + relentless Palestinian oppression

#LPFDivestNow from #ApartheidIsrael #Pillage #WarCrimes

#Time2Divest #FreePalestine #BDS

Please share --- Please share --- Please share --- Please share

[TAKE ACTION: WRITE to your LOTHIAN COUNCILLORS](#)

Scottish Palestine 'Sunday 60 Minutes'

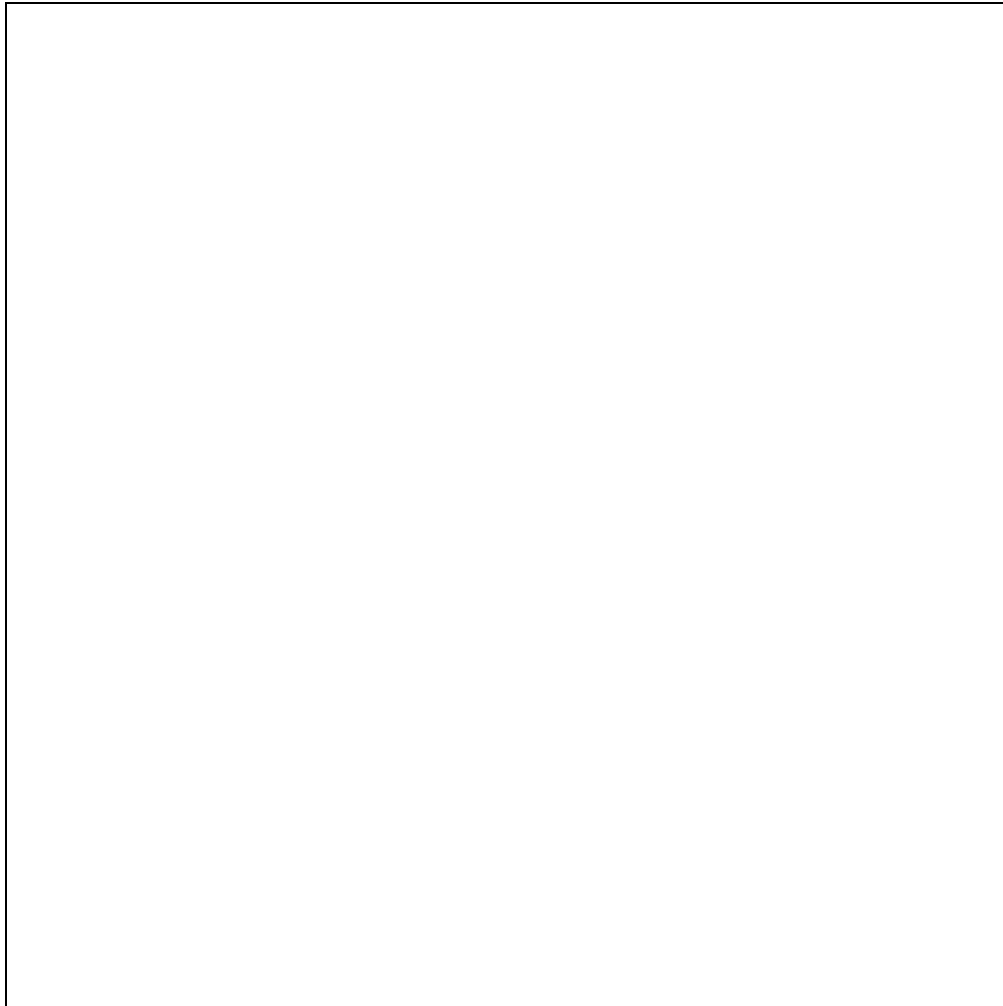
Look out for the latest episode of our Sunday 60 minutes programme on 19 September.

[Watch previous episodes](#)

[REGISTER to join the broadcast + Q&A](#)

[WATCH the live broadcast on SPSC YouTube Channel](#)

[WATCH live on SPSC Facebook page](#)



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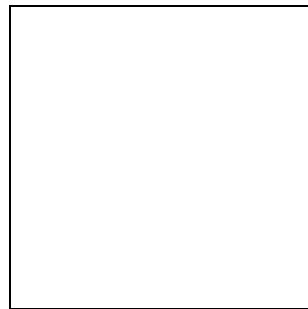
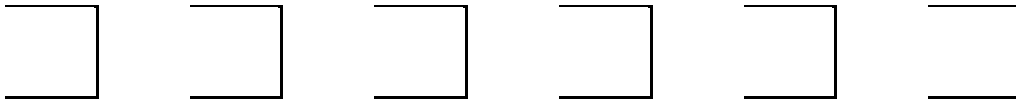
If you're already subscribed, get others to do the same and educate themselves daily.

On 2 September

On this day in 2012, Scotland's national poet ('Makar') Liz Lochhead explained her support for the cultural boycott campaign against Israeli dance company Batsheva. "I was glad to join other Scottish artists and writers in signing a letter protesting the appearance of the Israeli Batsheva Dance Company at the Edinburgh International Festival this week. Why? Because I have been profoundly changed by what I witnessed and experienced first

hand during a short trip with some other poets and singers to Palestine this June...”

[Read more about 2 September On This Day](#)

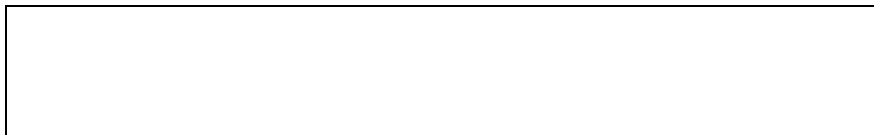


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▫

10) Email Correspondence, 17 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 17 September 2021 13:51
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQs Monica Lennon

Hi Roddy,

Was keen to stress our engagement, so how about:

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

Regards

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 September 2021 13:25
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQs Monica Lennon

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Not sure this bit needed in second answer, were colleagues keen we had it?

Roddy

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

Dr Roddy Macdonald
Head of Higher Education and Science Division
Scottish Government Advanced Learning and Science Directorate
5 Atlantic Quay
Glasgow G2 8LU

0300 244 6765 07795 207887

PA/Divisonal Admin: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 September 2021 13:20
To: Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@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>; Marshall R (Robert) <Robert.Marshall@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQs Monica Lennon

Dear Roddy and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Click on the link to open 'S6W-02816' –
[redacted – See Annex B – 4) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021]
Click on the link to open 'S6W-02815' –
[redacted – See Annex B – 40 Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021]

Please find attached above, the ERDM links to two PQs. With thanks to [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)], whose comments have been included and accepted.

Grateful if you could please review. The deadline on the system is today.

Regards and thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 September 2021 12:21
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQs

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Have looked at both now and made comments/changes (mainly to background note).

Thanks,
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 September 2021 12:04
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQs

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

Grateful if you could get back to me on this.

Regards

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 17 September 2021 10:39
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] [redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: PQs

Click on the link to open 'S6W-02816' –
[redacted – See Annex B – 4) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021]
Click on the link to open 'S6W-02815' –
[redacted – See Annex B – 40 Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021]

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

Thanks both for your time yesterday. Grateful if you could please look at these before I send to DDs.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]
The Scottish Government, Advanced Learning and Science Directorate, Equalities and Student Wellbeing,
7th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay,
150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU
Telephone: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]



Check out the new Scottish Government resource <https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/>. Everything you need to know about student finance, including help for parents, carers and education professionals.



11) Email Correspondence, 17 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 17 September 2021 12:31

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

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

Subject: FW: Freedom of information request - antisemitism - FOI 202100238820

Importance: High

Good Morning,

We have received the following FOI request:

- Any internal Scottish Government communications on the subject of antisemitism. I would like this information between 01 August 2021 and 09 September 2021.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could conduct a trawl of your respective inboxes and eRDM records in order to identify any information within scope of the request and return to me no later than **COP Thursday 23 September**.

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



Background

In June 2017 the Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism - and that position has not changed.

Query

As discussed, I spoke with NE Green MSP Maggie Chapman around calls being made recently for Nicola Sturgeon to clarify where the Scottish Government stands on anti-Semitism since the Greens joined government.

When asked if the party's stance puts them at odds with SNP, she said that the Greens are having "discussions with the Scottish Government on this".

I was hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government on these discussions, specifically if it is to discuss the definition of anti-Semitism? I gather the Greens have not signed up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.

I'd appreciate a response by 7pm, if possible please.

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

Working from home, contact me via Microsoft Teams

Scottish Government | Communications | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
t: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] m: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

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

From: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 September 2021 17:34

To: [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>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>

Cc: 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>; 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>; [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>; 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>; [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: RE: Media Enquiry-PandJ-Greens and Antisemitism

Also adding Stuart Nicolson

Thanks

Ross

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

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

Sent: 16 September 2021 17:30

To: >; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

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

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>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)]; [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: Media Enquiry-PandJ-Greens and Antisemitism

Thanks [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Given time, also bringing in Ross for additional SpAd interests.

Kind regards

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 16 September 2021 16:37

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: Media Enquiry-PandJ-Greens and Antisemitism

Hi all,

I attach our recent FMQ, which included lines on this matter following FM's interview with ITV's Peter Smith at the weekend ([Nicola Sturgeon stands by Scottish Greens despite party's 'extremist' views on Israel | ITV News](#)) as well as lines following on from subsequent internal discussion.

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

Thanks,

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 16 September 2021 16:14

To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: Media Enquiry-PandJ-Greens and Antisemitism

Copying to [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Afghanistan Resettlement | Connected Communities Unit

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]



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

Sent: 16 September 2021 16:12

To: Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Cc: 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>; 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>; [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>; [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: Media Enquiry-PandJ-Greens and Antisemitism

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

Grateful for counsel on the query from the P and J from an interview with Green MSP Maggie Chapman.

Are you content to re-issue statement from the weekend, or is there anything further to add?

Kind regards

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Query

As discussed, I spoke with NE Green MSP Maggie Chapman around calls being made recently for Nicola Sturgeon to clarify where the Scottish Government stands on anti-Semitism since the Greens joined government.

When asked if the party's stance puts them at odds with SNP, she said that the Greens are having "discussions with the Scottish Government on this".

I was hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government on these discussions, specifically if it is to discuss the definition of anti-Semitism? I gather the Greens have not signed up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.

I'd appreciate a response by 7pm, if possible please.

Kind regards,

Adele Merson

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

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

Working from home, contact me via Microsoft Teams

Scottish Government | Communications | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
t: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] m: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

14) Email Correspondence, 16 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 16 September 2021 14:01
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Thank you – that’s much appreciated.

I had another look at the records and John Finnie has asked the following questions in relation to IHRA/antisemitism:

To confirm, the question in the FOI is “Since adoption by the Council on 13th June 2017, please confirm if any motions amending or rejecting adoption have been passed or defeated by the Council?”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, what the practical implications of adopting the International Holocaust Memorial Trust’s working definition of antisemitism will be.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, in light of its plan to adopt the International Holocaust Memorial Trust’s working definition of antisemitism, whether it plans to redefine other forms of discrimination and, if so, which.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, what its response is to concerns that adopting the International Holocaust Memorial Trust’s working definition of antisemitism could impact on the right to criticise the actions of the Israeli Government and state.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, which organisations asked it to adopt the International Holocaust Memorial Trust’s working definition of antisemitism, and what issues it identified with the previous definition.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, what work it has carried out since 2007 to tackle antisemitism, including how it works with other countries.”

“To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to evaluate the full implications of its decision to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-25296 by Aileen Campbell on 26 September 2019, who will participate in the review of the Action Plan, and what criteria will be used to gauge the impact of its adoption of this definition of antisemitism.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-25296 by Aileen Campbell on 26 September 2019, which bodies requested it to adopt this definition of antisemitism, and for what reason it agreed to do so.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-25296 by Aileen Campbell on 26 September 2019, whether Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service believed that the existing legislation on hate crime was clear prior to its adoption of this definition of antisemitism and, if so, what “much needed clarity” was provided by adopting the definition.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-25533 by Aileen Campbell on 8 October 2019, whether it will provide the information that was requested regarding which bodies requested it to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to questions S5W-25533 and S5W-25837 by Aileen Campbell on 8 October and 12 November 2019 respectively, in light of the cabinet secretary's confirmation that "a number of organisations" made informal requests for it to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, whether it will provide the information that was requested regarding which bodies made these informal requests.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-26373 by Aileen Campbell on 25 November 2019, whether it will provide the information requested regarding the names of all of the organisations that made informal requests for it to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.”

“To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-26373 by Aileen Campbell on 25 November 2019, on what dates and by what methods the (a) Community Security Trust and (b) Scottish Council of Jewish Communities requested that it adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.”

However, to confirm, the question in the FOI is “**Since adoption by the Council on 13th June 2017, please confirm if any motions amending or rejecting adoption have been passed or defeated by the Council?**” [redacted – s30(b)(ii)], he is not in fact putting forward any official motion, and none which resulted in an amendment or rejection to definition. Perhaps therefore we ok to stick with the original wording in the answer? Obviously happy to amend or offer additional info to the correspondent if we think that would be helpful.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 September 2021 12:07
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

Thanks for a great job [redacted – s38(1)(b)]. [redacted – s30(b)(ii)]. I only have one comment re Motions which would be worth a quick check as John Finnie regularly asked questions and met with the Cab Sec re the definition. Otherwise I am happy with the response.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] grateful if you could confirm you are happy with this response. The current landscape on antisemitism may impact upon the sensitivity of the FOI - perhaps worth a quick chat?

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 September 2021 11:32
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Attached is the proposed response to the following FOI request.

Comments provided for certain aspects.

Happy to discuss today at any point today and then look to issue before Monday's deadline.

Many thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

15) Email Correspondence, 13 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 13 September 2021 12:15

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

Subject: FMQ - Hate Crime - 13 September 2021 (A34608797)

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

FMQ updated with new antisemitism lines.

Issue re: [redacted – out of scope]

FMQ - Hate Crime - 13 September 2021

[redacted – See Annex B]

The news release calls on the First Minister to remove Green MSPs from government unless the Green Party endorses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.

Grateful for clearance of the following lines agreed with policy colleagues and spads.

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“As the First Minister made clear anti-Semitism is utterly unacceptable and there is no place for it in Scotland.”

Background

In June 2017 the Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism - and that position has not changed.

From: Gina Davidson <gina.davidson@jpress.co.uk>

Subject: Fwd: EMBARGO: Greens must agree to IHRA on antisemitism – or lose government roles

As discussed - release below. Any response most gratefully received!

Gina Davidson
Deputy Political Editor
The Scotsman

Greens must agree to IHRA on antisemitism – or lose government roles

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Saturday, 11 September, 2021

FAO: all newsdesks

Embargo: 0.01am, Sunday, 12 September, 2021

Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to force the Greens to abandon their opposition to the globally recognised definition of antisemitism – or remove them from government.

Jewish organisations have said that the Greens have adopted positions that are contrary to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

When Jewish groups raised concerns last week, the Scottish Conservatives said the Green stance was “shameful” and wrote to the First Minister urging her to take action.

However, it has now emerged that Nicola Sturgeon hasn't even discussed the issue with her coalition partners.

Scottish Conservative MSP for Eastwood, Jackson Carlaw, said: "If the Green party won't sign up to a globally recognised position on antisemitism, backed by every other party in Scotland, they're not fit to serve in the Scottish Government.

"The Greens, especially their government ministers, must endorse this mainstream position or be removed from office. Their views are beyond radical. They are downright dangerous.

"Nicola Sturgeon cannot turn a blind eye to this extreme view held by her new coalition partners.

"It's of real concern that she hasn't even bothered to discuss this issue with the Greens, despite Jewish groups and the Scottish Conservatives putting it to the First Minister directly.

"Antisemitism is still rife and we all must send a clear message that it's wrong, especially those in positions of power.

"Scotland's Jewish communities will be aghast if Nicola Sturgeon is willing to tolerate such extreme views in her government. She must act immediately."

Notes

In an interview with ITV late on Friday, Nicola Sturgeon said she had not discussed the issue with the Greens: <https://twitter.com/PeterAdamSmith/status/1436627816544616452>

ENDS

Gina Davidson

Deputy Political Editor

The Scotsman

Greens must agree to IHRA on antisemitism – or lose government roles

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

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However, it has now emerged that Nicola Sturgeon hasn’t even discussed the issue with her coalition partners.

Scottish Conservative MSP for Eastwood, Jackson Carlaw, said: “If the Green party won’t sign up to a globally recognised position on antisemitism, backed by every other party in Scotland, they’re not fit to serve in the Scottish Government.

“The Greens, especially their government ministers, must endorse this mainstream position or be removed from office. Their views are beyond radical. They are downright dangerous.

“Nicola Sturgeon cannot turn a blind eye to this extreme view held by her new coalition partners.

“It’s of real concern that she hasn’t even bothered to discuss this issue with the Greens, despite Jewish groups and the Scottish Conservatives putting it to the First Minister directly.

“Antisemitism is still rife and we all must send a clear message that it’s wrong, especially those in positions of power.

“Scotland’s Jewish communities will be aghast if Nicola Sturgeon is willing to tolerate such extreme views in her government. She must act immediately.”

Notes

In an interview with ITV late on Friday, Nicola Sturgeon said she had not discussed the issue with the Greens: <https://twitter.com/PeterAdamSmith/status/1436627816544616452>

ENDS

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>, 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>, [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: Communications Duty Box <CommunicationsDutyBox@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>; [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: POLICY VIEW - Media query on Green Party/antisemitism - The Scotsman

Widening copylist

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 11 September 2021 15:21

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)]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; 'Condry S (Samuel)' <Samuel.Condry@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) <James.Hynd@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <David.Rogers@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Duty Box <CommunicationsDutyBox@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>; [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: POLICY VIEW - Media query on Green Party/antisemitism - The Scotsman

Colleagues,

We've been approached by The Scotsman and The Sun for comment on a news release, pasted below, from the Scottish Conservative Party on the issue of the Green Party agreement and antisemitism.

The news release calls on the First Minister to remove Green MSPs from government unless the Green Party endorses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

It follows comments made by the First Minister in an interview with ITV in which she said: "I would hope everyone would sign up to the [IHRA] definition. The Scottish Government's position on antisemitism is clear and that's the one all Ministers are expected to sign up to and agree to."

Grateful to equalities officials for views on the following lines.

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“As the First Minister made clear antisemitism is utterly unacceptable and there is no place for it in Scotland.”

Background

In June 2017 the Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism - and that position has not changed.

From: Gina Davidson <gina.davidson@jpress.co.uk>

Subject: Fwd: EMBARGO: Greens must agree to IHRA on antisemitism – or lose government roles

As discussed - release below. Any response most gratefully received!

Gina Davidson
Deputy Political Editor
The Scotsman

Greens must agree to IHRA on antisemitism – or lose government roles

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Saturday, 11 September, 2021

FAO: all newsdesks

Embargo: 0.01am, Sunday, 12 September, 2021

Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to force the Greens to abandon their opposition to the globally recognised definition of antisemitism – or remove them from government.

Jewish organisations have said that the Greens have adopted positions that are contrary to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

When Jewish groups raised concerns last week, the Scottish Conservatives said the Green stance was “shameful” and wrote to the First Minister urging her to take action.

However, it has now emerged that Nicola Sturgeon hasn’t even discussed the issue with her coalition partners.

Scottish Conservative MSP for Eastwood, Jackson Carlaw, said: “If the Green party won’t sign up to a globally recognised position on antisemitism, backed by every other party in Scotland, they’re not fit to serve in the Scottish Government.

“The Greens, especially their government ministers, must endorse this mainstream position or be removed from office. Their views are beyond radical. They are downright dangerous.

“Nicola Sturgeon cannot turn a blind eye to this extreme view held by her new coalition partners.

“It’s of real concern that she hasn’t even bothered to discuss this issue with the Greens, despite Jewish groups and the Scottish Conservatives putting it to the First Minister directly.

“Antisemitism is still rife and we all must send a clear message that it’s wrong, especially those in positions of power.

“Scotland’s Jewish communities will be aghast if Nicola Sturgeon is willing to tolerate such extreme views in her government. She must act immediately.”

Notes

In an interview with ITV late on Friday, Nicola Sturgeon said she had not discussed the issue with the Greens: <https://twitter.com/PeterAdamSmith/status/1436627816544616452>

ENDS

19) Email Correspondence, 10 September 2021

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 September 2021 10:27
To: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@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>
Subject: RE: PQs - S6W-02

Hi [redacted – s38(1)(b)],

This would fall into our area. Grateful if you could please allocate to me.

Thanks

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox
Sent: 10 September 2021 10:22
To: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – s38(1)(b)] <[redacted – s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>
Subject: PQs - S6W-02

Hello

I would appreciate it if you could take a look at the below PQs and let me know if they are for your area.

S6W-02815 Monica Lennon: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-00480 by Jamie Hepburn on 14 June 2021, whether it will contact universities that have not yet adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition to ask for an update on their consultations with stakeholders and communities.

S6W-02816 Monica Lennon: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-00480 by Jamie Hepburn on 14 June 2021, when it last met the Scottish Funding Council to discuss the (a) International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition and (b) low uptake of universities adopting this.

Previous Question referred to;

To ask the Scottish Government which
[S6W-00480](#) universities have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism
Monica Lennon [redacted – s38(1)(b)] 03/06/2021

PQ deadline is – 17/09/2021

If not your area, grateful if you could let me know why and point me in the right direction of who you think may be able to lead.

Thank you in advance
[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – s38(1)(b)] [redacted – s38(1)(b)] Scottish Government, Room 1N.04. St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

[redacted – s38(1)(b)]

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

Annex B: Attachments Included in Email Correspondence (Annex A)

Attachment from '2) Email Correspondence, 27 September 2021'

Extract of First Minister's Questions Hate Crime Briefing – 27 September 2021

16 Sep: The Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign have published an open letter about the adoption of the IHRA definition and providing a link for the public to contact the FM requesting that the SG rescind adoption of the IHRA definition.

- The SPSC state that the intervention made by Jackson Carlaw MSP demonstrates that the purpose of the IHRA is to silence criticism of Israel

6 Sep: Jackson Carlaw wrote to you with concerns over the Scottish Green Party not endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, asking what it means for Green ministers in SG.

ANTISEMITISM

As I have made clear, the Scottish Government's position on antisemitism and the IHRA definition is unequivocal – all Ministers are bound by the definition.

- The Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in June 2017 – that has not changed, and it will not change.
- 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.
- Although the definition has no legislative impact, it helps to bring some needed clarity to what is often a complex issue, helping to ensure victims and witnesses recognise and understand antisemitism as well as sending a clear statement that antisemitism of any kind has no place in Scotland.
- I appreciate the concerns that have been raised about freedom of speech and the criticism of Israel, however the IHRA definition clearly states, 'criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic' which I am satisfied helps to protect freedom of speech in this regard.
- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland.

Attachment from '4) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021'

Extract of Response and Background Note for Parliamentary Question S6W-02816

S6W-02816 Monica Lennon: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-00480 by Jamie Hepburn on 14 June 2021, when it last met the Scottish Funding Council to discuss the (a) International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition and (b) low uptake of universities adopting this.

Answer: The Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council meet regularly to discuss a range of matters, including equalities issues.

Universities, as autonomous institutions, are aware of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Many are actively and presently consulting within their diverse communities and stakeholder interests on the definition, with three (University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh and Abertay University) having adopted it to date. Universities UK is working with the Union of Jewish Students to raise awareness and understanding of antisemitism and to share best practice in tackling and eliminating it.

The Scottish Government continues to work with universities and the Scottish Funding Council to tackle racism and antisemitism.

Background: Monica Lennon, MSP

Monica Lennon MSP is the Scottish Labour MSP Central Scotland (Region) from 2016 - present day.

Background: Previous PQ: S6W-00480

To ask the Scottish Government which universities have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism

Answered by Jamie Hepburn on 14 June 2021: The Scottish Government, Universities Scotland, College Development Network and Colleges Scotland are clear that there is no place for any form of hatred or prejudice, including antisemitism, in further and higher education. Universities, as autonomous institutions, are aware of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Many are actively and presently consulting within their diverse communities and stakeholder interests on the definition, with three (University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh and Abertay University) having adopted it to date. Universities UK is working with the Union of Jewish Students to raise awareness and understanding of antisemitism and to share best practice in tackling and eliminating it. Universities and colleges are also addressing antisemitism through their ongoing engagement with the Scottish Funding Council to address discrimination and harassment on the grounds of race. The SFC, in response to the recommendations of the EHRC report, Universities Challenged, published in October 2019, has developed resources to support challenging conversations on all aspects of racial discrimination, including antisemitism. These were developed with input of staff and students and were launched on 16 March 2021.

Background: IHRA definition of antisemitism

- The Scottish Government formally adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism in June 2017.
- In March 2021, a significant amount of correspondence was received regarding a rise in antisemitism at Scottish universities and colleges over Israel Apartheid Week (14-21 March).

[redacted – s29(1)(a)]

- In October last year the then Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, wrote to Vice Chancellors urging institutions to adopt the IHRA's definition of antisemitism. The letter has received criticism, including from a group of lawyers and former appeal court judges, who accused the Secretary of State for Education of 'improper interference with universities' autonomy and right to free expression'.

- [redacted - s29(1)(a)]

- Universities Scotland and all 19 HEIs are clear that there is no place for antisemitism in higher education. Institutions are aware of the IHRA definition of antisemitism and many are actively consulting within their communities on the definition and on whether or not the institution should adopt it.

- As autonomous bodies, this a matter for each institution to consider individually, with its staff and student communities. [redacted – s30(b)(i)]

- [redacted – s30(b)(i)]

- Universities Scotland works closely with UUK on its UK-wide strategic approach to Changing the Culture which seeks to address harassment of all kinds including race and faith-based harassment. UUK is developing a briefing on antisemitism in HE with the aim of raising awareness of the issues and sharing best practice. The Union of Jewish Students and the Community Security Trust are both involved in this.

- Universities UK has met Lord Mann, as the UK Government's antisemitism adviser, to discuss the IHRA definition and its application in and two of Scotland's universities have met with him in 2021. Universities Scotland would be happy to meet with Lord Mann and include the Jewish community as an important stakeholder, in regards to both race and faith-based harassment, when the project to revise the Student Misconduct Guidelines resumes.

- Work is ongoing between Universities UK, as the representative body for UK universities, and the Union of Jewish Students to raise awareness and understanding of antisemitism and to share best practice in tackling and eliminating it.

- In response to the findings of the EHRC inquiry 'Universities Challenged' SFC have funded a project to produce resources to tackle discrimination and harassment on the grounds of race. This contains resources to support challenging conversations on all aspects of racial discrimination, including antisemitism, were developed with input of staff and students. The resources were launched on 16 March 2021.

Engagement with Jewish Communities

- Scottish Ministers and officials have regular meetings with Jewish communities, including the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC), Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, Jewish Leadership Council, Jewish Student Representative Council and Community Security Trust. At the last meeting in April 2021, the organisations also raised concerns about the rise in antisemitism at Scottish universities over Israel Apartheid Week.
- [redacted - s29(1)(a)]
- On 13 May, SCoJeC and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council wrote to the First Minister in connection with the situation in the Middle East and the impact upon communities in Scotland – this included concerns raised by Jewish students.
- On 11 June, Connected Communities officials met with SCoJeC and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council to discuss the content of the letter. The First Minister met with them on 11 August and reiterated the Scottish Government's commitment to tackle racism and antisemitism in all its forms. At this meeting, the First Minister was supportive that she would do all that she can to provide reassurance to Jewish students and the wider Jewish community and undertook to meet later in the year. These meetings are in the process of being arranged.
- SCoJeC will also consider what action the Jewish Student Chaplaincy Scotland can take with individual institutions regarding adopting the IHRA definition.

Cooperation Agreement with the Scottish Green Party

- The Scottish Government have entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the Scottish Green Party.
- Concerns have been raised over the fact that the Green Group have not endorsed the IHRA definition and there have been calls from the Scottish Conservatives for them to adopt the IHRA definition or leave government.
- The First Minister has been clear that all Ministers are bound by the definition.

Contact Name: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
 Ext: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Attachment from '4) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021'

Extract of Response and Background Note for Parliamentary Question S6W-02815

S6W-02815 Monica Lennon: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-00480 by Jamie Hepburn on 14 June 2021, whether it will contact universities that have not yet adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition to ask for an update on their consultations with stakeholders and communities.

Answer: I would refer the member to the answer to S6W-02816. All answers to written Parliamentary Questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers>

[redacted – s30(b)(i)]

Background: Monica Lennon, MSP

Monica Lennon MSP is the Scottish Labour MSP Central Scotland (Region) from 2016 - present day.

Background: Previous PQ

Question ref. S6W-00480

To ask the Scottish Government which universities have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism

Answered by Jamie Hepburn on 14 June 2021

The Scottish Government, Universities Scotland, College Development Network and Colleges Scotland are clear that there is no place for any form of hatred or prejudice, including antisemitism, in further and higher education. Universities, as autonomous institutions, are aware of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Many are actively and presently consulting within their diverse communities and stakeholder interests on the definition, with three (University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh and Abertay University) having adopted it to date. Universities UK is working with the Union of Jewish Students to raise awareness and understanding of antisemitism and to share best practice in tackling and eliminating it. Universities and colleges are also addressing antisemitism through their ongoing engagement with the Scottish Funding Council to address discrimination and harassment on the grounds of race. The SFC, in response to the recommendations of the EHRC report, Universities Challenged, published in October 2019, has developed resources to support challenging conversations on all aspects of racial discrimination, including antisemitism. These were developed with input of staff and students and were launched on 16 March 2021.

Background

IHRA definition of antisemitism

- The Scottish Government formally adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism in June 2017.
- In March 2021, a significant amount of correspondence was received regarding a rise in antisemitism at Scottish universities and colleges over Israel Apartheid Week (14-21 March).

[redacted – s29(1)(a)]

- In October last year the then Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, wrote to Vice Chancellors urging institutions to adopt the IHRA's definition of antisemitism. The letter has received criticism, including from a group of lawyers and former appeal court judges, who accused the Secretary of State for Education of 'improper interference with universities' autonomy and right to free expression'.
- [redacted - s29(1)(a)]
- Universities Scotland and all 19 HEIs are clear that there is no place for antisemitism in higher education. Institutions are aware of the IHRA definition of antisemitism and many are actively consulting within their communities on the definition and on whether or not the institution should adopt it.
- As autonomous bodies, this a matter for each institution to consider individually, with its staff and student communities. [redacted – s30(b)(i)]
- [redacted – s30(b)(i)]
- [redacted – s30(b)(i)]
- Universities Scotland works closely with UUK on its UK-wide strategic approach to Changing the Culture which seeks to address harassment of all kinds including race and faith-based harassment. UUK is developing a briefing on antisemitism in HE with the aim of raising awareness of the issues and sharing best practice. The Union of Jewish Students and the Community Security Trust are both involved in this.
- Universities UK has met Lord Mann, as the UK Government's antisemitism adviser, to discuss the IHRA definition and its application in and two of Scotland's universities have met with him in 2021. Universities Scotland would be happy to meet with Lord Mann and include the Jewish community as an important stakeholder, in regards to both race and faith-based harassment, when the project to revise the Student Misconduct Guidelines resumes.

- Work is ongoing between Universities UK, as the representative body for UK universities, and the Union of Jewish Students to raise awareness and understanding of antisemitism and to share best practice in tackling and eliminating it.
- In response to the findings of the EHRC inquiry 'Universities Challenged' SFC have funded a project to produce resources to tackle discrimination and harassment on the grounds of race. This contains resources to support challenging conversations on all aspects of racial discrimination, including antisemitism, were developed with input of staff and students. The resources were launched on 16 March 2021.

Engagement with Jewish Communities

- Scottish Ministers and officials have regular meetings with Jewish communities, including the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC), Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, Jewish Leadership Council, Jewish Student Representative Council and Community Security Trust. At the last meeting in April 2021, the organisations also raised concerns about the rise in antisemitism at Scottish universities over Israel Apartheid Week.
- [redacted – s29(1)(a)]
- On 13 May, SCoJeC and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council wrote to the First Minister in connection with the situation in the Middle East and the impact upon communities in Scotland – this included concerns raised by Jewish students.
- On 11 June, Connected Communities officials met with SCoJeC and Glasgow Jewish Representative Council to discuss the content of the letter. The First Minister met with them on 11 August and reiterated the Scottish Government's commitment to tackle racism and antisemitism in all its forms. At this meeting, the First Minister was supportive that she would do all that she can to provide reassurance to Jewish students and the wider Jewish community and undertook to meet later in the year. These meetings are in the process of being arranged.
- SCoJeC will also consider what action the Jewish Student Chaplaincy Scotland can take with individual institutions regarding adopting the IHRA definition.

Cooperation Agreement with the Scottish Green Party

- The Scottish Government have entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the Scottish Green Party.
- Concerns have been raised over the fact that the Green Group have not endorsed the IHRA definition and there have been calls from the Scottish Conservatives for them to adopt the IHRA definition or leave government.
- The First Minister has been clear that all Ministers are bound by the definition.

Contact Name: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]
Ext: [redacted – s38(1)(b)] and [redacted – s38(1)(b)]

Attachment from '5) Email Correspondence, 22 - 23 September 2021'

Extract of First Minister's Questions Hate Crime Briefing – 23 September 2021

6 Sep: Jackson Carlaw wrote to you with concerns over the Scottish Green Party not endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, asking what it means for Green ministers in SG.

ANTISEMITISM

As I have made clear, the Scottish Government's position on antisemitism and the IHRA definition is unequivocal – all Ministers are bound by the definition.

- The Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in June 2017 – that has not changed, and it will not change.
- 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.
- We have been clear that the Scottish Government and the Green Group will remain distinctive voices in Scotland.
- The Scottish Government has a close and enduring relationship with Scotland's Jewish community, as we do with all faith and minority ethnic communities – with ministers and officials regularly liaising and meeting with representatives, including throughout the pandemic.

We remain absolutely committed to taking action to address antisemitism.

- On 11 August, I met with Scottish Jewish leaders, where I restated the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling antisemitism.

Attachment from '13) Email Correspondence, 16 September 2021'

Extract of First Minister's Questions Hate Crime Briefing – 13 September 2021

ISSUE 10 Sep: Scottish Conservatives have raised concerns over 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 SG (SG endorsed IHRA definition in 2017).

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.

Top Lines

As I have outlined, the Scottish Government's position on antisemitism and the IHRA definition is clear - all Ministers are bound by the definition.

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.
- The Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in June 2017 – that 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 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.

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland



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Our ref: 2021/000238935

22 September 2021

I refer to your letter dated 06 September regarding the Scottish Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism and the cooperation agreement with the Scottish Green Party.

The Scottish Government's position on antisemitism and the IHRA definition has not changed. All Ministers are expected to adhere to the definition.

As you mention in your letter, the Scottish Government formally adopted the IHRA definition in June 2017. Formally adopting the 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.

Last month I met with Jewish leaders and community representatives where I restated the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling antisemitism. My officials will continue to meet with representatives of the Jewish community on a regular basis.

NICOLA STURGEON



An open letter to the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon regarding the IHRA

13th September 2021

Dear First Minister

We note the letter from the Conservative MSP for Eastwood Jackson Carlaw concerning the Scottish Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism and the 'confidence and supply' agreement with the Scottish Green Party which includes elected representatives of the Green Party in government.

It is noteworthy that Mr Carlaw makes reference to specific clauses of the IHRA definition of antisemitism that he believes debars SGP MSPs from serving in the Scottish Government, in particular that "denying the rights of Jews to self-determination, including claiming the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavour". By highlighting this particular section of the IHRA definition, Mr Carlaw has demonstrated its fallacy as a definition of antisemitism since it refers to a claim about a political entity, not Jews as Jews. Indeed Mr Carlaw's intervention demonstrates that the purpose of IHRA is precisely to silence criticism of Israel, to prevent critical analysis of Israel as a settler colonial state and to undermine the campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel whilst it continues to be in breach of international law. This much has been admitted by [Gilad Erdan](#), Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, when he was Israeli Minister for Public Security.

The racist nature of Israel has been recognised by the [UN Committee on the Elimination of Racism](#) and identified by them and [Human Rights Watch](#), [B'tselem](#) (the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories), [Al Haq](#) (Palestinian Human Rights organisation) and others as apartheid. The right to campaign against Israel, including to call for a boycott of Israel has been recognised as legitimate campaigning and not antisemitic by Lord Bracadale in his [report to the Scottish Government on Hate Speech](#) (page 24-25) as well as by the [UK Supreme Court](#), and your own government, only last year, affirmed that "do not wish to mandate how Scottish public institutions, organisations or individuals approach this issue [of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel]".

The Scottish Government is [on record](#) that it "strongly discourages trade and investment from illegal [Israeli] settlements". Your own, personal [endorsement](#) of ending the Scottish Arms Trade with Israel, and your statement, in 2015, that "during the recent conflict in Gaza the Scottish Government wrote to the UK Government urging an embargo on arms sales to Israel" might, in the hands of malicious adversaries such as Mr Carlaw and other apologists

of Israeli racism, be regarded as “requiring of [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation”, which the IHRA definition also ‘defines’ as antisemitism. It is clear that the IHRA definition of antisemitism is not compatible with many of your own positions.

The malicious purpose of the IHRA has been recognised by the originator of the IHRA definition himself, Professor Kenneth Stern, a specialist in antisemitism, and by scholars of Judaism, antisemitism and Holocaust Studies who have developed the [Jerusalem Declaration](#) on Antisemitism as an alternative. The IHRA definition does nothing to tackle antisemitism.

The purpose of IHRA definition has also been condemned by Palestinians, whose right to self-determination has been denied by Israel, its military and Lands Authority and Jewish settlers. We draw attention to an [open letter](#) on the IHRA signed by 122 Palestinian and Arab academics, journalists and intellectuals.

We recognise that external affairs remain outwith the agreement between the SNP and the SGP, but Mr Carlaw’s attempt to exploit the difference of position between the parties on IHRA and its main purpose of silencing any critique of Israel’s colonisation of Palestine, exposes the fundamental problem with the IHRA definition. Indeed, the ‘definition’ has become a barrier to tackling the real issues of antisemitism and other forms of racism. Rather than bending to pressure from the Tories, we suggest that this is an opportunity for the Scottish Government to reconsider its adoption of the IHRA definition, to reject it and identify genuinely effective ways to tackle antisemitism.



Yours sincerely
Eurig Scandrett
Chair, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign

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FOI – 202100262502

Annex E

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.