

All ministerial and official correspondence on Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP's planned visit to MS Victoria on 17th August 2022 (FOI 202200316104)

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@parliament.scot>
Sent: 12 August 2022 11:43
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Ukrainian cruise ship visit

Hi [redacted],

[redacted] Next Wednesday, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP will be visiting the Leith-based cruise ship being used to house refugees from Ukraine and he has asked me to discuss arrangements for media photographers. I am told by the team handling the ship that you are the person to liaise with on this.

Obviously we would be sensitive of the sensibilities of anyone who may not wish to be pictured.

I am available on the number below if a phone conversation is the easiest way to sort this out.

Best,

[redacted]
Scottish Liberal Democrats

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 10:37
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: Ukrainian cruise ship visit

Hi [redacted],

I've been on leave – have you discussed this with anyone else?

What day is the visit planned for?

Best,

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@parliament.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 10:40
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Ukrainian cruise ship visit

Hi [redacted],

The visit is happening on Wednesday at 11am.
If push comes to shove we will just take pictures and questions on the quayside but I know there is significant media interest in the boat so if there were opportunities for anything more I know photographers and broadcasters would be interested.
Thanks,

[redacted]
Scottish Liberal Democrats

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@parliament.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 10:48
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Ukrainian cruise ship visit

Apologies, it is 10am

[redacted]
Scottish Liberal Democrats

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 11:27
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture
<CommunicationsConstitution&Culture@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

SpAds,

The [redacted] Scottish Lib Dems has been in touch to say that Alex Cole-Hamilton is going to be visiting the ship in Leith tomorrow at 10am.

They've asked about getting access for media on board the ship.

I would propose that we tell them that Ministers visited last week and we did not facilitate any media on board and that our preference would be the same for Mr Cole-Hamilton's visit. I will tell them that they can take pictures themselves for use on social media but this should not be in any private rooms and there should not be people in the background.

We could highlight that there may be future media opportunities but that is yet to be determined.

For your info, they have said if they can't have media on board then they would look to facilitate interviews on the quayside.

Are you content with our proposed response?

It's probably worth policy colleagues engaging with the ship owners on access to the ship.

Thanks,

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Date: Tuesday, 16 Aug 2022, 11:55 am
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture
CommunicationsConstitution&Culture@gov.scot; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>, Director for Ukraine
Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>, Allan M (Matthew)
<Matthew.Allan@gov.scot>, DG Communities DGCommunities@gov.scot;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

Expanding copylist.

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 12:08
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

Thanks. I don't have [redacted] number to hand and he doesn't check email. Can someone call him asap.

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 12:09
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

[redacted] – could you call [redacted] and pick this up? Involve [redacted] if helpful.

[redacted – not in scope]

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 12:11
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

[redacted] – to be aware.

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 12:30
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

Council comms colleagues unaware of this.

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 12:45
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration
<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

To note, [redacted] is currently showing the Lord Provost around the Welcome Hub so may not be reachable by phone. [redacted – not in scope]

I have tried to phone [redacted] on board to see if they're aware of this proposed visit but she is not answering.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:04
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration
<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

[redacted]'s number: [redacted]

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:09
To: **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration
<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

No answer. Any alternatives?

Kind regards
[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:10
To: **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration
<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

Try **[redacted]**

Best wishes,
[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:18
To: **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration
<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>; Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-
Greig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

Just spoke to Will – he'll reply and then I'll give **[redacted]** a phone.

Kind regards
[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:23
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration
<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

[redacted] aware, but following up a version in writing and if **[redacted]** you could
smooth with **[redacted]** as discussed.

W

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:28
To: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**
<**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**
<**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration
<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

No answer at **[redacted]**'s phone either. Dropped him a message asking to call
urgently.

Kind regards
[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 August 2022 13:38

To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration <EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

All

Please see attached from Edinburgh City Council comms
[Attached exchange from 16 August 2022 12:11]

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 14:43
To: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Ukraine Resettlement <DirectorUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration <EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW - Alex Cole Hamilton on ship

Attached, for awareness.

Will issue copy to PO and to Edin side.

Kind regards

[redacted]

The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 12:11
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>;
Cc: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Subject: Visit to ship

Hi both,

Hope all is well.

We've been made aware that Alex Cole-Hamilton is to visit the ship tomorrow. I was just wondering if you had been made aware of this? Keen to get an idea about how this came about.

Best,

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 August 2022 12:29
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Visit to ship

Hi **[redacted]**

How are you?

See below

I'm guessing this one came in direct?

Cheers

[redacted]

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:27
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Visit to ship

Afternoon,

Just had the LPs visit which was really good

Yep, this one came in direct last week – we don't have any problems as have facilitated a visit to the Hub with him before and I was going to do the tour alongside **[redacted]**. Have just let Will Tyler – Greg from SG know that from our side I'm happy to proceed.

Thanks
[redacted]

From: Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:34
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@edinburgh.gov.uk>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Urgent - Alex Cole-Hamilton

[redacted], [redacted],

I was asked to take a quick look at this having come back from leave today. As per our brief exchange, [redacted].

Rather than having a bespoke visit requiring staff to be diverted from normal duties caring for those on board, we have suggested a single visit for opposition parties with a Q&A from the Minister and support from officials. I believe work has already been progressed, or will be progressed in the coming day, to agree timings of this.

The Minister has commented he would be happy to speak directly with Alex Cole-Hamilton if this is helpful, but perhaps you could put me in contact with his office in the first instance?

Thank you.

Best wishes,

Will

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 August 2022 13:54
To: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent - Alex Cole-Hamilton

Hi Will,

Sorry I missed your call. Details below for [redacted].

[redacted]

From the Council side, we are on the ship tomorrow morning along with Edinburgh Leisure colleagues so spending 30 minutes with Alex Cole-Hamilton would not be diverting away from normal duties and may in fact be beneficial to explain in person what services we are providing guests and continuing what has been very helpful dialogue with him to date.

However if not going ahead, could we please be copied in to any correspondence as it would need to be clear that the cancellation was not from the Council side.

Thanks

[redacted]

The City of Edinburgh Council

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 14:42
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@parliament.scot>
Cc: Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
EIHRUkraineResettlement@gov.scot; EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot
Subject: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

Good afternoon **[redacted]**,

[redacted] in respect of our Ukraine response. I understand that Mr Cole-Hamilton has arranged to visit the MS Victoria in Leith tomorrow.

The Scottish Government is not content for this visit to go ahead tomorrow. At this stage sporadic visits are being avoided to the ship to because of the intrusion these present into what is effectively the home of people who are traumatised and vulnerable. To date the Scottish Government has not facilitated media access to the ship in order to protect and preserve the privacy of displaced people. This includes for the recent Ministerial visit.

Please be assured that we do understand the interest in visiting the ship and in seeing first-hand the services that are available, and plans are being developed for a single visit for opposition parties with a Q&A from Mr Gray and with support from officials. Invitations will be issued in the course of this week.

If helpful, Mr Gray would be very happy to discuss this with Mr Cole-Hamilton directly.

Kind regards
[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: Cole-Hamilton A (Alex), MSP <**[redacted]**@parliament.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 15:29
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Ukraine Resettlement <EIHRUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration <EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Cc: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@parliament.scot> ; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@parliament.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

Dear **[redacted]**

I have to admit that this is a little frustrating given that I was originally invited to visit the ship by SG officials - largely because I have already visited the refugee hub in my constituency twice and had expressed great interest in the onward journey of those arriving through the super-sponsor scheme.

Your comms guys have known about my intention to visit for several days and I had accepted their prohibition on me doing any kind of press call there. I don't understand why it has taken until this point, the day before, for SG to decide that they are not content.

I understand the point about not wanting sporadic visits, but once again, I was invited to come and visit by your colleagues.

Regards
ACH

Alex Cole-Hamilton
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Western Constituency
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 15:39
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

That's not true, is it? I thought we only just found out?

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 15:42
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

Did that email convey that they had been invited (ie by SG), or was it a proactive reach out to you?

Kind regards
[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 15:44

To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

You'll remember that we did tell Alex and other MSPs as part of our comms handling on the original ship that they would be given the opportunity to visit. I think that's what he is referring to. You would need to check exact wording.

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 15:44
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>
Cc: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

No mention of how the visit was set up. He said that people who manage the ship advised I'd be the one to speak with about media.

[redacted]
The Scottish Government

Subject: RE: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

Folks this will go into press as SG stopping visit so can reactive lines be developed asap please

Comms lines should be clear single visit for parties with an interest (not opp parties) and why ad discussed on call earlier

Thanks
JC

From: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 August 2022 18:28
To: **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>; **[redacted]**< **[redacted]**@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Cc: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

Hi **[redacted]**,

Has there been a response to the below and has anyone spoken to Alex Cole-Hamilton (or his office)?

Thanks
[redacted]

Hi **[redacted]**

Mr Cole-Hamilton replied by email expressing his understandable frustration, indicating that he had been invited by SG colleagues (we were not aware). His office had indicated to our comms colleagues on Friday that a visit was due to take place, and due to annual leave it was picked up today. We have apologised for the difficulties and the lateness of our intervention and pointed to the 'group visit' being organised.

I anticipate on this basis that the visit will not go ahead tomorrow.

Kind regards
[redacted]
The Scottish Government

From: Tyler-Greig W (Will) <Will.Tyler-Greig@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 August 2022 16:31
To: Cole-Hamilton A (Alex), MSP <[redacted]@parliament.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ukraine Resettlement <EIHRUkraineResettlement@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration <EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@parliament.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@parliament.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@parliament.scot> Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
Subject: RE: Visit to MS Victoria, Leith on 16/08/22

Dear Mr Cole-Hamilton

I had understood this was being explored with City of Edinburgh Council directly. If your office, however, would confirm who they had agreed the visit with at the Scottish Government I will immediately investigate. I can see a message attached on Friday from [redacted – see email 12 August 2022 11:43] mentioning a visit was taking place, which was picked up today.

Regardless, do accept my apologies – I appreciate the intent behind your visit. Putting logistics to one side, I had understood a ‘group visit’ had been the suggested route forward rather than individual visits. To this end, as [redacted] mentions, plans are being finalised and officials are to be in touch with your office shortly.

Best wishes,

Will