

ANNEX A

The below material constitutes a ministerial briefing provided ahead of the Cabinet Secretary's engagements with French journalists. Some exemptions apply and are indicated below. Please note that information with grey fill in the "Briefing M" document is being released but relates to briefing about individuals/organisations who were potential attendees but who did not attend the actual engagement on the day.


BRIEFING M JOURNALIST ROUNDTABLE

What	<p>Roundtable with French newspaper journalists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Redacted section 38(1)(b) (personal information)] to open discussion/welcome journalists and pass over to Cabinet Secretary • Journalists will be asked to raise their hand and introduce themselves before taking the floor • Cabinet Secretary is asked to take their questions
Who	<p>Florentin Collomp – Le Figaro</p> <p>Florentin has worked for the Figaro for just under 18 years. Former UK Correspondent he is now paris-based and specialised in Europe and economics.</p> <p>Recent articles include pieces on “Liz Truss and the financial crisis in the UK”, “Bank of England raises rates despite recession” and “the financial markets are more concerned about Liz Truss' fiscal policy than about Giorgia Meloni's arrival in power.”</p> <p>Gilles Senges – L’Opinion</p> <p>A former correspondent in London, New York and Madrid, Gilles Sengès covers news from the American and European continents. He spent his career as an economic journalist at La Tribune, Le Quotidien de Paris and Les Echos. Gilles Senges has a keen interest in Scotland and has come to all of the Paris hub’s press briefings. We expect a factual article in l’Opinion as a result of this press briefing.</p> <p>Sonia Delesalle-Stolper – Liberation</p> <p>Former UK correspondent, Sonia is now Chief foreign editor at Libération that she joined in 2019. She is a close contact of the Paris hub.</p> <p>Sonia began her career at Agence France Presse (AFP) in Paris. In January 1996, she joined AFP's London bureau where, until 2002, she analysed British and Irish news. In this capacity, she covered, among other things, the three general elections won by Tony Blair and the process that led to the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement signed on 10 April 1998. From 2002 onwards, she worked as a freelance journalist for a number of publications, radio and television, including Le Figaro, L'Express, Radio Méditerranée Internationale, Sud-Ouest, Géo, Politique Internationale and AFP-video. Sonia has written columns for The Observer, The Guardian and The Independent, comments on French politics on the BBC and Sky News or British politics for Canadian radio and television.</p>

	<p>Peter O'Brien - POLITICO</p> <p>Peter O'Brien is a reporter covering technology and politics for POLITICO Europe. He's been a journalist in Paris since 2016 and became France 24's Technology Editor in 2020, where his weekly show Tech 24 was watched by millions around the world.</p> <p>RFI (TBC)</p> <p>Le Monde (TBC)</p> <p>TF1 (TBC)</p>
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To highlight Scotland's ongoing friendship with France and build and maintain relationships with key Paris-based journalists • To ensure media coverage related to the Cabinet Secretary's visit includes one or more of the key messages below
Key Messages / Questions	<p>Questions may cover a variety of areas. Nevertheless, some main messages you wish to convey about your trip are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a shared commitment to peace in Europe, and recognise the importance of commemorating our shared losses of wars past and present • We are committed to promoting the Franco-Scottish friendship and to working together on global challenges including issues such as food security, biodiversity, energy transition and security • Scotland is committed to multilateralism, championing world culture and heritage through our continued engagement with UNESCO.
When	<p>Wednesday 5 October</p> <p>14:15 (arrival of journalists) – 15:15</p> <p>14:30 (arrival of Cabinet Secretary) – 15:15</p>
Where	<p>Hotel Francois 1er</p> <p>7 Rue Magellan, 75008 Paris, France</p>
Media / Social Media	<p>N/A</p>
Supporting officials	<p>[Redacted section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]</p>

The below material constitutes a further ministerial briefing for the Cabinet Secretary before a televised interview with a journalist.

TELEVISED INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALIST CATHERINE NICHOLSON, FRANCE24

What	12-minute 1-on-1 pre-recorded interview
Who	<p>Catherine Nicholson, European Affairs Editor, France 24</p>  <p>Catherine Nicholson is European Affairs Editor at Paris-based public service broadcaster France 24, covering politics and current affairs across the European Union and the wider region.</p> <p>An experienced presenter and interviewer, Catherine conducts regular one-on-one interviews with Presidents, Prime Ministers, European Commissioners and government ministers, and anchors live specials including Brexit night January 2020 and EU election result night 2019.</p> <p>Previously at France 24 Catherine anchored the flagship breakfast show “Live From Paris”; and presented France 24’s culture show “Encore!” – both in Paris and from the Cannes Film Festival.</p> <p>She has reported for the channel on events as diverse as austerity protests in Greece, terrorist attacks in France, and UK royal weddings.</p> <p>Prior to joining France 24, Catherine worked for UK-based broadcasters, including Bloomberg News, and BBC regional newsrooms.</p> <p>Catherine is fluent in English, French and German, having gained first Class Honours in French & German Studies at Warwick University. Catherine also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism from University College Falmouth.</p>
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise Scotland’s profile in France • Increase French people’s understanding of Scotland’s position in the EU
Key Messages / Questions	<p>We have been informed that Catherine is likely to cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish-French and Scottish-EU relations • Scottish-European energy co-operation (in the context of the energy price crisis) • Scottish Government's current position regarding Brexit / Brexit impact in Scotland • Scottish independence from the UK • The passing of her late Majesty the Queen
When	Wednesday 5 October 2022

	Arrival 09:45 for a recording at 10:15. The programme segment itself will be shown on the France 24 "Talking Europe" programme on Saturday 8 October.
Where	5, rue des Nations Unies, 92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux.
Media / Social Media	N/A
Supporting officials	[Redacted section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

The below is an engagement report completed after the media engagement briefed for at Annex B

FRANCE ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Media engagement - France24 Interview on “Talking Europe” programme - On the record press briefing
Date	5 October 2022
Who	Catherine Nicholson, EU affairs editor, France 24 (CN) Peter O’Brian, reporter, politico (POB) Gilles Senges, Journalist, L’Opinion (GS)
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the TV interview CN asked questions on the following topics : Russia/ Ukraine, Scotland-France relations, the Scotland-UK relationship and Scottish independence. • During the press briefing, POB and GS asked questions on Liz Truss and the impact she may or may not have on Scottish independence, Scotland’s future in the EU, and Scottish domestic politics. POB also had a specific interest in tech. Officials agreed to send him relevant material.
Comments	<p>Paris hub has a longstanding relationship with CN, who proactively offered the interview for AR when we informed her of his visit. This interview presented a good opportunity for AR to explain the reason for his visit to France and remind viewers of the centuries old Franco-Scottish friendship. It also gave space for AR to set out Scotland’s position on the war in Ukraine as well as Scotland’s future position in Europe. It <u>was aired on Saturday 8 October.</u></p> <p>The press briefing resulted in <u>one article in l’Opinion</u> and <u>one new contact for the hub in Politico</u> who has already reached out to the office after the visit to ensure we stay in touch. <u>The Paris hub will follow up with an invitation to St Andrew’s day.</u></p> <p>The ceremony also featured in an article in Midi Libre (regional newspaper) including a photo of AR and Patricia Miralles, French veterans minister at Les Invalides. Midi Libre were following Patricia Miralles for 24 hours to write a piece on her daily activities.</p>
Attending officials	[Redacted section 38(1)(b) (personal information)], France Office [Redacted section 38(1)(b) (personal information)], France Office [Redacted section 38(1)(b) (personal information)], DEXA comms

The below are in-scope extracts from two separate internal media monitoring roundups which recap and provide links to international media coverage of Scottish Ministerial activity or articles of relevance to Scotland's international activity. Please note that some links lead to paywalled articles but this information is being released to you in the same format as it is available to officials internally.

Extract I from Media Monitoring Report week commencing 3 October 2022

L'Opinion has an interview with External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson undertaken during a visit to Paris. It discusses the impact new Prime Minister Liz Truss will have on the independence debate and quotes the Cabinet Secretary saying "it is better to have your own destiny in hand than to let others make bad decisions on your behalf". (behind paywall)

["Liz Truss is not the best argument to convince Scotland to stay in the UK"](#)

Extract II from Media Monitoring report week commencing 10 October 2022

France 24 has an interview with the External Affairs Secretary recorded during his recent visit to Paris. The wide-ranging interview covers the war in Ukraine, Scottish independence, the UK's relationship with France and Brexit.

['We're not giving up' on independence: Scottish external affairs secretary](#)

Midi Libre published a 'day in the life of' feature following French Minister for Remembrance and Veterans Patricia Miralles. The feature includes images and information about the Minister and Scotland's External Affairs Secretary unveiling a plaque in Paris in memory of Scottish soldiers who have fought for France since the Auld Alliance. (Behind Paywall)

[A day in the footsteps of Patricia Mirallès, Secretary of State for Veterans Affairs, in Paris](#)

French Morning reports that Culture Secretary Angus Robertson has used a visit to Paris to promote an interactive digital trail of Scottish UNESCO World Heritage sites.

[Scottish Minister of Culture in Paris to promote Scotland's Unesco Trail, the world's first national digital trail](#)