

Document 1 Email of 27 October

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 27 October 2022 12:02

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** Primrose J (John) [Redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Briefing - Ministerial Briefing to Consular Corps of Scotland on Programme for Government 2022/23 - 27 October 2022 - Brazil first meeting w/Cabsec etc

**Importance:** High

Hi [Redacted],

Has a note about new Brazilian CG gone to Cab Sec? John asking for something to go today or tomorrow as he'll be at consular corps meeting and so Mr R likely to ask about it.

Thanks,

[Redacted] | Head of International Relations Team | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | 2H South, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ [Redacted]

**From:** Primrose J (John) [Redacted]

**Sent:** 27 October 2022 11:59

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Briefing - Ministerial Briefing to Consular Corps of Scotland on Programme for Government 2022/23 - 27 October 2022 - Brazil first meeting w/Cabsec etc

**Importance:** High

Hi [Redacted], note [Redacted] and [Redacted] off so addressing to you. Just seen CC briefing and I note that CG Brazil will attend in CG capacity. Do you know if we have a Cabsec meeting organised for him to welcome him?

If a note hasn't gone up on this, I would imagine Cabsec will ask for it by end of today/tomorrow and will probably ask in CC meeting to ensure he is meeting CG soon. I know you are chairing this SCGA thing today so if you can't pick this up I am happy to adjust [Redacted]'s note if that's what's needed. Will try and find time today. If this has all gone up already, great.

John

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 26 October 2022 17:37

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Wightman S (Scott) [Redacted] Deputy Director European Relations [Redacted]; ER : European Engagement [Redacted]; Primrose J (John) [Redacted]; Webster J (John) [Redacted] International Strategic Comms [Redacted] Crawford E (Ewan) [Redacted]

**Subject:** Briefing - Ministerial Briefing to Consular Corps of Scotland on Programme for Government 2022/23 - 27 October 2022

PS/ Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
PS/ Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Good afternoon,

With apologies for lateness, please find attached the briefing pack and speaking notes for Mr Robertson and Mr Gray ahead of tomorrow's online Ministerial Briefing Session with members of the Consular Corps of Scotland. The link to join the session via MS Teams can found below and in the pack itself.

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Kind regards

[Redacted]

Policy Officer | European Engagement | European Relations | Scottish Government | 2H-South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Document 2 Briefing note attached to document 1

**Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture & Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine**

### Briefing for online Consular Corps event – 27 October 2022

<b>What</b>	Online briefing with members of the Consular Corps to discuss the recently published Programme for Government and Constitutional Papers.
<b>When</b>	Thursday 27 October 2022 15:00 – 16:00
<b>Where</b>	Microsoft teams link: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
<b>Top Lines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Programme for Government sets out the Scottish Government's response to the cost crisis, including a commitment to share with Parliament the conclusions of our Emergency Budget Review no later than two weeks after any UK emergency budget.</li><li>• On 17 October, the Scottish Government published the third paper in its 'Building a New Scotland' Series with this paper focused on a stronger economy with independence.</li></ul>
<b>Key Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This will be the first Consular Corps session for the following recently appointed Consul Generals: João Pedro Costa (Brazil); Veronica Ferrucci (Italy);</li><li>• Turkey will be celebrating their 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday 29 October, a reception will be held by the Consul General on 28 October. Unfortunately no Ministers available to attend.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a joint Polish-Ukrainian event in November, the consulate will present the documentary about events in Bucha to representatives from the Polish and Ukrainian communities and professionals working in the field of human rights. The consulates aim to raise awareness of the events in Ukraine and to appeal to support the investigations conducted by the international legal bodies.</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome (Frank Strang)</li> <li>Opening Comments (Mr Robertson)</li> <li>Opening Comments (Mr Gray)</li> <li>Consular Corp Q&amp;A</li> <li>Closing Comments (Frank Strang)</li> </ol>
<b>Supporting officials</b>	Frank Strang, Deputy Director European Relations, [Redacted]
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<p><b>Annex A:</b> Attendees  <b>Annex B:</b> Constitution  <b>Annex C:</b> Programme for Government  <b>Annex D:</b> Ukraine  <b>Annex E:</b> Cost Crisis  <b>Annex F:</b> Recent Consular Corps Engagements</p>
<b>Social Media</b>	The event will be marked by a tweeted screenshot from @Scotgovinter

## ATTENDEES

## ANNEX A

	Name	Title
1	John Hillmeyer	Corps Dean and Consul General for the USA (TBC)
2	Christoph Crepaz	Corps Secretary and Consul for Austria
3	João Pedro Costa	Consul General for Brazil
4	Danna Hou	Vice Consul General for China
5	Peter Ferry	Consul for Estonia (TBC)
6	Laurence Païs	Consul General for France
7	Andreas Zimmer	Consul General for Germany
8	Laszlo Kalman	Consul General for Hungary
9	Tibor Csaba Szendrei	Deputy Consul General Hungary
10	Jenny Quinn	Vice Consul General for Ireland
11	Veronica Ferrucci	Consul General for Italy
12	Ms Minori Ishii	Vice Consul General for Japan
13	Łukasz Lutostański	Consul General for Poland
14	Anton Emmanuel Barbu	Consul General for Romania
15	Ignacio Cartagena Nuñez	Consul General for Spain
16	Peter Müller-McDougall	Consul for Switzerland
17	Nafi Cemal Tosyali	Consul General for Turkey (TBC)
18	Yevhen Mankovskyi	Consul General for Ukraine

## CONSTITUTION ANNEX B

The Scottish Government committed in its 2021/22 Programme for Government to work to ensure that a legitimate and constitutional referendum can be held within the first half of this term of Parliament.

On 28 June 2022, the Scottish Government published a Bill setting out the government's proposal to hold a referendum on 19 October 2023. The First Minister also announced that, following a request from her, the Lord Advocate had decided to refer to the Supreme Court the question of whether a Bill for a referendum on Scottish independence would relate to a reserved matter. Legal certainty on this issue is required because this is a question of law that is unresolved and resolution can only be achieved by a judicial determination by the Supreme Court.

On 14 June 2022, the Scottish Government published the first paper in the 'Building a New Scotland' series. The Building a New Scotland series is designed to give people the information they need to make an informed choice about their future and to stimulate debate over what that future should be.

The first publication, titled 'Independence in the modern world. Wealthier, happier, fairer: why not Scotland?' sets out a detailed analysis of the UK's performance across a range of economic and social indicators relative to that of ten European countries which are comparable to Scotland.

On 14 July 2022, the Scottish Government published the second publication in the Building a New Scotland series titled 'Renewing Democracy through Independence', which sets out why the Scottish Government believes that decisions about Scotland should be taken by the people who live here through their elected Scottish Parliament and government.

Publications to come later in the series will cover matters including currency; the public finances, pensions and social security, EU membership and trade, and defence and security.

The Building a New Scotland series will continue to be published at the following link over the coming months: [www.gov.scot/newscotland](http://www.gov.scot/newscotland).

### **Mandate/democratic case:**

The Scottish Government was elected with a clear democratic mandate to offer the people of Scotland a choice over Scotland's future. The 2021 Holyrood election resulted in a majority of MSPs, 72 of 129, even more than in the 2011 election, elected on manifestos that commit them to an independence referendum during this Parliament. Just as following the 2011 election, the Scottish Government is acting to implement that clearly expressed mandate from the electorate.

The Bute House Agreement reached between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party commits them to working together to deliver an independence referendum.

The Scottish Government has set out its views on the democratic case for a future referendum on independence in the publications Scotland's right to choose in 2019 and Renewing Democracy through Independence in 2022.

## PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT ANNEX C

### **This year's Programme for Government was published in the context of the most severe cost crisis of our lifetimes.**

- We used the Programme for Government to set out immediate steps this government will take to help families and businesses to get through this crisis.
- We were clear that given the nature and sheer scale of this crisis, the Scottish Government's limited powers - and our finite, already constrained resources - mean we can at best mitigate its impact.

### **Last year we published a Programme for Government which, alongside the Bute House Agreement, set out our plans for the whole parliamentary term.**

- Although we cannot guarantee our plans will be unaffected by the uncertainty and rising costs that we face, they remain in place and our ambition to deliver them is undiminished.
- We have already set out our plan for an Emergency Budget Review, the results of which will be published shortly.
- This year's Programme for Government is necessarily therefore subject to the outcome of our Emergency Budget Review and our Budget for 2023 24.

### **At the time of publication the scale of the cost crisis was becoming clear, with estimates suggesting around 1 million Scottish households (40% of all households) would be in fuel poverty by October, and around 920,000 (37% of households) will be in extreme fuel poverty.**

- For that reason, the nature and immediate focus of this Programme for Government was different. As well as facing uncertainty created by the inaction of others, we face difficult choices ourselves, both as a nation and as a government.
- As a responsible government, in order to support people over the winter, we are determined to act to mitigate the impact of the crisis to the maximum extent possible within our limited powers and resources.
- The Programme for Government was clear that we will do all we can, as we seek to weather the coming storm together, to work for and secure a better, sustainable future for people and their families: tomorrow, next month and in years to come.

### **This year's Programme for Government also sets out our ambition to create a better future beyond the cost crisis. We remain determined to deliver not just an immediate response to the cost crisis, but action to support our individual and collective resilience to future shocks, and to create a progressive future for Scotland.**

- That is why the Programme for Government highlights a number of key areas where we have embarked on a programme of reforms that will improve lives for people and communities across Scotland.
- As an example, in the coming months we will set out the future of Scotland's energy system: how we will meet future demand, realise the economic opportunities of moving to a net zero energy system, and secure a just transition, while continuing to engage with the UK Government, regulators and energy companies on improvements that can be made now.

- We will prepare an updated Climate Change Plan, keeping Scotland on track to meet our target of net zero by 2045.
- We will deliver the first stages of our National Strategy for Economic Transformation, which will lay the foundations to transform our economy and help to protect it from the effects of any recession.



## **UKRAINE ANNEX D**

The Scottish Government condemns Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Scotland stands for democracy, human rights and the rule of law at home and abroad.

We stand in solidarity with eastern European countries whose proximity to Russia and experience of the Soviet Union means we should listen to them when they advise us how to address President Putin's violent expansionism.

We want to emphasise Scotland's continued support for all those affected.

The Scottish Government has provided £4m in financial aid to help provide basic humanitarian assistance, including in health, water and sanitation, and shelter for those fleeing Ukraine.

The Scottish Government has so far sent five consignments of medical supplies to Poland for onward transport to Ukraine, totalling 156 pallets worth almost £3m.

### **Ukraine defence funding:**

Funding of £65 million has been provided by the Scottish Government as part of the UK's military aid for Ukraine. This further funding is to assist Ukrainian armed forces to fight Russian aggression and the unspeakable brutality being perpetrated.

### **Warm Scots Welcome:**

Scotland's response to this Europe-wide challenge has been remarkable.

Since the conflict began, more than 20,000 people with a Scottish sponsor have arrived, representing 20% of all UK arrivals - the most per head of any of the four nations. More than 16,000 of these arrivals are through the Scottish Government's successful Super Sponsor Scheme.

We are working in partnership with local government and the third sector to ensure all those arriving at our Welcome Hubs are given a 'Warm Scots Welcome', with access to meals, suitable temporary accommodation, trauma support and translation.

### **Sanctions:**

We support the strongest sanctions regime against Russia because of their aggression against Ukraine, and any voluntary economic action by businesses over and above the formal sanctions regime.

**TOP LINES**

**Scotland is facing a severe economic upheaval, already impacting people, businesses, public services and the third sector. A crisis that has been made worse by the actions of the UK Government**

We welcome the Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on Poverty in Scotland which shines a light on the struggles many are facing and the disproportionate impact of the cost crisis on those living in poverty.

The Scottish Government has continually urged the UK Government to focus its efforts on those most impacted and not just rely on blanket interventions which do not recognise the scale of hardship particular households are facing.

After a long period of UK Government inaction followed by confusion and U-turns, people are desperate for reassurance, at a time when many families across the country are facing a winter unable to afford essentials, including food.

The announcements of 23 September provided cold comfort to the millions of people across Scotland who looked to the UK Government to use their powers to provide support for those that need it most.

The UK Government has demonstrated misplaced priorities of tax cuts for the wealthy, while threatening real terms cuts to cut benefits for the most vulnerable

Uncertainty around impending UK Government measures has added to the worries of households already faced with making stark choices between providing food, warmth and shelter for themselves and their families.

**The Scottish Government is deeply concerned about the UK Government's welfare policies**

The social impacts of real-terms cuts to benefits are likely to be significant with more people on a low income being pitched into poverty, or deeper poverty. It would suck cash out of local economies at a time when the UK may be in recession, hitting economic growth.

## RECENT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CONSULAR CORPS

### ANNEX F

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 the Scottish Government sent a number of notes to the wider Consular Corps to provide a regular update on important developments and Government announcements. The Ministers also hosted a number of online briefing sessions with the **professional members** of the corps:

- 17 April 2020 – online briefing event - Mr Russell and Ms Gilruth
- 7 May 2020—online briefing event – Mr Russell, Ms Gilruth and Mr Macpherson
- 8 June 2020— online briefing event – Mr Russell, Ms Gilruth and Mr Macpherson
- 10 July 2020— online briefing event – Mr Russell and Ms Gilruth
- 13 August 2020— online briefing event – Mr Russell and Ms Gilruth
- 4 September 2020— online briefing event – Mr Russell
- 4 November 2020 – online briefing event – Mr Russell, Ms Gilruth, Mr Macpherson
- 27 January 2021— online briefing event - Mr Russell, Ms Gilruth, Mr McKee
- 18 February 2021— online briefing - Stay In Scotland – Ms Gilruth
- 12 March 2021— online meeting – Border measures – Scott Wightman
- 18 March 2021— online briefing event – COP26 update - Mr Russell and Mr Macpherson
- 26 May 2021 – Online briefing event – Introductory meeting - Mr Robertson and Ms Gilruth
- 4 August 2021 – Online briefing event – Mr Robertson and Ms Gilruth
- 22 September 2021 – Online briefing event – COP26 and PfG update - Mr Robertson, Mr Mathieson and Ms Gilruth
- 2 March 2022 – online briefing event – Solidarity with Ukraine – Mr Robertson and Mr Gray
- 24 March 2022 - online briefing event – Solidarity with Ukraine – Mr Robertson and Mr Gray
- 09 May 2022 – In person meeting - Europe Day Celebration – Mr Robertson
- 22 June 2022 – Online briefing on World Refugee Day and Constitution Papers – Mr Robertson

Document 3 Speaking note for Mr Robertson

## Mr Robertson Speaking Note

## Welcome

- Welcome to all of you and thank you for joining us again today.
- I had hoped that we would be able to host this session in person but unfortunately diary commitments have meant that we had to move to a virtual meeting
- We are planning to arrange the next meeting before Christmas and holding it as an in person meeting.
- Before we start I want to take the opportunity to pass on my huge thanks to a number of the Consular Corps who have now moved on; Ma Qiang the outgoing Consul General for China and Fabio Monaco, the outgoing Consul General for Italy.

- I would like to thank them all for their hard work supporting their communities in Scotland and their work with this important network. I wish them all the very best in their new roles.
- It also allows me to welcome a number of new Consul Generals to their first meeting of this group; João Pedro Costa the new Consul General for Brazil and Veronica Ferrucci, our new Consul General for Italy.
- Welcome – and I look forward to working with you.
- The plan for today is that I will provide you with an update on the new Programme for Government as well as the recently published papers in the “Building a new Scotland” series.

- I will then hand over to the Neil to provide you with an update on the Scottish Government support for Ukraine.
- As usual, we will have plenty of time for Q&A at the end.

### **Programme for Government**

- I thought it would be helpful for us to update on a couple of key developments since we last met, including the Scottish Government's new Programme for Government.
- This Programme for Government, published in September, is very clearly set in the context of the most severe cost crisis in our lifetimes. A crisis pushing millions into poverty; threatening the viability of businesses; and leading to the UK economy entering into recession.

- It poses a danger, not just to livelihoods, but to lives. It is, to be blunt, a humanitarian emergency.
- The Scottish Government is already committed to measures worth almost £3 billion this year to help with the rising costs.

As the First Minister set out in her statement to Parliament on publication of the PfG, the further steps we are taking to mitigate the impact of a rapidly escalating crisis include:

- A combined rent freeze until at least 31 March next year and a moratorium on evictions, as well as new tenants' right campaign to help people through the cost crisis

- An increase to the Scottish Child Payment to £25 per week per eligible child from 14 November when it also opens to all under 16s.
- The roll out of free school meals across all primary school age groups, a doubling of the Fuel Insecurity Fund to £20 million to help households at risk of self-disconnection or self-rationing of energy, a freezing of rail fares until March 2023 and a widening of the Warmer Homes Fuel Poverty Programme.
- And for businesses – in addition to an existing package of financial aid worth over £800 million – six ground-breaking ‘tech scalers’ will be opened, two job-boosting Greenports progressed and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation focussing on economy supporting measures continued.



- In total, the PfG sets out 18 new Bills including major reforms in the justice system, including a Criminal Justice Reform Bill that will propose the end of the Not Proven verdict in Scots Law and provide anonymity for complainers in sexual offence cases.
- A Bill for the creation of the new National Care Service will also go through parliament this year.
- The programme also builds on long-term commitments made in the Bute House Agreement and restates Ministers' commitment to the importance of delivering on Scotland's climate ambitions.
- These range from a consultation on legislation to transform how buildings are heated to continuing record investment in active travel

In terms of my portfolio we will:

- Continue to offer a warm Scottish welcome to displaced Ukrainians fleeing conflict
- Provide funding of £300,000 over the next two financial years to The HALO Trust, a Scottish-based charity specialising in removing landmines and other dangerous explosive devices
- Launch a Talent Attraction and Migration Service in 2023
- Increase Scotland's International Development Fund to £15 million and provide £36 million to support climate justice over this parliamentary term
- Support a new Vaccine Equity Dashboard, owned by our partners in the Global South

And:

- Continue to support our national museums and galleries to ensure they remain free to access
- Publish a response to the report of our working group on Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy
- Refresh our Culture Strategy Action Plan
- Bring forward a Scottish Languages Bill in this parliamentary term, and explore the creation of a Gàidhealtachd; a designated area in Scotland with a high proportion of Gaelic speakers to receive additional support to sustain use of the language
- Host the UCI Cycling World Championships

Finally, we will:

- Deliver on our clear mandate to offer the people of Scotland the choice of independence, by working to establish a process for a legal, constitutional and democratic referendum

- Continue to publish our Building a New Scotland papers to give the people of Scotland the information they need to make an informed choice about whether to become independent
- It is on these last two points that I would now like to turn (making the case for a referendum, and the arguments for independence).

## **Constitution**

- As you will be aware, the Scottish Government committed in its previous Programme for Government to work to ensure that a legitimate and constitutional referendum can be held within the first half of this term of Parliament.
- On 28 June 2022, the Scottish Government published a Bill setting out the government's

proposal to hold a referendum on 19 October 2023.

- The First Minister also announced that, following a request from her, the Lord Advocate had decided to refer to the Supreme Court the question of whether a Bill for a referendum on Scottish independence would relate to a reserved matter.
- Legal certainty on this issue is required because this is a question of law that is unresolved and resolution can only be achieved by a judicial determination by the Supreme Court.
- On 14 June 2022, the Scottish Government published the first paper in the 'Building a New Scotland' series.

- The Building a New Scotland series is designed to give people the information they need to make an informed choice about their future and to stimulate debate over what that future should be.
- The first publication, titled 'Independence in the modern world. Wealthier, happier, fairer: why not Scotland?' sets out a detailed analysis of the UK's performance across a range of economic and social indicators relative to that of ten European countries which are comparable to Scotland.
- On 14 July 2022, the Scottish Government published the second publication in the Building a New Scotland series titled 'Renewing Democracy through Independence', which sets out why the Scottish Government believes that decisions about Scotland should be taken by

the people who live here through their elected Scottish Parliament and government.

- The latest paper “Building a New Scotland: A stronger economy with independence” was published on 17 October.
- This paper, sets out plans to make the economy work for everyone and forge a different path to the Brexit based UK economic model that, as outlined in the first paper, is poorer and more unequal than comparable independent countries.

It includes making the case for:

- re-joining the European Union (EU) to benefit from, and contribute to, the vast European Single Market, helping to forge a different path to the UK system

- a redesigned energy market that aims to provide secure and reliable low cost energy
- retaining free movement of people, without a passport, across the UK and Ireland, with trade borders implemented smoothly
- using the pound sterling, until the time is right to move to a Scottish pound
- up to £20 billion in major infrastructure investment through the Building a New Scotland Fund, including investment in more energy-efficient homes, greener transport, better digital and mobile connectivity, and more affordable housing
- using full powers over employment law to help improve pay and working conditions for people across Scotland, including introducing a minimum wage with a single rate for all age groups and stronger access to flexible working



- a plan for better industrial relations through a social partnership approach involving business and unions
- a migration policy tailored to Scotland's needs and designed to boost the working population
- The paper also outlines the new institutions that would be set up to manage the Scottish economy, including an independent Scottish Central Bank and a new Debt Management Office. Credible and responsible fiscal rules on borrowing and other key measures will be independently assessed by an enhanced Scottish Fiscal Commission.

Publications to come later in the series will cover matters including, EU membership and trade, and defence and security.

## **Conclusion**

As the First Minister set out last month, independence is essential to build a fairer, stronger, greener Scotland.

The UK economy is fundamentally on the wrong path and there is no real alternative on offer within the Westminster system. The establishment consensus on Brexit - despite the harm it is causing - illustrates that.

For Scotland, not being independent means we are being dragged down the wrong path too: one people in Scotland did not vote for.

To build a more stable, sustainable economy - with fairness and human wellbeing at heart - independence is therefore essential.

Thank you.

Document 4 Speaking note for Mr Gray

## **Mr Gray Speaking Note**

I would like to reiterate the welcome to our new members of the Consular Corps; we really value your presence here in Scotland and I look forward to meeting you individually in the near future.

I am going to focus my remarks today on Ukraine, and would like to start by emphasising Scotland's continued support for all those affected by the war in Ukraine, a conflict that has devastated the lives of so many innocent people.

As a nation we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and indeed all eastern European countries in proximity to the conflict.

I am proud of the way Scotland has responded.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE:**

The Scottish Government has provided £4m in financial aid to help provide basic humanitarian assistance, including in health, water and sanitation, and shelter for those fleeing Ukraine.

We have sent five consignments of medical supplies to Poland for onward transport to Ukraine, totalling 156 pallets worth almost £3m.

Funding of £65 million has also been provided by the Scottish Government as part of the UK's military aid for Ukraine. This further funding is to assist Ukrainian armed forces to fight Russian aggression and the unspeakable brutality being perpetrated.

Scotland's response to this Europe-wide challenge has been remarkable.

## **RESPONSE IN SCOTLAND:**

At home, we have welcomed displaced people into our homes and communities, giving them the safety and support they need.

Since the conflict began, more than 21,000 people with a Scottish sponsor have arrived, representing around 20.7% of all UK arrivals - the most per head of any of the four nations.

More than 17,000 of these arrivals are through the Scottish Government's Super Sponsor Scheme.

Our priority is to ensure that displaced people from Ukraine are able to stay in appropriate temporary accommodation and get the right support ahead of moving into safe, sustainable longer-term accommodation.

We are working in partnership with local government and the third sector to ensure all those arriving at our Welcome Hubs are given a 'Warm Scots Welcome', with access to meals, suitable temporary accommodation, trauma support and translation.

Welcome hubs in Edinburgh and around the country have been working at pace to support new arrivals from Ukraine.

And we are ensuring that children arriving from Ukraine have access to appropriate education in line with education authorities' responsibilities.

All children resident in Scotland are entitled to an education irrespective of their immigration status. We are actively working with local authorities, COSLA and others to support this through the Ukraine Education Partners Group.

On 22 September, we introduced a new fund with up to £50m to bring council and social housing properties into use and to increase the housing supply and support displaced people from Ukraine into longer term sustainable housing.

This fund will support those efforts and bring properties into use and early discussions with a number of interested Councils have indicated potential to do more through this route.

The Scottish Government continues to explore all options to ensure there is sufficient and safe accommodation as part of its warm Scottish welcome to displaced Ukrainian people on arrival.

This includes contingency plans for emergency accommodation as well as increasing temporary accommodation, for example the passenger ship, docked in Edinburgh, which has received a very positive reception from the people on board, and a second passenger ship, which is now being used in Glasgow.

The welfare of all displaced Ukrainians staying across the country remains the Scottish Government's absolute priority.

We working to increase the capacity of welcome accommodation and maximise the number of displaced people placed with volunteer hosts who have completed the necessary safeguarding checks.

We are working closely with local authorities and COSLA to speed up the matching process and increase the numbers of displaced people moving into host accommodation.

More than 6,000 people have been triaged at the Edinburgh welcome hub.

As part of longer-term community integration, our national matching service is working with all 32 local authorities to identify suitable longer-term accommodation, including with private hosts and through local authority and housing association stock.



The Scottish Government has committed £11.2m funding to increase capacity of resettlement teams, support refurbishment of properties, and enhance the pace of host checks.

We are heartened that so many Scots have registered interest in hosting a Ukrainian through the UK Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' campaign.

We are asking councils to ensure all private offers in their area have been subject to disclosure checks before being paired with a displaced person.

We are also ensuring accommodation checks are carried out to ensure properties being offered are appropriate for the matched guests.

The matching process has so far proceeded more slowly than we would have liked, and we are aware that some volunteer hosts have not yet been contacted, while others are still awaiting the outcome of checks.

We are working closely with local authorities and COSLA to speed up the matching process, including enhancing teams to boost capacity.

## **SUPER SPONSOR SCHEME PAUSE**

Due to the massive popularity of the scheme, on the 11 July, we announced a temporary pause to the Super Sponsor Scheme, so that we can focus on ensuring appropriate support for those displaced people who are already here, and those who will travel.

We are aware of families who risk being separated as a result of the recent pause, and we are actively working on a solution to this, including, where necessary, seeking the support of the UK Government who control the visa process.

As visas are a Home Office responsibility, we are reliant on their systems to find solutions and we are actively engaging with them on ensuring families are able to travel to Scotland together. Unfortunately our engagement with the UK Home Office is rarely straightforward.

## **SUPER SPONSORSHIP REVIEW**

As a number of you will be aware, we have been undertaking a review of the Super Sponsor scheme and have identified a range of interventions in collaboration with our partners, to support displaced people from Ukraine now and in the future.

I will set out these changes in a statement to Parliament next week, but it is likely to include the following:

We are keen to see more people in Scotland volunteer as hosts if they think that they can provide a welcoming home for a displaced person or family, and will develop plans for a further, Scottish campaign in coming weeks.

We are currently reviewing the operation of the super sponsor scheme and considering how it can be made more deliverable and sustainable, including measures to encourage displaced people to move beyond the central belt.

I know a number of this group have been involved in supporting us with this particular aspect and the work of your offices and communities here in Scotland is really appreciated.

We want to help empower Ukrainians here to help make positive choices about their future and help them integrate into communities across Scotland.

We will be looking to facilitate opportunities for displaced Ukrainians to come together to see what different parts of Scotland have to offer in terms of the local welcome, housing and job opportunities.

Learning from the response to the crisis in different countries will continue to inform our policy response.

I hope I can continue to call upon your experience to help ensure *people* are at the heart of our response here in Scotland.

My officials will share details following my statement to parliament next week.

Thank you.

ENDS

Document 5 Draft note of consular corps meeting  
Note that this document is a draft which has not completed our internal quality assurance process.  
As such it may contain some errors or inaccuracies.

<b>ENGAGEMENT REPORT</b>	
<b>Ministers</b>	Angus Robertson - Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <b>(AR)</b> Neil Gray - Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <b>(NG)</b>
<b>What</b>	Online Ministerial Briefing with members of the Consular Corps of Scotland to update on Constitutional matters and the Programme for Government.
<b>Date</b>	27 October 2022

<b>Attending Official(s)</b>	Frank Strang – Deputy Director European Relations <b>(FS)</b> [Redacted] - Deputy Head European Engagement <b>[Redacted]</b> [Redacted] - European Engagement Officer <b>[Redacted]</b> [Redacted] – Policy Officer <b>[Redacted]</b>
<b>Who</b>	Jack Hillmeyer - Corps Dean and Consul General for the USA <b>(JH)</b> Christoph Crepaz - Corps Secretary and Consul for Austria <b>(CC)</b> João Pedro Costa - Consul General for Brazil <b>(JC)</b> Danna Hou - Vice Consul General for China <b>(DH)</b> Laurence Païs - Consul General for France <b>(LP)</b> Andreas Zimmer - Consul General for Germany <b>(AZ)</b> Laszlo Kalman - Consul General for Hungary <b>(LK)</b> Tibor Csaba Szendrei - Deputy Consul General Hungary <b>(TS)</b> Jenny Quinn - Vice Consul General for Ireland <b>(JQ)</b> Veronica Ferrucci - Consul General for Italy <b>(VF)</b> Minori Ishii - Vice Consul General for Japan <b>(MI)</b> Łukasz Lutostański - Consul General for Poland <b>(LL)</b> Anton Emmanuel Barbu - Consul General for Romania <b>(AB)</b> Ignacio Cartagena Nuñez - Consul General for Spain <b>(IN)</b> Peter Müller-McDougall - Consul for Switzerland <b>(PM)</b> Hatice Tugba – Vice Consul General for Turkey <b>(HT)</b> Yevhen Mankovskyi - Consul General for Ukraine <b>(YM)</b>
<b>Key Points</b>	<p><b>FS</b> opened the meeting by welcoming the newly appointed Consul Generals for Brazil and Italy and marked the engagement with screenshots taken shared via Scottish Government social media accounts.</p> <p><b>AR</b> then provided an update on the constitution and Programme for Government noting upcoming legislation that the Scottish Government will be putting forth in the upcoming year.</p> <p>Regarding the constitution, <b>AR</b> stated that the Scottish Government will continue to publish papers on the topic giving people information to make well informed decisions ahead of the planned referendum in October 2023.</p> <p><b>AR</b> finished by speaking on the upcoming decision to be made by the Supreme Court and that they await their ruling before handing to <b>NG</b>.</p> <p><b>NG</b> began by updating on the Scottish Government’s work with Local Authorities to improve the matching process and an additional 11.2 million pound has been allocated to help with the process and improve capacity.</p>

Since 11 July the Scottish Government's Super Sponsor Scheme was paused but work continued to support those affected and to address any families that could be possibly split up by the pause.

**NG** ended by reflecting on his recent visit to Ireland and his meeting with his Irish counterpart Roger Corgoran.

**FS** thanks the Ministers for speaking then opened from questions or comments from the Cops starting with the Dean, **JH**.

**JH** thanked the Scottish Government for arranging the meeting and asked whether the Bill on a referendum that was published in June would proceed through Parliament or if it would be held pending the Supreme Court's decision. He also asked **NG** if there was an idea of the number of Ukrainian displaced people who were in Scotland and if there was a maximum number that would be accepted into the country.

**AR** answered by saying that a ruling by the Supreme Court is expected within upcoming weeks and the Bill is at a stage where it can proceed as soon as the ruling is given.

[Redacted]

**AR** added that the Retained EU Law currently being proposed in Westminster would sunset EU legislation in the UK but that Scotland wishes to remain aligned with EU legislation.

**NG** responded to **JH**'s question saying that Scotland have welcomed 21,000 people which compares favourably with other UK nations but understands that European partners have welcomed significantly more.

There hasn't been a maximum number set of people that Scotland would be willing accept and although a pause has been set for the moment, people can still arrive under private arrangements. Scotland wants to continue to show its solidarity with Ukraine and any diminishing of these efforts would not be suitable.

**CC** spoke on Glasgow recently missing out on its bid to host Eurovision to Liverpool and that they are working on plans to still host Eurovision events in Scotland on the night of the contest and are working with organisers to see if that might be possible and will reach out if this progresses.

**LP** asked to raise three points:

[Redacted]

Finally, Would the new Prime Minister and Parliament in place in Westminster, will they respond regarding to the publication of the Programme for Government or could it be expected to have any impact policies in the PFG.

**AR** [Redacted] and added the Scottish Government does hope to have a productive relationship with the new UK Government.

[Redacted]

On the final point, the Scottish Government will do what it can to have a constructive relationship with the new Prime Minister and the new UK Government and wait to hear on how they will proceed on matters such as the Northern Ireland Protocol, Retained EU Law and the financial direction of the UK.

**NG** echoed **AR**'s comments adding that if any of the matters would like to be discussed further he would make himself available.

**HT** asked following the recent events in London, if a snap election how would that impact the plans for a referendum.

[Redacted]

**FS** thanked the Ministers and raised on behalf of Polish and Ukrainian Consuls that a film will be screened about events in Bucha with **NG** attending.