

Document 1: Email thread arranging meeting between the Deputy First Minister and Lord Brailsford

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** DFMCSCR@gov.scot
Sent: 27 October 2022 19:21
To: Lord Brailsford <[\[redacted\]@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@scotcourts.gov.uk)>
Cc: DFMCSCR@gov.scot
Subject: Call with the Deputy First Minister This Evening

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender, please take extra care to consider its context, intent and veracity before clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening Lord Brailsford,

The Deputy First Minister has asked if it would be possible for him to speak to you on the phone this evening.

He will be in the car travelling back from an evening engagement between 20:30 and 22:00. I would be grateful if you can advise if you have any availability and if content, provide a contact number.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]
[redacted]
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
[redacted] | E: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

From: Lord Brailsford <[\[redacted\]@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@scotcourts.gov.uk)>
Sent: 28 October 2022 08:41
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Call with the Deputy First Minister This Evening

[Redacted],
My apologies,
I was travelling home from Edinburgh yesterday evening and have just picked this up. I can make myself available any time today for a call.
Neil Brailsford

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** DFMCSCR@gov.scot
Sent: 28 October 2022 09:06
To: Lord Brailsford <[\[redacted\]@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@scotcourts.gov.uk)>; DFMCSCR@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Call with the Deputy First Minister This Evening

Good morning,

That's no problem at all. Would you be available at 10am this morning?

If you provide a contact number I will pass to the DFM and he can call you direct.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[redacted]The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
[redacted] | E: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

From: Lord Brailsford <[redacted]@scotcourts.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 October 2022 09:09

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Call with the Deputy First Minister This Evening

10 would be fine. My private number is [Redacted].

Many thanks

Neil Brailsford

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 28 October 2022 09:12

To: Lord Brailsford <[redacted]@scotcourts.gov.uk>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Call with the Deputy First Minister This Evening

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. Confirming I have forwarded this to the DFM and he will call you at 10.

[Redacted]

[redacted]The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
[redacted] | E: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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

Document 2: Note of meeting between the Deputy First Minister and Lord Brailsford

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 31 January 2023 10:32

To: [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For action: FOI trawl

Hi [Redacted]

Although you haven't highlighted it, I do have a note of the DFM's call with Lord Brailsford on 28 October – attached here in case needed for this FOI or any others.

Thank you

[Redacted]

Meeting

Deputy First Minister and Lord Brailsford

Date and time

Fri 28 October (telephone call)

Note

The Deputy First Minister sought a call with Lord Brailsford following his statement to Parliament the day before (Thursday 27 October), announcing Lord Brailsford as Chair of the Covid-19 Inquiry. The Deputy First Minister said that he was pleased with the reaction from Parliament on Lord Brailsford's appointment, and wished to formally indicate that from that point onwards the nature of the DFM's relationship with Lord Brailsford would change to ensure the independence of the Chair of the Covid-19 Inquiry. The DFM also wished to convey that he was keen for Lord Brailsford to engage with the Bereaved Family groups as a matter of urgency.

ENDS.

Document 3: Email circulating news coverage following the announcement of Lord Brailsford as Chair

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: 28 October 2022 09:25

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: COVERAGE - DFM Statement: Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry Chair

Good morning,

Please find below a review of coverage following yesterday's statement and the appointment of Lord Brailsford. The articles include comment from DFM, and a good number also have the comment from Lord Brailsford. Some of them briefly report comments made by Sandesh Gulhane and Jackie Baillie. The following from the BBC is representative:

Scottish Conservative health spokesman Dr Sandesh Gulhane said that while the appointment of a new chair was a step forward, "there is still a lack of a clear commitment from the deputy first minister over just how long this inquiry will go on for".

He added: "We've seen costs spiral out of control and intolerable delays on other crucial inquiries, including the Edinburgh tram inquiry, and that simply cannot happen here. Grieving families must get the truth about what went wrong and get the answers they deserve."

His comments were echoed by Jackie Baillie, Scottish Labour's health spokeswoman, who said no further delays should occur.

BBC Radio Scotland 16:00 - 18:00

Scotland's Deputy First Minister has confirmed the appointment of a new chair of Scotland's official inquiry into Covid-19. **John Swinney announced that Judge Lord Brailsford will take over from Lady Poole, who resigned suddenly in early October after 10 months in the role. Lord Brailsford will take over from Friday. Lady Poole quit citing "personal reasons" but it later emerged that four of the inquiry's counsel had quit the day before her resignation.**

STV 18:00 - 18:30

A judge has promised to work independently to establish the facts around the handling of the Covid pandemic after his appointment as chair of the inquiry. **Lord Brailsford replaces Lady Poole who quit at the end of last month. Four lawyers working on the inquiry also stood down.**

BBC 1 Scotland 18:30 - 19:00

A new chair has been appointed to the Scottish Covid-19 inquiry by the Scottish Government following the sudden resignation of the previous chair earlier this month. **Lord Brailsford will replace Lady Poole and will begin work tomorrow. The Deputy First Minister John Swinney said the judge would meet with bereaved families at the first opportunity. The Conservatives' health spokesman Sandesh Gulhane welcomed the appointment but called for a guarantee of no further delays.**

The Courier (Main Edition) 2 **New chairman for Covid-19 inquiry** A new judge has been appointed to chair the public inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland. The appointment of

Lord Brailsford, a senator of the College of Justice for Scotland, follows the resignation of Lady Poole for personal reasons earlier this month. Four lawyers working on the inquiry also quit after Lady Poole. Deputy First Minister John Swinney confirmed the replacement in a statement to the Scottish

The Scotsman 5 **New chair of inquiry into handling of Covid** A new judge has been appointed to chair the public inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland. The appointment of Lord Brailsford, a senator of the College of Justice for Scotland, follows the resignation of Lady Poole for personal reasons earlier this month. Four lawyers working on the inquiry also quit after Lady Poole. Deputy First Minister John Swinney confirmed the replacement in a statement to the

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **New judge appointed to chair Covid inquiry** A NEW judge has been appointed to chair the public inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland. The appointment of Lord Brailsford, a senator of the College of Justice for Scotland, follows the resignation of Lady Poole for personal reasons earlier this month. Four lawyers working on the inquiry also quit after she stepped down. Deputy First Minister John Swinney confirmed the replacement yesterday. He said: "The

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Lord Brailsford appointed to head pandemic review** A new judge has been appointed to chair the public inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland, after the judge who had previously been in charge resigned. Lady Poole stepped down for personal reasons earlier this month, with four members of the inquiry's legal team also resigning, for reasons which have not been disclosed. This led to claims that the inquiry was in crisis and may be

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Senior judge takes on Scottish Covid public inquiry** ONE of Scotland's most senior judges is to head the public inquiry into the handling of the Covid pandemic after the previous chairman suddenly quit. Lord Brailsford, a senator of the College of Justice for Scotland, is to take the role today following the resignation of Lady Poole for personal reasons earlier this month. Her decision to quit came the day after three junior counsel to the inquiry and Douglas

Metro (Scotland) 17 **Lord Brailsford to head up Scottish inquiry into Covid** A NEW judge has been appointed to chair the public inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland. Lord Brailsford, a senator of the College of Justice for Scotland, replaces Lady Poole, who quit for personal reasons earlier this month. Deputy first minister John Swinney said: 'I am in no doubt that he has the necessary leadership skills, integrity and experience to continue the work of this inquiry.'

The Times (Scotland) 10 **Covid inquiry judge** A new judge has been named to chair the public inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland. The appointment of Lord Brailsford, a senator of the College of Justice for Scotland, follows the resignation of Lady Poole for personal reasons this month. Four lawyers working on the inquiry also quit after Lady Poole. John Swinney, the deputy first minister, confirmed the replacement in a statement to the

The Herald 6 **New chair for Scots Covid-19 inquiry to start today** THE new chair of Scotland's official Covid inquiry has been named. Judge Lord Brailsford will take over today. Deputy First Minister John Swinney said he was confident that Lord Brailsford would act with "sensitivity, empathy and compassion", and would meet with the bereaved families of Covid victims. It follows the sudden resignation of the original chair, Lady Poole, in early October, after just 10 months in the role. Lady Poole

The National (Scotland) 15 **New chair of Covid inquiry confirmed** SCOTLAND'S Deputy First Minister has confirmed the appointment of a new chair of Scotland's official inquiry into Covid-19. John

Swinney announced that Judge Lord Brailsford will take over from Lady Poole later today after she resigned suddenly in early October after 10 months in the role. Lady Poole quit citing "personal reasons" but it later emerged that four of the inquiry's

Daily Record: [Scottish covid public inquiry appoints new chair after previous judge resigned - Daily Record](#)

BBC [Scotland Covid inquiry: Lord Brailsford appointed new chair](#)

STV [New chair appointed to lead inquiry into Scotland's Covid-19 response](#)

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | News - Strategic Communications

The Scottish Government

[Redacted]