

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 14:49  
**To:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted][redacted]  
Mackintosh E (Emily) <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)  
<[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - Sarah Smith comments - Daily Mail

Hi Ross,

Thanks for coming back, I will do that now – many thanks

Kind regards,  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Media Manager | Newsdesk  
Scottish Government  
[redacted]

**From:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 14:38  
**To:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] >; Mackintosh E (Emily)  
<[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] **Subject:** RE: Media query - Sarah Smith comments - Daily Mail

Thanks [redacted]

It's still not an SG matter so I would ask her to refer any questions to the party.

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](http://www.lobbying.scot) for information.*

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 14:37  
**To:** [redacted] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
Mackintosh E (Emily) <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)  
<[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - Sarah Smith comments - Daily Mail

Hello all,

[Redacted] from the Daily Mail just sent the following to me – not sure if this impacts decision on whether to prep a line

Hi [redacted],

Just following on from this, it seems that more SNP members are liking Mr Dornan's tweets, does the First Minister have any plans to condemn what was said or ask people to be less abusive?

Kind regards,  
[redacted]

Cheers,  
[redacted]  
Media Manager | Newsdesk  
Scottish Government  
| [redacted] |

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 13:40  
**To:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
[redacted] Mackintosh E (Emily) <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)  
<[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - Sarah Smith comments - Daily Mail

Thanks Ross

**From:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 13:38  
**To:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Mackintosh E (Emily)  
<[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - Sarah Smith comments - Daily Mail

Thanks – the party have a line on this and I see she's approached them separately.

Thanks

Ross

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 13:35  
**To:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Mackintosh E (Emily) <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>;  
Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <[Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot](mailto:Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot)>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross)  
<[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - Sarah Smith comments - Daily Mail

Not one for us unless SpAds want to do a line so copying them here

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 13:34  
**To:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** Media query - Sarah Smith comments - Daily Mail

Hello all,

Received a media query from Daily Mail about Sarah Smith.

She has also approached SNP media team. She is looking for FM comment.

Kind regards,  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Media Manager | Newsdesk  
Scottish Government  
| [redacted] |

**From:** [redacted] >  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 13:26  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Sarah Smith comments

Hi [redacted],

As discussed, just hoping to get some response from the First Minister about the comments made by former BBC Scotland Editor Sarah Smith about the divisive nature of Scottish politics.

Miss Smith said she was subjected to misogynistic abuse both online and in person while working, and described her relief at leaving behind the 'bile and hatred' of Scottish politics for her new role in America.

Is this something the First Minister recognises as an issue within Scottish politics or has she experienced similar?

I have approached the SNP's media team about this as well, but SNP MSP James Dornan has also suggested that Miss Smith's claims are exaggerated: [\(1\) James Dornan SNP on Twitter: "@magnusllewellin America would be the go to place to escape all her imaginary woes then 😊" / Twitter](#)

Is this a view the First Minister agrees with?

Kind regards,  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Scottish Daily Mail  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 14:50  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Sarah Smith comments

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for sending this over.

Please refer your questions to the party, as this isn't an SG matter.

Kind regards,  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Media Manager | Newsdesk  
Scottish Government  
| [redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 13:58  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Sarah Smith comments

Hi [redacted],

Just following on from this, it seems that more SNP members are liking Mr Dornan's tweets, does the First Minister have any plans to condemn what was said or ask people to be less abusive?

Kind regards,  
[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 1:25 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Sarah Smith comments

Hi [redacted],

As discussed, just hoping to get some response from the First Minister about the comments made by former BBC Scotland Editor Sarah Smith about the divisive nature of Scottish politics.

Miss Smith said she was subjected to misogynistic abuse both online and in person while working, and described her relief at leaving behind the 'bile and hatred' of Scottish politics for her new role in America.

Is this something the First Minister recognises as an issue within Scottish politics or has she experienced similar?

I have approached the SNP's media team about this as well, but SNP MSP James Dornan has also suggested that Miss Smith's claims are exaggerated: [\(1\) James Dornan SNP on Twitter: "@magnusllewellin America would be the go to place to escape all her imaginary woes then 😊" / Twitter](#)

Is this a view the First Minister agrees with?

Kind regards,  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Scottish Daily Mail  
[redacted]