

Document 1

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)

Cc: (REDACTED)

Subject: Official Sensitive: Russia Sanctions: Progress report on due diligence exercise within Scottish Government

First Minister

Cc:

Deputy First Minister

Cabinet Secretaries

Advocate General

Solicitor General

Executive Team

Others as cc list

As you requested at SGORR (M), **all Directorates across the Scottish Government were asked last week to review their operations and those of their agencies to identify any known or possible links with Russia.**

The attached issues log sets out the results of that exercise to date. For completeness, it includes some issues with which you will be familiar and which have been resolved (albeit that implementation of the solution may be ongoing), such as the NS Champion. You will see that in many cases work is still continuing at official level and it is also possible that issues might be added to this list if Directorates uncover additional issues.

Directorates are being advised to apply to their operations the standard which the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy set for businesses in her open letter – that severing links, however indirect they are, is the right decision. The central sanctions team is providing guidance but is advising Directorates that if they are in doubt as to what action should be taken in any given case, they should consult Special Advisers and Ministers. In addition to those approaches to Ministers on individual cases, officials will keep this central log updated and submit it for information periodically.

David Barnes

Deputy Director, Trade Policy

Scottish Government

(REDACTED)

Due Diligence Issues Flagged by Scottish Government Directorates as at 7 March 2022

TABLE 1 – FOOD AND DRINK

DG/Directorate/Division	Issue	Action	S.O.P
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Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate	Fish processors are hugely reliant on processing fish that is Russian-caught and imported to the UK from China where it is processed. The cutting-off of this import supply could be terminal for these businesses or at least would lead to their temporary mothballing.	Updated Cab Sec and Business Resilience Unit aware should there be a need to provide support.	Ongoing
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate	Seed potato exports. SG is providing official notification from SASA to RKN (Russian department of agriculture).	REDACTED	Note sent from Minister McAllan to FM.
Food Standards Scotland	Provided list of Scottish businesses on the list of firms approved to export to Russia.	Investigating further	Ongoing

OUT OF SCOPE

Document 2

1.1 [Brief for First Minister's Questions sent 09 February 2022]
[Redacted – Out of Scope]

“BENEFITS OF BREXIT” PUBLICATION

- [Redacted – Out of Scope]

The paper celebrates an “ambitious export strategy” – the truth is, Scotland’s businesses are struggling to export to our nearest neighbours due to Brexit.

- For example, Scotland has lost the 20-to-30,000 tonnes in exports of seed potatoes we used to sell to the EU and Northern Ireland
- [Redacted – Out of Scope]

1.2 [Ministerial Briefing Pack circulated 15 February 2022]

Scottish interests at risk in the NIP

- [Out of Scope]

Trade

- Any changes to the border arrangements for trade could seriously impact specific Scottish trading interests, such as the movement of fresh seafood to Northern Ireland for processing before being exported to domestic and international markets.
- The prohibition of movement of seed potatoes from Scotland to NI as a result of the Protocol has been a particular issue for Scotland – with companies in Scotland having previously been the main supplier to NI with a market value loss of around £1m.

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

BACKGROUND

Scottish priorities at risk in the TCA

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

Agri-food Exports (Sanitary and Phytosanitary)

We want progress on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards arrangements between the UK and EU such that Scottish businesses involved in chilled meat exports, seed potatoes and live bivalve molluscs are able to trade more freely.

- Under EU law certain agri-food products cannot be imported from third countries or can only be imported by complying with restrictive health requirements. Key Scottish exports in this category includes: **seed potatoes** and **live bivalve molluscs** (shellfish). At our request, UKG has raised these issues in the TCA sub-committees, but no progress has been made.

Seed potatoes

Pre EU-Exit, Scotland exported 20-30K tonnes of seed potatoes to the EU (& NI). Post Brexit, the EU has stated it will only permit imports from the UK if it 'dynamically aligns' across all EU plant health and seed potato measures, which the UKG has not agreed to. Since leaving the EU the UK's (incl. Scotland) plant health measures have diverged to block the introduction of serious pests from the EU, although not in relation to seed potato pests. The EU has the authority to grant a derogation for seed potatoes but has declined to do so.

[Redacted - Out of Scope]

Background

The relationship between the UK and the EU is governed by two treaties, the TCA and the Withdrawal Agreement (WA). The WA covers a narrow range of issues, most prominently the Northern Ireland Protocol, citizens' rights and ongoing financial commitments. The TCA covers a much broader range of issues, touching upon almost every other aspect of SG responsibility.

Implementation of the TCA is overseen by the Partnership Council, jointly chaired by the UK and EU. Scottish Ministers attended the first meeting of the TCA Partnership Council (in June 2021) as part of the UK delegation. SG officials have also attended, as observers, the majority of the TCA sub-committees. We expect the next Partnership Council to meet in April 2022, although this is yet to be confirmed.

Beneath the Partnership Council are a series of official-level Specialised Committees, again jointly chaired. SG officials have attended most specialised committee meetings. SG is therefore relatively well engaged by UKG in TCA governance - far better than we have been around the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP). We have largely had the opportunity to feed in Scottish priorities. However, our concern is in there has been little to no progress in resolving specific Scottish interests (such as exports of seed potato to the EU). [Redacted – Out of Scope]

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

CABINET SECRETARY CONSTITUTION, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU ISSUES EXPERT ADVISORY MEETING

[Out of Scope]

ANNEX D

TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT: TOP LINES AND BACKGROUND

[Redacted - Out of Scope]

Engagement with UK Government

- Scottish Ministers attended the first meeting of the TCA Partnership Council (in June 2021) as part of the UK delegation. SG officials have also attended, as observers, the majority of the TCA sub-committees. We expect the next Partnership Council to meet in April, although this is yet to be confirmed.
- SG is currently well engaged by UKG in TCA governance - far better than it has been around the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP). We have largely had the opportunity to feed in Scottish priorities. However, our concern lies in the lack of progress in the TCA governance structures in resolving issues and specific Scottish interests (such as exports of seed potato to the EU).[Redacted - Out of Scope]

Scottish Interests at risk in the TCA

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

Agrifood Exports

- Under EU law certain agrifood products cannot be imported from third countries or can only be imported by complying with restrictive health requirements. Key Scottish exports in this category includes: **chilled meats, seed potatoes** and **live bivalve molluscs** (shellfish). At our request, UKG has raised these issues in the TCA sub-committees, but no progress has been made.

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

Document 3

OUT OF SCOPE

1.4 [Email 23 Feb 22]

From: Johnson M (Martin) [Redacted – Personal Information]

Sent: 23 February 2022 19:14

To: First Minister [Redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery [Redacted] Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture [Redacted] Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy [Redacted] Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands [Redacted] Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise [Redacted] Minister for Environment and Land Reform <[Redacted] Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <[Redacted] Solicitor General [Redacted]>; Lord Advocate [Redacted]>; Permanent Secretary [Redacted – Personal Information] DG Strategy and External Affairs [Redacted – Personal Information]] Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[Redacted]>

Cc: Barnes D (David) [Redacted – Personal Information] Higgins K (Kate) [Redacted – Personal Information] Wightman S (Scott) <[Redacted – Personal Information]>; Crawford E (Ewan) <[Redacted – Personal Information]> [Redacted – Personal Information] Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) <[Redacted – Personal Information]>; Strang F (Frank) <[Redacted – Personal Information]>; Cameron DA (Donald) (Constitution and UKR) <[Redacted – Personal Information]>; [Redacted – Personal Information] Crawford E (Ewan) <[Redacted – Personal Information]>; Higgins K (Kate) <[Redacted – Personal Information]>; [Redacted – Personal Information]

Subject: Brussels Update 23.02.22: Slow progress on NIP; Emergency Council meeting on Ukraine

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

PS/First Minister, [Redacted – Personal Information]

cc PS/Deputy First Minister, PS/Cabinet Secretaries, PS/Ministers.

[Redacted – out of scope]

Meanwhile the crisis in Ukraine will continue to dominate political bandwidth. The announcement by Chancellor Sholtz yesterday of the withholding of regulatory consent for the Nordstream II gas pipeline (from Russia to Germany, via the Baltic Sea) was seen as a bold, assertive move. **An emergency meeting of the European Council has been called this afternoon, and will take place tomorrow evening (24th).** This follows adoption by the Council of an [EU sanctions package](#) today - including restrictive measures of all members of the Russian Duma and on 27 other targeted individuals. I understand that EU leaders will discuss tomorrow a potential *second package*, and where the trigger point for adopting that would be. The second package could potentially include measures on: e.g. energy; financial services; transport systems; and export controls; and is considered to be 'very far reaching'. Any second package is expected to be co-ordinated with the US and UK, and Šefčovič on Monday referred to the positive work of Truss/UKG with the EU. Truss also met NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday immediately before the WAJC meeting. **In our discussions here we are reflecting the First**

1.5 [Email 05 March 22]

From: Johnson M (Martin) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >

Sent: 05 March 2022 20:56

To: First Minister <[Redacted]>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[Redacted]>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[Redacted]>

Cc: DL All Scottish Government Ministers <[Redacted]>; [Redacted – Personal Information] Sunderland RE (Rachel) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; Wightman S (Scott) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; Primrose J (John) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; Strang F (Frank) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; [Redacted – Personal Information] Crawford E (Ewan) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Communities <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Corporate <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Economy <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Education & Justice <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Health & Social Care <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Net Zero <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; Director of International Trade and Investment <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; Director of Safer Communities <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; [Redacted – Personal Information] Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Information] Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Information] Rogers S (Shirley) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; [Redacted – Personal Information] Barnes D (David) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; Crawford E (Ewan) <[Redacted – Personal Information] >; [Redacted – Personal Information] Permanent Secretary <[Redacted – Personal Information] >

Subject: Brussels Update 05.03.22: Ukraine: EU response & wider implications

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

PS/First Minister, [Redacted – Personal Information]

cc PS/Deputy First Minister, PS/Cabinet Secretaries, PS/Ministers.

OUT OF SCOPE

What Next for the EU Response?

Council meetings will take place again next week in key formations, and Heads of State will meet at Versailles on 10-11 March. As well as implementing and strengthening all existing sanctions and measures, establishing **safe humanitarian corridors** for people fleeing Ukraine will remain an immediate priority. [Redacted – Out of Scope] The question of **energy supplies** – and reducing EU dependency and related financial flows to the Kremlin – is likely to be discussed again. The European Parliament's [Resolution](#) on Ukraine - agreed by a huge majority in the EP on Tuesday after an emotional address by videolink by President Zelensky - calls for the EU 'to significantly reduce energy dependence, in particular on Russian gas, oil and coal, by, inter alia, diversifying energy sources'. Meanwhile there will be further steps to secure **support internationally for sanctions**. More than 40 countries are now cooperating, including notably the likes of Switzerland and Singapore. Where efforts can be widened into new spheres they will be. The EU's efforts to remove 'most favoured nation' status from Russia at the WTO being one example.

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

ENDS

[Redacted – Personal Information] | **EU Director, Scottish Government** | Scotland House | Rond
Point Schuman 6 | 1040 Brussels, Belgium

[Redacted – Personal Information] [@ScotGovBrussels](#)

PA: | [Redacted – Personal Information] web: www.gov.scot

Document 4

From: REDACTED (REDACTED)

Sent: 15 March 2022 09:42

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED)

Subject: RE: Lines to put to Victoria Prentis

Morning REDACTED,

“Further to my letter to you of 11th March proposing a weekly meeting, it would be extremely valuable to have an urgent call to discuss further your government’s plans for further tariffs and actions against Russian products.

We fully support the application of sanctions or further measures against Russia because of their aggression against Ukraine, and stand ready to support Scottish exporters and businesses as necessary.”

Copy Wales /NI ministers please

Kind Regards,

REDACTED

REDACTED | Head of Policy, Strategy and Delivery, Seafood Trade Programme | Scottish Government | (REDACTED)

www.gov.scot/marinescotland@marinescotland

From: (REDACTED)On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 15 March 2022 09:09

To: REDACTED (REDACTED)

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: Lines to put to Victoria Prentis

Morning REDACTED

Before I issue an email to Ms Prentis' office about an urgent meet, I wondered if you would be able to provide a few lines we can use in the email about the topic subject and why we wish to have it – just to avoid ambiguity.

Many thanks,

REDACTED

Assistant Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Document 5

Victoria Prentis MP

Minister of State for Farming, Fisheries and Food
Seacole Building (REDACTED)
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Mairi Gugeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and
Islands The Scottish Parliament
St. Andrew's House 2 Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Our ref: PO2022/05156/SS
4 March 2022

Dear Mairi,

Thank you for your email of 2 March to the Secretary of State about the UK's attendance in international fisheries fora with the Russian Federation. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The UK government wholeheartedly agrees with almost all of the Scottish Government's sentiments on this matter. The Russian Federation's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK government condemns the Russian Federation government's reprehensible actions, which are an egregious violation of international law and the UN Charter.

In the specific case of the coastal State consultations on 14th March, particularly those on mackerel, the right strategic approach is to continue with the meeting but with the Russian Federation firmly excluded. To postpone the meeting would send the wrong signal not just to the Russian Federation, but also to our other coastal State partners and stakeholders who agree with us on the need to make significant progress in 2022 on ensuring more sustainable long-term management of the stock. Given the unforgivable actions of the Russian Federation, it is all the more imperative that the remaining like-minded coastal States step up their cooperation which is in the interests of the stock and the long-term profitability of the UK fleet.

I know our officials are working together closely on this important dossier and I am sure you will agree on the importance of them making significant progress in these negotiations as soon as practicable.

I am copying this letter to Edwin Poots, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in the Northern Ireland Executive and Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd in the Welsh Government

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

Document 6

From: REDACTED (REDACTED)
Sent: 20 March 2022 15:27
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Dissatisfied

Good Afternoon Nicola,

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

I don't understand what all this about the SNP accepting a deal from Pepsi to grow seedlings in Russia, while you sit there and accept all of these Ukranian refugees into other peoples homes, when they can barely afford to live in the first place, or are they all wealthy SNP voters? Not only that, but for you to sit there and accept money from Russia, while you profess your support for Ukraine, it seems awfully two faced to me.

I really would like a response to all these points and I would really like for it to be you who responds, Nicola. Not your secretary, or are the small people not worth talking to anymore?

Kind regards,
REDACTED
Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Document 7

From: REDACTED (REDACTED) **On Behalf Of** Swinney J (John), MSP
Sent: 21 March 2022 18:17
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: REDACTED (REDACTED) [Our Ref: JS7654RA]

Dear Mairi,

REDACTED (REDACTED)

I am writing on behalf of my above constituent, REDACTED, who is concerned about the exporting of seed potatoes from Scotland to Russia in light of the tragic events in Ukraine.

In his below correspondence, REDACTED states he is concerned about the [media report](#) that claims the Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) has approved the exporting of seed potatoes to Russia. I would be grateful if you were able to reflect on the points he raises and any clarification you can provide on the matter.

I look forward to hearing from you so that I may respond back to my constituent.

Yours aye,
John

(REDACTED)

Dear Mr Swinney,

I was appalled over the weekend to learn that the Scottish government, through their agricultural department, SASA, allows the exporting 2,000 metric tonnes of Scottish seed potatoes to Russia and are prepared to facilitate the phytosanitary requirements needed to export to Russia.

The sale has been arranged through Pepsi Co via the Scottish seed growers' group, Salire, in Aberdeenshire.

Your first minister is active in promoting Scotland as being a "super sponsor" for Ukraine's crisis, then at the same time, allowing her governmental department to supply their aggressor with the means to feed themselves whilst refugees go hungry.

REDACTED IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

I sincerely hope that you can rally your colleagues to overturn and block this ridiculous export, which is due to start in the next few days, as the fact is that this 2000t of seed which will produce somewhere in the region of 30,000 tonnes of ware potatoes for the consumption for a barbaric enemy.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

Document 8

From: REDACTED (REDACTED)
Sent: 19 March 2022 15:54
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Cc: (REDACTED)
Subject: Ukraine

A message for the First Minister, please pass this on quickly.

Dear Ms Sturgeon,

It is with utter disbelief that I read in today's Times (19th March 2022) that Scotland is shipping 2000 tons of seed potatoes to Russia.

This is in effect allowing the Russians to grow an enormous quantity of potatoes at a time when the rest of the world is imposing trade bans. It is considerably worse than selling a batch of potatoes for food.

It begs the question, does the invasion of Ukraine register at all in the Scottish Government?

So that you know why I find this so offensive...

My father came to this country as a refugee, from Ukraine, after the second world war to escape the Russian Stalin regime, and yet we now find that according to the UK media, Scotland is providing support to the Russian Putin regime.

REDACTED – IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Please prevent this shipment of potatoes, I understand that there are probably commercial considerations but I cannot see a large American Multi-National company like Pepsi risking the bad publicity that would result if it complained about a ban on the export. And if it does complain so what?

I watch the Scottish Parliament broadcasts regularly and will watch carefully for your announcement whichever way you decide.

Regards

REDACTED
(REDACTED)

Document 9

Sun 27/02/2022 12:51

REDACTED (REDACTED)

Ukraine

To First Minister

Dear First Minister,

Following the totally unjustifiable war waged by Russia on Ukraine, I am writing to urge you to do all that you can to convince the British government, and other relevant parties, to:

- implement a ban on Russia from all cultural and sports and international events of any kind, at this time
- Make the sanctions and freezing of assets of Russian businesses, and individuals carried out to the maximum
- Discontinue all trade with Russia, including receiving Russian gas, with speeding up of the domestic renewables programme
- urge a vote in the UN to remove Russia from the UN security council
- persuade the UK government to accept refugees fleeing from Ukraine and help those in need as much as possible
- Assist, in whatever way possible, short of direct intervention, the resistance of the Ukrainian government and people

I wish you well in your endeavours,

REDACTED

(REDACTED)

Document 10

Mon 21/03/2022 13:18
Redacted (REDACTED)

REDACTED approved to be sent to Russia, approved by Scottish Government!!!!

To First Minister

Dear Nicola,

I cannot believe that this is happening! Approved by the Scottish government. This is an outrage. This is no way to support the Ukrainian people. Please withdraw your approval for this shipment immediately.

Yours sincerely,
REDACTED

Document 11

Sat 19/03/2022 18:31

(REDACTED)

Sending seed potatoes to Russia

To SG Complaints

I wish to complain in the strongest terms about Scottish governments unbelievable decision to allow the sending of seed potatoes to Russia. This sends out completely the wrong message is so inept and completely tone deaf to real public feeling.

Russia is starving the people of Ukraine, it has cut off power and water to major cities, it will not allow aid convoys with food and medicine through to stricken civilians, it is attacking those civilians, targeting hospitals and schools and residential blocks. It is laying whole cities to waste and while Putin threatens NATO and the West. It may be convenient for government to blame it all on Putin but it's not only Putin, Russian soldiers, Russian mercenaries are firing the shells and pulling the triggers, they all have blood on their hands.

Scottish governments incredibly crass decision is to send them (Russia) a food source to feed their armies and their people is utterly astounding.

Lots of U.K and Scottish businesses have suffered as a result of the sanctions, the Scottish economy and the people of Scotland have and will continue to suffer further hardship but nothing even remotely akin to what the poor people of Ukraine will have to endure. Our government should not be sending anything to Russia, our farmers need to find alternatives to sending produce to Russia.

It is incredulous that this government is sending Russians food sources. How you have the gall to sit there in Parliament with your silly pin badges and face masks with the Ukrainian flag on them is cynical hypocrisy.

This is about right versus wrong, good versus evil, so please don't try to justify the unjustifiable, reverse the decision and act on the true wishes of the Scottish public. Have you not learned anything throughout this!!!

Sent from my iPad

Document 12

Sat 19/03/2022 12:25

(REDACTED)

Seed potatoes to Russia via Pepsi deal
To Central Enquiry Unit

Dear ScotGov

I feel compelled to write to you today, in support of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Nicola Sturgeon has publicly stated our support for Ukrainians and yet it is reported in the press today that ScotGov have approved a deal for Scottish seed potatoes to be exported to Russia via a Pepsi Co deal.

Scotgov, if we are true friends of Ukraine, we will make sacrifices to support and help them and hope and pray that punitive sanctions against the Russian people will compel them to make changes in their country. Surely that's how sanctions are going to be effective.

By allowing any order to go to Russia, no matter how important it might seem to our economy, the Russian people's economy or anyone else, we are letting down the Ukrainian people who woke up at 5am one morning to find they were under armed attack. Their suffering is like nothing we have ever seen and I am sure that like me, Scotgov felt the pain of the Covid-19 lockdowns and thought we were hard done by. I know I did and, shielding my elderly mother whom I am carer for, I felt isolated, ran out of food and lost a lot of weight. But it was alright in the end as we all pulled together and made those sacrifices. We can only imagine the terror, pain and suffering going on in Ukraine right now as I write this email.

Today and into the future, our moral responsibility, to the founders of our country, ourselves and our international friends is to act with decency and integrity and I am ashamed and embarrassed to read that we are sending anything at all to Russia.

Please, please do the right thing and put monetary values to one side just now. If you can't do that then try walking in the shoes of a Ukrainian in Edinburgh's twin city of Kiev when you are making these so called decisions.

Thanks for reading.

(REDACTED)

Document 13

From: (REDACTED)

Sent: 20 March 2022 16:38

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: The sale of seed potatoes to Russia

Could you please explain why the sale of Scottish seed potatoes, has been given to go ahead from the Scottish government, so a shipment of several hundred tonnes can be sold to Russia under the present circumstances in the Ukraine.

Farmers in the UK, are having to import seed potatoes due to a shortage of home grown seed, surely it would be better to supply the home market, especially with a food shortage looming in months to come.

It has been reported that PepsiCo is doing the deal, due to leave in the next few days. And the sale has been approved by the Scottish government,

I await your in depth response by email, as to why this should really go ahead, Considering the sanctions the West has imposed on Russia, and the inhumane acts of war on Ukraine citizens.

Regards (REDACTED)

Document 14

Sat 19/03/2022 14:28
(REDACTED)
600.00k seed potatoes

To First Minister

Ms Sturgeon

Is it true that the Scottish Government has given permission for 600000k of seed potatoes to be sent to Russia even though Russia is at war with the Ukraine killing many thousands of innocent Ukrainians in the process. Please tell me that this is not so.

Thank you.

Document 15

Sat 19/03/2022 17:11

(REDACTED)

pepsi and seed potatoes

To Central Enquiry Unit

Hi,

I have just read an article saying the Scottish government have given the o.k. for Pepsi to send seed potatoes to Russia
I want to know if this true and if it is the reasoning behind it.

Regards (REDACTED)

A very concerned Scottish citizen

Document 16

Mon 21/03/2022 16:02

Mairi.gougeon@parliament.scot

(Case Ref: ME5176)

To Scottish Ministers

Good afternoon

We have been contacted by a constituent regarding the news article relating to the deal of Scottish seed potatoes being sold to Russia and has asked what the Scottish Government can do to stop this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
(REDACTED)

Office of Mairi Gougeon MSP

Document 17

Sun 20/03/2022 15:09

(REDACTED)

Russia

To First Minister (REDACTED)

Hello,

If my understanding is correct, I believe the Scottish Government is certifying, and indeed, allowing, the export of Seed Potatoes to Russia. Surely this is a double standard especially as Scotland is expecting their first contingent of Ukrainian refugees in the very near future!!

Regards

(REDACTED)

Document 18

Sat 19/03/2022 10:28

(REDACTED)
Saltire Seed - exports to Russia
To First Minister

First Minister

I would not normally ask you to do anything nor criticise your policies.

However I understand that the Scottish Government is allowing an export of seed potatoes from Saltire Seed to Russia.

Regardless of any excuses you might make I find it absolutely deplorable that you have not exhausted every legal avenue to stop this event occurring.

By allowing this the Scottish Government is effectively supporting Russia. Every positive action, regardless of how seemingly minor, in their favour strengthens them.

I implore you to remedy this position.

I await to hear from you.

Regards

(REDACTED)

Document 19

From: Richard Thomson MP <richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 17 February 2022 19:13
To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Subject: Scottish Seed Potato Exports. (Case Ref: RI4413)

Mairi McAllan MSP
Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land Reform
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Our ref: RT/sws/RI4413 – Please quote in all correspondence

Dear Mairi,

Scottish Seed Potato Exports.

I refer to your Parliamentary Answer to my colleague Gillian Martin MSP regarding the above and thank you for your continuing efforts on behalf of seed potato exporters in my constituency.

I recently heard from a constituent who is an exporter of quality Scottish seed potatoes that a high-level meeting of Irish potato merchants with the Minister of State for Agriculture Senator Pippa Hackett took place at which the continuing lack of imports of Scottish seed potatoes – which are greatly valued in Ireland – was discussed. I am advised that the Minister was asked whether Scottish seed potatoes could be allowed into Ireland if Scotland continued to align with the EU on the various regulations pertaining to seed potatoes and responded in the affirmative.

I wondered first of all whether you were aware of this position and whether the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine had been in contact with the Scottish Government in this regard.

Secondly, given that – if correct – this perhaps represents an opportunity to restore some of the market currently shut-off to Scottish exporters as a result of remaining in the UK, I should be grateful if you would advise whether such a trade agreed between the Government of Ireland and the Scottish Government would be possible under the current circumstances.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes.

Richard Thomson MP
Member of Parliament for Gordon

address - Unit F6, Enterprise Centre, Aberdeen Energy Park, Exploration Drive, Bridge of Don,
Aberdeen AB23 8GX.
t. 020 3545 2236
e. richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk

Document 20

Tue 22/03/2022 10:26

Daniel Johnson MSP daniel.johnson.msp@parliament.scot

FW: Scottish potatoes to Russia (Case Ref: DJ13854)

To Scottish Ministers

Dear Minister,

One of my constituents has contacted me in relation to his concerns about the export of Scottish seed potatoes to Russia, permitted by the Scottish Government.

I would be very grateful if you could respond to the issue raised and provide me with any other relevant information regarding this case.

Many thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Kind Regards,
Daniel

Daniel Johnson MSP

0131 541 2145

danieljohnson.org.uk

Constituency Office

134 Comiston Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5QN

Daniel would like to keep you up to date with his activities in Parliament and in the constituency. You can sign up to receive regular updates and his eNewsletter [here](#).

Your data privacy will be taken seriously. Read Daniel's privacy notice [here](#).

From: (REDACTED) Sent: 21 March 2022 12:44

To: Johnson D (Daniel), MSP

Subject: Scottish potatoes to Russia

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Daniel,

Sorry to bother you about this. I was going to raise it with you on the weekend when I saw

you outside Waitrose, but couldn't wait, unfortunately.

This concerns the Scottish government's sanctioning of the export of 2000 tons of Scottish seed potatoes to Russia. I could hardly believe this when I read it in The Times on Saturday! We have a ghastly and miserable situation of innocent Ukrainian civilians being deliberately starved to death by Putin in Mariupol, and here the Scottish government thinks it's ok to sanction the export of potatoes to feed (ultimately) Russian soldiers. Surely this cannot be allowed. I know that the SNP has few principles, little moral fibre, and are scurrilous opportunists, but this is going too far!

I appreciate that the farmers have spent some time preparing this shipment, and it would be a loss to them, but surely it is not beyond the wit of man to find some way of compensating them? It would be far less costly to compensate than to accept the ultimate moral costs associated with this shipment, which are horrendous (and very embarrassing).

I really hope you can raise this in the Scottish Parliament.

Many thanks for your time.

Very best wishes,
(REDACTED)

Document 21

Mon 21/03/2022 19:29

(REDACTED)

Potatoes

To First Minister

I cannot find words to express my anger at the news this weekend that Scotland is exporting seed potatoes to Russia with your blessing. Simultaneously you are telling the media that you are welcoming Ukrainian refugees. I wonder how they will feel when you tell them, if you dare, that you are sanctioning, directly or indirectly, the supply of snack foods to the enemy. Appalling.

RSVP

(REDACTED)

Sent from my iPad

CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS
Briefing for visit to Coca-Cola Europacific Partners factory, 9 March 2022

What	Meeting with Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP) and tour of their East Kilbride factory.
Where	Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP), 52 Milton Rd, College Milton North, East Kilbride, Glasgow G74 5DJ
When	Wednesday 9 March 2022 11:45 – 13:30
Key Message(s)	Keen to meet with a significant investor in Scotland, to learn more about the business and discuss how Government might support CCEP to grow in Scotland. Concerned about the Coca Cola Company continuing to trade with Russia. Would appreciate direct assurance that there is no link between CCEP and Russia; and any comfort regarding the Coca Cola Company on the firm's stance on its ongoing operations in Russia. Would strongly encourage you to use any influence you might have to urge Coca Cola Company to stop trading with, and in, Russia as soon as possible.
Who	REDACTED
Why	Opportunity to engage with a prominent drinks manufacturer and inward investor and learn more about the business. The visit follows a discussion between Kate Higgins and Jon Woods, CCEP GB General Manager, at an FDF event during COP26.
Supporting official	REDACTED
Briefing contents	Annex A: Summary Page / Top Brief Annex B: Event programme Annex C: Attendees Annex D: Background on CCEP globally and in Scotland Annex E: CCEP as an inward investor Annex F: Sustainability Annex G: Ministerial and Scottish Enterprise engagement with CCEP
Media Handling	Comms are not attending or arranging proactive Comms.

<i>Dress code</i>	Protective clothing and footwear will be provided for the factory visit.
<i>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival</i>	Cabinet Secretary will be greeted at the main entrance by REDACTED
<i>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/parking arrangements</i>	There is a staff and visitor car park onsite.

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

Top lines

Russia

- Concerned about the Coca Cola brand continuing to trade with Russia, given the extensive sanctions regime now in place.
- Would appreciate direct assurance that there is no link between Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP) and Russia.
- Can CCEP provide any comfort regarding the Coca Cola Company on the firm's stance on its ongoing operations in Russia.
- Would strongly encourage CCEP to use any influence you might have to urge Coca Cola Company to stop trading with, and in, Russia as soon as possible.

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

Sensitivities

- Concern about the Coca Cola brand continuing to trade with Russia, given the extensive sanctions regime now in place.
- CCEP do not operate in Russia but another bottler, Coca-Cola Hellenic, does have operations in Belarus and in Russia.

ANNEX B

EVENT PROGRAMME

The following agenda was proposed by CCEP

1. Overview of CCEP business in GB
2. Our supply-chain
3. Road to Zero Carbon
4. A healthy balanced portfolio
5. Factory tour
6. End of tour Q&A

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

ANNEX D

From: [REDACTED] > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Sent: 07 March 2022 19:50

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Lord Advocate <LordAdvocate@gov.scot>; Solicitor General <SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of International Trade and Investment <DirectorDITI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: URGENT-Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

Importance: High

PS / First Minister,

Please find attached a note from Ms McAllan regarding the potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia.

Many thanks

[REDACTED] | Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -
Màiri McAllan

The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | [REDACTED] Email:
MinisterELR@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 24

From: REDACTED

Sent: 19 January 2022 10:00

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: REDACTED [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Defra enquiry response - Ref: PO2021/28888

Hi REDACTED,

A proposed draft response for Ms McAllan's consideration is attached, along with the original letter.

Background to the approach suggested in the draft response is as follows, covering the two main issues raised:

Import of EU seed into England & Wales for ware production

Growers in Scotland (and elsewhere in the UK) have raised their concerns about the lack of a level playing field with UK and Scottish Ministers, which is at odds with Defra's view as set out in Ms Prentis's letter that the circumstances under which imported seed potatoes can be grown for ware in England & Wales are limited, and will not have a significant impact on the trade in seed potatoes.

Given that at this stage concerns are based on different growers' expectations rather than data, the approach suggested in the attached draft letter is to push for detailed monitoring of volumes imported to England & Wales over the coming period. Growers have also expressed concerns that potatoes imported as ware may potentially be used as seed (an unauthorised use), and the draft response therefore also seeks undertakings that this will be monitored and enforced by Defra and APHA.

EU Equivalence and access to export markets

The response from Ms Prentis states that the UK Government continues to pursue this with the European Commission, but sets out no new progress, and we are aware of no recent movement from our contacts at official level. The attached draft response therefore describes the last specific update on process we are aware of from Defra, and seeks an urgent update on what further the UK Government is doing to move this forward.

Happy of course to provide further advice or discuss if this would be helpful.

Best regards,

REDACTED

REDACTED | Head of SASA Policy and Pesticides Survey Unit | The Scottish Government |
Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: REDACTED [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Sent: 06 January 2022 16:05
To: REDACTED
Cc: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Defra enquiry response - Ref: PO2021/28888

Hi,

Please see response from DEFRA regarding Seed Potatoes. The Minister would be grateful for advice and a potential draft response on this correspondence?

Kind Regards

REDACTED | Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -
Màiri McAllan | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Email:
MinisterELR@gov.scot

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From: Ministerial Contact Unit <no-reply@defra.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: 21 December 2021 16:22
To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Subject: Defra enquiry response - Ref: PO2021/28888

Dear Mairi McAllan MSP,

Please find attached a response to your enquiry of 17 November.

Yours sincerely,

Ministerial Contact Unit

Defra

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 March 2022 18:26

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Commission: ELR and Russia. - Returns by COP today

[REDACTED]

Please see attached a briefing note on issues which may arise in the Roundtable meeting tomorrow.

The seed potato issue, as you are aware is awaiting some final direction, so there may be more that can be said by the time of the meeting.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 March 2022 17:48

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Commission: ELR and Russia. - Returns by COP today

[REDACTED]

For completeness we have set out the wider actions we are taking.

- We have also circulated Friday's letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy regarding trading with Russia to forestry stakeholders, some of whom have already taken action in this area. ([Sourcing Position Statement • BSW Timber](#)) At an organisational level across Scottish Forestry we have alerted colleagues of the need to both check for and be alive to the possibility of any actions or behaviours that could be perceived as inconsistent with SG's stance on sanctions.

- We have made searches of our finance and procurement systems and can find no action which would relate to a continuing relationship with Russian companies. Our colleagues who provide our shared services have also looked at our digital providers to ensure no IT connections/contracts. Forestry and Land Scotland have at this stage identified one supplier, who provides the chemical urea used in forestry operations and they continue to understand the impacts.
- Previous bi-lateral engagement; Scottish Forestry received requests via the British Embassy in Moscow for engagement at COP26 with the Russian Federal Forestry Service, to discuss forest and climate policies, approaches for sustainable forest management, and identify areas for UK/Russia cooperation in forestry. In the end Scottish Forestry did not meet with the Russian Forest Service; officials from Forest Research (under UKG role) did meet to discuss technical cooperation. In July 2021 the UKG embassy had also tried to facilitate wider technical cooperation with a Russian region who were interested in forest research and policy; this was paused by the Sakhalin officials and there has been no other engagement with Russian Forest Service.
- Our industry colleagues do not believe there are any Russian timber processors based in Scotland. They have also started to assess the impact on the timber trade; Russia is major exporter of timber and timber products globally, although direct imports of round wood or raw wood products into the UK are small. Most of the UK's imports of wood products come from Europe. Russia instigated a domestic round wood ban earlier in the year to help support its own sector. More widely though the impacts of a reduction in exports are likely to be felt as European markets adjust to reduction in lower supply/price changes, and this feeds through to reduced supply in the UK market. We do not know at this stage if there will be positive or negative effects on timber producers domestically as result of these supply changes and will continue to monitor for market intelligence.

We would be happy to discuss this in more detail with the Minister.

[REDACTED]

Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Head of Scottish Forestry Executive Office

Scottish Forestry
Silvan House | 231 Corstorphine Road | Edinburgh | EH12 7AT

Email: [REDACTED]

In light of the ongoing public health advice to reduce unnecessary social contact during the outbreak of Covid-19, we have activated our Business Continuity Plan. More information can be found [on our website](#).

Website: forestry.gov.scot

Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Sent: 07 March 2022 09:35

To: Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: Commission: ELR and Russia. - Returns by COP today

Hello,

Please see below, Ms McAllan would be grateful for advice on these points.

[REDACTED]

2. In advance of the fruit and veg round table discussion (tomorrow), on issues arising for these interests from the ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

I would welcome returns by COP today to allow the Minister to review.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform - Màiri McAllan

The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Tel: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED]

Email: MinisterELR@gov.scot

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Document 26

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 March 2022 15:15

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];

[REDACTED]; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DLSSSG) [REDACTED]; Director of International Trade and

Investment <DirectorDITI@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; Director of

Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];

Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED];

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED];

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Communications) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Communications) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; Social Media <socialmedia@gov.scot>

Subject: Media enquiry: The Herald - Export of seed potatoes to Russia

PO/ Minister for Environment and Land Reform

CC for info

PO/ First Minister

PO/ Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

PO/ Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

As above

We've had an enquiry in from a freelancer writing a piece for the Herald on seed potatoes that are to be exported to Russia from Scotland by [REDACTED]. He's asking if SG "approved the deal". His deadline is this afternoon.

We have discussed with officials and SpAds and would propose we issue the lines below. Grateful if you can advise if Ms McAllan is content.

Best,

[REDACTED]A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Scottish Government does not approve export deals. We have led call for businesses to disinvest in Russia as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and made clear that both the Scottish

Government and its economic agencies will use all available powers not to support trade and investment activity with Russia.”

Enquiry:

Right, the story is that 2000 tons or thereabouts of Scottish seed potatoes are about to be exported from Scotland to Russia by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] defence is that they are supporting Russian agricultural workers – the deal is worth a lot of money, some half a million I think. My contact in the trade is horrified that the deal is going ahead and thinks it’s immoral and will be saying so in the story. This is legal obviously – there is no outright trade ban yet - but I just wanted to know the following re the government’s involvement:

Has the SG legally approved the [REDACTED] deal?

Does the SG think it’s right that the deal is going ahead at the time of the war in Ukraine?

[REDACTED] | Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [REDACTED]

m: [REDACTED]

Document 27

RE: Brussels Update 23.02.22: slow progress on NIP; Emergency Council meeting on Ukraine

From: [REDACT]

Sent: 23 February 2022 19:14

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <CabSecFE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Solicitor General <SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot>; Lord Advocate <LordAdvocate@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Information]; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc [REDACT]

Subject: Brussels Update 23.02.22: slow progress on NIP; Emergency Council meeting on Ukraine

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

PS/First Minister, [REDACT]

cc PS/Deputy First Minister, PS/Cabinet Secretaries, PS/Ministers.

This note updates on the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee meeting in Brussels on Monday (21st), progress on the Northern Ireland Protocol, and developments on Ukraine. It reflects a number of discussions this week with key EU Member States, and senior UK officials (UKG; Welsh Government; and NI Executive).

Summary

[REDACT – out of scope]

There has been some further movement forward on customs in the last fortnight, **but overall significant gaps remain between the sides** - especially on SPS checks, subsidy control and role of CJEU. The expectation on both sides is now that talks will continue - largely in a technical space - in the weeks ahead and during the -pre-election period in NI (from mid-March). Šefčovič on Monday suggested political contact should stop for the election period. Truss pushed back saying continued momentum was needed, and the expectation now is that Truss and Šefčovič will continue to talk, though probably less visibly than in recent weeks. **The feeling in Brussels is that UKG is unlikely to trigger Article 16 in coming weeks (and the Ukraine context probably also makes it less likely), but it remains in the background, as does the Belfast court judgement due in early March on the legality of existing GB-NI checks under the Protocol.**

Meanwhile the crisis in Ukraine will continue to dominate political bandwidth. The announcement by Chancellor Sholtz yesterday of the withholding of regulatory consent for the Nordstream II gas pipeline (from Russia to Germany, via the Baltic Sea) was seen as a bold, assertive move. **An emergency meeting of the European Council has been called this afternoon, and will take place tomorrow evening (24th).** This follows adoption by the Council of an [EU sanctions package](#) today - including restrictive measures of all members of the Russian Duma and on 27 other targeted individuals. I understand that EU leaders will discuss tomorrow a potential *second package*, and where the trigger point for adopting that would be. The second package could potentially include measures on: e.g. energy; financial services; transport systems; and export controls; and is considered to be 'very far reaching'. Any second package is expected to be co-ordinated with the US and UK, and Šefčovič on Monday referred to the positive work of Truss/UKG with the EU. Truss also met NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday immediately before the WAJC meeting. **In our discussions here we are reflecting the First Minister's clear position - standing with the Ukrainian people and their independence and sovereignty, opposing Russian aggression, and demanding the most severe sanctions on Russia.**

Further Detail - NIP

[REDACT – out of scope]

[REDACT – out of scope]

[REDACT – out of scope]

[REDACT – out of scope]

Next Steps on NIP

[REDACT – out of scope]

[REDACT – out of scope]

ENDS

[Redacted – Personal Information] | **EU Director, Scottish Government** | Scotland House | Rond
Point Schuman 6 | 1040 Brussels, Belgium

tel: [Redacted – Personal Information] [Redacted – Personal Information] [Redacted – Personal
Information] twitter: [Redacted – Personal Information]

PA: [Redacted – Personal Information] [Redacted – Personal Information] web: www.gov.scot

1. Is the shipment definitely going ahead?
2. Would Scottish Government have had to compensate farmers if the seed hadn't been certified for export?

3. Will other shipments to Russia from Scottish farmers be considered while the war continues?

[REDACTED] | **Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)**

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [REDACTED]

m: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 March 2022 18:22

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Director of
International Trade and Investment <DirectorDITI@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Many thanks [REDACTED], issuing the lines now.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Communications: News (Net Zero & Energy/Rural Affairs & Islands)**

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [REDACTED]

m: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Sent: 21 March 2022 18:21

To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Director of
International Trade and Investment <DirectorDITI@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Hi all

Ms McAllan is content.

Thanks,

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Director of International Trade and Investment <DirectorDITI@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

[REDACTED] – we've discussed with officials and updated the line as below. Grateful if PO can advise if the Minister is content

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government does not approve export deals. Where a company makes the decision to export any plants or other plant products from Scotland, Scottish Government officials are required to carry out various activities in relation to this, including the inspection and certification of goods.

“We have led calls for businesses to disinvest in Russia as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and have communicated this very clearly to the seed potato suppliers concerned. The Scottish Government and its economic agencies will use all available powers not to support trade and investment activity with Russia.”

[REDACTED] Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [REDACTED]

m: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 March 2022 17:16

To: [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Director of International Trade and Investment <DirectorDITI@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Can we add a line about being disappointed that [REDACTED] do not appear to have heeded our call.

[REDACTED]

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Islands and Transport

[REDACTED]/[REDACTED]

Scottish Government

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To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

PO/ Minister for Environment and Land Reform

I'd be grateful if you could advise if Ms McAllan is content.

[REDACTED]

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

m: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 March 2022 15:15

To: [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

[REDACTED]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government does not approve export deals. Where a company makes the decision to export any plants or other plant products from Scotland, Scottish Government officials are required to carry out various activities in relation to this, including the inspection and certification of goods.

“We have led call for businesses to disinvest in Russia as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and made clear that both the Scottish Government and its economic agencies will use all available powers not to support trade and investment activity with Russia.”

[REDACTED] Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [REDACTED]

m: [REDACTED]

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Document 29

From: Gerry Saddler
Sent: 22 March 2022 12:50
To: firstminister@gov.scot; CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Dissatisfied

[REDACTED]

The issue raised in the original correspondence relates to trade in seed potatoes with Russia. Our team will deal with it.

Regards

Gerry

Professor Gerry Saddler SPHP FRSB
Chief Plant Health Officer for Scotland and Head of SASA
SASA
Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
The Scottish Government
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK
REDACTED | **W:** www.sasa.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED] > On Behalf Of firstminister@gov.scot
Sent: 22 March 2022 12:12
To: CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot
Cc: Galbraith C (Catriona) <[REDACTED](#)>; Gerry Saddler <Gerry.Saddler@sasa.gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Dissatisfied

PEU

For OR please. The only point to be answered is that of the export of Scottish Seed to Russia. I'd try trade and investment officials first.

Cheers

REDACTED

| First Minister's Ministerial Private Office | 5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |
REDACTED |

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From: REDACTED **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 22 March 2022 11:57
To: REDACTED
Subject: FW: Dissatisfied

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your email. You will receive a response with regards the export of Scottish seed to Russia from the Scottish Government shortly.

[REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE]

Kind regards

REDACTED

| First Minister's Ministerial Private Office | 5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road |
Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |

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From: REDACTED

Sent: 20 March 2022 15:27

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Dissatisfied

Good Afternoon Nicola,

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

I don't understand what all this about the SNP accepting a deal from Pepsi to grow seedlings in Russia, while you sit there and accept all of these Ukranian refugees into other peoples homes, when they can barely afford to live in the first place, or are they all wealthy SNP voters? Not only that, but for you to sit there and accept money from Russia, while you profess your support for Ukraine, it seems awfully two faced to me.

REDACTED

Kind regards,

REDACTED

Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2

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Document 30

From: Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 08 March 2022 10:30
To: CabSecRAI@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Scottish Seed Potatoes to Russia

Just received from REDACTED

From: REDACTED>
Sent: 08 March 2022 09:54
To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Scottish Seed Potatoes to Russia

Hi Mairi, please see attached.

Can you maybe give me a call late afternoon if possible if you have time.

Thank you.

REDACTED

REDACTED NFU Scotland

Begin forwarded message:

From: REDACTED
Date: 5 March 2022 at 10:21:20 GMT
To: REDACTED
Subject: Re: Scottish Seed Potatoes to Russia

Thanks REDACTED

I'll take this forward, I totally understand the timing issue. As I said there's no guarantee anything will happen but that doesn't stop us from trying.

REDACTED

REDACTED NFU Scotland

On 5 Mar 2022, at 07:58, REDACTED <[REDACTED](#)> wrote:

REDACTED,

Please find update on dire situation for the 2 companies that are due to send contracted seed potatoes to Russia

I had a zoom meeting with them yesterday - REDACTED and REDACTED

In the meeting were REDACTED

REDACTED are REDACTED owned and well established within the UK with an office in REDACTED , however despite Brexit issues in trade they opened a new office in REDACTED last September in order to develop and grow the production for export from Scotland which was a huge boost to the industry considering the chaos with Brexit

REDACTED are a long established Growers Group of 14 farmers, main base in Aberdeenshire , who have been trying to adjust to Brexit restrictions by finding new markets

The drive to get Russian business took 8 years and this is the second year of marketing to Russia

To be clear these seed potatoes are destined to go to Russian Farming businesses – not Putins state farms with the aim being production of eating potatoes .(food)

REDACTED

It is evident that Potato seed is having no restrictions on trade from European Countries as confirmed yesterday Europe has given the green light to continue sending such products to Russia and Ukraine

European manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery are also continuing to supply - otherwise Putin will turn to his people and suggest the West is trying to starve the Russian population – which would suit him in terms of image

These consignments if they don't go will have dire financial impacts on these companies and on the supplying Scottish growers

The consignment are supposed to be being bagged this week w/c 7th March

Any delay means logistics and haulage options are being lost as every day passes

The Iconic Scottish Seed Potato industry is on its Knees following the on going Brexit trade farce, Covid and shipping nightmare scenarios including Egypt and now this !

Time is everything here –

I understand SASA wont issue labels and then the phytos as they are waiting on direction from Scottish Government Ministers

I would ask that you ask the Cabinet Secretary to look at this with extreme urgency please

I see the investment of an office and staff based at REDACTED is under extreme threat as the rewards for the investment by REDACTED are disappearing at every opportunity

I would urge Scottish Government to help maintain that investment in our industry and help get this seed moving in order to soften the already massive blow to the sector

To confirm, Europe have given the green lights to seed movement , DIT have not put a stop to it and for the good of long term business for Scottish Seed producers I would hope that the Scottish Government will act immediately and allow the awaiting shipments to move

Cheers

REDACTED

NFU Scotland | Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8LT

REDACTED | Website: <http://www.nfus.org.uk/>

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From: REDACTED

Sent: 11 March 2022 12:16

To: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; Burgess WG (George) <george.burgess@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Cc: MinisterELR@gov.scot; Gerry Saddler <Gerry.Saddler@sasa.gov.scot>; REDACTED

Subject: follow up and potential actions from call with Ms Prentis yesterday

Hi all, some thoughts following yesterday's call

Seed potatoes – I wonder if there is scope for a joint letter on seed potatoes with NI to UKG to try and get EU situation changed? I also wonder if we also write separately to the EC on it – is seed potatoes the only thing we cannot trade with EU under the TCA? Am thinking about us making the case on helping us all in terms of food security and creating further sources for trade back and forth – is there anything we cannot import or it is hard to do under Brexit that we would want to make easier

There is the broader export/import controls issue – I do think politically we should be making a call on UKG on that, to go back to EU to renegotiate all this but think Frank Strang was looking at that more generally?

Might we be in a position to announce and stand up the taskforce next week?

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

REDACTED

REDACTED

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Islands and Transport

REDACTED

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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Document 32

From: REDACTED

Sent: 22 March 2022 17:30

To: MinisterELR@gov.scot; CabSecRAI@gov.scot

Cc: CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot; REDACTED

Subject: FOR AWARENESS: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

PO/ Minister for Environment and Land Reform

PO/ Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Just for awareness, we've had the request below from The Courier. We agreed with SpAds to reissue the lines cleared yesterday and we advised the journalist to contact REDACTED for her response to the first question.

Thanks,

Gerard

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Scottish Government does not approve export deals. Where a company makes the decision to export any plants or other plant products from Scotland, Scottish Government officials are required to carry out various activities in relation to this, including the inspection and certification of goods.

"We have led calls for businesses to disinvest in Russia as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and have communicated this very clearly to the seed potato suppliers concerned. The Scottish Government and its economic agencies will use all available powers not to support trade and investment activity with Russia."

Enquiry:

Hi. I'm following up on the REDACTED shipment to Russia and wanted to confirm the situation. Could I please have a response by 4.30pm if possible.

1. Is the shipment definitely going ahead?

2. Would Scottish Government have had to compensate farmers if the seed hadn't been certified for export?
3. Will other shipments to Russia from Scottish farmers be considered while the war continues?

REDACTED | Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: 21 March 2022 18:22

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; REDACTED Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; REDACTED >

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Many thanks REDACTED, issuing the lines now.

S

REDACTED | Communications: News (Net Zero & Energy/Rural Affairs & Islands)

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Sent: 21 March 2022 18:21

To: REDACTED Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Hi all

Ms McAllan is content.

Thanks,

REDACTED

Ellie Fairgrieve

Deputy Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

REDACTED

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From: REDACTED

Sent: 21 March 2022 17:52

To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;

REDACTED

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Adding late comms colleague to take forward

REDACTED | Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

REDACTED

From: Klein G (Gerard)

Sent: 21 March 2022 17:51

To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;
REDACTED

REDACTED – we've discussed with officials and updated the line as below. Grateful if PO can advise if the Minister is content

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government does not approve export deals. Where a company makes the decision to export any plants or other plant products from Scotland, Scottish Government officials are required to carry out various activities in relation to this, including the inspection and certification of goods.

“We have led calls for businesses to disinvest in Russia as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and have communicated this very clearly to the seed potato suppliers concerned. The Scottish Government and its economic agencies will use all available powers not to support trade and investment activity with Russia.”

REDACTED | Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)
Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: 21 March 2022 17:16

To: Klein G (Gerard) <Gerard.Klein@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;
REDACTED

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Can we add a line about being disappointed that REDACTED do not appear to have heeded our call.

REDACTED

Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Affairs, Islands and Transport
REDACTED

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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From: REDACTED

Sent: 21 March 2022 16:53

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

Thanks REDACTED

PO/ Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Farmers Guardian have just asked for the line and The Scotsman have chased it.

I'd be grateful if you could advise if Ms McAllan is content.

Best,

REDACTED

REDACTED | **Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)**
Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: REDACTED

From: REDACTED > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 21 March 2022 15:15

To: Klein G (Gerard) <Gerard.Klein@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;
REDACTED
Subject: RE: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

REDACTED

Content to decline the bid.

Thanks

REDACTED
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
2N.08
St Andrews House
REDACTED

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From: REDACTED
Sent: 21 March 2022 15:09
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;
REDACTED
Subject: Media enquiry: Seed potatoes to Russia

PO/Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

PO/Minister for Environment and Land Reform

We've had enquiries in on the REDACTED seed potato shipment to Russia (from BBC and The Scotsman) and also a request from BBC to speak to Ms Gougeon about it –

Comms, officials and SpAds would recommend declining the bid for Cab Sec and sending them all the line below.

We've made a slight update to the line. Can you advise if Ms Gougeon is content to decline the bid? Can you advise if Ms McAllan is content with the lines?

Thanks,

REDACTED

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Scottish Government does not approve export deals. Where a company makes the decision to export any plants or other plant products from Scotland, Scottish Government officials are required to carry out various activities in relation to this, including the inspection and certification of goods.

"We have led call for businesses to disinvest in Russia as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and made clear that both the Scottish Government and its economic agencies will use all available powers not to support trade and investment activity with Russia."

REDACTED | Communications: News (Rural Affairs & Islands)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e REDACTED

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Document 33

From: Gerry Saddler <Gerry.Saddler@sasa.gov.scot>

Sent: 16 March 2022 14:56

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>;

REDACTED

Subject: RE: Seed Potato Trade - European Parliament Committee on Agriculture

Hi REDACTED ,

I did know that EU/GB trade in seed potatoes was on the agenda for discussion at the AGRI Committee of the EU Parliament today (Martin mentioned it in a recent note), I watched a recording of the [proceedings](#) as I had other commitments this morning.

The entire 90-minute session was devoted to this topic and it was bookended by presentations by Europatat (the European potato trade association), DG Sante and a colleague from Walloon Agricultural Research Centre, Belgium. Both Europatat and the Belgian scientist made a strong case, highlighting the significance of trade, that GB observes the same standards of production and both gave special mention to the quality of seed produced in Scotland and its significance for a number of MSs. The Commission repeated their long expressed view that without dynamic alignment they would not consider restarting trade with GB, they highlighted that GB had already diverged from EU Plant Health regs specifically with regards to legislation on Xylella (a pathogen that does not affect potato), they also acknowledged the Canadian derogation but noted it was 50 years old and likely to run out in the next few years. The contributions from MEPs were almost exclusively supportive of re-establishing trade, a number even highlighted the fact that the ban was disproportionately impacting on Scotland, a country which wished to remain in the EU. MEPs from RoI were active in highlighting the importance of Scottish seed for their own industry and the fact that seed for their 2 main varieties could only be sourced from Scotland. A number of MEPs accused the Commission of being overzealous and that considering the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the renewed focus on food security, flexibility was required. In the concluding remarks, again Europatat and the Belgian scientist made a strong case for re-establishing trade, the scientist in particular debunking some of the points the Commission had made previously about pests and pathogens affecting seed from GB, most of which were also prevalent within the EU or in one case not even present in Scotland. The Commission, however, did not move from its initial position.

I think we have to accept that this year's trade window is closing in the next few weeks (planting has already started in a number of countries) so there is nothing we can do in the short-term. However we need to explore further 2 possible options, a Canada-style derogation (despite the Commission's potential opposition) or the feasibility of a limited form of dynamic alignment with the EU (either specific for potatoes or specific for Scotland across our plant health regs). All of these options will take time to work up, consult with stakeholders, seek legal advice on etc., but we intend to do some initial groundwork in the next few days and would suggest a meeting soon after (after recess?) with the Cab Sec & Minister to discuss our options going forward would be helpful.

Will be in touch.

Regards

Gerry

From: REDACTED > On Behalf Of CabSecRAI@gov.scot

Sent: 16 March 2022 11:49

To: Gerry Saddler <Gerry.Saddler@sasa.gov.scot>

Cc: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; MinisterELR@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <kate.higgins@gov.scot>; DirectorARE@gov.scot; REDACTED

Subject: Seed Potato Trade - European Parliament Committee on Agriculture

Hi Gerry,

Ms Gougeon has noted that the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture was holding a session on seed potato trade this morning. She has asked if we had anyone covering that and would be grateful for information on it if so.

Many thanks,

REDACTED | Deputy Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

REDACTED

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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From: REDACTED

Sent: 01 February 2022 12:45

To: MinisterELR@gov.scot

Cc: REDACTED

Subject: Denmark seed potato equivalence application to UK - letter to Minister Prentis

Minister

I understand from Gerry Saddler that he gave the Minister an update on a call last Thursday on the UKG receipt of a seed potato equivalence application from Denmark and that the Minister indicated that she would like to follow this up with Minister Prentis to express her concerns, in particular at this being considered while Scottish seed potatoes still do not have access to the EU market. I have enclosed a draft letter for the Minister's consideration.

Regards

REDACTED

SASA Policy team

SASA Division

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

01/02

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Document 35

Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform
Mairi McAllan MSP



vernment

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Victoria Prentis MP
Minister of State for Farming, Fisheries and Food
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Your ref: PO2021/28888/SK

January 2022

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2021 in relation to seed potatoes, in response to my earlier correspondence.

In your reply you indicate that Defra currently anticipates that the ability to import EU-certified seed potatoes into England and Wales for ware production will have little impact on the seed potato trade, as it will not be a viable option for many growers other than for specialist varieties. This is contrary to the feedback that I continue to receive from Scottish stakeholders who believe there are many businesses ready to exploit the opportunity to import seed from the EU. I share the concern of the Scottish seed potato sector on the negative impact this may have, and the lack of a level playing field which allows EU seed to continue to be purchased by ware growers in England and Wales, whilst Scottish growers are blocked from selling their seed to ware growers in the EU. This is an unacceptable situation, and I believe this imbalance must be addressed as a matter of priority.

While the current situation persists, it is vitally important that any imports of EU-certified seed into England and Wales are monitored very closely by Defra/APHA to ensure that pre-notification and official control checks are undertaken. I would also welcome your agreement that the Defra/APHA monitoring should capture the volume of seed potatoes being imported, along with the source. This is crucial to managing and avoiding any plant health concerns. We would be very concerned if the UK

Government's position on imports further undermines the Scottish seed potato industry and our global standing with this product. Furthermore, I believe officials need to ensure that imported ware potatoes are not cultivated, and that this can only be achieved by enforcing the requirement for pre-notification and investigating suspicious activity when it arises. Targetted vigilance will allow our officials to regularly review import activity, and maintain the health of our potato production.

Of course the concerns set out above continue to be compounded for Scottish exporters by the UK Government's lack of progress in securing an equivalence agreement for seed potatoes with the EU and Northern Ireland. In that regard, I am aware that the seed potatoes equivalence issue was discussed at the UK/EU TCA SPS Committee when it met for the first time in September 2021, and that the EU committed to a technical meeting with the UK to discuss the issue. I understand that a date for the meeting has yet to be confirmed, which is very disappointing as this issue should be a priority for the UK Government. **I would welcome an urgent update on Defra plans for future engagement with the EU on seed potato equivalence, and on progress it has made in securing a date to discuss this further with the EU.**

I am copying this letter to Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd; and Edwin Poots MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

MAIRI MCALLAN

Document 36

From: REDACTED
Sent: 12 January 2022 17:05
To: MinisterELR@gov.scot
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: RE: PQReference: S6O-00614

Hi REDACTED

I have provided below the TIFF figures for potatoes (which covers both seed and ware potatoes) from 2016 to 2020 (the latest figures). As you can see the value fluctuates between £201m and £248m over that period. The low figure in 2018 is attributable to poor weather throughout the growing season. Other reasons for fluctuations include commercial contract values. It is too early to see potential impacts of Brexit in these figures as yet given that the vast majority of Scottish seed potato exports to the EU were able to be concluded by the end of 2020 for the 2021 growing season. Due to the Agricultural statistics group completing a Transformation Programme, there will be no publication of 2021 results, with results for 2022 to be published in 2023.

2016 - £207m

2017 - £226m

2018 - £201m

2019 - £248m

2020- £245m

Regards

REDACTED 12/01

From: REDACTED **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Sent: 12 January 2022 13:34
To: Speirs J (John) <John.Speirs@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Cc: Saddler G (Gerry) <Gerry.Saddler@gov.scot>; Saddler G (SASA) <Gerry.Saddler@sasa.gov.scot>;

Richards C (Caspian) <Caspian.Richards@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQReference: S6O-00614

Hi John,

Can we get some info on what the stats have been re GVA/income etc. since 2016 please?

Kind Regards

REDACTED

REDACTED | Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -
Màiri McAllan | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Email:
MinisterELR@gov.scot

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From: REDACTED

Sent: 11 January 2022 14:36

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: REDACTED

Subject: RE: PQReference: S6O-00614

Hi REDACTED

Thanks for your email with the changes. The only change relates to the 'billion pounds annual value' reference which is too high. Based on latest SG Total Income From Farming Figures (TIFF) from May 2021, the value of the sector is £245m. I suggest we change it to that. Otherwise the rest of the changes look ok.

If you are content I will update the text on the PQ tracker and also add the supplementary question provided by Kate and draft answer to the Background Note.

Regards

REDACTED

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Sent: 11 January 2022 12:59
To: REDACTED Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: RE: PQReference: S6O-00614

Hi REDACTED

Please see below

Scotland is a globally renowned producer of seed potatoes, with the industry contributing a billion pounds annually to Scotland's rural economy. This is a busy time of year for ~~our seed~~ exporters and Scottish Government works closely with businesses to facilitate trade to third countries in key markets like Egypt.

Regrettably, Brexit has had a disproportionate impact on the Scottish sector with the loss of the EU and NI markets for Scottish seed potatoes. The Scottish Government has consistently and frequently raised concerns with the UK Government from the outset and this is another example of their failure to secure through negotiations an outcome which protects this key Scottish industry. Finding a resolution is a priority for the Scottish Government and we continue to press UK counterparts at all levels. At every opportunity we stand firm against any export or import proposals that would cause further harm to our Scottish producers and exporters.

Kind Regards

REDACTED

REDACTED | Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -
Màiri McAllan | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Email:
MinisterELR@gov.scot

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From: REDACTED

Sent: 11 January 2022 12:55

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: REDACTED

Subject: RE: PQReference: S6O-00614

Hi REDACTED

I wonder if you could help with this returned PQ on the Tracker system. I'm afraid we can't see the changes in red and wondered if you could send through again or perhaps give us a note of the points separately for us to check and update.

Thanks

REDACTED

Document 37

From: REDACTED

Sent: 03 March 2022 11:00

To: MinisterELR@gov.scot; REDACTED

Subject: RE: Supps for todays portfolio Qs - 11am Deadline

Hi REDACTED

Suggested response as follows to the question 7 supp, with additional background below it. REDACTED is responding separately on question 5.

7. Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to ensure that farms are at the cutting edge of innovation and technology. ([S6O-00810](#))

Proposed supp: Scottish seed potatoes are of the highest quality and are therefore highly sought after, but the industry continues to suffer as a result of Brexit. While the reported 'Canada style deal' that may be struck with the EU could potentially offer growers some relief, does the Cabinet Secretary agree with me that this is still wholly inadequate in terms of repairing the damage that UKGOV's hard Brexit has done to this highly valued part of Scotland's agricultural sector?

Proposed response: I absolutely share the Member's view. I continue to be extremely disappointed by the UK Government's lack of progress in securing an equivalence agreement with the EU. The loss of the EU and NI markets has been a significant blow to the sector but to be clear, this is a direct result of the UK Government choice to pursue a hard Brexit and their lack of commitment on dynamic alignment with the EU.

The Scottish Government has been and will continue to press UK Government to seek an urgent resolution to the EU decision. Reciprocal trade with the EU must be the priority to once again get these markets open to Scottish seed potato exporters.

A possible opening may exist to explore a Canada-style arrangement with the EU for Scottish seed potatoes but this would need careful consideration and negotiation between the UK Government and European Commission, as the EU has previously made it clear they will not negotiate directly with the Scottish Government on this matter.

Best regards,

REDACTED

REDACTED OUT OF SCOPE

Document 38

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

First Minister,

Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

Noting your response to yesterday's advice, I have undertaken further activity to establish what, if anything, is doable on this matter.

I probed the legal position, and colleagues confirmed two key points:

1. That it would be unlawful for officials not to fulfil their various statutory inspection and certification duties in relation to seed potatoes presented for export; and
2. That we could not amend the devolved law which obliges officials to undertake these checks because this would pertain to a reserved purpose (i.e., sanctions).

With this in mind, I spoke with both companies separately, pressing the moral position, and reiterating our strong expectation (as set out in Ms Forbes' note) that organisations divest from Russia. I stressed that the more stringent and coordinated our approach the greater the impact on the Russian regime.

While I believe our argument resonated with the companies, they mooted a counter moral argument that potatoes are likely to provide sustenance for ordinary Russians and not Putin and his associates.

However, ultimately, both companies' main contention was that, neither UK nor EU countries were legally restricting the export of foodstuffs, including potato products, to Russia in the way we were asking them to voluntarily desist. They understood this was not part of the formal UK sanctions regime and so ultimately could not be enforced by Scottish government.

I stressed the possibility of food items being included in future, formal sanctions (noting reports that Putin is instructing broad restrictions on fertiliser exports) and secondly, stressed the strong public feeling about the need for concerted action (from individuals, governments and businesses alike) to assist Ukraine.

On that note, I enquired about provision of seed to Ukraine and both companies indicated their ongoing commitment to try to deliver contracts, with one of the companies [REDACTED – 33 (1) (b)] indicating that they remain in close contact with Ukrainian customers and want to help them receive and deliver their supply. With Ukrainian food security in mind, I offered the Scottish Government's assistance with delivering consignments to Ukraine.

Scotland's seed potato sector is significant -the second biggest exporter in Europe, after the Netherlands. It is one of Scotland's agriculture's success stories and has developed a global brand and reputation for quality and innovation which has taken decades to establish. However, the industry is suffering due to the overnight loss of the EU market (after EU Exit) and the impact of the pandemic. The loss of the Russian market could have far-reaching consequences for both businesses and the Scottish seed growers that supply them. Throughout the Brexit process, we have established good relationships with producers and I and the Rural Affairs Secretary are now taking forward long-term work to help establish growth and trade.

Due to the perishable nature of the consignment and time pressures that require the seed to be in Russia in time for planting April 2022, both companies are seeking assurance from us today (7/3/22) that officials will carry out the necessary checks and provide the paperwork to allow these exports to take place. In the circumstances, despite having pressed our moral argument, I do not see that we have any alternative option than to proceed.

I appreciate this is not the desired outcome, but is the result of having reached the limits of our legal powers.

Yours sincerely,

MMc

Document 39

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 06 March 2022 19:58

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Hi [REDACTED]

Have enquired (by text to personal numbers) if both company representatives would be free for a call tomorrow, [REDACTED] at 10:30 and [REDACTED] at 11:30. Will keep you posted, [REDACTED] have agreed, nothing back from [REDACTED] yet.

[REDACTED]

Would stress these are just initial thoughts but we can pick up and discuss in more detail tomorrow.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** MinisterELR@gov.scot

Sent: 06 March 2022 19:06

To: firstminister@gov.scot; [REDACTED]; MinisterELR@gov.scot

Cc: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for taking my call. As discussed the Minister would appreciate an early call on this at 8:15. I will send over a diary invite separately including [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and Kate Higgins

Ms McAllan would also like a meeting with the companies involved so that she can make clear why it's essential they withdraw from exporting to the Russian market. I thought two calls on at 10:30 and one at 11:30. If those times do not work we can look at other ones. I would be grateful for briefing for the Minister for these meeting by 9:45

In terms of the early meeting with Mc McAllan would like to discuss:

1. Our SG legal advice **(Can you please provide this to Private office)**
2. UK sanctions compared with EU sanctions and an understanding why food not on UK list and whether it's on EU list (is it on ethical grounds?)
3. what EU doing as regards seed potato exports to Russia
4. what options we might have or be able to offer to the companies as alternatives? Could SG or UKG buy the seed and donate to Ukraine?
5. What do we need to call on UKG to do to ensure this issue doesn't arise again?

Ultimately, the companies need to appreciate the importance of divesting from Russian markets – and how crucial collective action is in this regard. Can briefing for the meeting with the companies include points on this.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Mob:

[REDACTED] Email: CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 06 March 2022 16:48

To: [REDACTED]; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

[REDACTED]

Thanks for this update.

The First Minister has commented that this is very unsatisfactory and has asked for Ministerial engagement with the companies involved to express our concerns and ask that they withdraw from exporting to the Russian market.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

First Minister Private Office | T: [REDACTED] **M:** [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 March 2022 11:38

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Minister,

As we discussed on Wednesday please find attached a briefing setting out the issue regarding two separate intended shipments of seed potatoes from Scotland to Russia. The issue is significant as it requires Scottish Government officials to liaise with the Russian authorities, and to inspect and issue the necessary paperwork in order for this trade to proceed. [REDACTED] Attempts to persuade the companies concerned to withdraw the exports have, at least in one case, met with failure. Due to the perishable nature of the shipment and the need for a quick response I would be grateful for your urgent consideration of this matter. [REDACTED]

Regards

[REDACTED]

SASA

Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
The Scottish Government

Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK

T: [REDACTED] | **M:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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