

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [First Minister](#)  
**To:** [Mckechnie R \(Rachael\)](#); [First Minister](#)  
**Cc:** [Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine](#); [Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture](#); [DG Strategy and External Affairs](#); [Director of Culture and Major Events](#); [REDACTED]; [Lloyd E \(Elizabeth\)](#); [Gollan J \(Jennie\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - IMMEDIATE - Eurovision Song Contest  
**Date:** 30 September 2022 15:53:19

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Hi Rachael,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### [REDACTED] Office of the First Minister

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[REDACTED] 5212 | 07[REDACTED]

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**From:** Mckechnie R (Rachael) <[Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot](mailto:Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 30 September 2022 14:59  
**To:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CabSecCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecCEAC@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <[Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot](mailto:Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot)>; Gollan J (Jennie) <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - IMMEDIATE - Eurovision Song Contest

PS/First Minister

Hi [REDACTED],

As discussed, I would like to see whether FM would be willing to have a short call with Tim Davie, the Director General of the BBC, early next week to support Glasgow's bid to host the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest.

Glasgow are now down to the final [REDACTED] shortlisted cities,[REDACTED]. The BBC made a technical visit to the SEC today which appears to have gone well. A further meeting is planned on Monday to discuss the detailed budget for

the event. The BBC team has indicated that it will score the [REDACTED] cities on Wednesday and Tim Davie will be asked to make a decision on Thursday. A final announcement of the chosen city will then be made on Friday.

[REDACTED].

I'd only envisage it being a quick 15 minute call. Tuesday or Wednesday next week would be ideal if diary space allowed. Officials would provide appropriate briefing.

Many thanks  
Rachael

**Rachael McKechnie [REDACTED]**  
Deputy Director, Major Events and Themed Years  
Scottish Government

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Mobile: 07[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mckechnie R \(Rachael\)](#)  
**To:** [First Minister](#)  
**Cc:** [McAllister C \(Colin\)](#); [Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine](#); [Gollan J \(Jennie\)](#); [Director of Culture and Major Events](#); [REDACTED]; [Lloyd E \(Elizabeth\)](#)  
**Subject:** Briefing - Meeting with BBC Director General on Eurovision Song Contest - 5 October 2022, 14.00-14.30  
**Date:** 04 October 2022 14:27:24  
**Attachments:** [Briefing - Eurovision Song Contest - First Minister meeting with Tim Davie - 5 October 2022.doc](#)

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PS/First Minister,

Please find attached some briefing for FM's meeting with the BBC regarding the Eurovision Song Contest which is scheduled to take place tomorrow at 14.00.

I'll attend as official support. Let me know if you need anything else in the meantime.

Best wishes  
Rachael

**Rachael McKechnie [REDACTED]**  
Deputy Director, Major Events and Themed Years  
Scottish Government

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Mobile: 07[REDACTED]

## BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

### 2023 Eurovision Song Contest – Meeting with BBC Director General

Wednesday 4 October 2022

<b>Key message</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Glasgow would be the ideal host for the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest. Both the city and Scotland as a nation have an excellent track record of delivering major events.</i></li><li><b>[REDACTED]</b></li></ul>
<b>What</b>	<p><i>Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams</i></p> <p><b>Microsoft Teams meeting</b> <b>Join on your computer, mobile app or room device REDACTED</b></p> <p>Meeting ID:[REDACTED] Passcode: [REDACTED]</p>
<b>Why</b>	<p><i>Glasgow is one of the final [REDACTED] shortlisted cities to host the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest. The meeting will demonstrate the bid is supported at the highest political level and also make clear to the BBC the conditions on which Scottish Government funding will be provided.</i></p>
<b>Who</b>	<p><i>Tim Davie – BBC Director General</i> <i>Phil Harrold – Chair of the Eurovision Selection Committee</i></p>
<b>Where</b>	<p><i>Via Microsoft Teams</i></p>
<b>When</b>	<p><i>14.00-14.30</i></p>
<b>Likely themes</b>	<p><i>Scotland's excellence as a major event host</i> <i>Conditions attached to Scottish Government funding for the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest</i></p>
<b>Media</b>	<p><i>Private meeting – no media.</i></p>
<b>Supporting official</b>	<p><i>Rachael McKechnie - 07[REDACTED]</i></p>
<b>Attached documents</b>	<p><i>Annex A: Lines to Take</i> <i>Annex B: Biographies</i></p>

## **Agenda and Summary**

The Scottish Government has initiated this meeting. It will be a short conversation, led by the First Minister. The objectives are:

- **[REDACTED]**.

**[REDACTED]**.

**[REDACTED]**.

**Lines to Take**

- [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED].

**Attendee Biographies**

Tim Davie became Director-General of the BBC on 1 September 2020. He is the 17th Director-General of the Corporation. The Director-General is the Chief Executive Officer of the BBC, its Editor-in-Chief. Tim is the editorial, operational and creative leader of the BBC, with responsibility for a global workforce running services across television, radio and online. Tim will be the final decision maker on which city is selected to host the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest.



Phil Harrold is the chair of the BBC's Eurovision Song Contest selection committee. In his day to day role, Phil is the BBC Company Secretary and also Head of the Office of the Chairman and Director-General. He is responsible for corporate governance across the BBC and manages the activities of the BBC Board, the Executive Committee and all other corporate decision-making bodies across the BBC Group. He is also chief-of-staff to the BBC's Director-General and Chairman.

**From:** [Mckechnie R \(Rachael\)](#)  
**To:** [First Minister](#)  
**Cc:** [Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; DG Strategy and External Affairs; Director of Culture and Major Events; \[REDACTED\]; Gollan J \(Jennie\); McAllister C \(Colin\); Lloyd E \(Elizabeth\)](#)  
**Subject:** ROUTINE: Note of First Minister's meeting with the BBC re: 2023 Eurovision Song Contest - 5 October 2022  
**Date:** 06 October 2022 07:51:52

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PS/First Minister,

Please find a draft note below of the First Minister's meeting with the BBC regarding the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest.

Best wishes  
Rachael

### **Meeting with the BBC regarding Glasgow's bid to become host city for the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest**

**5 October 2022, 14:00-14:10, MS Teams**

#### Attendees

First Minister

Tim Davie, BBC Director General

Phil Harrold, Chair of the BBC Eurovision Selection Committee

Colin McAllister, Chief of Staff to the First Minister

**[REDACTED]**, Private Secretary to the First Minister

Rachael McKechnie, Deputy Director for Major Events and Themed Years

The First Minister opened the meeting by underlining the Scottish Government's support for Glasgow's bid to become the host city of the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest. The First Minister made three points in support of Glasgow's bid:

- Competence: Glasgow has an excellent track record of delivering large scale events in challenging circumstances, including COP26 last year. The SEC is a tried and tested, flexible venue, well able to meet the technical requirements of the Eurovision Song Contest. In addition to its own team, Glasgow will have other national resources to draw on such as EventScotland, Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government. Scotland is collectively tried and tested in putting on events like this.
- Strong links to Ukraine: Scotland has lion's share of the UK's displaced Ukrainians – 20% - and many of these will be staying in Glasgow. Glasgow and Scotland stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and would be able to host an excellent event on behalf of the Ukrainian people.
- **[REDACTED]**.

**Rachael McKechnie [REDACTED]**

Deputy Director, Major Events and Themed Years  
Scottish Government

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