

1. First Minister meeting with Consul General Syed Ahsan Raza Shah: Note of meeting held on 13 November 2014

MEETING BETWEEN THE FIRST MINISTER AND CONSUL GENERAL SYED AHSAN RAZA SHAH: 13 NOVEMBER 2014.

Attendees:

First Minister
Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Consul General Syed Ahsan Raza Shah
Consul Saqlain Javed
[REDACTED] International Division

[OUT OF SCOPE]

The First Minister explained that he wanted to resolve the case of Mr Asghar and asked the Consul General for an update on the situation. The Consul General explained that the medical assessment of Mr Asghar was taking place. He said the Pakistan Government was well aware of the personal interest from the First Minister in the case. The Minister for External Affairs and International Development advised that we would like to see the medical assessment of Mr Asghar completed by the end of November. If not, he understands that the family and their legal team are likely to speak again to the media to put further pressure on the Pakistani authorities to resolve the case.

8. The First Minister further advised that we stand ready to work with Mr Asghar's family and legal team regarding a prisoner transfer. He said that we have made it clear Scotland has the necessary experience in prisoner transfer, a law on the statute book and the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) stands ready to facility.

Action Points

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to continue to liaise with all those involved in mr Asghar's case and to keep Ministers up-to-date.

[REDACTED]

International Division

2. International Division - Cab Sec Monthly Update Report - 2014-07-10 - June Report

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL DIVISION: 10 July 2014

[OUT OF SCOPE]

The Cabinet Secretary is invited to note this progress report on recent and current work being progressed by International Division.

1. **Pakistan consular** – We are continuing to give advice to Mr Yousaf regarding the Mohammed Asghar case. Mr Yousaf met with the Asghar family lawyers on 07 July.

Ian Donaldson

Deputy Director, International Division

10. July 2014

3. International Division - Cab Sec Monthly Update Report - 2014-08-08 - August Report

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL DIVISION: 08 August 2014

[OUT OF SCOPE]

The Cabinet Secretary is invited to note this progress report on recent and current work being progressed by International Division.

2. **Pakistan consular** – We are continuing to give advice to Mr Yousaf regarding the Mohammed Asghar case. Mr Yousaf met with the Asghar family lawyers on 07 July.

[REDACTED] Head of China and The Americas
(On behalf of Ian Donaldson, Deputy Director, International Division)
August 2014

4. MACCS 2014/0008418 - Asylum and persecution – [REDACTED] - 2 April 2014

Local Government and Communities Directorate
Equality, Human Rights and Third Sector Division
T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

By email to:
[REDACTED]
Our ref: 2014/0008418

April 12 2014

You will be aware of the case of Mr Mohammed Asghar, who has been sentenced to death for blasphemy in Pakistan and whose case has received widespread publicity. Mr Asghar previously lived in Edinburgh and as a Government we have made representations to Pakistani authorities about his situation. Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs wrote to the Consul General of Pakistan on 28 January; the First Minister spoke with Governor Sarwar on 29 January and wrote to the Chief Minister of the Punjab and Governor Sarwar on 30 January; and Mr Yousaf spoke with Mr Asghar's daughter on 5 February.

Mr Yousaf has also met with Mr Asghar's lawyer, and with Ansar Burney, a leading Pakistani human rights and civil rights activist.

5. NOTE OF MEETING BETWEEN THE FIRST MINISTER, [REDACTED] AND MR ANWAR ON WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2014.

Attendees:

The First Minister
[REDACTED] Mr Asghar's daughter
Mr Anwar, the Asghar family lawyer
[REDACTED], Scottish Government
[REDACTED] Scottish Government

1. The First Minister met with [REDACTED] Mr Asghar's daughter, and Mr Anwar, the Asghar family lawyer, to discuss Mr Asghar's current situation in Pakistan and to offer the Scottish Government's support.
2. The First Minister offered his and the Scottish Government's on-going support to the Asghar family during this very difficult time. He said how shocked we were to hear the news that Mr Asghar had been shot in prison. He explained the Scottish Government had raised our concerns about Mr Asghar's situation in prison many times over the last 9 months.
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED] explained to the First Minister that her family are under a lot of stress. She said they are frightened to receive phone calls because it could be bad news. They are even more concerned about their father's safety after the shooting and said that if he is not safe in prison how can he be safe anywhere in Pakistan.
5. She said the family had been asked to remain silent for security reasons; however, this has not helped their father as he was shot in prison. She feels that they need to speak out.
6. The First Minister thanked them both for the update on the situation. He reiterated that he and the Scottish Government had been involved in the case since January and had raised Mr Asghar's case personally with Governor Sarwar on a number of occasions and written to him. [REDACTED]
7. The First Minister proposed that under the circumstances he should speak with the Prime Minister and ask him or the Foreign Secretary to personally intervene in the case. He explained that there have been no repercussions against the Pakistani side for their delaying tactics; it was now time to send a clear message to them that if a decision is not made there will be consequences.
8. The First Minister also advised that he would suggest to the Prime Minister that either he or the Foreign Secretary meet the family in London on Friday with Mr Ellwood.

[REDACTED]
International Division

6. Pakistan - Mr Asghar - First Minister's Phone Call with the Prime Minister, 19 November 2014

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 November 2014 17:18

To: Permanent Secretary; DG Strategy and External Affairs; Thomson KAL (Ken);

[REDACTED] **Subject:** First Minister's Phone Call with the Prime Minister, 19 November 2014

[REDACTED] He said that his door and phone were open, and noted good collaboration with the former First Minister on cases like that of Mr Ashgar. He congratulated the First Minister again and the call ended.

[REDACTED]

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister of Scotland

[REDACTED]

7. Pakistan- Mr Asghar- Mohammed Asghar

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 29 October 2014 09:29

To: Minister for Europe and International Development [REDACTED]@gov.scot
[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot >; [REDACTED]@gov.scot >;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot
t[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot
ot **Subject:** RE: Mohammed Asghar

[REDACTED]

In [REDACTED] absence I've spoken to the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.

They're going to do some due diligence around the release of sensitive personal information but seem confident they can share the documentation. I'll let you know when I hear more.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

On Behalf Of Minister for External Affairs and International Development

Sent: 28 October 2014 17:25

To: First Minister; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot >; [REDACTED]@gov.scot >;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot
t[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot
ot

Subject: RE: Mohammed Asghar

[REDACTED]

Mr Yousaf has noted for his information and has asked that we ask for copies of the actual detention documents and it would also be worth Aamer Anwar and Reprieve having a copy to.

Is this something you can facilitate?

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I Private Secretary I Office of Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development I Scottish Government, Room 2N01, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I 0131 244 4820 // [REDACTED]

mea@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Click [here](#) to find out more about supporting Ministers.

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

Sent: 13 October 2014 17:26

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot >; [REDACTED]@gov.scot >;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot
t[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.sc
ot **Subject:** Mohammed Asghar

<< File: Mohammed Asghar.pdf >>

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find the above attached letter addressed to the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs from The Very Revd Dr Graham Forbes (cc'd to the First Minister) regarding Mohammed Asghar

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [REDACTED]

8. Pakistan - Mr Asghar shooting - FMQ brief - 6 November 2014

FMQ TOPICAL PICK: Mohammed Asghar: 6 November

TOP LINE:

We are shocked that Mr Asghar, a vulnerable elderly man who has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, has been the victim of a shooting in prison in Pakistan. Our thoughts are with Mr Asghar and his family at this very difficult time. We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year. We are monitoring the situation closely and are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Asghar's family, his lawyer and Reprieve, the human rights NGO supporting Mr Asghar and family.

KEY POINTS:

1. We remain extremely concerned for Mr Asghar's health and safety at this time and call on the Pakistani authorities to ensure he is appropriately protected.

- Mr Asghar was apparently shot by a member of the elite police force on the morning of 25 September, whilst in his prison cell at Adiala jail in Rawalpindi.
- He suffered an injury to his shoulder. His physical condition has greatly improved and he has been receiving medication. Nonetheless, Mr Asghar continues to suffer from mental illness and, as a result of his age and confinement, a degree of physical frailty.
- He was moved on 16 October to a new location where he is receiving appropriate treatment and is under close protection.
- Mr Asghar was seen on Saturday 4 October by a medical board to assess his mental health. He is due to receive a fuller medical assessment, though no date has been set for this yet. We are pushing the Pakistani authorities for this to be carried out as soon as possible so that the authorities and legal process in Pakistan are able to acknowledge that he is sick.
- I met with Mr Asghar's family on 15 October
- I spoke to the Prime Minister on 16 October and asked that the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary provide assurances to the family that everything will be done to ensure his safety - the Prime Minister wrote to me on 3 November to assure me of the seriousness with which the FCO is dealing with this.

2. We are in close contact with the FCO and the Pakistani authorities regarding the case, as well as the family, and Mr Asghar's legal team, to secure the best possible outcome.

- The Scottish Government has repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year. This has included writing to the Pakistani Government and four separate meetings with Governor Sarwar.
- The Pakistani authorities are committed to carrying out a full medical assessment. Governor Sarwar was reported (31 October) as saying that they are "giving this matter a great deal of interest and care" and that legal experts were looking at resolving the case to the satisfaction of Mr Asghar's family. Scottish Government officials continue to liaise with the Pakistani authorities.
- The British High Commissioner continues to meet with both the Chief Minister and the Governor of the to discuss Mr Asghar's situation, including his security and sentence.
- The FCO and Scottish Government are liaising with Mr Asghar's family here in Scotland and his wife who is in Pakistan. I met his daughter on 15 October.
- We will continue to press the Pakistani authorities to protect Mr Asghar and ensure that his mental health is taken into consideration in the legal process.

3. Blasphemy and the Death Penalty in Pakistan

- Dysfunction in Pakistan's rule of law system, coupled with the weak legislation, leaves the way open for misuse of the blasphemy laws to settle vendettas or resolve legal disputes.
- Mr Asghar was sentenced to death in Pakistan on 23 January this year under blasphemy laws. The charges against him were brought by a neighbour who was in a dispute with him.
- Mr Asghar is a vulnerable individual. He has a history of mental illness and his diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia (a diagnosis made in Edinburgh) was not taken into account during his trial.
- The Scottish Government strongly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances.

This continues to be a very sensitive issue and Mr Asghar's current whereabouts should not be mentioned, nor should the fact that the Prime Minister spoke to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 28 October.

[REDACTED] International Division, Ext 45021

9. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - Briefing for the First Minister's call with David Cameron - 16 October 2014

**BRIEFING FOR FIRST MINISTER'S CALL WITH DAVID CAMERON
THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2014.**

Key Message	We are increasingly concerned with Mr Asghar's plight and call on the PM (or Foreign Secretary) to personally intervene with the Pakistani authorities on the issue.
Who	Prime Minister, David Cameron
What	Phone call.
Why	To discuss Mr Asghar's current situation and urge more robust action from the UK Government.
Where	
When	Thursday 16 October at 7.00 p.m.
Supporting Officials	[REDACTED] International Division, Ext: [REDACTED] and Mobile: [REDACTED]
Attached documents	Annex A: Summary Note and discussion points. Annex B: Ministerial engagement since Mr Asghar was shot Annex C: [REDACTED] Annex D: [REDACTED]

ANNEX A

SUMMARY PAGE

Purpose of phone call

- To reiterate the Scottish Government's grave concern for Mr Asghar and to urge more robust intervention on the part of the UK Government.

Discussion Points

- [REDACTED]

ANNEX B

Ministerial engagement since Mr Asghar was shot in prison.

- The Minister for External Affairs and International Development wrote to Aizaz Ahmed Chaudry, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, on Friday **26 September**.
- The Minister for External Affairs and International Development spoke with Governor Sarwar on **26 September**.
- The Minister for External Affairs and International Development spoke with [REDACTED] (Daughter of Mr Asghar) on **29 September**.
- The First Minister and the Minister for External Affairs and International Development met with Mr Anwar on Tuesday **30 September** to discuss what help the Scottish Government could give. The First Minister agreed to call the Punjab authorities when necessary.

- The Minister for External Affairs and International Development answered a Parliamentary Question regarding Mr Asghar's situation on **1 October**.
- The Minister for External Affairs and International Development spoke with Mr Ellwood, the FCO Minister, on Thursday **2 October**
- The Minister for External Affairs and International Development spoke with the British High Commissioner in Pakistan on Wednesday **8 October** to discuss Mr Asghar's current situation.
- The First Minister met Mr Anwar and [REDACTED] on **15 October** to discuss progress with the case. The First Minister committed to speaking to the Prime Minister directly on the issue. A call has been arranged for **16 October**.

ANNEX C

[REDACTED]

ANNEX D

[REDACTED]

10. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - Briefing for the Minister for External Affairs and International Development for meeting with Reprieve on 7 July 2014
MEETING WITH REPRIEVE ON MONDAY 7 JULY 2014 TO UPDATE ON MOHAMMED ASGHAR CASE.

TIMELINE

30 January: First Minister wrote to Governor Sarwar.

19 February: Minister for External Affairs and International Development met with Mr Asghar's family.

20 February: Minister for External Affairs and International Development met with Mr Ansar Birney.

13 March: Minister for External Affairs and International Development wrote to Governor Sarwar.

21 May: First Minister wrote to Governor Sarwar

FIRST MINISTER'S LETTER TO GOVERNOR SARWAR ON 30 JANUARY

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
First Minister of Scotland
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH13DG
T: [REDACTED]

Governor Mohammed Sarwar
Governor's House
Lahore
Pakistan

30 January 2014

Dear Governor Sarwar

I was grateful for our discussion yesterday on the worrying case of Mohammed Asghar. As I explained, I, along with many people in Scotland, am deeply concerned about Mr Asghar's situation. He is a vulnerable individual, with a history of mental illness and poor health. I therefore write to ask that the relevant authorities in Pakistan take all necessary steps to ensure Mr Asghar's safety and security.

I would like to draw attention to the concerns expressed publicly by Mr Asghar's former legal representatives ([REDACTED], JPP and the NGO Reprieve) about this case, including the evidence presented in relation to Mr Asghar's state of health.

Mr Asghar suffered a stroke in 2000, which has had a severe impact on his physical and mental health. Following the stroke he suffered from depression, grandiose and persecutory delusions, and auditory hallucinations. In 2010 Mr Asghar was diagnosed with late onset Paranoid Schizophrenia, and detained under the Mental Health Act.

[REDACTED], the psychiatrist and senior consultant who supervised Mr Asghar's treatment at the time, has completed an affidavit regarding his medical condition. I have enclosed a copy for your information. From the affidavit you will see that Mr Asghar remained seriously ill, and went on hunger strike. He was treated with antipsychotic drugs, and [REDACTED] has stated that he will need to take antipsychotics for the rest of his life. [REDACTED] feels it is unlikely that Mr Asghar continued to take this essential medication in Pakistan. It is [REDACTED] opinion that the behaviour which resulted in Mr Asghar's conviction is entirely consistent with a worsening of his schizophrenia. As a mental health professional, she is extremely concerned about his wellbeing in prison, where he has not been receiving

appropriate treatment and his condition will continue to deteriorate. There is also a serious possibility that Mr Asghar could attempt to commit suicide in prison, as indeed he has done before.

As you will appreciate, I feel it is imperative that Mr Asghar's medical situation is taken into account, and that everything possible is done to ensure that this very ill man is able to return to the medical care that he needs. I have written in the same terms to Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

ALEX

11. MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2014 BETWEEN MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERS OF MR MOHAMMED ASGHAR'S FAMILY AND [REDACTED] FROM REPRIEVE.

Attendees

Mr Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development
[REDACTED], Death Penalty Caseworker, Reprieve
Members of Mr Asghar's family

1. The Minister thanked the family for meeting with him. He expressed his and the Scottish Government's full support to them and their father. He also praised them on their courage throughout this three year ordeal.
2. The Minister was advised that Mrs Asghar was still in Pakistan and was allowed to visit her husband every Thursday for one hour. His daughters have also visited; the last visit was in December.
3. The Minister was advised that Mr Asghar's appeal process could take between 3 and 5 years. [REDACTED], explained:
 - Mr Asghar's doctor [REDACTED], has submitted an affidavit summarising Mr Asghar's mental health history and his NHS records;
 - There is provision in Pakistan law for prisoners to have their sentence suspended on medical grounds pending the outcome of their appeal, this is like bail, and restrictions can be imposed;
 - It can take at least 6 months before Mr Asghar's litigation on suspension of sentence comes before a judge;
 - [REDACTED] explained that in 2010 certain powers were transferred from the Pakistani Federal Government to State Governments and this included issues around mental health;

[REDACTED] also explained that Governor Sarwar has the power to pardon Mr Asghar; Discussions did take place with one of the Deputy Prosecutor Generals of the Punjab and the Sub – Committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament wrote to the Prosecutor General about Mr Asghar's case.

Medical issues

4. [REDACTED]

Security

5. The family advised that Mr Asghar has faced a number of security issues. Given the sensitivity of blasphemy cases no details were released about Mr Asghar's case;

- Once his case was in court information got out;
- When he was in hospital for treatment a crowd demonstrated outside;
- He has had extra security guards posted at his cell in the past;
- He is now sharing a cell with three other men, not sure if this is ideal;

6. The family advised that they are in contact with the FCO and get calls on a regular basis. Also Mr Asghar's lawyer and [REDACTED] are meeting with [REDACTED] from the British High Commission tomorrow in London to discuss the case.

Action Points

7. [REDACTED]will:
- Send a copy of the affidavit of [REDACTED];
 - Confirm the powers Governor Sarwar has regarding pardoning prisoners;
 - Details of the Pakistani psychiatrist.
8. The Minister agreed to:
- Call Governor Sarwar's office to discuss access by a psychiatrist to assess Mr Asghar;
 - Speak with the Scotland Office Minister to discuss the case and what further steps can be taken by both Governments.
 - Also suggest Mr Asghar's case is brought up during the upcoming visit to the UK by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.
 - Speak with Sarah Belal, Mr Asghar's lawyer to discuss his security and any other issues not covered by this meeting

[REDACTED]

19. February 2014.

13. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - Briefing note dated 18 December ahead of the release of the medical assessment

12. BRIEFING NOTE ON MR ASGHAR - FOR INFORMATION

We have been advised that Mr Asghar's medical assessment was supposed to take place today (Thursday 18 December). We are unsure when the results of the assessment will be released by the Pakistani authorities.

The three possible outcomes Mr Asghar's legal team (Reprieve) are working on at the present time are:

- **The medical assessment concludes and confirms that Mr Asghar suffers from severe mental illness;**
- **The medical assessment is not completed; and**
- **The medical assessment is completed but does not accurately reflect Mr Asghar's severe mental illness.**

[REDACTED]

We should be prepared to issue media lines when the outcome of the medical assessment is released. I can offer the following:

The Scottish Government welcomes the outcome of Mr Asghar's medical assessment in which is confirms that he is mentally ill. We call on the Pakistani authorities to suspend Mr Asghar's sentence and send him home to his family here in Scotland.

The Scottish Government is very disappointed that Mr Asghar's medical assessment has concluded that he is not mentally ill. We dispute this and have evidence to show that he has been suffering from severe mental health issues for a number of years.

13. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - Cabinet Secretary for Justice meeting with Minister for External Affairs and International Development on 14 August 2014

BRIEFING NOTE FOR CABINET SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE.

Meeting with Minister for External Affairs and International Development and Mr Aamer Anwar.

Thursday 14 August 2014.

Key Message	The Scottish Government remains opposed to the death penalty.
Who	Minister for External Affairs and International Development and Mr Aamer Anwar. Mr Anwar is representing the Asghar family in Scotland.
What	Meeting.
Why	To discuss the case of Mr Mohammed Asghar.
Where	Room T3.02, Parliament
When	10.45 a.m. on Thursday 14 August.
Official(s) attending	[REDACTED]
Annexes	Annex A: Summary Page and background. Annex B: [REDACTED]

ANNEX A

SUMMARY PAGE

Purpose of meeting:

- To discuss the case of Mr Mohammed Asghar who is in prison in Pakistan.

Background

- Mr Asghar was sentenced to death in Pakistan on 23 January this year under their blasphemy laws.

- Mr Asghar is a Scot and has been suffering from mental health issues for some time.
- Mr Asghar suffered a stroke in 2000, which has had a severe impact on his physical and mental health. Following the stroke he suffered from depression, grandiose and persecutory delusions, and auditory hallucinations. In 2010 Mr Asghar was diagnosed with late onset Paranoid Schizophrenia, and detained under the Mental Health Act.
- We remain deeply concerned about Mr Asghar’s welfare. The information we have received is he is not getting access to the medial support that he requires given his state of health.
- Reprieve and Mr Asghar’s legal team in Pakistan have been asking for an independent mental health assessment to be undertaken on Mr Asghar. They have a prominent Pakistani doctor, [REDACTED], who has agreed to carry out the assessment. Mr Asghar’s psychiatrist and senior consultant [REDACTED]has also agreed to travel to Pakistan if necessary.
- [REDACTED]
- The Scottish Government has made the following representations to the Pakistani authorities regarding this case:
 - the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs wrote to the Consul General of Pakistan on 28 January;
 - the First Minister spoke with Governor Sarwar on 29 January and wrote to the Chief Minister of the Punjab and Governor Sarwar on 30 January;
 - Minister for External Affairs and International Development spoke with Mr Asghar’s daughter on 5 February;
 - Minister for External Affairs and International Development met with Reprieve and representatives of Mr Asghar’s family on 18 February to get an update on the case;
 - Minister for External Affairs and International Development wrote to Governor Sarwar on 13 March;
 - First Minister wrote to Governor Sarwar on 21 May and;
 - Minister for External Affairs and International Development wrote to Governor Sarwar on 15 July;

ANNEX B

[REDACTED]

14. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - Email to the FCO re FM meeting with family

From: [REDACTED]@fco.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@fco.gsi.gov.uk;

Sent: 15 October 2014 14:46

To: [REDACTED]@scotland@gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED]@scotland@gsi.gov.uk

Cc: [REDACTED]@scotland@gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@scotland@gsi.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Official Sensitive: Mohammed Asghar - FM meeting with family today

Thanks for the readout [REDACTED], I've forwarded it round, including [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is the lead desk officer on this case in Consular Directorate, copying her in.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Deputy Head - Bilateral & Communications | Pakistan Team
Pakistan & Afghanistan Department | Foreign & Commonwealth Office | Room 2/128, Old Admiralty Building, London, SW1A 2PA
Echo [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@scotland@gsi.gov.uk

Sent: 15 October 2014 14:11

To: [REDACTED] (Sensitive)

Subject: Official Sensitive: Mohammed Asghar - FM meeting with family today

Importance: High

[REDACTED],

Apologies, I'm afraid I can't locate your number.

I wanted to let you know that the FM has today met with Mr Asghar's family and legal representative in the UK to discuss progress with the case.

You'll wish to be aware that the FM has committed to speaking to the PM on this issue (and this issue only) tomorrow.

It's entirely likely that the family's lawyer will allude to this call in the broadcast media today so I was keen to ensure you were aware in advance of that.

Most grateful if [REDACTED] at No 10 could also be informed – happy to do that directly if preferable, but would be grateful for contact details.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] International Strategy and Reputation
Area 3C North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
T: [REDACTED] E: [REDACTED]@scotland@gsi.gov.uk

Please note that I finish at 12.30 pm on Mondays and 2.30 pm on Fridays.

15. PS/Minister for External Affairs and International Development

MR ASGHAR CASE: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

I thought it would be useful for the Minister if I set out what may happen next regarding Mr Asghar's case once his medical assessment has been completed and the various options open to the legal team.

Medical Assessment

The Minister is aware that Mr Asghar is currently undergoing a medical assessment at the [REDACTED] in Lahore. The Pakistani authorities have estimated the assessment could take up to 2 months. At the present time we still don't have a definite timeline when the medical assessment will be completed.

Reprivee has advised that they have not been given any information by the Pakistani authorities about any assessments completed to date. They have filed a litigation asking for medical records and had a hearing this week so we may know a bit more after that.

We understand Mr Asghar will stay at the Institute once the medical assessment is completed and not return to prison.

The Legal Route

[REDACTED]

Prisoner Transfer

Mr Asghar's legal team think that they should look at executive action before going back to Court. They advise that the quickest type of executive action will be suspension of sentence on medical grounds given that lengthy diplomatic negotiations about the meaning of various provisions of the Transfer Agreement would be necessary before the Agreement could be implemented in this case.

Possible visit to Pakistan by Mr Yousaf

The Minister is aware of the recent advice from the FCO regarding travelling to Pakistan to discuss Mr Asghar's case. Mr Asghar's legal team have also advised me that they think that it would be best for the Minister not to travel to Pakistan until we know the outcome of the medical assessment.

[REDACTED]

If Mr Asghar's medical assessment does conclude that he is mentally ill then it may be helpful for the Minister to travel to Pakistan with the objective of ensuring that the Punjab authorities use this as a catalyst to grant the s.401 application.

If the medical assessment concludes Mr Asghar is not mentally ill then we would need to discuss with the FCO and Mr Asghar's legal team what the next steps are and if a visit by the Minister would be helpful

It should be noted that this advice is dependent on the Pakistani authorities agreeing and making decisions.

We are keeping in touch with Mr Asghar's legal team and the FCO and will advise the Minister of any further developments.

[REDACTED]

20 November 2014

16. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - media lines for clearance: Sunday Mail on 12 October 2014

From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk> On Behalf Of Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Sent: 10 October 2014 16:08
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs
<CabinetSecretaryforCulture@scotland.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk> [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk> [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk> Minister for External Affairs and International Development [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Lines for clearance: Sunday Mail - Mr Asghar

[REDACTED],

Mr Yousaf has advised he is content to clear.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary | Minister for External Affairs and International Development
I Telephone: [REDACTED] I Blackberry: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2014 15:55
To: Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: Lines for clearance: Sunday Mail - Mr Asghar

Hello [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Please find below a suggested response for Mr Yousaf's clearance. It is for the Sunday Mail, and is essentially lines which issued last week to the BBC, following the First Minister's conversation with Aamer Anwar.

We would also advise the reporter we will send on additional comment to her tomorrow if we can, given this is an on-going situation.

Grateful if you could please let me know as soon as possible if Mr Yousaf is content. I have copied in Ms Hyslop's office for information.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government remains concerned about Mr Asghar. The First Minister has been involved in this matter for many months, first raising the issue with the Governor of Punjab, Mohammed Sarwar on the 29th January. Mr Salmond also had a helpful and constructive meeting with Mr Asghar's lawyer, Aamer Anwar. We have had direct conversations with the Government of Punjab on our concerns regarding Mr Asghar's safety and medical wellbeing. We are monitoring the situation closely and are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family. We stand ready to do whatever we can to support the wishes of the Asghar family and assist with the safety, security and wellbeing of Mr Asghar.”

The Sunday Mail's enquiry is copied below for info.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Enquiry:

Need some comment from the First Minister on the case of Mohammad Asghar - the 70-year-old man from Edinburgh who's currently in jail in Pakistan having been charged with blasphemy.

I've been working with the family and I'm hoping the FM will be able to give us something for this weekend's paper on progress in working to have this man released.

I understand he has offered to personally intervene. What detail can he tell us about this and what progress been made. Has he raised it with the Punjab governor, Mohammed Sarwar?

Is the First Minister planning to be in contact with the family?

17. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - media lines from the Scottish Government re First Minister call with the Prime Minister - 17 October 2014

From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2014 10:25
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>Permanent Secretary; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Minister for External Affairs and International Development [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>Communications CEA [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Update: Mohammed Asghar Case:

Thank you, [REDACTED]. I will send to BBC now.
[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED].
Sent: 17 October 2014 10:22
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; Minister for External Affairs and International Development; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Subject: RE: Update: Mohammed Asghar Case:

Content, [REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED].
Sent: 17 October 2014 10:21
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; Minister for External Affairs and International Development; Communications CEA [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Subject: RE: Update: Mohammed Asghar Case:

Thanks, [REDACTED]..
Spads: Are you content?
[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Sent: 17 October 2014 10:20
To: Communications First Minister; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Permanent Secretary; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs;

Minister for External Affairs and International Development; Communications CEA;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Subject: RE: Update: Mohammed Asghar Case:

[REDACTED].
We are happy with this.

[REDACTED].
From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; On Behalf Of Communications First Minister
Sent: 17 October 2014 10:13
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; First Minister; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Permanent Secretary; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Special Adviser
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; Minister for External Affairs and International
Development; Communications CEA; Communications First Minister;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Subject: RE: Update: Mohammed Asghar Case:

Bringing the two copylists on this together.
As mentioned the BBC are looking for a line on the outcome of this call.
I would suggest:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“A telephone call between the First Minister and the Prime Minister took place last night and the First Minister continued to press for action to speed up resolution around this case. The First Minister reiterated that the Scottish Government will continue to do whatever can be done to support the wishes of the Asghar family and assist with the safety, security and wellbeing of Mr Asghar.”

Grateful for thoughts.

[REDACTED].
From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Sent: 17 October 2014 09:54
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; First Minister
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; Minister for External Affairs and International
Development; Mochrie Z (Zoe); Communications CEA; Communications First Minister;
[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>;
Subject: RE: Update: Mohammed Asghar Case:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [REDACTED]
| M: [REDACTED]

*In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World
To find out more click below*

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 October 2014 08:04

To: First Minister

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; Minister for External Affairs and International Development; Mochrie Z (Zoe); Communications CEA; Communications First Minister; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser; Anderson A (Alexander); Griffin J (Joe); Tully H (Heather); McMillan C (Craig)

Subject: Update: Mohammed Asghar Case:

PS/Ministers

The following is an update on Mr Asghar:

- We have been advised that Mr Asghar was been taken by air from Rawalpindi to the Lahore ysterday.
- We understand from [REDACTED], that a team of psychiatrists and psychologists were carrying out an initial assessment for Mr Asghar admission to the Punjab Institute for Mental Health .
- The Secretary of Health provide a cardiologist, pulmonologist and physician to attend to Mr Asghar's injuries from the attack.
- Mr Asghar was being held in what was described as a 'sub-jail' which means that prison rules apply, including visiting rights.
- There was a commitment from the Pakistani authorities that Mrs Asghar and Consular staff would have access to Mr Asghar, there appears to be some confusion on their side what this means. Discussions are taking place with Mrs Asghar about visits.

CALL WITH THE PM

Can someone give me a read out of the call between the First Minister and the Prime Minister last night.

[REDACTED],

18. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - Briefing for the meeting between the First Minister and Mr Anwar on 30 September 2014
BRIEFING NOTE FOR FIRST MINISTER.

MEETING WITH MR AAMER ANWAR

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

Key Message	We remain extremely concerned about Mr Asghar and are doing all we can to help.
Who	Mr Aamer Anwar, Scottish lawyer for Mr Asghar, and Minister for External Affairs and International Development.
What	Meeting.
Why	To discuss aspects of the Mr Mohammed Asghar case.
Where	Bute House.
When	Tuesday 30 September at 6.30 p.m.
Supporting Officials	[REDACTED], International Division, Ext: [REDACTED], and Mobile: [REDACTED],
Attached documents	Annex A: Summary Note and discussion points. Annex B: Ministerial activities since Mr Asghar was shot. Annex C: List of representations and meeting undertaken by Scottish ministers.

ANNEX A
SUMMARY PAGE

Purpose of Meeting

- Opportunity to discuss the current situation regarding Mr Asghar and what further help the Scottish Government could give.

What happened to Mr Asghar in prison

- Mr Asghar was apparently shot by a member of the elite police force on the morning of 25th September, whilst in his prison cell at [REDACTED]. Another prisoner was killed in the attack.
- Mr Asghar suffered a number of injuries. His physical condition is stable and he is conscious and talking and remains under close protection.

Discussion Points

- Welcome the opportunity to discuss the latest situation regarding Mr Asghar.
- Mr Anwar has called on the UK Government to ask the Pakistani Prime Minister to release Mr Asghar. He said on Friday:

“It is unacceptable that this poor, old, seriously ill man is sat in a prison presently in a hospital - and is facing death. He needs to come home to his family.”

- We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar’s condition and safety in prison over the last year.
- We are monitoring the situation closely and have been in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Asghar’s family and Reprieve.
- The Scottish Government have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar’s condition and safety in prison over the last year. The First Minister has met and written to Governor Sarwar twice.
- The latest contact we have had with the Pakistan Government was a letter from the Minister for External Affairs and International Development to Mr Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, on Friday 26 September expressing our concerns regarding Mr Asghar’s health and safety. We requested assurances to:

Guarantee Mr Asghar’s safety and security whilst in custody;

Guarantee access to Dr [REDACTED], to conduct a psychiatric Assessment of Mr Asghar; and

A commitment to serious discussions with all those concerned including the Asghar family, the UK and Scottish Governments and the Pakistani Judicial authorities to find a solution in which Mr Asghar can return to Scotland.

- UK Consular staff have continued to visit Mr Asghar since he was shot on Thursday. They visited him today and have been advised that Mr Asghar will stay in hospital for the next 72 hours.
- The British High Commissioner will be in Lahore on Thursday and Friday this week to hold high-level meetings with the Punjab Government to discuss the next steps on where Mr Asghar should be sent once discharged from hospital.
- We will continue to push the Pakistani authorities to agree to an independent psychiatric assessment of Mr Asghar by [REDACTED]. We believe this is something that the Pakistani authorities should be able to do and quickly.

- An independent psychiatric assessment of Mr Asghar is important for his current appeal, it should show that he is mentally ill and should not have been convicted and therefore should be released.
- There is a **Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA)** between the UK and Pakistan. It lapsed but was reintroduced in July this year.
- A PTA should be discussed with the Pakistani authorities but the main focus should be the independent psychiatric assessment.
- As far as we are aware, the key difficulty with this approach is that if the PTA process is begun, the appeal process lapses. If the PTA is rejected, a fresh appeal will need to be lodged, and the length of time Mr Asghar stays in prison is extended.
- As the PTA process needs to be instigated by the prisoner (through his legal team) there is little more that we can do to influence this process, beyond that which we have already done i.e. signalling that such a request would be considered favourably in Scotland.

ANNEX B

Ministerial Activities Involving the Asghar Shooting - Mr Humza Yousaf MSP

Thursday, 25 September 2014

12:45 - Phone Call with Aamer Anwar (Family lawyer)

15:30 – STV Media Bid

17:10 – BBC Reporting Scotland Media Bid

20:00 – Call with Pakistan Consul General

Readout: [REDACTED]

Friday, 26 September 2014

10:00 – Call with Governor Sarwar

Readout: [REDACTED Mr Yousaf reiterated his extreme concern at the lack of provisions for Mr Asghar's safety and security and also his deep disappointment that there was apparently no movement towards granting Mr Asghar the proper psychiatric assessment. Governor Sarwar suggested that Mr Yousaf and Aamer Anwar came to Pakistan where he would arrange the appropriate meetings with the Punjab Regional Authorities to take forward matters that Mr Yousaf was discussing with his officials (SG) and the family's legal representatives (Relieve). This is still under consideration.

19:00 - Letter issued to Pakistan Foreign Secretary

CC: Pakistan Consul General in Glasgow

CC: Governor Sarwar of the Punjab Region

CC: Tobias Ellwood MP, UK PUS for the FCO (Responsibility for Pakistan)

CC: Catherine Higham (Relieve)

CC: Jasmine Rana (Daughter of Mr Asghar)

Monday, 29 September 2014

14:30 – Call with [REDACTED]. (Reprieve)

Readout: Their immediate concern was that Mr Asghar is not sent back to prison, he was due to be sent back on Monday, 29 September 2014 but this has not happened due to the state of his health. [REDACTED]. also updated the Minister on fact that on Sunday, 28 September 2014 Mr Asghar attempted to escape the hospital due to fear of being returned to prison.

Their priorities remain the same: Looking for the assurance of Mr Asghar's safety - which cannot be guaranteed in [REDACTED]. Pakistan - and continuing to press for Mr Asghar to have a psychiatric assessment by [REDACTED]. Reprieve thanked the Scottish Government for their letter to the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and asked that we continue to press and lobby both the Government of Pakistan and the UK Government.

15:00 – Call with [REDACTED]. (FCO Director of Consular Services)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also confirmed that the Prime Minister had now personally intervened with a letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Mr Yousaf pushed for information regarding any lobbying of the Government of Pakistan by the UK Government regarding suspension of sentence on medical grounds and prisoner transfer. [REDACTED]

17:30 – Call with [REDACTED]. (Daughter of Mr Asghar)

Readout: [REDACTED]. appreciated the involvement of the Scottish Government [REDACTED]. The family had decided to go public after the incident (Prison Shooting of Thursday, 25 September 2014) as the quiet approach was clearly not having the desired effect. She reiterated that the Prime Minister should personally intervene.

ANNEX C

List of Ministerial representations and meetings

- First Minister spoke to Baroness Warsi, the Foreign Office Minister on 28 January to ensure that we were coordinating our efforts and with the Governor of the Punjab 29 January.
- The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs wrote to the Pakistan Consul General on 28 January.
- The First Minister wrote to the Governor of the Punjab and the Chief Minister on 30 January.
- Mr Yousaf spoke to Mr Asghar's daughter on 5 February.
- Mr Yousaf meet with Mr Asghar's family on 18 February.
- First Minister and Mr Yousaf met with [REDACTED]., Pakistan Human Rights activist, on 20 February.
- Mr Yousaf wrote to Governor Sarwar on 13 March regarding access being denied by a leading psychiatrist.
- First Minister and Mr Yousaf meet with Governor Sarwar on 20 March.

- First Minister wrote to Governor Sarwar on 21 May.
- Mr Yousaf wrote to Governor Sarwar in July.

19. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - emails re press lines with No 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2014 17:56
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: MR ASGHAR CASE - DRAFT LINES [UNCLASSIFIED]

Okay thanks, do you have a readout of the piece to camera? Helpful to know what he said. Do FCO know he has done an interview?

From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Sent: 25 September 2014 17:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: MR ASGHAR CASE - DRAFT LINES [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

I can confirm that the Minister (Mr Humza Yousaf) did a piece to camera for BBC Reporting Scotland. We also issued a statement to The Scotsman newspaper as a "Scottish Government spokesperson".

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2014 17:45
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: MR ASGHAR CASE - DRAFT LINES [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks for this [REDACTED],

Can I check if you have any plans to put a Minister up or will you just issue this statement for any subsequent enquiries?

Also, can I check which Minister the statement is in the name of?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Sent: 25 September 2014 17:37
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: MR ASGHAR CASE - DRAFT LINES

As discussed here are the lines my minister has agreed.

"The Scottish Government remains concerned about Mr Asghar and our thoughts are with his family. We are monitoring the situation closely and are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family."

BBC Reporting Scotland have made a bid for our Minister to give them a statement which he has done.

[REDACTED]

International Policy Adviser South East Asia, Pakistan, Asia Pacific and Africa

Scottish Government International Division

3-C North Victoria Quay

Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Tele: [REDACTED]

20. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - FMQ briefing as at 25 September 2014

FMQ TOPICAL PICK: Mohammed Asghar

TOP LINE:

We are shocked that Mr Asghar, a vulnerable elderly man who has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, has been the victim of a shooting in prison in Pakistan. Our thoughts are with Mr Asghar's family at this very difficult time.

We are concerned about Mr Asghar's safety and call on the Pakistani authorities to ensure he is protected while he is in hospital receiving treatment.

We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year.

We are monitoring the situation closely and are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family.

KEY POINTS:

1. Current situation

- We understand that at 8.30 a.m. this morning a member of the elite police force shot Mr Asghar. We believe he was shot in the shoulder or in the back. We have no details on the circumstances however, we have been told Mr Asghar was not having an episode and was not a threat to staff.
- British High Commission staff have visited Mr Asghar at the [REDACTED] hospital in Rawalpindi. He is under close protection.
- Mr Asghar is in intensive care but is conscious and talking.
- The FCO are liaising with Mr Asghar's daughter here in Scotland and are trying to speak with his wife who is in Pakistan.
- Reprieve, the NGO working with the family on Mr Asghar's release, have asked that once Mr Asghar is well enough he be moved to a military hospital which will be more secure.
- Reprieve have asked the British High Commission for security for Mr Asghar's lawyers in Pakistan

2. We have working closely with the FCO to ensure that we have a coordinated approach which can lead to the best possible outcome for Mr Asghar.

- The scale of dysfunction in Pakistan's rule of law system, coupled with the weak legislation, leaves the way open for misuse of the blasphemy laws to bypass existing laws and settle vendettas or resolve legal disputes.
- I spoke to Baroness Warsi, the Foreign Office Minister on 28 January to ensure that we were coordinating our efforts and with the Governor of the Punjab 29 January
- The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs wrote to the Pakistan Consul General on 28 January
- I wrote to the Governor of the Punjab and the Chief Minister on 30 January
- The UK Government have made representations to the Government of Pakistan and have met the Governor and Chief Minister of the Punjab
- Mr Asghar's lawyers are in close contact with him and his family in Scotland
- Mr Yousaf spoke to his daughter on 5 February
- Mr Yousaf meet with Mr Asghar's family on 18 February
- First Minister meet with Mr Burney on 20 February.
- Mr Yousaf wrote to Governor Sarwar on 13 March regarding access being denied by a leading psychiatrist.

- First Minister and Mr Yousaf meet with Governor Sarwar on 20 March.
- First Minister wrote to Governor Sarwar on 21 May.
- Mr Yousaf wrote to Governor Sarwar in July.

3. We have major concerns about this case.

- The Scottish Government strongly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances
- Mr Asghar is a vulnerable individual. He has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health
- We are concerned about his health and mental state which were not taken into consideration in the trial
- Minister for External Affairs and International Development meet with Reprieve and Mr Asghar's family in March to get an update on the case and Mr Asghar's current condition.

4. Concerns for his health.

- Mr Asghar has suffered from mental health difficulties for some time
- We are also concerned that he does not have access to the medical support that he requires and given his state of health, through our representations we are asking the Pakistan authorities to ensure he has access to medical support.

This continues to be a very sensitive issue
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
International Division
Ext [REDACTED]

21. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - FMQ briefing as at 30 September 2014

FMQ TOPICAL PICK: Mohammed Asghar

TOP LINE:

We are shocked that Mr Asghar, a vulnerable elderly man who has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, has been the victim of a shooting in prison in Pakistan. Our thoughts are with Mr Asghar's family at this very difficult time.

We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year.

We are monitoring the situation closely and are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Asghar's family and Reprieve, the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family.

KEY POINTS:

1. We are extremely concerned for Mr Asghar's health and safety at this time and call on the Pakistani authorities to ensure he is appropriately protected.

- Mr Asghar was apparently shot by a member of the elite police force on the morning of 25th September, whilst in his prison cell at [REDACTED]
- He suffered an injury to his shoulder. His physical condition is stable and he is conscious and talking and remains under close protection.
- Nonetheless, Mr Asghar continues to suffer from mental illness and, as a result of his age and confinement, a degree of physical frailty.
- We are also concerned that he does not have access to the medical support that he requires and given his state of health, through our representations we are asking the Pakistan authorities to ensure he has access to medical support.
- Mr Yousaf wrote to Aizaz Ahmed Chaudry, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, on Friday 26 September to request assurances on the following:
 - a guarantee on Mr Asghar's safety and security whilst in custody;
 - guaranteed access for an independent psychiatric assessment of Mr Asghar; and
 - a commitment on serious discussions on finding a solution whereby Mr Asghar can return to Scotland.

2. We are in close contact with the FCO and the Pakistani authorities regarding the case, as well as the family, and Mr Asghar's legal team, to secure the best possible outcome.

- The Scottish Government has repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year. This has included writing to the Pakistani Government and four separate meetings with Governor Sarwar.
- Scottish Government officials continue to liaise with the FCO.
- UK Consular staff have **lobbied today** the Special Secretary (Prisons), Punjab Home Department, on transferring Mr Asghar to another prison and to ask for the results of the Inquiry Team's Report into what happened. The Special Secretary said he would not be considering this until nearer the time when Mr Asghar would be discharged from hospital, but that any such request would have to come from either Mr Asghar or his legal representatives. Reprieve are considering. The FCO are also continuing to press for a copy of the Inquiry Committee's report – since the Special Secretary was not able to give this.
- British High Commission staff have continued to visit Mr Asghar in hospital since he was admitted on Friday. He remains in hospital and we understand he was visited today by Consular staff. He also remains under close protection.

- The FCO are liaising with Mr Asghar's daughter here in Scotland and his wife who is in Pakistan. The Minister for External Affairs and International Development spoke with Mr Asghar's daughter on Monday 29 September.

3. Blasphemy and the Death Penalty in Pakistan

- Dysfunction in Pakistan's rule of law system, coupled with the weak legislation, leaves the way open for misuse of the blasphemy laws to settle vendettas or resolve legal disputes.
- Mr Asghar was sentenced to death in Pakistan on 23 January this year under blasphemy laws. The charges against him were brought by a neighbour who was in a dispute with him.
- Mr Asghar is a vulnerable individual. He has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, his diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia (a diagnosis made in Edinburgh) was not taken into account during his trial.
- The Scottish Government strongly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances.

This continues to be a very sensitive issue:

- **the meeting the First Minister had with Mr Burney, the human rights activist, on 20 February to discuss this case should not be mentioned.**
- **the meeting between the Minister for External Affairs and International Development and Governor Sarwar in July should not be mentioned.**

[REDACTED]
International Division
Ext [REDACTED]

22. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - FMQ briefing as at 7 October 2014

FMQ TOPICAL PICK: Mohammed Asghar

TOP LINE:

We are shocked that Mr Asghar, a vulnerable elderly man who has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, has been the victim of a shooting in prison in Pakistan. Our thoughts are with Mr Asghar's family at this very difficult time.

We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year.

We are monitoring the situation closely and are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Asghar's family and Reprieve, the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family.

KEY POINTS:

1. We remain extremely concerned for Mr Asghar's health and safety at this time and call on the Pakistani authorities to ensure he is appropriately protected.

- Mr Asghar was apparently shot by a member of the elite police force on the morning of 25th September, whilst in his prison cell at Adiala jail.
- He suffered an injury to his shoulder. His physical condition has improved and he has been receiving specific medication for his mental health condition.
- Mr Asghar was seen on Saturday 4 October by a medical board to assess his mental health. The FCO and others are pressing the Pakistani authorities for a copying of their report.
- Nonetheless, Mr Asghar continues to suffer from mental illness and, as a result of his age and confinement, a degree of physical frailty.
- Mr Yousaf spoke with Mr Ellwood, the FCO Minister, on Thursday 2 October and both agreed the main objectives regarding Mr Asghar's is his safety, his medical situation and getting him an independent psychiatric assessment.
- Mr Yousaf wrote to Aizaz Ahmed Chaudry, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, on Friday 26 September to request assurances on the following:
 - a guarantee on Mr Asghar's safety and security whilst in custody;
 - guaranteed access for an independent psychiatric assessment of Mr Asghar; and
 - a commitment on serious discussions on finding a solution whereby Mr Asghar can return to Scotland.

2. We are in close contact with the FCO and the Pakistani authorities regarding the case, as well as the family, and Mr Asghar's legal team, to secure the best possible outcome.

- The Scottish Government has repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year. This has included writing to the Pakistani Government and four separate meetings with Governor Sarwar.
- Scottish Government officials continue to liaise with the FCO.
- The British High Commissioner held meetings with the Chief Minister of the Punjab and Governor Sarwar on Friday 3 October to discuss Mr Asghar's situation.
- UK Consular staff have lobbied the Special Secretary (Prisons), Punjab Home Department, on transferring Mr Asghar to another prison and to ask for the results of the Inquiry Team's Report into what happened. The FCO are also continuing to press for a copy of the Inquiry Committee's report – since the Special Secretary was not able to give this.

- British High Commission staff have continued to visit Mr Asghar in hospital since he was admitted on Friday 25 September. He remains in hospital and is under close protection.
- The FCO are liaising with Mr Asghar's family here in Scotland and his wife who is in Pakistan. The Minister for External Affairs and International Development spoke with Mr Asghar's daughter on Monday 29 September.

3. Blasphemy and the Death Penalty in Pakistan

- Dysfunction in Pakistan's rule of law system, coupled with the weak legislation, leaves the way open for misuse of the blasphemy laws to settle vendettas or resolve legal disputes.
- Mr Asghar was sentenced to death in Pakistan on 23 January this year under blasphemy laws. The charges against him were brought by a neighbour who was in a dispute with him.
- Mr Asghar is a vulnerable individual. He has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, his diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia (a diagnosis made in Edinburgh) was not taken into account during his trial.
- The Scottish Government strongly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances.

This continues to be a very sensitive issue:

- **The meetings between the British High Commissioner and the Chief Minister of the Punjab and Governor Sarwar on Friday 3 October should not be mentioned.**
- **the meeting the First Minister had with Mr Burney, the human rights activist, on 20 February to discuss this case should not be mentioned.**
- **the meeting between the Minister for External Affairs and International Development and Governor Sarwar in July should not be mentioned.**

[REDACTED]
International Division
Ext 45217

23. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - Letter from Mr Asghar's family to the Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED]> **On Behalf Of** Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Sent: 25 September 2014 15:01
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Mohammad Asghar been shot - note from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
For your information.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I Private Secretary I Office of Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development I Scottish Government, Room 2N01, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I [REDACTED]
mea@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Click [here](#) to find out more about supporting Ministers.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2014 13:55
To: Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Subject: Mohammad Asghar been shot

Dear Minister,

As I am sure you have heard my father was shot this morning by a prison guard. Since you have supported us so much in the case so far I wanted to email you now to ask for your immediate help.

This is what we've been afraid of ever since we heard the news of my father's sentence. We have told everybody that this could happen and even though we were told my father had extra security in prison that was obviously not true. We understand that my father is in Hospital at the moment but as soon as he is well enough to be moved we want him to come home to the UK where he will be safe. We just want him back with his family. Please do everything you can to help him. We know that his life now depends on it.

Thank you again for your help for our family.

Sent from my iPad

24. RE_ Mohammed Asghar – update

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Sent: 02 April 2014 14:37
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice
<CabinetSecretaryforJustice@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Mohammed Asghar - update

[REDACTED]

Sorry, the reply had already gone. Mr MacAskill was content for us to send. I've attached a copy.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]Deputy Private Secretary
Office of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice

(SAH: **0131 244 5141** | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Parliament: **0131 348 6981** | **St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG.**

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 April 2014 11:33
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Cc: [REDACTED]; Communications Constitution and Economy; [REDACTED] Communications CEA; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]Minister for External Affairs and International Development; Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; First Minister; UK Relations Mailbox
Subject: RE: Mohammed Asghar - update

Thanks [REDACTED]

Grateful if you could copy myself and [REDACTED]into the letter that is issued.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Policy Manager Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East

Scottish Government International Division
3-C North, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Sent: 01 April 2014 18:02
To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Minister for External Affairs and International Development; Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; First Minister; UK Relations Mailbox
Subject: RE: Mohammed Asghar - update

[REDACTED]

Thanks for this. Mr MacAskill is content that we reply as suggested.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Deputy Private Secretary
Office of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice

(SAH: **0131 244 5141** | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Parliament: **0131 348 6981** | **St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG.**

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To find out more click here



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2014 17:39
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Minister for External Affairs and International Development; Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; First Minister
Subject: RE: Mohammed Asghar - update

[REDACTED]

Draft reply below:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for writing to me to provide the update on Mohammed Asghar. As you know, we are extremely concerned not only for the fact that a very ill man has received the death penalty but also about his condition whilst in prison.

I think you are aware that the First Minister and the Minister for External Affairs and International Development, Humza Yousaf, met with Governor Sarwar of Punjab on 20 March where they extensively discussed Mr Asghar's case. At this meeting the Governor committed to doing what he could to ensure access to Mr Asghar by Professor Ahmed. I would be grateful if you could keep officials regularly updated on this as the First Minister will be happy to write again to the Governor if there continues to be no movement on the issue of access. Please use [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the Scottish Government's International Division as your first points of contact.

I know that my officials are also in close touch with the FCO on this. Scottish Ministers stand by to do what we can to help Mohammed Asghar and we are working closely with the FCO to ensure that our efforts are coordinated to have the maximum impact.

Thanks again for the update, it is appreciated. Scottish Ministers remain committed to doing what we can for Mr Asghar and will continue to liaise with both yourselves and the FCO to bring about a successful conclusion to this very worrying case.

With best wishes

Please let me know if you are happy with the draft. Myself and [REDACTED] continue to liaise closely with both Reprieve and the FCO on this.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Policy Manager Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East
Scottish Government International Division
3-C North, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Sent: 31 March 2014 10:41

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Minister for External Affairs and International Development; Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs

Subject: FW: Mohammed Asghar - update

[REDACTED]

Please see below. I would be grateful if you could prepare a draft response for Mr MacAskill's consideration that I could send back to [REDACTED] on Mr MacAskill's behalf.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice

x45147 (SAH) or x86969 (Parliament)

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** 28 March 2014 17:48

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Mohammed Asghar - update

Dear [REDACTED],

I hope all's well. I am just emailing to update you and Mr MacAskill on the situation in Mohammed Asghar's case. [REDACTED]

Action has already been taken on this issue by the British High Commission in Islamabad, and Ministers from both the UK and Scottish Governments, for which we are of course extremely grateful. Nonetheless we feel that it has now got to the stage where personal intervention from the Prime Minister is warranted. We would be very grateful for whatever help Mr MacAskill may be able to provide to ensure that action continues to be taken at the highest possible levels to ensure that access to the jail is now granted to our independent doctor, [REDACTED]

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED][\[REDACTED\]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) **On Behalf Of**
CabinetSecretaryforJustice@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Sent: 14 February 2014 17:44

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Invitation to meet - Parliament - 19th Feb

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your invitation to Mr MacAskill to meet with yourself and Sarah Belal. I understand that a meeting has now been set up with yourself, [REDACTED] and Mr Yousaf and that the family may be attending. Mr MacAskill would have liked to have been present but has long standing commitments in the diary for that day that can't be changed. He hopes that you have a useful meeting with Mr Yousaf and has requested that he be updated on the outcomes agreed by the Minister and officials.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice
x45147 (SAH) or x86969 (Parliament)

[REDACTED]**All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.**

25. The Governor of Punjab_ meeting with the First Minister on 20 March 2014 - briefing'

First Minister meeting with Governor Mohammed Sarwar.

Thursday 20 March 2014

Key Message	Concerned about the health and mental state of Mr Asghar.
Who	Governor Muhammad Sarwar. Consul General Saqlain Javed, Pakistani Consulate in Glasgow. [REDACTED], Military Secretary [REDACTED], Personal Staff Officer to the Governor [REDACTED], Media Advisor to the Governor [REDACTED], Cameraman The Minister for External Affairs and International Development will also attend the meeting.
What	Meeting
Why	To discuss the Mohammad Asghar case, possible Scottish Government support for the Governor's water initiative and Scottish/ Pakistani links.
Where	First Minister's Room, Parliament
When	Thursday 20 March 2014 at 5.15 p.m.
Dress code	Business.
Briefing officer	[REDACTED], International Division
Official(s) attending	[REDACTED], International Division – [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], International Division [REDACTED],
Media Handling	Non media event
Annexes	Annex A: Key points on the Mr Asghar case, Governor Sarwar's water initiative and Scottish Government announcement on funding Annex B: FMQ briefing on Mr Asghar's case. Annex C: [REDACTED] Annex D: [REDACTED] Annex E: Recent letter to Governor Sarwar from Minister for External Affairs & International Development on Mr Asghar's case

SCOTTISH LINKS WITH PAKISTAN

Key points

- Governor Sarwar and the First Minister last meet on 3 October, a note of the meeting is attached at Annex C. Welcome this return visit to discuss a number of issues, including Mr Asghar's case.

Mr Asghar's Case

- Understand a full independent medical assessment of Mr Asghar is necessary in taking forward his case and to submit this to the court. Therefore deeply concerned about the on-going issue preventing access by a leading Pakistani psychiatrist Professor Ahmed to Mr Asghar to undertake an evaluation of his mental state. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] The nearest Unit is located within the Benazir Bhutto hospital in Islamabad. However, there are concerns regarding Mr Asghar's safety in being in such a Unit.
- It is essential that Mr Asghar is given the correct diagnosis and the right treatment for his condition to make his life more comfortable. [REDACTED]
- Governor Sarwar wrote to the First Minister on 12 March about Mr Asghar's case. [REDACTED]
- We understand it's possible that the Governor has spoken to Ashtar Ali Ausaf, the former Prosecutor General of Punjab, and has suggested to the British High Commission that it might be helpful to get him involved in Mr Asghar's case. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Understand both the Governor and the Chief Minister of the Punjab **do** have powers to suspend sentences. [REDACTED]
- First Minister met with Mr Ansar Burney, human rights activist, on 20 February in Edinburgh to discuss the case. Mr Burney is working with Mr Asghar's legal team and the family.

Governor Sarwar's Water Project

[REDACTED],

Scottish Government support

- [REDACTED],.

Announcement

[REDACTED],

Small Hydro Systems

[REDACTED],

Ministerial visit to Pakistan in October 2013

[REDACTED],

Case of Mrs Mumtaz Sattar

[REDACTED],

Commonwealth Games

[REDACTED],

ANNEX B

[REDACTED]

FMQ TOPICAL PICK: Mohammed Asghar

TOP LINE:

The Scottish Government remains deeply concerned about the welfare of British National Mohammed Asghar, who was sentenced to death in Pakistan for blasphemy on 23 January 2014.

We are monitoring the situation closely and are in regular contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the NGO supporting Mohammed Asghar and his family.

KEY POINTS:

1. We are working closely with the FCO to ensure that we have a coordinated approach which can lead to the best possible outcome for Mr Asghar

- [REDACTED] First Minister spoke to Baroness Warsi, the Foreign Office Minister on 28 January to ensure that we were coordinating our efforts and with the Governor of the Punjab 29 January.
- The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs wrote to the Pakistan Consul General on 28 January
- First Minister wrote to the Governor of the Punjab and the Chief Minister on 30 January
- The UK Government have made representations to the Government of Pakistan and have met the Governor and Chief Minister of the Punjab
- Mr Asghar's lawyers are in close contact with him and his family in Scotland
- Mr Yousaf meet with Mr Asghar's family on 18 February
- First Minister meet with Mr Burney on 20 February.
- Mr Yousaf wrote to Governor Sarwar on 13 March regarding access being denied by a leading psychiatrist.

2. We have major concerns about this case

- The Scottish Government strongly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances

- Mr Asghar is a vulnerable individual. He has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health
- We are concerned about his health and mental state which were not taken into consideration in the trial
- Minister for External Affairs and International Development meet with Reprieve and Mr Asghar's family last week to get an update on the case and Mr Asghar's current condition.

3. Current situation

- Pakistan authorities have agreed that fortnightly FCO consular visits can be undertaken.
- We are also pleased that his appeal was filed on 31 January
- Pakistan has had a moratorium on the death penalty in place since 2008

4. Concerns for his health

- Mr Asghar has suffered from mental health difficulties for some time
- We are also concerned that he does not have access to the medical support that he requires and given his state of health, through our representations we are asking the Pakistan authorities to ensure he has access to medical support.

ANNEX C

[REDACTED]

ANNEX D

[REDACTED]

ANNEX E

Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Humza Yousaf MSP
T: [REDACTED],
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Governor Mohammed Sarwar
Governor's House
Lahore
Pakistan

By email – [REDACTED],

13 March 2014

As you are aware the Scottish Government has been monitoring the case of Mr Mohammed Asghar. I met with his family on 18 February and received an update on the case.

On Friday I was advised that the request by Mr Ashgar's legal team for access by [REDACTED] evaluate Mr Asghar's mental state had been granted by the Punjab Home Department. However, it appears that the Home Department has only forwarded the request to the Inspector General of Prisons, who forwarded it to the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons. I understand the Deputy Inspector General has advised that the request be rejected but no final decision has yet been made by the Inspector General or the Home Department.

We are concerned that this evaluation has been delayed again to the detriment of Mr Asghar's health. We would urge the Punjab Government to do all it can to help facilitate access by Professor Ahmed to Mr Asghar as soon as possible.

HUMZA YOUSAF

26. Topic Briefing - DG SEA - External Affairs Directorate- International Division - International Relations

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY: International Relations

DIVISION: International Division

DIVISION HEAD: [REDACTED]

- Mr Asghar: a Scot with mental health problems who is on death row in Pakistan, convicted of blasphemy. He was shot and injured in prison in September. We have been working with FCO, Aamer Anwar (family lawyer) and others to try to ensure Mr Asghar's safety. We are preparing advice now on our future options.

27. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - latest Scottish Government media lines at 1 October 2014

From: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 01 October 2014 14:59
To: Minister for External Affairs and International Development
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Cc: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] Communications First Minister
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] COMMUNICATIONS FIRST MINISTER
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]

Subject: RE: Line: FM call with Aamer Anwar re: Asghar

Thanks Paula. SpAds, are you content with this amend?

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Sent: 01 October 2014 14:54
To: [REDACTED] Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Line: FM call with Aamer Anwar re: Asghar

[REDACTED]
Please see line with slight amendment which Mr Yousaf is content to clear.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I Private Secretary I Office of Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development I Scottish Government, Room 2N01, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I [REDACTED] // [REDACTED]
mea@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Click [here](#) to find out more about supporting Ministers.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2014 14:03
To: Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Cc: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] Communications First Minister
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] COMMUNICATIONS FIRST MINISTER [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]

Subject: Line: FM call with Aamer Anwar re: Asghar

[REDACTED],

We've been approached by the BBC for comment following the FM's conversation with Aamer Anwar.

Grateful for Mr Yousaf's comment/clearance on the following line, which SpAds have cleared and suggested go to Mr Yousaf for his clearance, as soon as possible.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government remains concerned about Mr Asghar. The First Minister has been involved in this matter for many months, first raising the issue with the Governor of Punjab, Mohammed Sarwar on the 29th January. The meeting with Mr Anwar was a helpful and constructive one. We have had direct conversations with the Government of Punjab on our concerns regarding Mr Asghar's safety and medical wellbeing. We are monitoring the situation closely and are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family. We stand ready to do whatever we can to support the wishes of the Asghar family and assist with the safety, security and wellbeing of Mr Asghar.”

28. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - Letter to Governor Sarwar from Minister for External Affairs and International Development 26 September 2014

From: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] **On Behalf Of** Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Sent: 26 September 2014 13:24
To: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Cc: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Cabinet Secretary for Justice
<CabinetSecretaryforJustice@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]First Minister
Subject: Letter to Governor Sarwar regarding Mohammed Asghar

Hi [REDACTED],

Following up on our discussion earlier this morning.

Mr Yousaf had spoken with Governor Sarwar today regarding this case and has expressed an interest in having the letter issued incorporating the following key points:

- 1) Guarantee the safety and security of Mr Asghar whilst in custody.
- 2) Guarantee access to the state psychiatrist, [REDACTED],
- 3) Commit to serious discussions with the Family, UK Govt, Scot Govt and Pakistani Judicial authorities.
- 4) The SG is more than happy to be part of a prisoner transfer process to return Mr Asghar to a Scottish/UK Prison (In line with the PTA between Pakistan).

With reference to the fourth point – I have spoken with [REDACTED], from The Scottish Prison Service Legal Policy Team who has provided the following briefing on Prisoner Transfer Agreements between the UK and Pakistan. I have attached it below for your reference:

Happy to discuss as always,

[REDACTED],| Assistant Private Secretary
Ministerial Private Office | Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Telephone: [REDACTED],| Blackberry: +[REDACTED],| Email: [REDACTED],

29. Pakistan: Mr Asghar - shooting in prison - media lines cleared by the Minister for External Affairs and International Development (am on 25 September)

From: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] **On Behalf Of** Minister for External Affairs and International Development

Sent: 25 September 2014 11:55

To: Communications CEA [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] Minister for External Affairs and International Development [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]

Cc: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]

Subject: RE: URGENT - MR ASGHAR SHOOTING - FMQ BRIEF

[REDACTED]

To see amended lines as cleared by Mr Yousaf:

“We are shocked that Mr Asghar, a vulnerable elderly man who has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, has been the victim of a shooting in prison in Pakistan. Our thoughts are with Mr Asghar’s family at this very difficult time. We are concerned for his safety and call on the Pakistani authorities to ensure he is protected while he is in hospital receiving treatment.

“We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities and Governor Sarwar regarding Mr Asghar’s condition and safety in prison over the last year. We are monitoring the situation closely and are contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family. I will be speaking to the Pakistani authorities today to reiterate our concerns”

[REDACTED] | Private Secretary | Office of Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development | Scottish Government, Room 2N01, St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

mea@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Click [here](#) to find out more about supporting Ministers.

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From[REDACTED]

On Behalf Of Communications CEA

Sent: 25 September 2014 10:54

To: Minister for External Affairs and International Development

Cc: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] First Minister

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: URGENT - MR ASGHAR SHOOTING - FMQ BRIEF

[REDACTED],

Further to this, please see below press lines. We have not yet been approached but should have lines ready, and lines may well be required at the post-FMQ media briefing.

Grateful for Mr Yousaf's comment/clearance before FMQs .

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said:

"We are shocked that Mr Asghar, a vulnerable elderly man who has a history of mental illness and suffers from poor health, has been the victim of a shooting in prison in Pakistan. Our thoughts are with Mr Asghar's family at this very difficult time. We are concerned for his safety and call on the Pakistani authorities to ensure he is protected while he is in hospital receiving treatment.

"We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Pakistani authorities regarding Mr Asghar's condition and safety in prison over the last year. We are monitoring the situation closely and are contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the NGO supporting Mr Asghar and his family."

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2014 10:37
To: First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; Minister for External Affairs and International Development
Cc: [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
[REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Subject: URGENT - MR ASGHAR SHOOTING - FMQ BRIEF

PS/First Minister

As requested I attach an FMQ brief relating to the BBC Scotland news story reporting Mr Asghar has been shot in prison.

I should advise you that I have been in touch with the FC, the Pakistan Consul General and Reprieve.

[REDACTED]