

Question 1: All minutes, notes and briefings from Humza Yousaf and Angus Robertson's meeting with German ambassador Miguel Berger in October.

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

26 October, 13:30 – 14:30

Key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delighted to meet with Ambassador Berger after he hosted you in London on 25 April. We appreciate [redacted] and the interest he is showing in Scottish-German relations.• Delighted to meet the new Consul General, Christiane Hullmann, who has shown a real enthusiasm for strengthening engagement at the political, economic and cultural level.• We are grateful for our engagement on our common ambitions in developing the European hydrogen market which will be so crucial to our collective endeavours to reach net zero. We appreciate the interest shown by German partners and will continue to offer a warm welcome to visiting delegations.• [redacted] SG has a lot to offer across renewables, CCUS and just transition.• [redacted]• Ask about Ambassador Berger's time heading the German representative office in the Palestinian Territories and as Regional Commissioner for the Near and Middle East, and reflect on the current situation.• Reflect on the value of our strong relations with our partner Länder across trade, renewables, education, culture, environment and more.
What	Formal lunch with Ambassador Miguel Berger
Why	To build on relations with the German Ambassador, in particular with a view to discussing key topics such as hydrogen and climate.
Who	Miguel Berger, German Ambassador to the UK Christiane Hullmann, German Consul General in Scotland
Where	Bute House
When	13:30 – 14:30, Wednesday 25 October 2023

Likely themes	Hydrogen, renewables and political developments
Media	TBC tweet and picture. FM comms developing
Supporting official	Joe Griffin, Director-General, Strategy and External Affairs [redacted], European Relations, [redacted]
Attached documents	Annex A – Agenda and Summary Annex B – Core Brief Annex C – Israel / Gaza conflict Annex D – Background information Annex E – Germany Country Brief

AGENDA AND SUMMARY

ANNEX A

[redacted] First Minister and Ambassador will be joined by Cabinet Secretary Robertson and Consul General Hullmann.

The Ambassador's [redacted] visits are a positive reflection of his relationship with Scotland and present key opportunities to engage with the Embassy, [redacted]

[redacted]

Ambassador Berger's Programme – 26 October

[redacted]

Desired outcomes

A good opportunity to build on previous engagement [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

BIOGRAPHIES

Miguel Berger, Ambassador to the UK since May 2022. After studying economics, Berger joined the diplomatic service, **heading the German representative office in the Palestinian Territories (2002-4)**. In Berlin, he has worked as head of the Parliamentary and Cabinet Council, Commissioner for Global Issues, External Energy and Climate Policy and Regional Commissioner for the Near and Middle East, and the Maghreb. From May 2020, he was State Secretary at the MfA, effectively then switching roles with the previous Ambassador, Andreas Michaelis, in Jan 2022.

Christiane Hullmann, Consul General in Edinburgh since August. Christiane has a degree in law studies (Bonn and Geneva) and joined the Foreign Office in 2003, initially serving in the Department for European Affairs and later at the Embassy in Kyiv as Head of Legal and Consular. In 2013, she served at the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, working on human rights. From 2020-23, she was the Head of the Western Balkans Division in Berlin. [redacted – s.32 International Relations]

Recent engagement with Germany

- **7-10 Oct 2023 – Ms Gougeon** visited ANUGA food and drink trade fair in Cologne
- **26-27 Sept 2023 – Mr Gray** visited Berlin for the UK/Germany Hydrogen Conference and signing of the UK/Germany H2 Partnership Agreement, and attendance at the Bremen Hydrogen Technology Expo
- **11-14 Sept 2023 –** Saxony Minister for Culture and Tourism, Barbara Klepsch, visit to Edinburgh and Glentress mountain biking, meeting **Ms Todd** and **Ms McKelvie**
- **18-19 April 2023 –** Rhineland-Palatinate Minister-President Malu Dreyer and delegation visit to Scotland, meeting **FM, Mr Robertson** and **Mr Dey**
- **14 March 2023 – Mr Matheson** met Hydrogen Commissioner Till Mansmann
- **23 Feb 2023 –** Visit by NRW Economy & Energy Minister Mona Neubaur
- **1 Dec 2022 –** Ambassador Berger visit to Scotland: meeting **former FM**; energy roundtable with **Mr Matheson**, SDI and stakeholders; and dinner with **Ms Slater**

Upcoming engagement with Germany

- **14-16 Nov 2023 – Mr Lochhead** attendance at the Bremen Space Tech Expo
- **7-8 Dec 2023 – Ms Martin** attendance at Nuremberg Dialogue, Bavaria

1. SCOTLAND'S HYDROGEN/OFFSHORE WIND GENERATION POTENTIAL

- Scotland is aligned with Germany on the aim of phasing out nuclear energy and our common strategic focus on green (rather than blue) hydrogen to achieve net zero.
- Our huge potential for renewable energy generation complements our ambitions to produce industrial-scale quantities of renewable hydrogen for domestic use and export. We are building our hydrogen production capability to meet an ambition of **5GW of renewable, low-carbon hydrogen by 2030** and **25GW by 2045**.
- The UK-Germany hydrogen agreement was signed in Berlin on 26 September, and Scotland is keen to capitalise on the momentum of the agreement to achieve our shared hydrogen goals and to have a key role in its implementation. Germany is likely to become the biggest importer of hydrogen in Europe and is already concluding supply contracts with countries such as Australia, Morocco, Qatar and Norway.
- [redacted]
- SG has funded the Net Zero Technology Centre's Hydrogen Backbone Link project to assess the potential to connect Scotland to a European Hydrogen Backbone by either repurposing and optimising existing pipeline infrastructure or through the development of new infrastructure. Phase 1 of the project was published in August 2023. Phase 2 will continue to investigate hydrogen pipeline options for Scotland, further assessing the requirements to deliver a hydrogen backbone link at scale.
- In September 2023, SG funded The North Sea Alliance Scottish–German Bilateral Hydrogen research project. Led by the Net Zero Technology Centre in partnership with the German consultancy Cruh21, and the German umbrella organisation AquaVentus, the project will focus on investigating pipeline infrastructure between Scotland and Germany; and matching Scottish hydrogen production to German hydrogen demand.
- [redacted]

2. HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COOPERATION

- We are engaging closely with key stakeholders as we develop an **International Education Strategy** that promotes Scotland's education offer globally and attracts a diversity of students to our institutions.

- Scotland has world-class universities and research programmes, and similar values and strengths to Germany. We value Germany as a top research collaborator and as the second highest EU sending country for HE students in Scotland. In 2020/21, there were 2,360 German students studying in Scottish universities.
- We are committed to addressing one of the most damaging consequences of Brexit for our universities and colleges – the fact that UK students can no longer take part in the **Erasmus+** Programme. The UK Government replacement – the Turing Scheme – is much less effective. It helps fewer students, it does not help staff at all, and it does not enable overseas students to come to Scotland. We are working with the UK Government and stakeholders on the shortfalls of the Turing Scheme and ways to address those. In 2023-24, the Scottish Government will fund a **test and learn project** to re-establish some of the opportunities Erasmus+ provided, which the Turing Scheme does not.
- Germany is an important and valued partner for Scotland both for **academic mobility and research and innovation cooperation**. It is Scotland's leading partner for research cooperation in Europe and second partner globally.
- [redacted] in support of mutual interests such as student mobility and academic cooperation post-Brexit.
- State Secretary Jens Brandenburg from the Federal Ministry for Research and Education (BMBF) visited Scotland in May, meeting with Mr Robertson and holding a roundtable with Mr Dey and key Scottish stakeholders such as the Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance (SULSA) and Universities Scotland.
- Through our cooperation agreement with Rhineland-Palatinate, we are working at the regional level to support academic and cultural mobility and exchange, in particular for young people.
- We welcome the long overdue agreement for the UK to re-associate with Horizon Europe, though we regret the damage that has already been done to the reputation and competitiveness of our world-leading colleges and universities.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE

- We made a ground-breaking commitment to funding for loss and damage at COP26, followed shortly after by Wallonia and Denmark.
- We very much welcome Germany's commitment to addressing climate-related loss and damage at COP27. We have also pledged further funding of £5m for non-economic L&D, focused on women and girls, at COP27.
- It is also our hope that COP28 builds upon the progress made on loss and damage and climate justice at COP27. It is crucial that COP28 sees an outcome that keeps 1.5 degrees alive and builds a coalition that protects and drives progress against any push-back on this vital goal.

- We feel strongly that there is much scope for co-operation, especially with Special Representative Jennifer Morgan taking a leading role in Germany's "bridge-building efforts".
- Scotland continues to co-chair the Under2 Coalition, of which two German states are members and six are signatories, continuing to work together to push for ambitious climate action.

TOP LINES

- We condemn unequivocally this terror attack by Hamas. Israel, in common with every country, has the right to protect its citizens from this type of terrorist attack.
- The hostages taken by Hamas must be released immediately and unconditionally. Hamas missile attacks must cease immediately.
- This is an emergency. UKG and the international community must act to prevent further loss of civilian lives. Our condolences go to those who have lost loved ones.
- Too many innocent lives have already been lost. Innocent men, women and children cannot, and should not, pay the price for the actions of a terrorist group.
- As the number of civilians displaced in Gaza increases and with supplies restricted, innocent people are being affected and conditions continue to deteriorate.

We support the UN's call for a humanitarian corridor

- As supplies run out in Gaza, the lives of innocent civilians are at grave risk from a lack of food, water, medical supplies and fuel, alongside extensive Israeli bombardments.
- We welcome the partial opening of the Rafah border crossing. However we call for an urgent expansion in the volume of humanitarian supplies being allowed into Gaza, including fuel which is urgently needed for hospital generators, ambulances, and desalination plants, as well as the distribution of humanitarian aid.
- Civilians can only follow the Israeli Govt's advice to evacuate northern Gaza if they can travel safely and have safe places to shelter, without the risk of being caught up in artillery barrages and bombings by both sides.
- Supplies - including food, fuel, water and medical supplies – must be allowed into Gaza, or we face a catastrophic worsening of the existing humanitarian disaster.
- A ceasefire from all sides is needed to allow the creation of a secure humanitarian corridor to ensure the protection of innocent civilians, the delivery of essential supplies, and enable civilians, including foreign nationals, who want to leave to do so safely. It is welcome that the UN, the US and others have backed calls for the creation of such a humanitarian corridor.

SG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

- We are providing £500,000 towards the UN Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) flash appeal in response to the ongoing escalation in Gaza. These funds will support the immediate food, health, shelter and protection needs of people seeking safety.
- The UN 'Flash' appeal is specifically for Gaza. That is where the unfolding humanitarian disaster is, with an estimated 1.4 million people displaced by the bombing and by military evacuation orders. The Israeli Government has not requested humanitarian assistance from the international community.
- With the escalation of the violence, the delivery of humanitarian aid in Gaza is extremely challenging. We are satisfied that UNRWA, with the institutional substance of a UN agency, its established operations and long experience of working on the ground in Gaza, is best placed to ensure that the funds are used to provide humanitarian aid to those in desperate need.
- UNRWA warned that they would need to cease distribution of humanitarian aid unless they could get new supplies of fuel. UNRWA staff remain on the ground in Gaza and continue to provide shelter and protection for nearly 600,000 internally displaced people in 150 facilities.
- The funding SG has committed to UNRWA will be used to pre-position humanitarian supplies so that as soon as access is granted and UNRWA's logistics capacity is restored, they will be able to get life-saving assistance to where it is most needed.

German response

- On 12 October, Chancellor Scholz addressed the Bundestag, saying: "Security in and for Israel must be restored, and therefore Israel must be able to defend itself. At this moment, there is only one place for Germany: the place at Israel's side. This is what we mean when we say that Israel's security is Germany's *raison d'être*. Our own history, our responsibility arising from the Holocaust, makes it an everlasting task for us to stand up for the existence and security of the State of Israel. This responsibility guides us."
- Scholz visited Israel on Tuesday 17 October to express his solidarity with the country following Hamas's attack and to de-escalate tensions in the region, as well as to improve humanitarian aid for Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Scholz stressed that Israel's security was an integral part of German state policy and that the country had the right to defend itself against Hamas. Scholz's plane had to be evacuated at Ben Gurion Airport due to rocket attacks, with Scholz reportedly evacuated to a shelter.
- Antisemitic incidents in Berlin in the wake of the Hamas attacks, including attacks on a synagogue, have drawn strong condemnation from all mainstream political parties. Scholz has reiterated his commitment to protect Jewish life in Germany,

and the leader of the opposition CDU has proposed that recognising Israel's right to exist be a precondition for obtaining citizenship.

- The Fed Interior Ministry is working apace to ban Hamas and the Palestinian Samidoun network in Germany, a spokesperson has insisted, following criticism from the opposition CDU at the government's failure to implement full bans.
- The German government has today voiced its continued confidence UN Sec Gen António Guterres, following a speech he made by at the UN Security Council this week in which he said that the Hamas attacks on Israel "did not happen in a vacuum", and that Palestinian people had been subjected to oppressive occupation for 56 years. "The UN Secretary General of course has the trust of the federal government," spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit said. He added that the current situation was "highly charged" and that calls for Guterres' resignation are "not appropriate at the moment."
- EU leaders meet in Brussels today for a summit likely to focus heavily on Israel / Gaza. EU member states have struggled to show a united front thus far, and are likely to find it difficult to find a common position over whether to call for a ceasefire or a humanitarian pause. Germany is likely to be amongst those who do not support the idea of one, singular humanitarian pause, because that would be too close to the concept of a ceasefire, when Israel has the right to defend itself from attack.

EU Strategy & Alignment

- Public opinion has consistently stated that Brexit was a mistake. The majority of Brits (62%) say that Brexit has been “more of a failure,” with just 9% calling it a success. (YouGov, May 2023). Polling has shown that every Westminster constituency in Scotland agrees that Britain was wrong to leave the EU.
- Our policy of maintaining EU alignment, including via the powers provided by the EU Continuity Act 2021, ensures Scottish Ministers can protect the world class standards that Scotland shares with the EU. Ministers are prioritising alignment where this will enhance the wellbeing of the people of Scotland by maintaining and advancing standards using the most relevant legislative powers. An example being the recent regulations made by the Scottish Government to incorporate WHO standards for drinking water.
- The Retained EU Law Act significantly increases the need for Scottish Ministers to use appropriate legislative powers to protect the standards we enjoy.

Hydrogen

- Hydrogen forms a key part of Germany’s push towards decarbonisation and achieving a greater deal of energy security. Whilst the German Government’s Hydrogen Strategy sets a domestic production target of at least 10 gigawatts by 2030, a majority of Germany’s hydrogen needs will be met by imports. A Hydrogen Import Strategy is expected for publication at the end 2023. The German government maintains strategic energy partnerships with more than 30 countries. Many of these agreements include joint hydrogen initiatives, including with the UAE who delivered a first hydrogen test shipment to Hamburg in September 2022 and with France to join their H2Med project which will connect Portugal and Spain with France and now Germany to supply about 10% of the EU’s hydrogen demand by 2030.
- In September 2023, Germany signed a Hydrogen Partnership Agreement with the UK Government, the first bilateral economic partnership with Germany since 2016. The partnership aims to accelerate the deployment of hydrogen projects for industry and consumers and promote trade and investment interests along the entire value chain.
- [redacted]
- Just 750 kilometres from the German coast, Scotland is well placed in terms of proximity and infrastructure connectivity to key hydrogen import locations in northern Europe.

- We are building our hydrogen production capability to meet an ambition of 5GW of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen by 2030 and 25GW by 2045. This will give Scotland the potential to deliver up to 126TWh of green hydrogen per year by 2045, with up to 94TWh of hydrogen for export to Europe and the rest of the UK.
- Our Hydrogen Action Plan published in 2022 outlined Scotland's hydrogen export ambitions. To fully realise this vision we are currently developing a Hydrogen Sector Export Plan (HSEP).
- Several German delegations visited Scotland in 2022 – BMBF Hydrogen Commissioner, NRW, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Saxony and BW. All have been convinced of Scotland's potential to supply the hydrogen needs of German industry. Scotland also has hydrogen-related agreements with Hamburg, NRW, Bavaria and BW, and a close working relationship with Lower Saxony.
- German companies including Siemens Energy, Bay.Wa-Re and EN-BW were successful in the ScotWind leasing round.

Test and learn pilot

- We are working with partners to develop a 1-year Scottish Education Exchange test and learn pilot programme, to commence in 2023-24.
- The test and learn programme will be underpinned by the following principles:
 - broadly maintain the Erasmus+ approach
 - aim to address key gaps between Turing and Erasmus+, in particular, to encourage the development of partnerships between institutions that could enable staff and inward exchanges (funded by the reciprocal countries)
 - align outcomes of the pilot with our education and skills priorities including supporting disadvantaged groups and delivering a skilled workforce to meet new market opportunities

German language learning in schools / teaching assistants

- It is important for Scotland's prosperity that young people are attracted to learning about other cultures and languages. Becoming confident in communicating with people from around the world will enable them to be global citizens, equipped with key skills to thrive in the 21st century.
- We have invested over £50m in additional language learning in Scotland since 2013. German is one of eight languages that pupils can take at National Qualification level and is the third most popular language offered by schools in the secondary BGE and taken up by young people in the Senior Phase.
- [redacted]
- Language assistants are an important means of supporting language learning.
[redacted]

- In the current year we are not aware of any German speaking language assistants placed into Scottish Schools through either of the two main programmes for this purpose
- The GETs Programme (German Educational Trainees) developed by the University of Mainz placed student teachers from German Universities in Mainz, Leipzig, Koblenz and Saarland, on six-month placements. [redacted]
- The British Council programme places undergraduate students on placements of varied length from a number of countries. This programme is funded by the Scottish Government and is a reciprocal programme with students in Scotland placed abroad. A 2022 survey by British Council Scotland with the support of Education Scotland showed that the programme was well known and valued despite falling numbers.
- Education Scotland and SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages, a recipient of our grant funding) support language learning in general, including German, including for instance through the Open University/SCILT developed TELT (Teachers Learning to Teach Languages) where German is one of four languages available.

Trade & Investment

- Germany is Scotland's 2nd highest priority country for trade, with opportunities for exchange and collaborative working in areas such as climate change, renewables, hydrogen and green technologies, industry 4.0, life sciences, innovation, tourism, higher education, and research.
- We value the role of German owned companies play in the Scottish economy (19,430 jobs) and their long and trusted trading relationship with Scotland.
- Germany is a key trade partner for Scotland and ranks in top 5 of our export destinations. In year ending Q1 2023, Scottish exports to Germany were estimated to be worth £1.45 billion (excl. oil & gas). This is an increase of £158 million (12.1%) on last year.
- EU trade is paramount and is our priority, as our closest and largest international export market. We want to build relationships with like-minded trading partners including building on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, such as through opportunities for regulatory cooperation.

Feminist Approach to International Relations

- The current Federal Government's coalition contract included confirmation that the coalition would act "in the sense of a feminist foreign policy." The policy guidelines were published in March 2023 and officially launched by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Annalena Baerbock.

- The former First Minister wrote to Minister Baerbock in April 2023, congratulating Germany on the announcement, setting out Scotland's commitment to take a feminist approach to our international work and expressing an interest in continuing to work together.
- [redacted]

GERMANY COUNTRY BRIEF

ANNEX E

Head of State – President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (SPD)

Chancellor – Olaf Scholz (SPD)

Ambassador to UK – Miguel Berger (since May 2022)

UK Ambassador – Jill Gallard (since Nov 2020)

Consul General – Christiane Hullmann (since July 2023)

Residents in Scotland – 31,000 (2021 ONS estimate)

- Scholz's SPD/Greens/FDP coalition continues to face a tumultuous period. In his summer interview to ZDF, the anchor stated a poll showing that 73% say the Chancellor is "unable to assert himself", 72% criticise his responses to important questions, and almost 60% are dissatisfied with progress on climate policy.
- Elections took place in Hesse and Bavaria on 8 October. Both results dealt a significant blow to the national coalition parties. In Bavaria, centre-right CSU remained the largest party while the SPD fell to just 8%. The far-right AfD performed strongly, coming second in Hesse. The right-leaning parties focused campaigning on migration and energy (e.g. national plans to phase out fossil fuel boilers).
- Popular and divisive politician Sahra Wagenknecht of Die Linke (Left Party) announced on 23 October that she is quitting Die Linke to form a new party, temporarily titled Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht (the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance), along with four other breakaway politicians. The party's programme is yet to be announced but is expected to combine her trademark left-wing economics and social conservatism, and will likely target AfD voters disgruntled with the government.
- Germany is to donate another €200m for the reconstruction of Ukraine, bringing the total development aid from Germany to €1bn since the start of the war.

Relations with the Länder

- We have agreements with 5 Länder: Bavaria (2017), Baden-Württemberg (2022), Hamburg (2021) North Rhine-Westphalia (2022) and Rhineland-Palatinate (2021).
- The agreement with **BW** focuses on promoting co-operation on climate and energy, business, research and innovation, and environment.
- We have hydrogen focussed agreements with **Hamburg** and **Bavaria**, and an emerging partnership with **Lower Saxony** and the wider region of northern German states on renewable energy.

- Our agreement with **RLP** is focussed on culture, education, higher education and research, while our agreement with **NRW** has a strong economic focus.
- We have also had engagement with **Saxony**, whose Deputy Minister-President visited Scotland in 2022, and Culture and Tourism Minister in September 2023. Trebsen in Saxony is home to Europe's largest highland games.

Note of the meeting between First Minister and Ambassador Miguel Berger

- 26 October, 13:30 – 14:30

REDACTED

Question 2: All minutes, notes and briefings from Humza Yousaf's meeting with NFU Scotland in October

Meeting; First Minister and National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS)

Scottish Parliament, 24 October 2023

Present;

First Minister

Martin Kennedy – President, NFUS

John Davidson – CEO, NFUS

Jonnie Hall – Policy Director, NFUS

Beatrice Morrice – Political Affairs, NFUS

Officials;

George Burgess – Director Agriculture and Rural Economy

Kate Higgins – Special Advisor

[redacted] – Agriculture Support Policy

Actions

1. Work to be advanced in context of Scotland's present share of UK agriculture support budget in comparison to the potential of Scotland's land to positively impact upon biodiversity gain and climate mitigation.
2. Consideration to be given [Redact]

Note

Following introductions, Martin Kennedy (MK) welcomed the introduction of Agriculture and Rural Communities (ARC) Bill, positively noting the inclusion of 'communities'. MK stated the importance of biodiversity gain and climate actions, whilst emphasising that food production must always be the primary activity of the sector. The Scottish Government (SG) approach was contrasted to that of Defra and MK noted NFUS asks to the UK Government for a greater budget share for Scotland and the need for an additional £1 billion of support towards UK agriculture.

Jonnie Hall (JH) expanded, noting the existing UK Government commitment to funding, with Scotland receiving circa 17% of UK agriculture budget, ends in 2025. JH further remarked positively upon the scope of the ARC Bill. The SG commitment to 'no cliff edge' in support to producers and the inclusion of food production were welcomed and the need to avoid specific targets in the ARC Bill was noted.

MK reiterated, noting the global context of production and the need to avoid harmful 'off-shoring' to reach domestic targets. Concern was expressed over the misrepresentation and misunderstanding of the sector by some lobbyists.

The First Minister (FM) welcomed the points made by the NFUS, making clear that that there is no contradiction between producing food and doing so in ways beneficial for biodiversity gain and climate actions. Concern was shared over the inaction of the UK Government on future budget and the 'cliff edge' that this was creating for agriculture budgets post 2025. The FM noted the importance of further analysis on the budget share and the potential of Scotland's land (see action 1).

MK, in context, remarked upon the loss of the multiyear EU budget framework and hoped that the 'Rural Support Plan' included in the ARC Bill might offer budget certainty. The FM noted the broader uncertainties caused by EU Exit, including on workforce and the difficulties in working with the Home Office.

Returning to future budget, [REDACTED] The FM noted the positive remarks on the ARC Bill and emphasised the importance of its framework nature.

MK moved discussion to recent flooding, noting losses and hope for support on flood bank repairs. Thoughts were offered on the need for farmers to have input on solutions for river management and views expressed on dredging and beaver numbers. The FM welcomed the involvement of all interested parties to any future discussions on flood mitigation.

MK noted views on the need to raise the profile of Scottish agriculture, help the public to understand the positive role and to further education in schools. The FM supported these aims, highlighting the positive role of the Royal Highland Education Trust that he had visited at this year's Royal Highland Show.

John Davidson (JD) raised the position of large retailers and fairness in the supply chain; calling for more work to be undertaken to develop local supply chains. George Burgess (GB) urged that the NFUS continue work with QMS and Scotland

Food and Drink on this matter. In context JH noted the role of the reserved Groceries Code Adjudicator and the want that this unction should be more active.

The FM moved the meeting to a close, noting the Vision for Scotland to be recognised for sustainable and regenerative farming and raising the work of the Sustainable Markets Initiative. MK reiterated the importance of getting farmers 'onboard with change' and that there must not be a 'cliff edge' on support.

Close.

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

FM Meeting with Martin Kennedy, National Farmers Union Scotland

25 October 2023

Key message	Our Vision for agriculture is a positive one with production at its heart. The essential role of our farmers, crofters and land managers in feeding our nation and delivering positive biodiversity and climate outcomes is understood.	
What	The role of the FM is to meet with a key player in the farming sector of Scotland, to discuss future farming but also to understand this topic from the stakeholders perspective.	
Why	An Invitation from Martin Kennedy of NFUS as stakeholder building meeting to discuss the farming sector	
Who	National Farmers Union Scotland Martin Kennedy – President of NFUS	
Where	St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh	
When	25 October 2023, 11:30 – 12:00	
Likely themes	Future funding and agriculture policy. Climate change and enhancing biodiversity. Food Production. Farming sector and rural communities.	
Media	Contact FM Communications team for advice on completing this section.	
Supporting official	John Kerr, Head of Ag Policy Division - Mobile [redacted]	
Attached documents		
Annex A	Agenda	
Annex B	NFUS Letter to FM	

Annex C	Stakeholder Profile / Sensitivities	
Annex D	Handling Lines	
Annex E	Agriculture Reform Programme (ARP) Overview	
Annex F	Importance of the farming sector to rural communities	

ANNEX A

Agenda

- 1: Increased, multi-annual and ring-fenced commitment on future funding
- 2: Food production at the heart of future agricultural policy
- 3: Good Food Nation Act that delivers for primary producers through a ‘Scottish First’ policy
- 4: Urgent review of the regulatory burden on Scotland’s agricultural sector
- 5: Raising the profile of Scottish Agriculture and Supporting Local

ANNEX B

NFUS Letter To FM

(Attached Separately)

ANNEX C

Stakeholder Profiles

The National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) was formed in 1913 and is Scotland's leading agricultural organisation representing 9,000 farmers, crofters, growers and other supporters the length and breadth of the country. NFUS works alongside its sister organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as other rural, business and consumer groups.

Attendees

	<p>Martin Kennedy, President Lurgan Farm, Edradynate, Aberfeldy</p> <p>Martin is a tenant farmer in Aberfeldy, Highland Perthshire and farms with his wife Jane and three daughters. They have 600 ewes and 60 cows on the farm rising from 800ft to 2,500ft. Martin served two years as Highland Perthshire Branch chair, before representing East Central region on the LFA committee in 2009. Martin went on to be Vice-Chair before chairing the committee for three years. He was elected Vice-President in 2017 and elected as President in 2021.</p>
	<p>John Davidson, Chief Executive</p> <p>John, who was the Deputy Chief Executive at the industry leadership body, Scotland Food & Drink, replaces Scott Walker who stepped down from his post last year. Mr Davidson joined Scotland Food & Drink in 2020 after a lengthy career in various senior roles across the Scottish Government, including Private Secretary to the former Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Richard Lochhead, and most recently as the head of food and drink at Scottish Government for five years.</p>

	Mr Davidson, who is well known and respected across the farming and food industry, has been instrumental in supporting the sector's recovery from Brexit and the Covid pandemic and has recently been leading the development of the new national food and drink strategy for Scotland, which aims to strengthen the resilience of the entire industry and grow its value and reputation domestically and internationally.
	<p>Beatrice Morris, Political Affairs Manager</p> <p>Beatrice Morrice joined NFU Scotland in 2021, taking on the role of Political Affairs Manager.</p> <p>She will play a vital role in the Union's lobbying, and actively and directly promote the interests of NFU Scotland in Holyrood and Westminster.</p> <p>Beatrice joined NFU Scotland from the Scottish Whisky Association (SWA) where she worked for the past ten years as their Head of Engagement, leading on parliamentary and government engagement. Prior to this she had experience from British Medical Association as a Public Affairs Officers for over 8 years as well as starting her education at Herriot Watt studying MA (Hons) Russian and French Translating and Interpreting.</p>

Sensitivities

- [redacted]

Top lines *(lines specific to NFUS agenda items are on following pages)*

- My government will stand with our producers and we recognise the tough job that they do on our behalf in all conditions. The flooding of the last week makes this very live to us.
- We value Scotland's farmers, crofters, and land managers for their part in cutting emissions and addressing climate change in ways that actively benefit both the climate and nature, and many are already taking positive action to produce food sustainably and contributing towards climate change.

- There is no contradiction between high quality food production and producing it in a way that delivers for the climate and nature. We must build a sustainable food production sector for future generations, whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon sequestration, and helping to improve biodiversity, air, and water quality.

Handling Lines

1: Increased, multi-annual and ring-fenced commitment on future funding

EU Exit means we no longer have long-term certainty of funding. HM Treasury have provided yearly allocations for the current UK Parliamentary term. There is no funding commitment from 2025.

- The UK Government accepted the Bew Review recommendation for collective engagement to agree the principles of future intra-UK allocations but these discussions have, to date, not taken place.
- We share the frustration expressed by stakeholders over the lack of future budget clarity from HM Treasury and the impact it has on current programmes and future development through the Agriculture Reform Programme.

The Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill

- The Bill does not make explicit mention of payment rates or any mechanism towards assigning or affixing them.
- This is a standard Scottish Government budgeting mechanism to decide (in context of a future Rural Development Plan) what levels of funding are assigned for what purposes.

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee: Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2024-25 on 27 September 2023

Cabinet Secretary Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands Mairi Gougeon:

- “There have been various calls from different organisations on what should be more heavily weighted, but **the fact is that we have committed to a process of co-development with our farmers and crofters. I will not pre-empt the discussions that we will have on that**, but we do not have any certainty on our future budgets in that regard.”

- “You will, no doubt, be aware of the other **commitments on maintaining direct payments**. We know how important it is to continue that support for our farmers and for food production, which we have previously stated. **We have not yet come to a decision on an overall budget split, because it is an important part of the co-development process.**”

Conveners Group: Meeting with the First Minister on 27 September 2023

Proposed Agriculture Bill

You stated:

- “I will not go into all the arguments around Brexit, but one thing that we can probably all agree on is that being part of the European Union scheme, when we were members of the EU, allowed a level of certainty around longer-term funding that we just do not have at the moment. **We will look to see how the bill can provide a level of stability around longer-term funding, which will be really important to our agricultural community.**”
- “**I am in favour of looking at what certainty we can give with multiyear funding, which is necessary and required.** It would give the sector a level of stability and certainty that, as I said, I am not entirely convinced it would say that it has been given since our exit from the European Union. **Such funding is absolutely important, and it is absolutely an issue of consideration as we bring forward the bill.**”

2: Food production at the heart of future agricultural policy

The Vision for Agriculture

The Vision outlines the goal of transforming how the government will support farming and food production in Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

- Cab Sec RALRI is clear in our commitment to support farmers and crofters to produce our food more sustainably while continuing to acknowledge the need for change and to make sure that agriculture continues to play its part in cutting emissions, mitigating climate change and restoring and enhancing nature and biodiversity.

- **We firmly believe there is no contradiction between high quality food production and producing it in a way that delivers for the climate and nature.**

The Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill

The Bill is of a framework nature, intended to deliver our published four-tier support framework and enable continued co-develop of detailed measures with partners.

- The powers in the Bill will be used to realise the Vision for Agriculture, delivering on our commitment to continue to support agriculture and rural communities.
- The Bill provides the opportunity to reform how and what the Scottish Government supports, to help deliver on our Vision for Agriculture and enable more support and activity to cut emissions and protect and enhance nature.
- The Bill will be the platform for measures focused on the Scottish Government key outcomes:
 - **high quality food production;**
 - climate mitigation and adaptation;
 - nature restoration;
 - and wider rural development.
- Collectively, this will form a framework of support for agriculture, forestry and rural communities more generally.
- The Bill also provides the opportunity to modernise the powers of the Scottish Ministers on areas relating to animal health and identification, welfare and genetic resources, and plant health.

3: Good Food Nation Act that delivers for primary producers through a ‘Scottish First’ policy

- Scottish produce has an important role to play in a sustainable Scottish food system.
- The Good Food Nation (GFN) Act is framework legislation and as such does not contain reference to any specific policy e.g. a “Scottish first” policy.
- However, the GFN Act specifies a range of principles that Scottish Ministers must have regard to when drafting the national Good Food Nation Plan.

- The GFN Act states that each part of the food system and supply chain has an important role to play and Scottish Ministers must have regard to this when drafting the national GFN Plan, this includes our primary producers.
- The GFN Act also recognises the importance of the food business sector, including our primary producers, and that they continue to be a thriving part of the Scottish economy. This must also be considered in the drafting of the national GFN Plan.

[Redacted]

Q: When will the national Good Food Nation Plan be published for consultation?

A:

- The cross-cutting nature of the work has required extensive engagement across a wide breadth of policy areas and Ministerial portfolios.
- We anticipate that the draft of the national Good Food Nation Plan will be published for public consultation later in 2023.

Q: How are you supporting local food?

A:

- We are committed to publishing a final version of “Local Food for Everyone” later this year which will support locally-based production and circular supply chains, cutting food miles and enabling more people to enjoy food grown locally
- “Local Food for Everyone” brings together existing strands of work on local food together and identifies any gaps that exist.
- It will highlight support available to connect Scottish producers with buyers

Q: Do you agree that Scotland should be producing more of/all of its own food?

A:

- Scotland’s marine, food and farming sectors have a critical role to play in food security, producing food for consumption in Scotland, in other parts of the UK, and abroad.
- Our strong trade relationships are also vital, with economic resilience from exports of Scottish food and drink worth £8 billion in 2022. Our imports ensure the availability of a wide choice of food throughout the year, and that we are not reliant on any one country of origin.

Q:How can public procurement be used to support Scottish Producers?

A: The Scottish Government is using its legislation and policies to maximise the impact procurement can have for public bodies, suppliers and local suppliers and the Scottish economy. To promote local and sustainable produce public bodies have the flexibility to:

- Specify food for menus based on regional identity and protected geographical indication by using this terminology;
- Specify food produced according to recognised assurance schemes, e.g. Quality Meat Scotland, MSC, Red Tractor, RSPCA, or equivalent bespoke company systems;
- Specify free range and organic food;
- Specify requirements based on menu plans that are based on freshness, high nutritional value using food in-season and flexible and frequent delivery times;
- Divide contracts into small product lots and geographic areas to encourage the active participation of local businesses where it is proportionate to do so;
- Introduce a facility on some frameworks to enable small manufacturers who do not have national delivery logistics in place to bid on a supply only basis;
- Introduce a secondary price list within tenders to allow framework suppliers the choice to offer Scottish produce.

Q: What initiatives do you have that encourage the use of Scottish produce in the public sector?

A: Since 2012 the Scottish Government has provided the funding for the Soil Association's Food for Life Scotland programme (FFL).

- The programme aims to increase the amount of healthy, locally sourced food served by local authorities in schools. It currently operates in 17 Scottish local authorities.
- As well as aiming to put more local food on the table, there are wider benefits associated with the programme.
- These include: educating young people about food and culture; reassuring parents and pupils that their school meals are responsibly sourced, and freshly prepared by trained cooks; promoting fresh, local and seasonal food; ensuring that at least 75% is fresh and unprocessed; and improving pupils' health by putting more fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, and wholegrains on the menu.
- FFL compliant menus meet or exceed the Scotland's statutory food and nutrition standards for school meals.
- Our funding also supports a pilot programme within the Glasgow area which focusses on expanding FFL principles into the wider public sector, including further and higher education, workplaces, and council run care homes and leisure centres.

- This programme has now begun to bear fruit, with BaxterStorey having achieved accreditation for their catering sites within Scottish Government buildings and the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service

4: Urgent review of the regulatory burden on Scotland's agricultural sector

The Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill

The Agriculture Bill fits into a wider legislative programme during this parliament including linked legislation of the:

- Good Food Nation Bill (recently passed);
- Land Reform Bill;
- Nature Environment Bill; and
- Crofting Bill.

The government is working to ensure the legislative programme is taken together as a coherent whole to drive forward our ambitions for the land, and the communities who depend on it.

Top Lines

- Agriculture is devolved, however the UK can enact legislation on reserve matters which affect how we deal with agriculture. The new Agriculture Bill must provide the flexibility we need to ensure we can work within UK frameworks and react to further changes while delivering the necessary reforms.
- Future policy proposals must also be considered against a wider international context of membership, as part of the UK, of organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). We are for example under a duty to comply with the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, which sets out rules for domestic support.
- It is Scottish Government policy to ensure broad alignment to EU CAP objectives. The new Agriculture Bill focuses on creating a flexible approach which will allow Scotland to adapt to changing social, economic, and environmental conditions.
- The climate and nature crises are intrinsically linked – restoring biodiversity and rebuilding our natural capital will play an essential role in reaching net zero and helping land to adapt to climate change. The new Agriculture Bill will enable 'delivery of key outcomes' which includes 'nature restoration' mechanisms to incentivise activities which will preserve and increase biodiversity.

- The Bill provides the opportunity to reform how and what the Scottish Government supports, to help deliver on our Vision for Agriculture and enable more support and activity to cut emissions and protect and enhance nature.
- The Bill will be the platform for measures focused on the Scottish Government key outcomes: high quality food production; climate mitigation and adaptation; nature restoration; and wider rural development. Collectively, this will form a framework of support for agriculture, forestry and rural communities more generally.
- The Bill also provides the opportunity to modernise the powers of the Scottish Ministers on areas relating to animal health and identification, welfare and genetic resources, and plant health.

5: Raising the profile of Scottish Agriculture and Supporting Local

Stimulating demand for Scottish Produce – SG Support.

- Announced in June 2023, we have committed £5m to support year 1 delivery of Scotland’s new national food and drink industry led strategy – “Sustaining Scotland, Supplying the World” – a 10-year plan to safeguard and grow the £15bn food and drink industry. The strategy sets out short, medium and long-term goals developed in collaboration with food and drink producers with a focus on stability amidst turbulence from global events including the war in Ukraine.
- Our funding will help support activity in a number of programme areas to ‘move the dial’ on food and drink sector growth in Scotland and includes a range of activities working with retailers and foodservice companies to stimulate demand for Scottish produce, including:
 - Facilitation of new regional showcase trade events to bring together more suppliers and buyers to drive local sales.
 - Creation of new posts in buying teams of the major UK retailers and food service companies to broker more sourcing of Scottish produce.
 - Delivering a programme in partnership with key retailers and foodservice customers to increase listings of Scottish products in Scottish outlets. This is led by Scotland Food & Drink who are working hand in hand with major retailers and foodservice companies.
- Additionally, we have also provided over £700k funding to the Scottish Grocers Federation’s (SGF) “Go Local” programme since 2020 to transform

Scotland's convenience store sector to maximise local promotion and purchase of fresh, healthy Scottish produce.

- We also have regular ministerial-level engagement with the major retailers to encourage them to source and promote Scottish produce in their stores and support Scottish food and drink producers.
- Happy to consider any new ideas NFUS have that they feel would also help in this area.

On Thursday 28 September 2023, the “Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill” was introduced to Parliament

Introducing the Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill to Parliament is a significant milestone in reforming our agricultural and wider rural support systems.

- The Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill aims to provide Scotland with a future framework that will support farmers and crofters to meet more of our food needs sustainably and to farm and croft with nature and will assist in efforts to meet our climate change targets.
- This bill will provide Scotland with a future framework that will support farmers and crofters to adapt to new opportunities and new challenges to prosper in our changing world.
- We are clear in our commitment to support farmers and crofters to produce our food more sustainably while continuing to acknowledge the need for change and to make sure that agriculture continues to play its part in cutting emissions, mitigating climate change and restoring and enhancing nature and biodiversity.
- The introduction of this Bill is a hugely important step in reforming our agricultural and wider rural support systems and we will continue to work closely with industry and stakeholders to realise our ambition to make our nation fairer and greener, and to enable us to produce more of our own food more sustainably.

The Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill is of a framework nature, intended to deliver our published four-tier support framework and enable continued co-develop of detailed measures with partners.

- The powers in the Bill will be used to realise the Vision for Agriculture, delivering on our commitment to continue to support agriculture and rural communities.

- The Vision for Agriculture outlines the goal of transforming how the government will support farming and food production in Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

Agriculture Reform Programme (ARP) Overview

Issue: The [Agriculture Reform Programme](#) (ARP) will deliver the Vision for Agriculture and brings together work including the Route Map, the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill, Future Support Framework, Agriculture Reform Implementation Oversight Board (ARIOB), and the National Test Programme (NTP).

The [Agriculture Reform Programme](#) (ARP) will deliver the Scottish Government's Vision for Agriculture, transforming how we support farming and food production in Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

- The [Vision](#) was published in March 2022 and whilst remaining aligned to the [key objectives](#) of the EU CAP, we will have a robust and coherent framework to underpin Scotland's future agricultural support regime from 2025 onwards, that delivers climate mitigation and adaptation, nature restoration and high quality food production.
- It is important to ensure that we can produce high quality food in a way that delivers for climate and nature.

A Route Map and list of draft measures has been published which provides further clarity on how we intend to deliver the ambitions set out in the Vision.

- The [Route Map](#) was revised in June 2023 and outlines what information and guidance the sector can expect from 2023-2025 and when it will be available.
- Following discussions with industry partners, there is a focus on preparing for the first steps towards conditionality from 2025, which include:
 - the maintenance of existing **cross compliance** requirements as a minimum and the introduction of new protections for **Peatlands and Wetlands** as a new condition;
 - the foundations of a **Whole Farm Plan**, [redacted]
 - the introduction of new conditions to the **Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme** [redacted]

The Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill was introduced on 28 September 2023.

- A public consultation "[Delivering our Vision for Scottish Agriculture. Proposals for a new Agriculture Bill](#)" set out our vision for a new, post-EU CAP support payment system from 2025-26.

- The Scottish Government is committed to a service design approach to policy making involving user-centred co-development. The [Agriculture Reform Implementation Oversight Board](#) (ARIOB) was established to develop new proposals for sustainable farming support and is co-chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for RALRI and NFU Scotland President Martin Kennedy.
- We are supporting and encouraging farmers and crofters to learn about how their work impacts on climate and nature, including offering financial support to carry out carbon audits, soil testing and nutrient management planning, establishing a clear baseline and options for action for all who participate.

What will future support look like and when will further details be provided?

- In the future at least half of all funding for farming and crofting will be targeted towards outcomes for biodiversity gain and a drive towards low carbon approaches to improve the resilience, efficiency and profitability of the sector;
- The route map sets out the proposed timescales for information and interaction with the agricultural industry and we expect to provide further details in June 2024;
- The Scottish Government is already engaged with the sector through representative bodies as well as a cohort of individual farmers.

Does everything change in 2025?

- There will be no cliff edges in support as the Scottish Government has committed to maintaining direct payments beyond 2026 and supporting our nation's producers through a just transition;
- The existing framework of support will continue in 2023 and 2024 to provide stability to Farmers and Crofters. A phased transition will then take place to implement the Future Support Framework's proposed conditional payments under 4 tiers: Base, Enhanced, Elective, and Complementary.

What support is available to help the sector prepare?

- Financial support is available right now to help farmers prepare for the changes that are coming. Land managers can claim support towards the cost of soil analysis, and businesses can claim £500 towards carbon audits. Cattle keepers can claim up to a maximum of £1250 is available over two years to deliver animal health and welfare measures, with access to herd data.
- We have also produced leaflets for use both digitally and physically; getting ready for 2025 as well as specific information on Animal Health and Welfare interventions, Soil Analysis and Carbon Audits;
- The Programme has commenced a series of roadshows at forthcoming agricultural and local shows, and Autumn markets across the length and breadth of Scotland and right through until the end of this year. In addition, the

SG is calling on the agriculture sector to help us shape the detail of future of support and how it is delivered through a series of interviews, surveys, workshops, testing and trials and anyone can take part. Volunteers will be reimbursed with payment levels depending on the time and input required and people can register their interest [here](#).

Timescales for change

- The existing framework of support will continue in 2023 and 2024 to provide security and stability to farmers and crofters;
- Changes to existing schemes will begin in 2025, with a phased approach to bringing in the new support framework from 2026;
- More information about the actions farmers and crofters will need to take in 2026 will be announced in June 2024.

Background/context

- EU CAP is over 60 years old, is the largest part of the EU's multiannual budget and operated in the UK for almost 50 years. Under CAP each part of the UK designed their own rural development programme for their own circumstances.
- The Scottish Government committed to a period of stability and simplicity and to support active farming and food production with direct payments;
- The 2020 Act enabled the continuation of CAP payments and schemes from 2021, while future agriculture policy is co-developed. The powers are limited to simplifications and improvements to the operation of CAP legislation.
- A new Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill is required for substantive change and it was introduced on 28 September 2023.
- Agriculture is devolved and it is crucial our policies are unhindered by the threats posed by the UK Internal Market Act, Subsidy Control Regime and lack of replacement EU funding.

Importance of the farming sector to rural communities

Top Lines

- There are wider positive economic impacts associated with farms in rural areas that are important, particularly for local employment and trades. The exact extent to which rural communities fully appreciate and value the farming sector will vary depending on e.g. place, levels of associated employment opportunities, extent of social engagement and individuals' understanding of farming.
- Farmers often provide invaluable community support – for example, during poor weather and emergencies - and are a respected and valued part of the community.
- There are good examples where rural communities and farm engagement have resulted in wider community benefits. LEADER (part of the EU-funded Scottish Rural Development Programme) 2014-20 supported farm diversification initiatives.
- Recent examples of successful collaborative working with Rural Communities and Farmers include a project in Dumfries and Galloway focusing on Local Food Solutions, which explored sustainable farming with local schools and community groups, and considered a possible 'food hub' model in different areas of Dumfries and Galloway. In Moray a project was funded to assess the demand and supply of local produce from regenerative farming, and feasibility of renting/purchasing expanded shop premises.
- These projects provided alternative economic opportunities to farmers but also benefited communities who were part of the local decision making process. Examples of farm diversification included. eg – childcare services, wedding venues, holiday parks, kennels and farm shops. This enabled farms to use public funds to create new businesses that addressed local service needs and opportunities. This dual approach helped build mutual respect and garnered wider economic benefits for local economies.
- The Scottish Rural Network (part of SG), have awarded Scottish Agritourism funding of £18,350 to support development and delivery of their annual conference in 2023 and to help build capacity within the sector by supporting young people to attend, contribute and learn at the event.

Sensitivities

- [redacted]

ANNEX D

Question 3: How many meetings did Humza Yousaf hold in the week beginning October 30 with businesses or organisations, and minutes and notes prepared from all of these.

The First Minister undertook 4 separate meetings with businesses or organisations across the week commencing 30th October.

1. SAMH Centenary Roundtable with Young People

FM VISIT: SAMH Centenary Roundtable with Young People

Monday 30 October 2023

Meeting Note

The First Minister met a group of Young People as part of SAMH's Centenary celebrations. The young people were given the opportunity to ask the First Minister questions about mental health.

The following action points were noted:

- FM would like to hear directly from children and young people regarding their mental health and the issues they are facing. FM Proposed setting up a programme, through SAMH, that embraces the cross-portfolio aspects of mental health (the invite should include the participants who were present at the round table). This should be arranged in small groups to help the young people to feel more comfortable.
- FM also proposed setting up a Ministerial programme of engagement in relation to mental health in recognition of this being a cross-portfolio issue to open up the conversation on children and young people's mental health.
- FM will raise the issue of anti-bullying in schools with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to ensure that young people present at the roundtable are invited to be involved in the consultations and co-design of such policies which directly impact them.

2. Meeting with the Investment Association's Scottish Members Meeting – the First Minister attended and delivered a speech before undertaking networking. Therefore there is no formal note of this engagement.

3. The First Minister's Investment Panel.

Minutes for Investor Panel are published online and can be found at www.gov.scot/publications/investor-panel-minutes-october-2023/

4. Meeting with representatives of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

Note of meeting between First Minister and representatives of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

Thursday 2 November 2023 at 2pm to 2.30pm in the Scottish Parliament

Scottish Government attendees

Humza Yousaf MSP, First Minister (FM); Christina McKelvie, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development (MCEID); [redacted]; International Development; [redacted]; International Relations; Callum McCaig, Special Adviser; [redacted]; First Minister's Private Office; [redacted]; Minister's Private Office.

UNRWA attendees

Marta Lorenzo, Europe Director (ML)

[redacted], Senior Outreach Manager, Europe (MLi)

Meeting Note

The FM opened the meeting and offered condolences for the UNRWA staff lost in the conflict to date. Introduced the position Scottish Government has taken on the conflict to date, his own personal connections to Gaza and highlighted the additional £250k funding announced today, along with the existing £500k. FM noted that whilst comparatively small, symbolically very significant and an important contribution to support those affected in Palestine. The FM invited ML to provide an overview of the current situation.

[redacted]

Question 4: At FMQs on September 28, Humza Yousaf said: "The future of the north-east is as a net zero capital, not the oil and gas capital.

"It is transitioning from that to a net zero capital. That is the future that I want to see for the north-east...that is why we have invested £500 million in the Just Transition Fund."

-Could you provide the evidence for this or has Humza Yousaf corrected the record?

-All internal correspondence within the Scottish Government about this statement he made between September 28 and the date of this FOI.

Item 1: Email chain on 11/10, subject line 'RE:FM Correspondence'

Sent Wed 11/10/2023 14:47

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:47 PM

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FM Correspondence

Hi [redacted]

Apologies my fault for not sending on revised lines:

Despite repeated calls from the Scottish Government, the UK Government has failed to match our commitment to Aberdeen, the North East and Moray – that is despite the fact that, when measured in today's prices over £400 billion has flowed to the Treasury from North Sea oil since the 1970s.

In 2022-23, commercial oil and gas extraction revenues reached a record high of £50.6 billion according to the OBR. Yet still the UK Government refuses to match the financial support we are providing. I am unaware whether you or your Scottish Conservative colleagues representing the North East of Scotland have made representations to the UK Government calling on them address this

From: [redacted]

Sent: 11 October 2023 14:28

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FM Correspondence

Hi all,

Apologies for chasing but grateful for any response on the below. PO deadline for the MiCase response is today.

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:10 AM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FW: FM Correspondence
Importance: High

Adding [redacted]/ [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 October 2023 11:06
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FM Correspondence
Importance: High

Hi [redacted]/ [redacted],

I hope you're well – just getting in touch for a quick sense check regarding correspondence we have drafted for FM's office to send to Liam Kerr, MSP.

With thanks to [redacted] for his comments, could you please confirm what the highlighted figure in the attached document should be?

Thank you,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Item 2: Email chain between FMPO and Net Zero on 3/10, subject line 'RE: Clarification of Just Transition Fund statement',

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 4:44 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted] Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Clarification of Just Transition Fund statement

Thanks [redacted] – we'll aim to have a draft back to you early next week.

Thanks again,

[redacted]

[redacted]

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

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 4:17 PM

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot> [redacted] McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: FW: Clarification of Just Transition Fund statement

Afternoon colleagues,

Please find attached correspondence from Liam Kerr, MSP.

I would be grateful if you could please take forward in drafting a response.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[redacted]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other 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.

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

From: Kerr L (Liam), MSP <LIAM.KERR.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 5:31 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Subject: Clarification of Just Transition Fund statement

Dear First Minister,

Please would you consider and respond to the letter attached.

Regards,

Liam Kerr

MSP for North East Scotland

Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Room M2.17

Attachment:

REDACTED

Item 3: Email chain on 5/10, subject line 'RE: Clarification of Just Transition Fund statement'

Email chain:

Thank you [redacted] will send off for a view!

[redacted] | Just Transition Policy Officer | Just Transition Unit |

Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | Scottish Government

From: Catriona Laing <Catriona.Laing@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 5:50 PM

To: [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Subject: RE: Clarification of Just Transition Fund statement

Thanks [redacted]

Happy with this.

Regards,

Catriona

Catriona Laing

Deputy Director, Domestic Climate Change (Just Transition, Adaptation, Public Engagement, Emissions Trading)

Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Scottish Government

Mob: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 5:40 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Clarification of Just Transition Fund statement

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] again! Please find below draft response from FM to Liam Kerr. Once you are content, we will send to Spads for view: [link redacted]

Also, thank you for coming back on so many of our documents in the last few days! Please know comments have been much appreciated and we are working to action them.

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Just Transition Policy Officer | Just Transition Unit |
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | Scottish Government

Attachment:

REDACTED

Item 4: Letter from Liam Kerr MSP

Humza Yousaf MSP First Minister Scottish Government, St. Andrew's House Regent Road Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By email

Our Ref: LK1948 28th September 2023

Dear First Minister, Clarification on Just Transition Fund On the 28th of September, at First Ministers' Questions, during an answer to a question posed by Mark Ruskell MSP, you stated:

"That's why we have, of course, invested £500m in that Just Transition Fund"

To the best of my knowledge in the first tranche of the Fund, £20m has so far been allocated. I believe £25m has been made available in the second tranche but I am not yet sure of its allocation status.

Given that this leaves £455m that you claimed had been invested in the Just Transition Fund, please could you confirm the whereabouts of this £455m and from which budget it was drawn to be so invested.

Alternatively, if in fact you misled the Chamber and meant to say that only £45m has been invested in the Just Transition Fund, could you let me know whether you intend to apologise and correct the record?

Yours sincerely,

Liam Kerr

Member of the Scottish Parliament for the North East Region

Item 5: Cleared response to Liam Kerr MSP's letter

Dear Liam Kerr,

Thank you for your letter regarding our £500 million Just Transition Fund investment, which is supporting projects and communities across the North East and Moray to create jobs, promote innovation, and secure the highly skilled workforce of the future.

Of the £500 million investment we are making, £75 million has been allocated to date. In Year 1, we announced a £50 million capital grant programme supporting 24 projects which are now providing training opportunities, giving direct support to businesses, and supporting communities across the region to transition to net zero. We are continuing to fund those projects this year and by close of the 23-24 financial year will have spent £35 million of the £50 million.

In Year 2 we have also allocated a further £25 million to the Scottish National Investment Bank for 2023-24, to be invested in the North East and Moray on a commercial basis in line with the Bank's Investment Strategy and its Missions, including to support a Just Transition to net zero.

I look forward to working in close partnership with stakeholders across the North East and Moray, who I know welcome our investment, over the full lifetime of the Fund as we work to deliver a fair and managed transition to net zero.

Despite repeated calls from the Scottish Government, the UK Government has failed to match our commitment to Aberdeen, the North East and Moray – that is despite the fact that, when measured in today's prices over £400 billion has flowed to the Treasury from North Sea oil since the 1970s.

In 2022-23, commercial oil and gas extraction revenues reached a record high of £50.6 billion according to the OBR. Yet still the UK Government refuses to match the financial support we are providing. I am unaware whether you or your Scottish Conservative colleagues representing the North East of Scotland have made representations to the UK Government calling on them address this.

If not I would urge you to do so and demonstrate a willingness to put the interests of your constituents above those of party loyalty.

Sincerely,

Item 6: Email chain on 11/10 titled 'RE:FM Correspondence', gaining SpAd approval on response

From: Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:12 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FM Correspondence

Fine for me thanks

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 3:52 PM
To: redacted ; redacted; redacted >
Cc: redacted; redacted; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FM Correspondence

Hi [redacted]

No worries at all – thank you for getting back. Attaching updated response here and have highlighted changes made for [redacted]'s info.

If no further comments I will submit response this PM.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]) | Just Transition Policy Officer | Just Transition Unit |
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | Scottish Government

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:47 PM
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FM Correspondence

Hi [redacted]

Apologies my fault for not sending on revised lines:

Despite repeated calls from the Scottish Government, the UK Government has failed to match our commitment to Aberdeen, the North East and Moray – that is despite the fact that, **when measured in today's prices** over £400 billion has flowed to the Treasury from North Sea oil since the 1970s.

In 2022-23, commercial oil and gas extraction revenues reached a record high of £50.6 billion according to the OBR. Yet still the UK Government refuses to match the financial support we are providing. I am unaware whether you or your Scottish Conservative colleagues representing the North East of Scotland have made representations to the UK Government calling on them address this

Question 6: All minutes, notes and briefings from Humza Yousaf's meeting with Husam Zomlot on November 17

BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

Bilateral meeting with the Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, Dr Husam S Zomlot

Friday 17 November 2023

Key message	The Scottish Government calls for immediate ceasefire to ensure the protection of innocent civilians and the delivery and distribution of essential supplies including food, fuel, water, and medical provisions to all civilians throughout Gaza. We condemn the terrorist actions by Hamas and call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages; recognise that the Israeli Government has the right to protect its citizens, but must do so in accordance with international law, which prioritises the protection of civilians and affords special protection to children, medical facilities and humanitarian actors.
What	Lunch meeting at Bute House.
Why	The Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, Dr Husam S Zomlot requested to meet to discuss the ongoing conflict with Israel and Gaza, while he is in Scotland.
Who	Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, Dr Husam S Zomlot. The Ambassador will be accompanied by: REDACTED –Diplomat Attaché REDACTED (Security). REDACTED Head of Palestinian Community REDACTED Ambassador's Advisor.
Where	Bute House
When	12.30-14.00 Friday 17 November 2023
Likely themes	Current situation in Israel/Gaza/OPTs REDACTED <i>NB: Scottish Government does not recognise the State of Palestine.</i>
Media	Tweet will issue after the meeting.
Supporting official	Scott Wightman, Director for External Affairs.
Attached documents	Annex A: Summary and Agenda. Annex B: Biography Annex C: Israel-Gaza Conflict FMQ

	Annex D: REDACTED
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ANNEX A

Agenda and Summary

1. Background:

The Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, Dr Zomlot, approached the Scottish Government for a meeting with the First Minister. The visit coincides with the protests expected to take place in Glasgow over the weekend 17 - 19 November 2023. REDACTED

2. Current situation in Gaza:

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, a proscribed terrorist organisation, launched an attack on Israel on 7 October, killing over 1,200 people and taking more than 200 hostages. As of 16 November, more than 11,000 people have been killed in Gaza since 7 October, with around two thirds being women and children (this figure has not been updated since 10 November). An estimated 1.6m people are internally displaced.

Hospitals in Gaza

According to the WHO, all but one of the 24 hospitals in Northern Gaza have ceased functioning due to a lack of electricity, water and medical supplies. According to UNOCHA, on 15 November, Israeli troops, including tanks, entered Shifa hospital compound in Gaza city and reportedly took control of several sections, searched them and interrogated people. The hospital is housing dozens of new born babies, more than 650 patients, 500 medical staff and more than 5,000 displaced people. The Intensive Care Unit was hit by an airstrike and there have been gunfights in around the hospital compound. The director of the hospital described tanks surrounding the hospital, drones overhead and Israeli soldiers moving inside – particularly in the emergency department. Israel and the US claim to have evidence that Hamas bases its operations in and around hospitals, thus deliberately placing the most vulnerable in harm's way, though this is contested by many and there is no scope for independent verification of these assertions.

West Bank:

The UN says 182 Palestinians, including 46 children, have been killed by Israeli forces since 7 October in the West Bank, with another eight killed by Israeli settlers. **Please see Annex D for the Israel-Gaza Conflict FMQ.**

3. Calls for a Ceasefire

On Wednesday, the UN Security Council voted in favour of a resolution to call for "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days". Twelve members voted for the resolution with three abstentions from permanent members the US, UK and Russia.

On Tuesday, the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres renewed his call for an immediate ceasefire in the besieged enclave "in the name of humanity" and said he

was “deeply concerned by the horrible situation in several hospitals” and by “the dramatic loss of life.”

Earlier this week, the Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, called on Israeli forces to stop “killing babies” and the French president, Emmanuel Macron said: “We condemn with the greatest firmness all bombings of civilians, in particular of civilian infrastructure which must be protected under our international law and humanitarian law.”

4. Humanitarian Situation:

Over 813,000 internally displaced persons are now sheltering in 154 UNRWA installations across five Governates in Gaza. Essential electricity and water services have been cut and UNRWA announced that approximately 70% of people in Gaza will not have clean water by the end of the day (Thursday) as key services cease due to the fuel shortage.

Since 21 October, 1,139 trucks carrying mainly medicines, food and water have entered Gaza via the Rafah crossing with Egypt, representing a fraction of the needs.

On the afternoon of 15 November, one truck of fuel entered Gaza, leaving an insufficient amount of time to refuel the trucks needed to distribute the humanitarian aid that had been delivered to warehouses in Rafah on 14 November. Given the warehouses were at capacity, the Agency was not able to receive additional humanitarian shipments.

Lack of food in the north is of increasing concern. Since 7 November, no bakeries have been active, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, and structural damage.

On 2 November, we announced a further £250,000 in funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in response to the ongoing escalation in the Gaza Strip, bringing the total contribution from SG to £750,000.

5. Engagement with UK Government/internationally

The First Minister wrote to the heads of the UK political parties on 27 October 2023, asking them to join him in calling for an immediate ceasefire.

The First Minister and Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development met with the Director of UNRWA, Marta Lorenza on 2nd November to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the OPTs.

Two State Solution:

While it may seem a distant prospect, the Scottish Government continues to support the UK and EU positions of a two-state solution that respects the human rights of everyone in the region to ensure that a secure Israel can live peacefully alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state. Only through such an outcome can the cycle of violence that is killing and injuring so many innocent civilians be ended.

REDACTED

ANNEX B

Biography

Husam S. Zomlot is the Head of the Palestinian Mission to the United Kingdom.

Prior to this appointment, Dr. Zomlot served as Strategic Affairs Advisor to the Palestinian President and Ambassador to the United States (Head of the PLO General Delegation to the United States). Dr Zomlot's previous roles include serving as ambassador-at-large for the Palestinian Presidency, Director of the Fatah Foreign Relations Commission and First Counsellor at the Palestinian Mission to the United Kingdom.

Dr Zomlot has held several academic positions including at Havard University and University of London, where he holds a PhD in economics. He worked as a professor of Public Policy at Birzeit University, where he co-founded and chaired the Birzeit School of Government. His professional experience includes working as an economist at the United Nations and economic researcher with the London School of Economics and the Palestine Policy Research Institute. He is married and has two children.

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING WITH FM AND DR ZOMLOT (18 MAY 2023)

1. The First Minister met Dr Husam Zomlot, Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, on 18 May.

REDACTED

ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT FMQ

We unequivocally condemn the abhorrent terrorist actions of Hamas.

- The hostages taken by Hamas must be released immediately and unconditionally.
- Hamas missile attacks must cease immediately.
- Israel – like any other country – has a right to protect itself and its citizens from terror. In exercising its right to defend itself, Israel must abide by international humanitarian law.

We support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

- A ceasefire from all sides is needed to ensure the protection of innocent civilians and the delivery of essential supplies including food, fuel, water, and medical provisions.
- To prevent further deaths, the bombs and rockets must stop and civilians must be given access to basic necessities wherever they are.
- There is no justification for the bombing of medical facilities and schools. Humanitarian workers, vehicles and installations including hospitals and schools must be protected under international law.
- WHO director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, “The world cannot stand silent while hospitals, which should be safe havens, are transformed into scenes of death, devastation, and despair.”
- We call for essential services including electricity and water to be reestablished in Gaza.
- As supplies run out, the lives of innocent civilians are at grave risk from a lack of essentials, alongside extensive Israeli bombardments and spread of waterborne diseases.
- We call for an urgent expansion in the volume of humanitarian supplies being allowed into Gaza, including fuel which is urgently needed for hospital generators, ambulances, and water desalination plants, as well as for the distribution of humanitarian aid to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip.
- We welcome the partial opening of the Rafah Crossing to allow a limited number of foreign nationals and injured Gazans to leave, and call for this to be expanded and sustained.

As Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator stated:

- **[QUOTE]:** *‘The rules of war are clear: civilians must be protected and have the essentials to survive, wherever they are and whether they choose to move or stay’.*

This is an emergency. The UK government and the international community must act to prevent further loss of civilian lives.

- We have called for a ceasefire, but obviously support the UN’s call for an immediate humanitarian truce.
- The UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favour of an immediate humanitarian truce.
- Our condolences go to all those who have lost loved ones. Too many innocent lives have already been lost

- Innocent men, women and children cannot, and should not, pay the price for the actions of a terrorist group.

SG

HUMANITARIAN

FUNDING

We are providing £750,000 towards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) in response to the ongoing escalation in the Gaza Strip.

- These funds will support the immediate food, health, shelter and protection needs of people seeking safety.
- Members of the public who wish to do so, can contribute to the UNRWA flash appeal, or those of the many aid agencies operating in Gaza.
- The UN 'Flash' appeal is specifically for Gaza. That is where the unfolding humanitarian disaster is, with an estimated 1.6 million people displaced by the bombing. The Israeli Government has not requested humanitarian assistance from the international community.
- We are satisfied that UNRWA, with the institutional substance of a UN agency, its established operations and long experience of working on the ground in Gaza, is best placed to ensure that the funds are used to provide humanitarian aid to those in desperate need.
- The UN must be able to access essential fuel supplies in order to support the distribution of life-saving humanitarian aid.

UK CITIZENS IN REGION

We call for the sustained opening of the Rafah Crossing to allow foreign nationals and injured Gazans to leave. We will continue to liaise with the Foreign Office about Scots in the region.

- The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office is responsible for providing consular support to those UK citizens caught up in the crisis.
- The Scottish Government is liaising with it to assist where we can.
- We urge affected UK citizens to regularly monitor Foreign Office Travel Advice.

REFUGEE RESPONSE

We continue to stand ready to work with the UK Government on a possible Resettlement Route to help anyone who is forced to flee the region.

- Many Palestinians will wish to remain in their homeland, and it is right that the current focus is on calls for a ceasefire and an increase in humanitarian aid.
- Should a displacement of refugees occur, we have called on the UK government to use its existing UK Resettlement Scheme, and ensure it is aligned with UNHCR to provide those who want to leave with the support they require.
- There are currently around 1.6 million people internally displaced within the Gaza strip. They are not classed as refugees while they remain within the occupied Palestinian territories.
- In the past, people in Scotland and across the UK have opened their hearts and communities to welcome those from Syria, Ukraine and many other countries. We are ready to do so again if called upon to do so.
- The Scottish Refugee Council, a partner in the New Scots Refugee Integration strategy, has joined our call for the UK Government to activate its existing resettlement scheme, to assist those who need medical

treatment, and to open a family reunion scheme to allow people already resident in the UK to bring their loved ones to safety.

- Crucially, this will ensure that all medical needs are in place for those who require it.

MEDICAL EVACUATION

We urge the UK Government to support the medical evacuation of injured civilians in Gaza.

- Scotland is ready to play its part and Scottish hospitals will treat the injured men, women and children of Gaza where they can.
- People who flee conflict deserve and need this support given the deep trauma many will have experienced.
- WHO also calls for the sustained, orderly, unimpeded and safe medical evacuations of critically injured and sick patients into Egypt through the Rafah Border Crossing.

PROTEST ACTIVITY

Ensuring people's voices can be heard is central to all healthy democracies.

We fully support people's fundamental human right to both protests and counter protest.

- We support Police Scotland take a facilitative approach to all protests and counter protests and ensure that everyone can hold their protests safely and peacefully.
- We encourage protest organisers to engage with Police Scotland as early as possible to ensure that their event can be facilitated peacefully.
- The policing of protests is an operational matter for Police Scotland, we support them to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to any criminality or hate crime.

HATE CRIME

Events in Israel and Palestine do not justify expressions of racial or religious hatred of any kind.

- Although we are not seeing a rise in reported hate crime as they are in England and Wales, we are not complacent.
- Scotland is a diverse, multi-cultural society and this diversity strengthens us as a nation. That is why we work with a range of organisations throughout the country to tackle all forms of hatred and prejudice.
- I recently joined faith leaders in Scotland to express a steadfast commitment against all forms of hate crime, bigotry and xenophobia and a joint statement of solidarity was published on 24 October.
- This statement between Scottish Government, and senior religious representatives of Scotland's Jewish and Muslim communities sets out a pledge to continue working together to foster community cohesion and goodwill across Scotland.

ANTISEMITISM/ ISLAMOPHOBIA

Our recently published Hate Crime strategy sets out our strategic priorities for tackling hate crime in Scotland, including Islamophobia and antisemitism

- It was informed by communities with lived experience of hate crime, including Muslim and Jewish communities
- We will continue to engage with Muslim and Jewish communities in Scotland to understand the issues of importance to them as we move into strategy delivery.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF PUBLIC BODIES (OVERSEAS MATTERS) BILL

The Bill has implications significantly beyond Israel and Gaza

- While there is an understandable, and correct, current focus on events in Israel and Gaza, it is important not to ignore the significantly broader implications of this Bill.
- This Bill is an assault on democracy. To make it illegal for Scottish Ministers to even say that they would have acted in a certain way, were it not outlawed by this Bill – on pain of fines from the UK Government – is to stifle the ability for democratic debate.
- This Bill is disproportionate and unnecessary, the Scottish Government has always acted responsibly and in line with the UK's international commitments.
- There are already significant protections in procurement legislation which require equal treatment to be extended to bidders from countries with which a relevant trade agreement applies.
- This Bill must not constrain Scotland's ability to support human rights internationally.
- It is important that Scotland is able to take a values-based approach to international engagement, as set out in our Global Affairs Framework and the Vision for Trade, for example. The Scottish Government's international activity creates opportunities at home, broadens our horizons, attracts high-quality investment and ultimately benefits the people of Scotland.

REDACTED

Note of meeting between FM and Dr Husam Zomlot

PS/First Minister

The First Minister (FM) met the Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, Dr Husam S Zomlot (HZ) on 17 November. Ambassador Zomlot was accompanied by **REDACTED** and Scott Wightman were present.

REDACTED

Question 7: Did the Scottish Government pay for Nadia El-Nakla's trip to Turkey to attend a summit for national leaders' spouses in Istanbul on November 15? Full costs of this if they did. All correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Government, including internally, about this summit between November 1 2023 and the date of this FOI.

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 5:47 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

Cc: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; [redacted] Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted] >; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>

Subject: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023

Importance: High

FMPO, PS/Mr Robertson

Please see attached submission regarding today's requests to Ms El-Nakla from the Government of Turkey.

Thanks,
REDACTED

REDACTED

Head of European Relations | Europe Division | Scottish Government | REDACTED

Submission:

First Minister
Cabinet Secretary Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

INVITATION FROM GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY FOR NADIA EL-NAKLA TO DISCUSS AND ATTEND “GAZZE REUNION” IN ISTANBUL, 15 NOVEMBER 2021

Priority and Purpose

1. REDACTED

Recommendation

2. Recommends, in the first instance, a holding response while officials seek further information about the event from the Turkish Consulate General.

Background

3. REDACTED

Context and Issues

4. OUT OF SCOPE
5. The Scottish Government recently attended celebrations to mark 100 year anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. REDACTED
6. REDACTED
7. REDACTED

Options Considered and advice

8. REDACTED

Assessment of Options

REDACTED

Bute House Agreement Implications

11. None

Verity House Agreement Implications

12. None

Financial and Legal Considerations

13. None

Quality Assurance

14. This submission has been approved by Director DEXA.

Conclusions and next Steps

REDACTED

REDACTED

DEXA: European Relations

REDACTED

Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List	For Action	For Information Portfolio interest	For Information Constituency interest	For Information General awareness
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development		X	«text»	«text»

Officials Copy List

DG Strategy and External Affairs
Scott Wightman
Deputy Director Europe Division
REDACTED
Spads Admin
Ewan Crawford

From: Humza Yousaf <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:28 AM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023

My view is that Nadia should absolutely do the call.

REDACTED

Let's discuss later today.

Humza

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 7:05 PM
To: Humza Yousaf <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023
Importance: High

FM,

Content with the recommendation that a holding response should be issued? And any thoughts to feedback on the invitation itself?

Thanks,

REDACTED

Private Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: REDACTED

From: [redacted]> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:49 AM

To: : [redacted]>

Cc: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; : [redacted]> Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; : [redacted]>; : [redacted]>; : [redacted]>; : [redacted]>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>: [redacted]>

Subject: RE: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023

Hi REDACTED

Thanks for the submission. The First Minister has considered and believes Ms El-Nakla should take the initial call. The FM has suggested it would be useful to understand further information regarding the event itself; so, as per the recommendation, a holding response would seem like a sensible approach.

Thanks,

REDACTED

Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

REDACTED

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 07 November 2023 19:08

To: [redacted]

Subject: FW: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023

Importance: High

Andy,

REDACTED

Thanks again for your support.

Chris

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

REDACTED

From: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 7:31 PM
To: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Call from wife of Turkish President

yes chat tomorrow walking down thanks

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 6:41 PM
To: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Call from wife of Turkish President

Yes, can update you in our scheduled catch up tomorrow? In short, the call took place unexpectedly and unsupported [REDACTED]

Thanks

Chris

Chris Mackie

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

From: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 November 2023 18:39
To: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Call from wife of Turkish President

Let's chat on latest here please ahead of seeing FM together thanks

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:03 PM
To: Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023

I am writing to notify you both that the call happened earlier this afternoon [REDACTED]

Chris Mackie

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

From: Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 November 2023 10:13

To: Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>

Cc: Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023

I think Chris has spoken with Joe this morning and agreed a way forward that picks up the points you raise below.

Andy

Andy Bruce

**Director of Communications & Ministerial Support
Scottish Government**

My pronouns are he / him

REDACTED

andrew.bruce@gov.scot

From: Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 November 2023 10:05

To: Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Turkey - Invitation to discuss and attend "Gazze Reunion" - submission to Ministers - 6 November 2023

Thanks Andy

REDACTED

H

From: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 5:01 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Subject: Call from wife of Turkish President

Chris

The First Minister has asked me to pass on that his wife, Nadia El-Nakla, took a call on her personal mobile earlier today from the wife of the Turkish President.

REDACTED

In summary, Ms El-Nakla has been invited to:

REDACTED

FM asked me to pass this information on for colleagues awareness and for the purposes of the corporate record if deemed appropriate.

He would be grateful if advice could be provided on whether this information should be shared with the FCDO.

Regards

Colin McAllister
REDACTED

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Cc: REDACTED Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Fwd: United for Peace in Palestine Meeting

Scott,

We have been asked by the First Minister to forward the below and attached information related to the call the FM's wife held with the Turkish President's wife yesterday. This provides further information on the proposed event.

I understand that the FM's wife is considering this invitation in a purely private capacity, however we have been asked to share in the interests of full awareness among relevant colleagues in SG and, if necessary, FCDO. There is no current ask for briefing and/or support to the FM's wife in relation to this event.

I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if you need any further information. I will update this copy list for information when a decision has been taken in relation to her attendance.

Thanks,

Chris

Chris Mackie

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

From: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 November 2023 15:42
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: United for Peace in Palestine Meeting

Chris

The FM has asked that I pass on the attached and the below. He would be grateful if this could be shared with colleagues, including, if deemed appropriate, FCDO.

Regards

Colin McAllister

REDACTED

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

From: REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 11:24:26 AM

To: Nadia El-Nakla REDACTED

Subject: United for Peace in Palestine Meeting

REDACTED

From: Humza Yousaf REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 1:23 PM

To: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: United for Peace in Palestine Meeting

Please make officials aware, as appropriate.

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Humza Yousaf REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 1:22:25 PM

To: Colin.McAllister@gov.scot <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: United for Peace in Palestine Meeting

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Nadia El-Nakla REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 1:09:43 PM

To: Humza Yousaf REDACTED

Subject: Fwd: United for Peace in Palestine Meeting

REDACTED

From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 November 2023 11:48

To: FM Policy Team Mailbox <fmpolicyteam@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>;

Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Invitation to Ms El-Nakla from the First Lady of Türkiye

PS/First Minister

Invitation from the First Lady of Türkiye

14. The First Lady of Türkiye, Mrs Ermine Erdogan, has invited Ms El-Nakla, as the spouse of the First Minister, to take part in a “United for Peace in Palestine Meeting” in Istanbul on 15 November with a number of spouses of Heads of State and Government, [REDACTED]

REDACTED

17. We informed FCDO of the invitation on 8 November and have subsequently [REDACTED]
18. Since the spouse of the First Minister is not an official position, we cannot advise whether Ms El-Nakla should accept the invitation [REDACTED]
19. The First Minister and the Scottish Government have consistently condemned the Hamas attacks, recognised Israel’s right to defend itself, and called for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages and an end to Hamas rocket attacks, while deploring the loss of innocent Palestinian lives and calling for a ceasefire and the establishment of a humanitarian corridor. REDACTED

REDACTED

SCOTT WIGHTMAN

Director for External Affairs

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay (Area 2H South)

Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

 REDACTED

From: Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, November 10, 2023 9:54 AM

To: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Turkey

From: Joe Griffin
Sent: 10 November 2023 09:01
To: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Turkey


Thanks – good note. Couple of thoughts. Might be worth running by Chris Mackie in draft as well? Thanks Joe

From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 November 2023 08:41
To: Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>
Subject: Turkey

Joe

Slightly revised. I've added some material on REDACTED

Scott
SCOTT WIGHTMAN
Director for External Affairs

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay (Area 2H South)
Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
 REDACTED

[@Scott_Wightman1](#) [@scotland](#) [@scotgovinterl](#)

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:11 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; [redacted] ; [redacted] FM Policy Team Mailbox <fmpolicyteam@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Invitation to Ms El-Nakla from the First Lady of Turkiye

Good afternoon all

Further to the below, please see the attached letter we have received from the Consulate of Türkiye today. Grateful if officials in copy can please advise on handling.

Thanks
REDACTED

Deputy Private Secretary

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot

ATTACHMENT [REDACTED]

From: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:37 PM
To: [redacted] [redacted] First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Turkey

Dear All

If helpful and where appropriate, in relation to this event please direct contacts from the consulate etc to REDACTED

Thanks.

Regards

Colin McAllister
REDACTED

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

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:32 PM
To: REDACTED First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Turkey

REDACTED

For information, please be advised that the First Minister's wife intends to take up the invitation to attend the event in Turkey in a personal capacity. The invitation is therefore not to be managed in a government space. Can you let me know if you are still receiving approaches from the consulate?

[REDACTED]

Finally, my understanding, for information, is that FM's wife will be invited to give some remarks at the event, which she will deliver as a private citizen.

I hope this is helpful, please let me know if you need anything further.

Chris

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

REDACTED

From REDACTED

Sent: 13 November 2023 08:17

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Turkey

Importance: High

FMPO

REDACTED

Thanks,
REDACTED

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of First Minister

Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2023 2:14 PM

To: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Subject: Re: Turkey

Hi Scott,

No further information at this moment, will update you when we receive anything further.

Many thanks

REDACTED Private Secretary to the First Minister
REDACTED

From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2023 1:49:05 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Subject: Turkey

Chris/ REDACTED

REDACTED Is there any news?

Scott

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:54 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; <[redacted]>; FM Policy Team Mailbox <fmpolicyteam@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Invitation to Ms El-Nakla from the First Lady of Türkiye

REDACTED

No further action required on this.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:11 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>;

Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations

<DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; REDACTED

FM Policy Team Mailbox <fmpolicyteam@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Invitation to Ms El-Nakla from the First Lady of Türkiye

Good afternoon all

Further to the below, please see the attached letter we have received from the Consulate of Türkiye today. Grateful if officials in copy can please advise on handling.

Thanks

REDACTED

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:00 PM
To: [redacted]; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Turkey

Thanks, REDACTED – to confirm I will pass this to REDACTED as per Colin’s note earlier.

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew’s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 13 November 2023 13:47
To: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Turkey

Thanks Chris, understood.

Please see attached [REDACTED] received from the consulate providing further information on the logistical arrangements for the “United for Peace in Palestine” meeting to be held on Wednesday.

REDACTED

From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 5:23 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Turkey: Ms El-Nakla

REDACTED

(FCDO) rang this evening and asked if there was any news. I said that Ms El-Nakla had decided to attend in a personal capacity. As such, no official assistance was being given to her. [REDACTED]

Scott

SCOTT WIGHTMAN

Director for External Affairs

From: Scott Wightman
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 5:34 PM
To: REDACTED@fcdo.gov.uk
Subject: United for Peace in Palestine Meeting

REDACTED

This is what has come through.

Scott

SCOTT WIGHTMAN
Director for External Affairs

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay (Area 2H South)
Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Attachments:

- [REDACTED]

From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:21 AM
To: [redacted] **Cc:** [redacted] Deputy Director European Relations
<DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Stuart Adam <[redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: First Lady of Turkey

REDACTED

Many thanks for taking my call yesterday evening. I told you that the Turkish Consul General had approached us seeking to arrange a call between the First Lady of Turkey and the wife of the First Minister in which she wished to invite Ms El-Nakla to a meeting she plans to host in Istanbul on the crisis in Gaza. [REDACTED]

We will share with you any details we receive on the event [REDACTED]

Scott

SCOTT WIGHTMAN
Director for External Affairs

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay (Area 2H South)
Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

 REDACTED


From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Call from wife of Turkish President

Chris

I spoke to FCDO yesterday evening and have followed that up with an email this morning. I've said that we will share any details we receive [REDACTED]

Scott

SCOTT WIGHTMAN
Director for External Affairs

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay (Area 2H South)
Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
 REDACTED

[@Scott_Wightman1](#) [@scotland](#) [@scotgovinter](#)

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 6:13 PM
To: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; REDACTED
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Call from wife of Turkish President

Scott – many thanks for the confirmation.

The FM would be grateful if FCDO could be made aware of the below mentioned call.

I would also be grateful if you could advise if any additional information is received through official channels in relation [REDACTED] We will update in the event that comes through FMPO.

Thanks again for all your support.

Chris

Chris Mackie
Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
REDACTED

From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 November 2023 17:27

To: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Call from wife of Turkish President

Chris

Many thanks for your email. I think we do need to share this with FCDO. If you agree I will speak to someone in the Middle East and North Africa Directorate.

Scott

SCOTT WIGHTMAN

Director for External Affairs

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay (Area 2H South)
Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

 REDACTED

[@Scott_Wightman1](#) [@scotland](#) [@scotgovinter](#)

From: Christopher MacKie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 5:07 PM

To: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Call from wife of Turkish President

Scott,

Please see below message received from the First Minister's chief of staff this afternoon, which provides an update on the proposed phone call between the wife of the Turkish president and the First Minister's wife.

I would be grateful for advice on the final point in relation to the FCDO.

Happy to discuss,

Thanks

Chris

The First Minister has asked me to pass on that his wife, Nadia El-Nakla, took a call on her personal mobile earlier today from the wife of the Turkish President.

REDACTED

In summary, Ms El-Nakla has been invited to:

REDACTED

FM asked me to pass this information on for colleagues awareness and for the purposes of the corporate record if deemed appropriate.

He would be grateful if advice could be provided on whether this information should be shared with the FCDO.

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

REDACTED

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:47 PM

To: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; First Minister
<FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin
<Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations
<DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman
<Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Turkey

Thanks Chris, understood.

Please see attached [REDACTED] received from the consulate providing further information on the logistical arrangements for the “United for Peace in Palestine” meeting to be held on Wednesday.

REDACTED