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12:00	Lunch (finger buffet) – village hall
12:45	Meet remaining residents
13:00	Meeting with IRCT
14:30	Visit to National Nature Reserve
14:30	Depart Rum
15:45	Arrive Mallaig

From: NAME REDACTED **On Behalf Of** Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Sent: 10 May 2023 13:52

To: NAME REDACTED Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
<MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot>

Cc: NAMES REDACTED

Subject: RE: Briefing - Kinloch Castle - 12 May 2023

Thanks NAME REDACTED – Ms Slater would like to visit the NNR, please. (I'll be accompanying the Minister tomorrow and Friday.)

Grateful if you can have a quick word with NAME REDACTED please, I spoke to her earlier (I'm just going into another meeting) – can you recast the briefings as in the attached exemplar in sequence please and provide separate briefings for each engagement we're undertaking.

NAME REDACTED - Private Secretary to the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity - Lorna Slater MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | CONTACT MOBILE REDACTED | Email: MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot

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From: NAME REDACTED

Sent: 10 May 2023 13:15

To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
<MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot>

Cc: NAMES REDACTED

Subject: Briefing - Kinloch Castle - 12 May 2023

NAME REDACTED

For Friday's visit I attach the briefing in advance of this afternoon's premeet. There are a few things to tidy up.

PARAGRAPH REDACTED

We wanted to get the briefings to the Minister so she could consider in advance of the premeet. Following this well be able to tidy up and submit in full.



Rum_Report.pdf

NAME REDACTED| Environment and Forestry Sponsorship Hub | Future Environment Division | Scottish Government | CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED

NAME REDACTED| Hub Sponsaireachd Àrainneachd is Coilltearachd| Roinn Àrainneachd Teachdail | Riaghaltas na h-Alba | CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED

VISIT TO RUM NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Date and Time of Engagement	12 May 2023 13:30 – 14:30
Where	Isle of Rum
Key Message	Recognise importance of Nature Reserves and their contribution to the Biodiversity Crisis.
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAME REDACTED – Director of Green Economy, NatureScot • NAME REDACTED Central Highland, NatureScot, CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED • NAME REDACTED – Operations Manager, Central Highland, NatureScot - CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED
Why	A site visit to hear of the work of NatureScot and impact of the reserve on the Isle of Rum
Official Support Required	NAME REDACTED, Enfor Sponsorship Hub – CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED
Media Handling	REDACTED
Briefing contents	Annex A – National Nature Reserve Briefing

ANNEX A

Background – National Nature Reserve - Rum

Rum National Nature Reserve (NNR) lies about 25 kilometres from Mallaig off the west coast of Scotland. The reserve is just over 10,800ha, and harbours a wealth of wildlife, and dramatic scenery arising from the volcanic geological formations and is managed by NatureScot. There are 3.5 FTE staff employed by NatureScot plus a 2-year student placement and several volunteers.

In particular, Rum is renowned for its spectacular seabird colonies, which include one of the largest breeding colonies of Manx shearwaters in the world. Golden eagles and white-tailed sea eagles breed here, and soar over the crags and moorland. Red-throated divers nest on the edges of some of the smaller lochs. Much of the island is upland, with vast open areas of wet and dry heaths, blanket bog and species-rich grasslands, with important areas of scree and crevice vegetation, and small freshwater lochs. The rare slender green feather-moss grows in flushes in some of the upland areas, and is just one of a vast array of scarce mosses, liverworts and other plants that flourish on Rum.

Everyone is welcome to visit the island and, as many do, stay for several days to discover for themselves its wildlife, its spectacular scenery, and that special island atmosphere. Rum has been an NNR for more than half a century and, in that time, has gained a reputation for supporting research and educational visits and we would like to do more. Rum is one of a suite of NNRs in Scotland. Scotland's NNRs are special places for nature, where some of the best examples of Scotland's wildlife are managed. Every NNR is carefully managed both for nature and for people, giving visitors the opportunity to experience our rich natural heritage.

Virtually the entire island is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) recognising the importance of the otter population and a wide range of upland, coastal and freshwater habitats.

Red deer densities are at or slightly below 10 deer per Km². NatureScot staff as well as a lease holder from Muck delivers the annual deer cull to protect biodiversity on the island. Rum has been the host to the longest running large mammal research project in the UK (Red Deer)

Rum is also designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) because of the internationally important breeding populations of Manx shearwaters, red-throated divers, and the

wide range of other breeding seabirds. Many of these features are also included in the island's designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Earth science importance of the Reserve is also recognised with no less than seven Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites, all of which are protected as designated features within the SSSI. On a wider scale, Rum is included within the Lochaber Geopark and also falls within The Small Isles National Scenic Area (NSA).

Rum's archaeological and built heritage has also been recognised, with 19 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) and seven listed buildings, as well as a garden on the 'Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes'.

MEETING WITH ISLE OF RUM COMMUNITY

<i>Date and Time</i>	12 May 2023 – 08:30 – 15:45
<i>Where</i>	Isle of Rum
<i>Key Message</i>	Important that we find a sustainable future for Kinloch Castle, and that any sustainable future have the support of the community
<i>Who</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAME REDACTED– Director of Green Economy, NatureScot • NAME REDACTED Central Highland, NatureScot -07808126584 • NAME REDACTED Operations Manager, Central Highland, NatureScot - CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED • Isle of Rum residents (as below)
<i>Why</i>	Since the recent potential buyer for Kinloch Castle has withdrawn his offer, it is evident that any future for the castle must involve the community. The trip is a fact finding/listening opportunity and will enable the community to share their views on what they believe the island needs, and where Kinloch Castle could fit into that.
<i>Official Support Required</i>	NAME REDACTED Enfor Sponsorship Hub – CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED
<i>Media Handling</i>	REDACTED
<i>Dress code</i>	Outdoor clothing for boat travel and visit to National Nature Reserve – waterproof coat and boots suggested.

<i>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if at a non SG Building)</i>	Opposite Western Isles Cruises office. 2 minute walk from the hotel.
<i>Briefing contents</i>	Annex A – Agenda Annex B – Summary Page Annex C – Meeting Attendees Annex D - Kinloch Castle Annex E - Isle of Rum – Background information (attached separately)

Agenda

08:15	Leave NAME REDACTED Mallaig – walk to ferry terminal (2 mins). Meet NAME REDACTED (official support) and NatureScot opposite Western Isles Cruises office (town is very small).
08:30	Dep Mallaig– Western Isles Cruises – MV Larven
09:30	Arrive Rum
09:45	Meet Rum Residents - 2 hours at the village hall Slots for residents to meet Minister – residents have been approached to agree scheduling
12:00	Lunch (finger buffet) – village hall
12:45	Meet remaining residents
13:00	Meet IRCT Board (attendees TBC – 3 expected)
13:30	Visit to National Nature Reserve (please see separate briefing pack)
14:30	Depart Rum
15:45	Arrive Mallaig

Summary Page

Purpose and Background

- The purpose of this visit is to listen to the views of the community on the future for Rum and where Kinloch Castle may fit into that.
- We will be accompanied by NatureScot staff the entire day who will facilitate the visit.

REDACTED

- PARAGRAPH REDACTED
- EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S30(b)(i)

Top lines

- PARAGRAPH REDACTED
- EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S30(b)(i)

2. The National Islands Plan

- PARAGRAPHS REDACTED
- EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S30(b)(i)

ANNEX C

Meeting attendees

Resident	Location	Time
NAME REDACTED	Lodge next to School	9.45am
NAME REDACTED	Lodge next to School	9.55am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	10.10am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	10.20am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	10.30am

NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	10.40am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	10.50am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	11am
NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	11.10am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	11.20am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	11.30am
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	11.40am
Lunch – 12 noon – 12:45pm		
NAME REDACTED	Community Hall	12:45pm

Kinloch Castle**Background**

- Kinloch Castle has been in the ownership of NatureScot (then Scottish Natural Heritage) since 1957.
- SENTENCE REDACTED - EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S33(1)(B)
- The village of Kinloch is community owned, with the exception of the castle, which sits right in the middle of the community.
- SENTENCE REDACTED - EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S33(1)(B)
- SENTENCE REDACTED - EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S33(1)(B)
- SENTENCE REDACTED - EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S33(1)(B)
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SG views

TWO SENTENCES REDACTED

Timeline

- 2013 - Options identified for the Castle's future at a number of stakeholder and consultation events held by NatureScot:
 - Retain status quo – retain museum tours; deliver conservation / repair plan gradually as funding allows
 - Implement conservation / repair plan (focused investment); retain museum and close off rear wing
 - Restoration to museum and visitor accommodation
 - Restoration / conversion to museum and residents housing
 - Restoration / conversion to museum and mixed residents / visitor accommodation
 - Conversion to housing / remove museum
 - Conversion to hotel / remove museum
 - Conversion to other uses
- SENTENCE REDACTED - EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S33(1)(B)
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- SENTENCE REDACTED - EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S33(1)(B)
- SENTENCE REDACTED - EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S33(1)(B)
- FINAL TWO PARAGRAPHS REDACTED
- EXEMPTION APPLIED UNDER FOISA S30(b)(i)