

**DISCUSSIONS (INCLUDING MINUTES AND NOTES) REGARDING THE
REPATRIATION OF MUSEUM EXHIBITS**

Document 1

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Sent: 07 November 2023 10:01
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: High importance - Rematriation of Nisga's Memorial Pole - Case Study?

Hi [redacted],

We have not produced a case study and are not actively developing one – for us the project is not yet complete as we continue discussions with the Nisga'a Nation around how the story of the Pole and Nisga'a culture will continue to be represented in the gallery.

It's possible that we may decide to do something in the future. The Nisga'a Nation are producing a documentary and we'd like to see this first.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 November 2023 15:42
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Subject: High importance - Rematriation of Nisga's Memorial Pole - Case Study?

Hi [redacted],

SG colleagues in the Culture Strategy Team met last week with a delegation from India's Ministry of Culture. They expressed interest in all things to do with National Museums Scotland's (NMS) and return of the ceremonial pole to the Nisga'a Nation.

Colleagues have asked whether NMS has produced a case study (or video essay/documentary) or if one was being developed to tell the story of the rematriation of the Nisga's pole to an audience of global heritage sector/museum professionals (UNESCO etc.) and if there was any substantive documentation on the process that NMS has developed which could be used as 'best-in-practice'?"

It would be very helpful if you could reply **by COP Wednesday 8 November**.

With thanks and Best Wishes,
[redacted]
Scottish Government
Sponsorship and Historic Environment
Team – M: [redacted]

Document 2

S6W-21696 Monica Lennon: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on financially supporting the reparation of historical artefacts that reside in Scotland as the result of colonialism or imperialism, in light of reports that it did not initially wish to pay for the return of the House of Ni'isjoohl memorial pole from the National Museum of Scotland to the Nisga'a Nation in Canada.

Answer:

The Scottish Government does not routinely provide financial support for the repatriation of historical artefacts.

Due to the unique circumstances and complex logistics as a result of the size of the House of Ni'isjoohl memorial pole, funding was provided to National Museums Scotland to facilitate the pole's removal from the museum and enable its transport to Leuchars Airfield.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Questioner

Monica Lennon

Scottish Labour

MSP for Central Scotland (Region) 2016 - present day

Ms Lennon is a member of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

Ms Lennon's recent parliamentary questions and social media posts do not give an indication of the focus of this new question, however in April 2023 she asked a series of questions of which for the most part the history of the British Empire and 'Scottish educational institutions' are of particular interest.

Rematriation of House of Ni'isjoohl memorial pole

1. The Scottish Government acknowledges the importance of the memorial pole to the Nisga'a nation and was pleased to facilitate its return.
2. National Museums Scotland's procedure states it is not responsible for any costs associated with the transfer of objects back to claimants.
3. However, given the pole's size and the complex logistics required to safely remove it from the National Museum of Scotland, the Scottish Government made a one-off decision to cover the costs of the pole's removal from the museum and its transfer to RAF Leuchars, which are approximately £300,000.
4. The remainder of costs are being met by the Canadian side.

Time line of memorial pole decisions

5. Following the Cabinet Secretary's meeting with the Nisga'a delegation on 23 August, the delegates had a meeting with NMS on 24 August, following which NMS agreed to work with Nisga'a representatives nominated by the delegation in order to process the request within three months.
6. The NMS Trustees agreed at a Board's meeting on 30 November 2022 to return the pole, subject to it being at no cost to NMS. A crucial element that enabled this decision was legal confirmation that NMS can, under its statutory framework and policies, consider the Nisga'a as a nation, in respect of this request.
7. The support for the return from the Canadian Federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and from the former Premier of British Columbia, who have both written to the NMS Chair and the Cabinet Secretary, was also part of the advice given to the Board.
8. Discussions between SG and NMS continued on the costs of removing and transporting the pole, which are considerable at c. £300k. Options around crowd funding were discussed but dismissed. In May 2023 the SG confirmed it would cover these costs, with the resource amount of £256k being transferred to NMS. The remaining capital amount will be agreed and transferred later in the year once capital spend at NMS is clearer.

Other outstanding repatriation requests

9. NMS is the first national museum in the UK to agree to a request like this.
10. NMS have also received one other formal request for the transfer of objects. This is from the National Commission of Museums and Monuments of Nigeria, as part of the ongoing dialogue around the Benin collection. This request will now be considered in line with NMS' published procedure.
11. **Lines to take:** We are all pleased to have reached this agreement and to be able to transfer the Memorial Pole to its people and to the place where its spiritual significance is most keenly understood.
12. It is not pertinent to comment on any other institutions, or requests at this time. Each organisation operates within their own policies and statutory frameworks.

Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums: Addressing our Colonial Legacy

13. On 10 June 2020 a motion was passed in the Scottish Parliament showing solidarity with anti-racism, with an amendment that Scotland should 'establish a slavery museum to address our historic links to the slave trade.'

14. In response to this the 2020 PfG had the following commitment:
'Partnering with Museums Galleries Scotland, in collaboration with race equality and museums sector stakeholders, we will sponsor an independent expert group to make recommendations on how Scotland's existing and future museum collections can better recognise and represent a more accurate portrayal of Scotland's colonial and slavery history and what further steps should be taken to ensure people in Scotland are aware of the role Scotland played and how that manifests itself in our society today. This will include how to reflect, interpret and celebrate the wide ranging and positive contributions that ethnic minority communities have made and continue to make to Scotland.'
15. As a result we were proud to partner with Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) and race equality and museum sector stakeholders to identify the ways to reinterpret aspects of our hidden or contested heritage, to present a more accurate, complete picture of the past.
16. The project "Empire Slavery and Scotland's Museums: Addressing Our Colonial Legacy" (ESSM) was independently run by Museums Galleries Scotland, and funded by the Scottish Government. It reported in June 2022. The independent group made 6 key recommendations about how we proceed with this vital work. The group was made up of a diverse group of people, from varied backgrounds and disciplines. Sir Geoff Palmer, Professor Emeritus in the School of Life Sciences at Heriot Watt University and a human rights activist, was the Chair. The group also led a national consultation in collaboration with CRER and Glasgow Life, to establish both public and expert perspectives, so all voices were heard in the development of future plans.
17. Ministerial meetings have been held with members of the group and MGS and other interested stakeholders. The SG response is now scheduled to be published in October, Black History Month.

[redacted]

18. There has been an additional £200k allocated in 2023-24 to Museums Galleries Scotland from the Culture budget specifically to progress work related to the Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums recommendations. The allocation and distribution of this is to be agreed in writing with the Scottish Government.
19. The Scottish Government will also over three years provide a £250k contribution towards the NLHF-funded Delivering Change programme. This project aims to support between 70 and 100 museums from across Scotland make changes to their organisations and programming to help all people to access culture using anti-racism and anti-ableism as the guiding principles.
20. The response agrees that bespoke Scottish guidance on repatriation will be commissioned. This will include input from the communities of origin, from communities affected by racism and by the removal of objects alongside experts in the museum sector.

media contingent on the ground for the ceremonies. Please see attached a digest of the media coverage of the events and my remarks on behalf of SG. I was interviewed by BBC, CBC (=Canada's BBC) and a local TV station.

4. It was in parts a sombre but mostly joyful day, with the prominent presence of children and Matriarchs and Chiefs in traditional Nisga'a dress. As well as speeches from Nisga'a chiefs and leaders, there were formal remarks from representatives of the federal and provincial governments. All were universally positive in tone, noting reconciliation, education, healing, righting of wrongs – and what a positive contribution the repatriation made to wider relations between all First Nations, Indigenous peoples and those who came after them. Worth noting:
 - **British Columbia Premier David Eby** spoke of the positive impact this development would have in terms of the tone and atmosphere of Indigenous relations within BC. More movingly still, Eby spoke of the family dinner that he had had the evening before with his Scottish wife, his Scottish father-in-law and his son - Eby's son noting how proud he was of both his ancestral country and his home country.
 - The Federal Minister from the Crown Indigenous department **highlighted Scotland's contribution to this act of reconciliation.**
 - All the Nisga'a matriarchs and chiefs who spoke **also drew attention to Scotland's role.** While there had been difficult moments, the decision to return the pole had triggered great joy amongst the Nisga'a, with young members of the Nation no longer having to be told in abstract about the spirit of their ancestors being many thousands of miles away – that link to their past was now home with them.
 - One chief spoke in particular about meeting Cabinet Secretary Robertson in August 2022. They had expected a formulaic meeting with a government minister but had left St. Andrew's House **moved by Mr Robertson's knowledge of the Nisga'a,** his understanding of their request and also the solidarity with many ordinary Scots through the centuries who had been mistreated by those more powerful.
 - The final Chief who spoke, noted Scotland's positive example and **'put on notice' France, Germany, Canada (comment: Canadian federal museums hold many First Nation/Indigenous artefacts) and England** – that the Nisga'a would be in touch about other objects important to them.
 - At the feast, I was sat between **Premier Eby and Jagmeet Singh, Leader of Canada's New Democratic Party** (the federal party that keeps Justin Trudeau's Liberals in power via a 'confidence and supply' agreement). Singh spoke warmly of his visit with his family to Scotland for CoP26 and his view of the sights and sounds of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Nisga'a woodworkers, whittlers and land managers who were sat with us were fascinated by the ornamental detail and myth of Singh's *Kirpan* (in Maple wood, of course) and

my *Sgian-dubh*, the handle made from the wood of a tree under which Robert the Bruce had sheltered.

- In more political discussions, **Singh was very interested in progressive Scottish domestic policies** including free prescriptions, free bus travel for pensioners and teenagers, baby boxes, free period products, free university tuition and the Scottish child payments. I've agreed to follow up with his office back in Ottawa.
 - At the feast, **I presented the Nisga'a Chief with a simple wooden *Quaich* on behalf of Scotland**, noting the connotations of friendship, sharing and peace imbued in the *Quaich*. As per the Nisga'a tradition we both drank tea from the *Quaich* – the Chief noting to me off mic that he had been hoping it would be whisky!
5. **What does this mean for Scotland in Canada?** With around 5 million Canadians claiming Scottish heritage or ancestry, our stock here is always going to be high. But the return of the Nisga'a pole has underlined a progressive and modern aspect to Scotland that we have, perhaps, sometimes not quite landed. The media questions were often around – why/how had Scotland come to this position against a more universal narrative of museums and governments holding onto artefacts and disappointing and angering those with legitimate claims for their return? It was good to tell a positive story not just around the righting of an historic wrong but of a Scotland not shying away from addressing the actions of historic Scots and a colonial legacy. As a Nisga'a representative told the Cabinet Secretary in Edinburgh last year, many in his community are proud of their Scottish heritage. We can use this goodwill – alongside work ongoing to better include African American Scots – in our Scottish Connections work next year to build a more permanent and substantial relationship with Canadian First Nations.
6. **What does this mean for Scotland internationally, beyond Canada?** That will be for Ministers and Culture colleagues to decide, in the face of other claims and the financial pressure that can be part of such returns. The '*Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums*' review is likely to address some of this. Colleagues in International Futures have raised the possibility of doing something around the Nisga'a example with the Canadian Delegation at UNESCO – we will follow up.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **Scottish Government Office in Canada**

80 Elgin Street | Ottawa | K1P 5K7 | Canada |

Mobile: [redacted] | [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk

Twitter: @[ScotGovCanada](https://twitter.com/ScotGovCanada) | www.scotland.org

Document 4

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>

Sent: 10 August 2023 12:31

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>

Subject: Updated Timeline of Activity

Dear all,

It was good to catch up yesterday to talk about our plans for the return of the Memorial Pole. Below I have a slightly updated timeline for all of the activity over the coming months. As I explained yesterday, some of this is still being sorted out but think this gives you a rough idea of what is planned for the moment.

- Friday 25 August - Nisga'a family delegation with 2 Nisga'a Government delegates arrive including their indigenous film maker
- Monday 28 August – Nisga'a Family Ceremony with Pole and NMS and SG representatives
- Wed 6 September – Pole is lowered
- Friday 8 September – from 5pm, Pole is moved to Hawthornden Court (to be crated)
- Saturday 9 September – external scaffold built outside Smoke Window (the large window I referred to yesterday) on Chambers street
- Sunday 10 September – Road closure and Pole moves out of Museum and to National Museums Collection Centre – we are hoping to do this early in the morning between 5-9am. Will confirm this with road closure confirmation from CEC next week.
- Week beg 11 Sept or 18 Sept - Pole transported to St Andrews for collection and flight to Terrace then onward by road transport to Nisga'a Museum
- Mon 18 Sept – Nisga'a Museum closes to the public and works start there to receive the Pole
- Fri 29 September - feast in Nisga'a Nation to celebrate the home-coming of the Pole.
- Tues 3 or Wed 4 October, Pole raised in Nisga'a Museum

Many thanks and I look forward to picking up our discussions soon.

Best,

[redacted]

National Museums Scotland, Scottish Charity, No. SC 011130

Document 5

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 25 August 2023 15:39

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Briefing for: Nisga'a Memorial Pole departure from National Museums

Hi PO,

Apologies for late update, just to flag there have been a few last minutes changes to Mr Robertsons input to the event on Monday morning.

I have attached revised briefing here, but to summarise the changes these are:

1. That the Cabinet Secretary may be asked to say a few words informally at the ceremony, after NMS representatives
2. That the Cabinet Secretary has been asked to take part in a documentary interview He will be asked about his role in the repatriation of the pole, his reflections on the delegation coming to visit his office, and what the return of the pole means to him.
3. That the briefing clarifies SG funding position (only to mention this if asked), that SG has funded costs to Leuchars, costs across Atlantic and in Canada are met by the Canadian Government
4. There is an updated guest list.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:20 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Briefing for: Nisga'a Memorial Pole departure from National Museums

Hi PO,

Here is briefing for Mr Robertson attending the Nisga'a Memorial Pole ceremony on Monday 28 August at 8 am.

Briefing Note for memorial Pole repatriation ceremony Nisga'a delegation at NMS - 28 August 2023
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A44937215/details>

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:51 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]
@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Nisga'a Memorial Pole departure from National Museums

Good afternoon,

Copying in [redacted] the Ottawa office, and [redacted] from spads for their awareness. Mr Robertson has also requested for UK-based Canadian media to be informed which the Comms team are aware of and taking forward.

Best wishes,

[redacted]
Assistant Private Secretary to Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Ministerial Private Office
St Andrews House
Edinburgh

cabsecCEAC@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

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

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development

<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Nisga'a Memorial Pole departure from National Museums

Hi [redacted]

Many thanks for confirming Mr Robertson can attend. From our latest catch up with National Museums yesterday, timings are still a little uncertain, possibly the Nisga'a delegation will arrive at 0800 outside the Museum and then start the ceremony at 0830. We will confirm as soon as we can, but if the diary can be blocked off 0800-1000 in the meantime that would be really helpful.

We'll get the briefing to you by the 21st.

Thanks again
[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:53 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: Nisga'a Memorial Pole departure from National Museums

Hi [redacted],

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Mr Robertson is content to attend. We have a hold in our diary but just to confirm that the event is on Monday 28 August from 08:30-10:00?

Can I also request that a brief be sent to us by COP Monday 21 August.

Best Wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Assistant Private Secretary to Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Ministerial Private Office

St Andrews House

Edinburgh

cabsecCEAC@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

Document 6

What	Members of the Nisga'a First Nation and the Nisga'a Lisims Government are travelling to the National Museum of Scotland (NMS) in Edinburgh to oversee the start of the return, and hold a closed spiritual ceremony. Following the ceremony there should be opportunity for a private conversation with the delegation. There will be media interviews following the ceremony.
Where	<i>National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. EH1 1JF</i>
When	<i>Monday 28 August 08:00 – 10:00</i>
Key Message(s)	Today's ceremony is a key step in the repatriation of the pole I'm grateful to all parties for the work that has been undertaken to make it happen. I was pleased to have been able to provide the necessary ministerial consent to enable its return.
Who	See Annex C for full list [All attendees can be addressed by their English names] Sim'oogit Ni'isjoohl (Chief Earl Stephens), Sigidimnaḵ' Noxs Ts'aawit (Dr. Amy Parent), NMS Chair, Ian Russell
Why	An opportunity to mark the significance of the event for the Nisga'a nation.
Supporting official	[redacted] - [redacted]
Briefing contents	Annex A: Event programme Annex B: Summary Page / Top Brief Annex C: Guest List/Attendees Annex D: Timeline of pole return and decisions
Media Handling	[redacted]
Social Media	<i>SG will amplify NMS tweets on the day</i>
Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SE Building)	You will be greeted by the Chair of NMS, Ian Russell at the Main entrance on Chambers Street (the main doors, NOT the Tower Entrance), and [redacted] official support from culture division.

Event programme

- 08:00** Mr Robertson to arrive. Nisga'a delegation arrive at the National Museum in full regalia
- 08:30** Delegation will proceed to the gallery (captured by a photographer and videographer) and start the spiritual ceremony (no media in attendance): **The Cabinet Secretary may be asked to say a few words informally after NMS representatives**
- Introductions by [redacted]
 - Song
 - Speeches from each chief from the four clans
 - Song
 - Invitation for Scottish NMS representatives to speak
 - Close with a song from the children who are present
- c.09:15** Private meeting with Nisga'a delegation
- 09:15** Media interviews in the gallery, starting with broadcast journalists and then photographers
- 09:45** **Documentary interview with Cabinet Secretary in separate room**
He will be asked about his role in the repatriation of the pole, his reflections on the delegation coming to visit his office, and what the return of the pole means to him.
- 10:00** Mr Robertson departs

Event moves to seminar room if more time for interviews is required as museum opens to public

Top lines:

- **The Scottish Government welcomes you to Scotland.**
- **The Scottish Government acknowledges the importance of the memorial pole to the Nisga'a nation and is pleased to facilitate its return.**
- **I was moved by the ceremony and appreciate this was an extremely important moment.**

Sensitivities:

Rematriation

- Nisga'a are referring to this as a rematriation rather than repatriation. The term "rematriation" reframes the concept of "repatriation" by grounding the process of recovering belongings in Indigenous law — and is more closely in alignment with Nisga'a matrilineal society.

Dr Parent has referred to a clash of world views, specifically between NMS' 'one-year old policy' and the centuries of Nisga'a tradition.

- **Lines to take:** While the NMS policy is relatively recent, prior to its introduction there was no transparent process or mechanism through which a request like this could be made. As a new process, there are always going to be things to learn from and improve.
- Whilst we respect the different perspective of the Nisga'a, that process has ultimately helped NMS reach the point where they have approved the return of the Memorial Pole, agreed within the parameters of their own legal framework.

Other outstanding requests

- NMS is the first national museum in the UK to agree to a request like this.
- NMS have also received one other formal request for the transfer of objects. This is from the National Commission of Museums and Monuments of Nigeria, as part of the ongoing dialogue around the Benin collection. This request will now be considered in line with NMS' published procedure.
- **Lines to take:** We are all pleased to have reached this agreement and to be able to transfer the Memorial Pole to its people and to the place where its spiritual significance is most keenly understood.
- It is not pertinent to comment on any other institutions, or requests at this time. Each organisation operates within their own policies and statutory frameworks.

Funding for the pole return

- National Museums Scotland's procedure states it is not responsible for any costs associated with the transfer of objects back to claimants.
- However, given the pole's size and the complex logistics required to safely remove it from the National Museum of Scotland, the Scottish Government made a one-off decision to cover the costs of the pole's removal from the museum and its transfer to RAF Leuchars, which are approximately £300,000.

If pressed on remainder of the cost?

- The remainder of costs are being met by the Canadian side.

General lines

- We recognise that the issues facing the Nisga'a, and other Indigenous peoples in Canada are challenging and complex. We welcomed Canada's incorporation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- We value highly Scotland's relationship with Canada and with those of the First Nations. We opened the Scottish Affairs office in Ottawa in 2019, and [redacted], our new head of the office would be happy to connect with you in country.

(If asked) Residential Schools

- The Scottish Government acknowledges the controversy around Sir John A Macdonald's legacy and the legitimate concerns expressed by Indigenous communities. This includes the Residential School system, which forcibly removed thousands of Indigenous children from their families.
- I agree with the Prime Minister of Canada when he described discoveries of remains as heartbreaking. I welcome the commitment to taking concrete action to support Indigenous communities.
- The Scottish Government recognises that issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada are challenging and complex. We welcome the commitment and efforts of the current Canadian Government towards truth and reconciliation. In addition the Scottish Government welcomes Canada's incorporation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which received Royal Assent on 21 June 2021 and is now in force throughout Canada.

(if asked) Culture Budget

I understand that this is an incredibly worrying time for the culture sector

- A combination of the impacts of Brexit, the aftermath of the pandemic and the energy crisis fuelled by Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, have sent prices spiralling.

- Our ability to respond to the cost crisis is limited by the inactivity of the UK Government and the financial restrictions of devolution. Our budget is largely fixed, and we have no ability to borrow to increase our day to day spending.
- Our reserve funding is fully utilised and our income tax powers do not allow changes to be made during the financial year.
- We will continue to work with the culture sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and we will continue to do everything within our powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges.
- We convened roundtables with the culture sector to explore how organisations can best work together to develop shared solutions.

(if pressed) on challenges around Creative Scotland multi year funding applications (£113m worth of applications received)

- Notice of intention to apply is only the first stage of the process and we expect this figure to reduce once Creative Scotland has started assessing applications and completed necessary due diligence.
- The Scottish Government provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year and will continue to do so, alongside our obligation to balance the budget and deliver the best value for every taxpayer in Scotland. We will continue to work with the sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and do everything within our powers and resources to help it overcome these.

Guest List

Nisga'a Delegation

- Sim'oogit Ni'isjoohl (Chief Earl Stephens)
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
[redacted]

Nisga'a Lisims Government Representatives:

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

NMS staff include:

Ian Russell, Chair, National Museums Scotland
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Timeline of pole return

- Friday 25 August - Nisga'a family delegation with 2 Nisga'a Government delegates arrive including their indigenous film maker
- **Monday 28 August – Nisga'a Family Ceremony with Pole and NMS and SG representatives**
- Wed 6 September – Pole is lowered
- Friday 8 September – from 5pm, Pole is moved to Hawthornden Court (to be crated)
- Saturday 9 September – external scaffold built outside Smoke on Chambers street
- Sunday 10 September – Road closure and Pole moves out of Museum and to National Museums Collection Centre
- Week beg 11 Sept or 18 Sept - Pole transported to St Andrews for collection and flight to Terrace then onward by road transport to Nisga'a Museum
- Mon 18 Sept – Nisga'a Museum closes to the public and works start there to receive the Pole
- Fri 29 September - feast in Nisga'a Nation to celebrate the home-coming of the Pole.
- Tues 3 or Wed 4 October, Pole raised in Nisga'a Museum

Time line of memorial pole decisions

1. Following the Cabinet Secretary's meeting with the Nisga'a delegation on 23 August, the delegates had a meeting with NMS on 24 August, following which NMS agreed to work with Nisga'a representatives nominated by the delegation in order to process the request within three months.
2. The NMS Trustees agreed at a Board's meeting on 30 November 2022 to return the pole, subject to it being at no cost to NMS. A crucial element that enabled this decision was legal confirmation that NMS can, under its statutory framework and policies, consider the Nisga'a as a nation, in respect of this request.
3. The support for the return from the Canadian Federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and from the former Premier of British Columbia, who have both written to the NMS Chair and the Cabinet Secretary, was also part of the advice given to the Board.
4. [redacted]: Discussions between SG and NMS continued on the costs of removing and transporting the pole, which are considerable at c. £300k. Options around crowd funding were discussed but dismissed. In May 2023 the SG confirmed it would cover these costs, with the resource amount of £256k being transferred to NMS. [redacted]

Document 7

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 July 2023 10:49

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Memorial Pole Plans

[redacted]

Thanks. It's probably simplest to get in touch with the lead contact for the Nisga'a who is, as last summer, [redacted]

National Museums are planning for their curators to be represented, but not the Board or senior management. We can keep in touch with them about that.

All best

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 5:22 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Memorial Pole Plans

[redacted],

Thanks for this. I'm in the market for any more detail about events in Canada on 29 September – I may be mis-remembering, but was the plan that the Nisga'a would send the invite for attendance in Canada to SG (Scott?) and then we would decide who attended on our behalf? In reality, probably me.

On Trudeau potentially attending, I don't doubt he'd be invited but I'd be surprised if he went. More likely that the federal government would be represented at Ministerial level – maybe Marc Miller, Crown Indigenous Minister (who lobbied CabSec on the pole return). We'll try back channels to establish levels of attendance.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **Scottish Affairs for Canada**

Scottish Government Office

80 Elgin Street | Ottawa | K1P 5K7 | Canada |

Mobile: [redacted] | [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk

Twitter: @ScottGovCanada | www.scotland.org



From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 July 2023 07:54

To: Scott Wightman (Gov) (External) <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; John Primrose (Scot Gov) (External) <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] (Sensitive) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Memorial Pole Plans

Dear all

An update below from NMS about the events in late August, also on attendance at the event in September.

The Nisga'a delegation are due in Edinburgh from 26 August to 1 September, with the ceremony at the National Museum first thing in the morning of Monday 28 August. I'll find out if Cab Sec would be free for that.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>

Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 12:34 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>

Subject: Memorial Pole Plans

Dear [redacted],

As discussed at our meeting last Thursday, I wanted to give you an update following on from my discussion with the Nisga'a representatives earlier this week. They have given some further clarification on their plans for both their visit to Scotland and the ceremony in Canada.

They will be arriving in Scotland on Saturday 26 August and are still planning the ceremony at the National Museum of Scotland on Monday 28 August from approx. 08:30-10:00 so that it takes place before the museum opens to the public.

The outline of the event will be as follows:

- Arrival of the delegation and procession through the museum to the gallery (captured by a photographer and videographer)
- Ceremony in the gallery space next to the pole (approx. 20-30 mins with no media in attendance)
- Media interviews if appropriate

They were pleased that the Cabinet Secretary may be able to join the ceremony and our Chairman, Ian Russell will also be in attendance. They have no other set plans while they are in Scotland and they leave on 1 September.

In addition, they informed me that the Premier of British Columbia will be in attendance at the ceremony in Canada on 29 September and they also think that Justin Trudeau, the Canadian PM may also be there.

[redacted] is just finalising the Q & A's we discussed so she should be able to share them with you next week. I'm on leave from this afternoon until Tuesday 25 July but [redacted]/ [redacted] and [redacted] (all copied to this email) will be able to help if you have any questions.

Many thanks and hope you have a good weekend when it comes,

[redacted]

National Museums Scotland, Scottish Charity, No. SC 011130

Document 8

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 September 2023 13:00
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Donna MacKinnon <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>
Subject: Nisga'a Memorial Pole Rematriation: Draft remarks

All,

I've been invited to make brief remarks at the rematriation of the memorial pole at the Nisga'a Nation on Friday. Please see a draft attached.

With apologies for the short notice, **grateful for any comments by COP (Edinburgh) today** as I am a flying tomorrow.

I'll be speaking alongside various senior Nisga'a representatives, the Premier of British Columbia and a federal Minister.

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **Scottish Government Office in Canada**

80 Elgin Street | Ottawa | K1P 5K7 | Canada |

Mobile: [redacted] | [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk

Twitter: @ScotGovCanada | www.scotland.org

NISGA'A REMATRIATION CEREMONY

[people to name check]

.....representatives of the Nisga'a Nation, Premier

Eby, Honourable Minister Quan-Watson, friends....

It is an honour and a privilege to be with you here today, representing the Scottish Government at the ceremony marking the repatriation of the Nisga'a Nation memorial pole. And a personal honour too to make my first visit to your nation and this beautiful landscape.

I am also grateful to meet some of the representatives who travelled to Edinburgh last summer and began a process resulting in the sombre yet joyful events that we see here today. For Scotland this was not just about the process of returning the memorial pole. It was also an opportunity to learn more about the people of another nation, to reflect on what we learned and make a decision to right an historic wrong.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the repatriation of the memorial pole, including National Museums Scotland, the Royal Canadian Air Force, representatives of both the federal and British Columbia governments and – most importantly – the people of the Nisga'a Nation whose patience and dignity have delivered a deep understanding between our peoples.

Most countries, nations and peoples have challenging chapters in their history and we see here today that acknowledging those issues, seeking to address them and engaging in a dialogue can lead to modern relationships that are open, honest and productive.

Robert Burns is Scotland's national poet, the author of many poems and songs. One of his most famous quotes is '*O wad some power the giftie gie us, to see oursels as others see us*'. Burns makes an obvious but important point – if only we could see ourselves as other see us. In the engagement here today, I am certain that this mutual awareness can only lead to a deep and lasting friendship between our peoples and nations.

.....representatives of the Nisga'a Nation, please accept my sincere thanks for inviting me here today to join you for this most special of occasions.

[ENDS]

[337 words]

Document 9

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 November 2023 16:40
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: National Museum of Scotland - Nisga'a Nation - Case Study?

Hello [redacted],

Many thanks for providing this update – good to know that the Nisga'a Nation are producing a documentary. It would be great to receive a copy or link once this has been produced.

I will pass this information onto the delegation.

Best Wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **International Policy Team**

Direcorate for Culture and Major Events | Scottish Government
Area 2G South| Victoria Quay| Edinburgh| EH6 6QQ

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:47 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: National Museum of Scotland - Nisga'a Nation - Case Study?

Hi [redacted],

I hope this finds you well.

As per request, here's the feedback that was received this morning from NMS regarding the next steps following the transfer of ownership and return of the Nisga'a memorial pole to the First Nation, in Canada:

Hi [redacted]

We have not produced a case study and are not actively developing one – for us the project is not yet complete as we continue discussions with the Nisga'a Nation around how the story of the Pole and Nisga'a culture will continue to be represented in the gallery. It's possible that we may decide to do

something in the future. The Nisga'a Nation are producing a documentary and we'd like to see this first.

Kind Regards,
[redacted]
Scottish Government
Sponsorship and Historic Environment
team

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 02 November 2023 13:09

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: National Museum of Scotland - Nisga'a Nation

Hi [redacted],

Hope all is well with you this week.

I'm unsure if you know more about this but I'd very much appreciate your guidance or a steer of the below query.

Many Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **International Policy Team**

Directorate for Culture and Major Events | Scottish Government
Area 2G South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 4:07 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: National Museum of Scotland - Nisga'a Nation

Hi [redacted],

Thanks very much for sending this information over.

As the briefing and Q&A would not be for external use, please could I ask if you're aware of any further work/documentation the National Museum of Scotland may have on this repatriation of the ceremonial pole?

I have sourced the publicised version of that press release via the NMS website - Nisga'a pole returns to the Nass Valley after 94 years (nms.ac.uk) and can share this with the delegation. However, it would be great to know if NMS have or are developing a case study on this process (even if NMS are aware if the Nisga'a Nation have this type of

video and/or literary documentation). The type of information and content that would of interest to an audience of global heritage sector/museum professionals as oppose to general public (ie News/Media outlets).

Many thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 2:22 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: National Museum of Scotland - Nisga'a Nation

Hello,

Sorry, this is a scatter gun of information relating to the return of the pole, and it is what I have in my emails rather than eRDM links. If you need more [redacted] can dig stuff out. There is a list of media articles in one of the attachments. The Nisga'a filmed the whole ceremony and that is accessible on You Tube, the link is in one of the articles.

In terms of legislation, for NMS it is a matter for their board to decide on return of items if certain criteria are met, and then our Cab Sec can approve this. The Q&A sets this out..

Briefing Note for memorial Pole repatriation ceremony Nisga'a delegation at NMS - 28 August 2023
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A44937215/details>

I hope this points you I the right direction.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:31 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: National Museum of Scotland - Nisga'a Nation

Hello [redacted],

Hope your week has started well.

[redacted] and I met with a delegation from India's Ministry of Culture last week. They were interested in all things to do with the National Museum of Scotland's return of the ceremonial pole to the Nisga'a Nation.

As an action from this meeting, we noted that we would send further information on the return of the pole. Therefore, please could I ask you to send or signpost to any relevant links for documentation we may hold on this return. The delegation were particularly keen for any video footage or reports that may have been produced charting the process of returning the pole, particularly engagement between the Nisga'a community and the Museum and/or SG.

[redacted] also noted, that from memory, there is a legislative clause/reason that Scotland is able to resituate artefacts – which is a distinction/in contrast to UK law. Any information we have on this distinction would also be helpful.

Happy to have a chat and discuss to provide further context if easier.

Thanks!

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **International Policy Team**

Directorate for Culture and Major Events | Scottish Government
Area 2G South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Document 10

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Sent: 02 October 2023 12:23
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Subject: Ni'isjoohl memorial pole: news item
Importance: Low

Dear [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted],

We appreciate you may have already seen this, but [redacted] (NMS [redacted]) asked me to send over this good piece on the BBC website regarding the return and raising of the pole in Canada that appeared earlier this morning: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-66932129>

Best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
National Museums Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Tel: 07795 072 024
Email: [redacted]@nms.ac.uk
Web: www.nms.ac.uk

National Museums Scotland, Scottish Charity, No. SC 011130

Document 11

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 November 2023 16:43
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Nisga'a and UNESCO

FYI – with thanks to my colleague [redacted], an update on the discussion below from colleagues at the National Museum of Scotland.

We have not produced a case study and are not actively developing one – for us the project is not yet complete as we continue discussions with the Nisga'a Nation around how the story of the Pole and Nisga'a culture will continue to be represented in the gallery. It's possible that we may decide to do something in the future. The Nisga'a Nation are producing a documentary and we'd like to see this first.

Best Wishes,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 2:40 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Nisga'a and UNESCO

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for this update - the case study angle is exactly the update I was looking for.

To provide a bit of background to this query - on 19 September myself and culture colleagues met with a delegation from India's Ministry of Culture. They expressed interest in all things to do with the National Museum of Scotland's (NMS) return of the ceremonial pole to the Nisga'a Nation, and were keen that we follow-up with relevant materials and information.

The existing information sourced by culture colleagues is the briefing and a Q&A document but this would not be for external circulation and information in the public domain was designed for a general public audience (ie News/Media outlets).

With this in mind, I'm trying to gauge if the Nighsa'a nation or NMS produced a case study (or video essay/documentary) or if one is being developed to tell the story of the repatriation of the ceremonial pole to an audience of global heritage sector/museum professionals (UNESCO etc.). I.e. more substantive documentation on the process that can be used as 'best-in-practice'.

Culture colleagues, that hold the relationship with NMS, are planning on posing the case study question.

Best Wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **International Policy Team**

Directorate for Culture and Major Events | Scottish Government
Area 2G South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:46 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Nisga'a and UNESCO

Nothing to attach [redacted], an idea but not a plan at this stage. My original thinking was to work with the Canadian Delegation to UNESCO on a joint event, case-study or the like. Worth thinking if there are others that might be brought in (Iceland, with the cloth?) but conscious we might quickly run into sensitive cases.

Let's those of us with core interests (Ottawa, Paris, Culture, me) throw some thoughts around. I'll look for 30 mins in diaries.

[redacted]

[redacted] |[redacted] **Multilateralism & Representation | International Futures | Directorate for External Affairs | The Scottish Government**|Tel: [redacted] |Mob: [redacted] |[redacted]@gov.scot



From: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 11:33 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Nisga'a and UNESCO

Hi,

This idea is already doing the rounds, kicked off by [redacted]. Frustratingly, I can't attach previous emailing from this mobile device (I'm on the hoof to Montreal) but perhaps [redacted] can loop everyone in. In short, I think it's a good idea and happy to weigh in - but while Nisga'a example is ultimately positive, I'm not sure where we are on the wider issue e.g. I'm not aware if the Empire and Slavery recommendations have yet been accepted/announced.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] **Scottish Affairs for Canada**
Scottish Government Office
80 Elgin Street | Ottawa | K1P 5K7 | Canada |
Mobile: [redacted] | [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk
Twitter: @ScotGovCanada | www.scotland.org

(sent from a mobile device, so please forgive any brevity and/or misspellings)

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 7:20 am
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Nisga'a and UNESCO

[redacted] meet [redacted], [redacted] meet [redacted]!

[redacted] – [redacted] is in Culture directorate and works on the international strategy side. She met Indian culture officials recently, one of whom is well-connected in UNESCO, and was very interested in

the Nisga'a repatriation. [redacted] sees an opportunity for Scotland to get some longer-term recognition in UNESCO, something Mr R is usually alive to. Can I suggest you compare notes?

Cheers,

[redacted]

A couple of articles below:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-66932129>

A totem pole's homecoming to its ancestral land from Scotland - BBC News

Scotland Returns the Ni'isjoohl Memorial Pole to the Nisga'a Nation | History | Smithsonian Magazine

[redacted] | [redacted] International Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel [redacted]

Document 12

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 September 2023 13:31

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Routine submission requesting Nisga'a Nation flag be flown on 29 September

[redacted],

Thanks for that. The timeline and my suggestion on how it might mesh with any comms is as follows:

29 September – noon(ish) UK time – an organic Tweet from SG channels (Culture and/or International) with a picture of the flag, referencing the Nisga'a pole home-coming ceremony that day and noting that it is the eve of Truth & Reconciliation Day in Canada. We would be happy to contribute to a draft.

Also 29 September – [redacted] and I will be on Nisga'a Territory for the official feast marking the home-coming of the pole. We will take some pics and put out an organic Tweet or two from @ScotGovCan **on Saturday 30 September**, the day of Truth and Reconciliation itself. It would be good if our Tweets could be amplified by official channels and maybe Mr Robertson's own account – that quotetweeting/retweeting wouldn't necessarily need to happen until Monday 2 October – we'd then get content from Friday thru to Monday. NB, the pole itself won't actually be raised in the Nisga'a museum until 3 or 4 October - I get the sense that that will essentially be private, i.e. all the focus, ceremonial and invited guests will be on 29 September.

Hope that helps, happy to discuss,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **Scottish Government Office in Canada**

80 Elgin Street | Ottawa | K1P 5K7 | Canada |

Mobile: [redacted] | [redacted] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)

Twitter: [@ScotGovCanada](https://twitter.com/ScotGovCanada) | www.scotland.org



From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 September 2023 04:55
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;
Lisa.Baird@gov.scot; Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot;
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission requesting Nisga'a Nation flag be flown on 29 September

[redacted] / [redacted],

Can I check the sequence of events here – we have agreed to get a picture of the flag flying on 29 September but what is actually happening that day in-country, if we were to reference it in a tweet?

i.e. does the 29th mark the day the pole physically returns to the Nisga'a Nation / museum, and/or is there a separate ceremony the following day (Saturday 30 September) to coincide with National Reconciliation Day?

Basically trying to establish whether it makes most sense to tweet on the Friday or hold the flag and words overnight, so our post coincides with NRD on the Saturday – happy to take the lead from @scotgovcanada on this.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]

News | [redacted]

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted] | Portfolio Media inquiries: [redacted]

gov.scot/news



From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:44 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International

Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa

Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; '[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk'

<[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman

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

Subject: RE: Routine submission requesting Nisga'a Nation flag be flown on 29 September

[redacted],

The First Minister is content.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

Office of the First Minister

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

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Please note 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 for information.

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:26 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International

Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa

Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; '[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk'

<[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman

<Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

Subject: Routine submission requesting Nisga'a Nation flag be flown on 29 September

1. FLYING THE NISGA'A NATION FLAG ON 29 SEPTEMBER

1.1 Priority and Purpose

1. This **routine** submission is to request that the Nisga'a nation flag be flown at Victoria Quay as a one off event on 29 September 2023. This would mark the date that the memorial pole which is being returned from Scotland will be raised in the Nisga'a nation.

1.2 Recommendation

2. Recommends that you agree that the flag can fly at Victoria Quay to mark the return of the memorial pole and this act of reconciliation.

1.3 Context and Issues

3. The Nisga'a Memorial Pole was acquired by the (then) Royal Museum of Scotland in 1929 and was on permanent display in the Living Lands gallery at Chambers Street of the National Museum Scotland (NMS).
4. Following representations from the Nisga'a Nation, National Museums Scotland Board of Trustees agreed in November 2022 that the pole should be returned to the Nisga'a Nation, and the necessary ministerial consent was provided by Mr Robertson.
5. NMS is the first national museum in the UK to agree to a request like this.
6. There was a closed spiritual ceremony with the Nisga'a at the museum on 28 August 2023, where the pole was prepared for its return. The Nisga'a delegation described this return home as a "historic moment of reconciliation" and "we are re-establishing a new relationship with Scotland and with the museum".
7. Mr Robertson was presented with a Nisga'a nation flag when he first met the delegation last year.
8. It would be a mark of respect and acknowledgement to raise the flag in Scotland while the pole is raised back in its homeland on 29 September.
9. The Canadian federal government and the provincial government of British Columbia lobbied Mr Robertson in support of returning the pole. Given these sensitivities and the positive relationship we have with Canada, BC and the Nisga'a Nation, Scottish Affairs Office in Canada and DEXA support this recommendation.
10. Discussions with the House Team have confirmed that the flag is not suitable for flying outside St Andrews House, due to it having wooden toggles, however this type of flag can fly at Victoria Quay.
11. **Option 1:** It is recommended that you agree to this request to raise the flag outside Victoria Quay as a one off event on 29 September 2023.
12. **Option 2:** If the First Minister is not minded to agree, or if it is not possible to raise the flag outside Victoria Quay, alternative options could be considered such as using a smaller flag pole inside the building.

Conclusion

13. This submission is seeking agreement from the First Minister that the Nisga'a Nation flag can be flown at Victoria Quay on 29 September 2023 to mark the repatriation of the memorial pole.

14. It is recommended that the First Minister agree to option 1, to raise the flag outside Victoria Quay as a one off event on 29 September 2023 to mark this act of reconciliation.

[redacted] | [redacted] | Culture and Historic Environment | Directorate for Culture and Major Events | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh EH6 6QQ |
Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]@gov.scot

Document 13

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 September 2023 11:35
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@nms.ac.uk
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Hi [redacted]

I hope you are well, I am just picking this up as [redacted] is on leave now, hopefully this is the right part of the email exchange and I am not going over old ground.

[redacted]

I hope that you are able to review this on the basis of information above.

Many thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 2:23 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for your time earlier. After reviewing the information we will redact the 4th Paragraph on Page 14 under a Sections 30 (b) exemption:

Section 30 (b)(i) & (ii) "would or would be likely to, inhibit substantially - (i) the free and frank provision of advice; or (ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation

"likely" - There must be at least a significant probability that substantial inhibition would occur in order for the exemption to be appropriately applied. There must be a genuine link between disclosure and inhibition: it cannot simply be a remote or hypothetical possibility.

"substantial inhibition" - In the context of section 30(b), it means to restrain, decrease or suppress the freedom with which opinions or options are expressed. The inhibition caused by disclosing the information must be of real and demonstrable significance, rather than simply marginal, before the exemption can be applied.

Other factors - consider the "content of the information" and "sensitivity of the advice or views"

However our view remains that we cannot redact the 2nd Paragraph on Page 21 under S 32. The bar is very high for proving this exemption - it's not been used very often - you can see here, who uses it (or tries to) most

https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/decisions?dec_nb=&year=&FOISA=48&EIR=&a_ppeal=&outcome=&description=

Section 32(1)(a) "Information is exempt from disclosure is disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially relations between the UK and any other State"

"likely to"

there must be a significant probability that substantial prejudice would occur - there must be a genuine link between disclosure and the harm? it cannot be a remote hypothetical possibility.

"Substantial prejudice"

the probable damage must be of real and demonstrable significance, rather than simply marginal

other factors...

It must be substantial prejudice to the relations of whole UK - not just part or component region (ie Scotland).

We are happy to review again if you can provide further details on why you believe is should be redacted, which answers the points above. Even if a negative reaction is anticipated – we need to be able to demonstrate that this likely to prejudice substantially international relations.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 12:00 PM

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: FOI Request

Dear [redacted],

As previously discussed we have a FOI request which has asked

“Can you release all correspondence relating to the Ni'isjoohl Memorial Pole between the National Museum of Scotland and the Scottish Government from 2022 and 2023?”

I've attached the correspondence we intend to issue under this request. If you have any concerns please let me know by the 6 September.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

National Museums Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF
Tel [redacted]
e-mail [redacted] @nms.ac.uk
<http://www.nms.ac.uk>

National Museums Scotland, Scottish Charity, No. SC 011130

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

Subject: Rematriation of House of Ni-isjoohl Memorial Pole - request to fly Nisga'a Flag from SAH - 29 September 2023

Morning

I'm looking for guidance on flag flying.

During a ceremony this morning at the National Museum of Scotland, prior to the rematriation of the memorial pole (briefing attached for background), Mr Robertson stated that he would fly the flag of the Nisga'a First Nation from SAH on the 29 September 2023 when the pole is put on display in their museum in Canada.

We do have the flag as it was given to Mr Robertson as a gift during their first meeting last year but as this is not a flag we would normally fly, I was looking to see how we go about making this happen?

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Private Secretary

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [redacted] |

[redacted]

Document 15

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 July 2023 12:53
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
'[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk' <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Nisga'a Q&A

Colleagues

Sharing NMS's draft media Q&A for the event in August. I have highlighted passages of main interest and made some small suggestions. Please feel free to comment on these points and others, grateful for thoughts by middle of next week.

All best
[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:19 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>
Subject: Q&A

Dear [redacted]

As promised by [redacted], please find attached our updated Q&As.

Please do call if you wish to discuss.

Best wishes
[redacted]
National Museums Scotland, Scottish Charity, No. SC 011130

Questions & Answers

1. When did you receive the request for return?

We have been in dialogue with Nisga'a representatives for some time. We became aware of the work Dr Amy Parent was doing and reached out to her in early 2022 to share the information we had about the Pole, and our procedure for making requests for transfer. A delegation from the Nisga'a Nation then visited Edinburgh in August to view the Pole and they made a formal request. Since then we have worked to bring the formal request to our Board of Trustees, which we have been able to consider under the terms of our Procedure for Considering Requests for the Permanent Transfer of Collection Object from Non-UK

Claimants, which was introduced in 2021. The request was formally agreed by our Board of Trustees when they met on 30 November 2022 and approved by the Scottish Government on 1 December 2022.

2. When will the pole actually be returned to Canada?

Now that the decision has been made, in discussion with the Nisga'a Nation, staff at National Museums Scotland are planning the complex task of safely removing the 11-metre pole from its display location and preparing it for transport to British Columbia. The pole can't be transferred before the end of August 2023, and we have significant logistical details to work through but we hope to be able to move the Memorial Pole in the autumn.

3. Where and when will the handover be?

It's too early to say exactly when but following conversations with the Nisga'a Nation, we plan to officially transfer ownership of the pole upon its arrival at the Nisga'a Museum

4. How did the Memorial Pole come into the national collection?

In 1929, Marius Barbeau sold it to the Royal Museum of Scotland, which later became the National Museum of Scotland. It went on display the following year. Barbeau was an ethnographer and curator at the National Museum of Canada from 1911-1949.

5. If it was purchased, why are you sending it back?

In this instance, the Trustees are satisfied that, while the Museum acted in good faith in its acquisition of the pole in 1930, based on the evidence and arguments put forward, we now understand that the individual(s) who 'sold' it to the Canadian ethnographer Marius Barbeau did so without the cultural, spiritual, or political authority to do so on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation.

If pressed: This took place at the time of the Potlatch Ban, when First Nation communities in Northwest Canada were forced by law to give up cultural items associated with ceremonial practices, and many 'sales' took place under duress.

6. Is there other Nisga'a material in the collection?

In addition to the Memorial Pole, we have a small number of contemporary photographic prints and a small contemporary replica model of a pole created by Nisga'a artists. These sit within a larger collection of historic and contemporary material from Northwest coast peoples, some of which may be Nisga'a but as of yet have not been given that attribution.

a. Is that also being returned?

The request solely pertained to the memorial pole. When the Nisga'a delegation visited last August, we were able to show them other material from our collection which has been identified as Nisga'a. We were pleased to learn more about these objects from them and look forward to continuing these discussions.

7. Why did you have to wait for a formal request / why couldn't you just do the decent thing and return them?

National Museums Scotland is governed by a Statute and charity law which determine how we care for and manage items in the national collection. We have a procedure for such requests that ensures we work within appropriate legal frameworks and enables our Board of Trustees to consider requests and make an appropriate recommendation to the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture in Scottish Government, whose formal permission we require before a transfer like this can take place.

We became aware of the work Dr Amy Parent was doing in 2021 and reached out to her to share the information we had about the Pole, and our procedure for making requests for transfer. A delegation from the Nisga'a Nation then visited Edinburgh in August 2022 to view the Pole and they made a formal request

8. How and why did you arrive at this decision?

Decisions about transferring objects out of the collection are guided by our Procedure for Considering such requests. The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the grounds for transfer have been met.

9. Only if pressed:

In this instance, the Trustees are satisfied that, while the Museum acted in good faith in its acquisition of the pole in 1930, based on the evidence and arguments put forward, we now understand that the individual(s) who 'sold' it to the Canadian ethnographer Marius Barbeau did so without the cultural, spiritual or political authority to do so on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation.

If pressed: This took place at the time of the Potlatch Ban, when First Nation communities in Northwest Canada were forced by law to give up cultural items associated with ceremonial practices, and many 'sales' took place under duress.

10. Why did it take so long?

This matter has been resolved as quickly as it possibly could within the parameters of our procedures and legal framework.

11. How will you transport it to Canada?

Now that the decision has been made, in discussion with the delegation from the Nisga'a Nation, staff at National Museums Scotland have begun the complex task of safely removing the 11-metre pole from its display location and preparing it for transport to British Columbia.

The location of the pole in the National Museum of Scotland adds to the complexity. It is currently surrounded by displays of small and large collection items. We have planned a complex series of collection moves and gallery deinstalls to enable the pole to move safely out of the Museum.

The pole requires a steel cradle for safe lifting and movement. This ensures no pressure is placed directly on the surface of the pole during deinstall, movement and installation at the Nisga'a Museum. We will design this cradle in collaboration with colleagues at the Nisga'a Museum to ensure it is appropriate to move the pole out of the Museum and also works effectively at the Nisga'a Museum meeting all their requirements to receive and install the pole safely too.

It will need to travel from the UK to the Nisga'a Museum by road and plane

12. How much will that cost and who is paying for it?

National Museums Scotland is responsible for arranging the transfer of the memorial pole to Canada and is being supported with funding from Scottish Government.

13. How much is it costing?

Approximately £300,000.

14. Why is Scottish Government paying for it? Why isn't Canada?

Our procedure states that National Museums Scotland is not responsible for any costs associated with the transfer of objects back to claimants. However, the circumstances on this occasion are unique because of the complex logistics required for the pole's removal and transport.

15. How would you describe the experience of working with the Nisga'a Nation on this?

It has been an interesting and enriching experience. We are pleased to be able to transfer the Memorial Pole to its people and to the place where its spiritual significance is most keenly understood, a point which they communicated very clearly to us during their visit to the Museum in August. We hoped that this agreement would be the first step in a fruitful and ongoing relationship with colleagues from the Nisga'a Nation, and so it's great that we're here, both today taking part in this conversation and we're really looking forward to visiting the Nisga'a Museum and homeland.

16. But the fact is that Dr Parent has referred to a clash of world views, specifically between your 'one-year old policy' and the centuries of Nisga'a tradition. Did this present a challenge to you?

It's true that the policy is relatively recent but it is worth pointing out that, prior to its introduction, there was no transparent process or mechanism through which a request like this could be made. As a new process, there are always going to be things to learn from and improve. However, whilst we respect the different perspective of the Nisga'a, that process has ultimately helped us reach the point where we can talk about the return of the Memorial Pole, agreed within the parameters of our own legal framework.

17. Are you pleased with the Board's decision?

We are the first national museum in the UK to agree to a request like this. We are pleased to have reached this agreement and to be able to transfer the Memorial Pole to its people and to the place where its spiritual significance is most keenly understood.

18. What will go in its place?

That's still under discussion. We are definitely keen to continue to represent the Nisga'a tradition and culture within the gallery space once the pole has gone and, whatever form that takes, we will do so in close consultation and dialogue with our Nisga'a colleagues.

16a. If specifically pushed on replacement pole

In principle we are absolutely open to it, and it is part of the discussions that we will have both in the Museum and with the Nisga'a to determine what is possible.

19. How many other repatriation requests are outstanding?

We have one other request outstanding.

17b. What is that?

In June, we hosted a visit from the National Commission of Museums and Monuments of Nigeria, as part of our ongoing dialogue around the Benin collection. As part of this visit, we shared information on the objects, and discussed our transfer procedure and opportunities for partnership projects. We have received a formal request for the transfer of the objects. This request will now be considered in line with our published procedure which sets out how, within our legislative framework, we consider requests for the transfer of objects to their country or location of origin on a case-by-case basis.

20. What are the implications of this for other/future requests [i.e., does this not 'open the floodgates']?

This was the first such request received since we published our Procedure over a year previously. There may be further requests or enquiries prompted in part by awareness created by media around the memorial pole, and we are open to discussion about this – that's why our Procedure was created. Any future requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with our Procedure and within our legal framework

21. Did the Scottish Government put pressure on you to agree to this request?

No. We are grateful to the Cabinet Secretary for responding promptly to our recommendation that the Pole be returned within the terms of our legal framework, but that is the only involvement that Scottish Government has in our process.

If pressed: Our Trustees are well aware of their legal obligations under both the 'Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005' and the 'National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985', to act in the interest of National Museums Scotland regardless of any external opinion.

22. Does this decision put pressure on UK-Government-funded institutions like the British Museum? (Would you like it to?)

It is not for us to comment on other institutions who operate within their own policies and legal frameworks.

23. How much other colonial material do you have?

That is not a straightforward question to answer, particularly with respect to defining 'colonial'. Material which came to this country from overseas during the time of the British Empire was collected for many different reasons: as works of art, as material evidence of the past, as scientific discoveries, as curios and personal mementoes, as representations of other cultures, as specimens of natural resources for industrial exploitation, as well as trophies or loot taken during colonial military campaigns.

We are committed to fully researching and documenting our collection and, where colonial associations are identified, they will be transparently reflected in our object records and any associated public-facing interpretation. The more we can put such information into the public domain, the more discoverable it is for everyone. As well as making our audiences at home more aware of the difficult histories around certain parts of our collection, that also includes source communities who might want to engage with us about such material in the future.

21a. How much North American material do you have?

We have over 4000 objects in our collection from North America.

Document 16

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 30 August 2023 10:27

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>

Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>;

[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>;

[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@nms.ac.uk>

Subject: Couple of points

Dear [redacted]

I hope this finds you well on your return from a restful leave, and you have not been caught up in any of the travel disruption.

Mr Robertson has asked us to pass on his thanks to you and the team for the very successful handling of the Nisga'a memorial pole ceremony this week, which he was very pleased to attend. I know how much in particular [redacted] and [redacted] were involved in the preparation and Comms handling, and I add my own thanks for that.

He has asked in the light of events in the news at the British Museum what controls and processes NMS has in place for collections audit and security, and whether a similar situation might arise. It would be very helpful if we could have a note about that please when you can.

I am finishing up on Friday and [redacted] will be on two weeks' leave from then, so please could the note be sent to [redacted] and [redacted] copied to Penelope and [redacted]?

With thanks and best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] Sponsorship and Historic Environment Unit| Scottish

Government | Cultural Access and Organisations Division

2G South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Currently working hybrid between office and home 📞 [redacted]/ [redacted]

Document 17

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:06 PM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk
Subject: FW: Memorial Pole - contributions sought - suggested amendment

Dear [redacted]

Many thanks for your email.

I've discussed this with [redacted], [redacted] Sponsorship and Historic Environment. Can we have the second bullet/line changed please to:

- Scotland's willingness to reflect on our colonial history and its complex legacies is reflected in the recent decision by National Museums Scotland to return the House of Ni'isjoohl Memorial Pole to its place of origin, the Nisga'a Nation in Canada. Returning an item of this profile is an opportunity for international profile and relationship building..

With thanks and Kind Regards,
[redacted]
Scottish Government
Sponsorship and Historic Environment
Team



From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 September 2023 09:10
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk' <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Memorial Pole - contributions sought

Hi [redacted],

Hope all is well. Colleagues in Ottawa suggested you might be best for a question on the memorial pole return?

I am reaching out as I am currently drafting an SG position paper on taking a feminist approach to our international work. It will largely be informed by a number of externally tested recommendations including one to:

“Be actively anticolonial and antiracist. Scotland should connect its feminist approach to foreign policy with its commitment to be antiracist and address colonialism, slavery and historic injustice”.

It would be great to reference the work done to support the return of the memorial pole in line with this – something like:

- We are strongly committed to being actively anticolonial and antiracist, contending with our past while contributing to addressing global challenges and achieving fairer outcomes in the world today.
- From the focus on equalizing power with our partner countries in our International Development programmes, to supporting the repatriation of the Memorial Pole to the Nisga'a First Nation and righting an historic wrong.
- There is much more that we can, and should do as we seek to implement a feminist approach to our international work.
- As we seek to implement this approach, we will continue to collaborate with diverse voices to ensure we face historic and continuing injustice and ensure people most affected by equality and injustice, conflict, climate change and environmental damage have a platform to speak for themselves and influence decisions.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Global Affairs and Soft Power, International Futures | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | [redacted]

Document 18

-----Original Message-----

From: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 August 2023 11:22
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Scan to Me

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your help today at the Nisga'a memorial pole ceremony. For your records I have attached the letter that was presented to Mr Robertson at the ceremony by [redacted], the Nisga'a gov's representative. It isn't addressed specifically to cab sec but it was presented to him in front of the delegation so unsure if we'll need to respond. It mentions the 29th September when the pole will be put in their own museum, but I know you mentioned [redacted] will be attending on behalf of SG so there is likely no need to directly respond to this. Just wanted to flag this just in case! Copying in DEXA colleagues for their awareness too.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Private Secretary to Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Ministerial Private Office St Andrews House Edinburgh

cabsecCEAC@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

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

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 10:57 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Scan to Me

Scan:u449528Scan to Me

Sayt-K'íim-Goot / one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government

T 250 633 3000 / F 250 633 2357
TF 1 866 633 0888
PO Box 281 / 2000 Lisims Dr
New Alyansh BC / Canada V0J 1A0
NISCANATION.CA

**Nisga'a Nation President Eva Clayton's Message
On the Occasion of Sim'oogit Ni'isjoohl
Ceremony at National Museum of Scotland – August 28, 2023**

On behalf of the Nisga'a Nation, I extend warm greetings to representatives of the Scottish government and National Museums Scotland. I was originally to be with you in person today, however other urgent business required me to remain at home.

Sim'oogit Ni'isjoohl, Chief Earl Stephens, Noxs Ts'aawit, Dr. Amy Parent and to the rest of your wilp family members – I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to each of you on this remarkable achievement. Nisga'a Lisims Government, on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation has and will continue to stand proudly behind you in this monumental undertaking.

As you embark on this spiritual journey with your ancestors, know that the Nisga'a Nation looks forward to joining with you in celebration on September 29th.

To the Scottish government and National Museums Scotland officials, thank you for this tremendous act of reconciliation. We are on a journey together to show the world what reconciliation in action looks like. Si'aamhl wilsim.

In 2010, the Nisga'a Nation welcomed home 300+ treasures that are now housed in our very own Nisga'a Museum. At that time, wahlin Sim'oogit Hleek - the late Dr. Joseph Gosnell called on museums and private collectors the world over to return what rightfully belongs to the Nisga'a Nation. The addition of the Ni'isjoohl memorial pole to the Nisga'a Museum is another chapter in the journey of bringing our ancestors home.


[2]

Today, simgigat (hereditary chiefs) representing the Laxgibuu (Wolf), Laxsgiik (Eagle) and Gisk'aast (Killerwhale) tribes of the Nisga'a Nation will address the Ganada (Frog) memorial pole and Sim'oogit Ni'isjoohl and his family before they embark on the spiritual journey home to Nisga'a Lands. This is a sacred ceremony we have observed since before recorded time.

We look forward to seeing you at the happy occasion on Nisga'a Lands on September 29th.

Si'aamhl wilsim ii t'ooyaksim nisim

Respectfully,
NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT


Eva Clayton (Aug 23, 2023 10:10 PDF)

Eva Clayton, President
Nox Wil-Luugaamiks Hloks

Document 19

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Elgin Marbles - repatriation lines

Good morning Lisa,

As per request, please see below our recent lines and those used in 2022.

REPATRIATION

The Scottish Government welcomes Scottish museums' efforts to respond to the important issue of repatriation in a transparent and responsible way.

- Collections have been acquired by museums and galleries under varying sets of circumstances.
- These can understandably lead to questions about the legitimacy of the objects acquired and cared for in our museums' collections in Scotland.
- This issue is of increasing significance for the sector.
- So I am pleased that museums are working hard to follow best practice and ensure that international standards are met when considering requests for culturally significant objects.
- The recent repatriation of the memorial pole to the Nisga'a nation in British Columbia demonstrates Scotland's willingness to return objects which have been unethically acquired.

I would suggest adding another line -

Elgin Marbles - I am aware of the considerable cultural and political sensitivities surrounding this request.

In 2022

"We recognise that many collections have been acquired by museums and galleries over the years under different set of circumstances, and this can understandably lead to audiences enquiring about the legitimacy of those objects acquired and cared for in our museums' collections in Scotland. We also recognise that there is a growing public conversation about repatriation and historic collection methods, a discourse should be considered by museums carefully as part of the key role they hold in our society.

"Given that this issue is of increasing significance for the sector, museums are working hard to follow best practice and ensure that decisions in respect of requests for the return of objects of cultural significance from a museum's collection conform to international standards.

"The Scottish Government supports Scottish museums efforts to respond to these important and consequential matters in a transparent and responsible way."

Kind Regards,

[redacted]
Scottish Government
Sponsorship and Historic Environment
Scotland

From: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 November 2023 09:41
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Elgin Marbles

Morning Isabelle – can you please dig out the lines we have on our approach to repatriation for me? (I don't think we should comment on the UKG position) thanks

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | Tel: [redacted] – *currently working from home*
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:37 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Subject: Elgin Marbles

Good morning

The Minister has noted coverage in the press around Stephen Flynn's comments on the Elgin Marbles. The Minister asked if we have lines in the event she is asked to comment on this or if SG has a position on the argument around the return of the Elgin Marbles.

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=0dba6a8eee21ae98JmltdHM9MTcwMTMwMjQwM CZpZ3VpZD0xZGRhZGU5My1jZTQ0LTZjOTMtMGlxYS1jZGQwY2YwZTZkNjlmW 5zaWQ9NTU3Nw&pfn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=1ddade93-ce44-6c93-0b1a-cdd0cf0e6d62&psq=stephen+flynn+elgin+marbles+bbc&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cua GVyYWxkc2NvdGxhbmQuY29tL25ld3MvMjM5NTI2MDIuc25wLWpvaW4tY2FsbHMT cmV0dXJuLXN0b2xlb1IbGdpbi1tYXJibGVzLw&ntb=1>

Grateful for advice please.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary,
**Office of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, Christina
McKelvie**

[redacted] | www.gov.scot | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 5:32 PM

To: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>;

John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Rachael Mckechnie

<Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet

Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: TO CLEAR - Herald on Sunday - Ni'isjoohl memorial pole

PO Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development,

CC for info

PO Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

We've received an enquiry from the Herald on Sunday about the Ni'isjoohl memorial pole – full details can be found below. The journalist says that it looks like SG was going to pay for the pole's repatriation but then decided not to. He also asks if this sets a precedent which could lead to a difficult financial situation for NMS if they have to foot the bill for any future repatriation.

The following lines, which mirror what we have said previously, have been agreed in conjunction with policy and SpAds. Grateful if you could confirm whether the Minister is content to clear as soon as possible, please.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“In December last year the National Museums Scotland's Board of Trustees took the decision to return the Ni'isjoohl memorial pole to its place of origin in the Nisga'a Nation in Canada. This followed a visit from the Nisga'a delegation who came to Scotland to explain the importance of their pole to their culture, people and community.”

Thanks,

[redacted]

Duty comms

Enquiry

I'm looking at writing a story for Sunday's paper based on some of the detail in correspondence released to me by the NMS through FOI.

It looks to me as if the NMS was under the impression that the Scottish Government was always going to pay for the repatriation of the Ni'isjoohl memorial pole, despite their procedure saying that "all direct costs associated with the transfer, including transport, will be the responsibility of the claimants."

However, in February of this year, when they told SG it would cost £710,000, SG said: "You will be disappointed, but perhaps not surprised, to hear that in our current financial circumstances, we are unable to confirm any funding for these huge costs."

The Scottish Government then recommended the museum reduce costs crowdfunding and using funds from its capital budget.

In an email from NMS to SG in May, they say: "Our transfer procedure is clear that all direct costs associated with the transfer are the responsibility of the claimants.

"There is nothing in writing relating to costs between NMS and the SG, however, our notes of the meetings which commenced in August state that there is a 'political willingness to pay' from the SG.

"This has been made several times throughout our discussions, with stating in writing that who will pay is for the 'cultural leads in the SG'.

"It was as a result of these conversations that NMS did not directly address costs at the time the transfer was agreed."

It goes on: "You may also recall that the 'nation to nation' circumstances of the claim, the claimant's rejection of the NMS procedure from the outset, and the high public profile of the case necessitated working these through with SG rather than directly with the claimants.

"If the offer is now being withdrawn or thoughts on this have changed we will have no alternative but to approach the claimants."

Are you able to comment? Why did SG give the impression they would pay, but then did not?

Secondly, is there a danger here that the Scottish taxpayer ultimately paying for the repatriation sets a precedent? Could NMS end up in an extremely vulnerable financial situation whereby every time a repatriation claim comes up, they end up paying hundreds of thousands to enable it?

As background for you:

National Museums Scotland's procedure states it is not responsible for any costs associated with the transfer of objects back to claimants.

The £300k covered the costs of dismantling and transporting the memorial pole. It's huge and needed special measures to handle it with care. The complex logistics included closing the road outside of the museum, taking the doors off the museum to remove it and then road transport to the plane. There was also a ceremony held with a delegation from the Nisga'a nation that took place on Monday 28 August and which Mr Robertson represented the Scottish Government at.

The Canadian Air Force then took on responsibility for the flight to Canada. They covered the costs.

Nisga'a are referring to this as a repatriation rather than repatriation. The term "repatriation" reframes the concept of "repatriation" by grounding the process of recovering belongings in Indigenous law — and is more closely in alignment with Nisga'a matrilineal society.

Hope this gives you what you need.

Best wishes
Rachael

Rachael McKechnie (she/her)

Deputy Director, Creative Futures and Major Events
Scottish Government

Email: Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot

Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:31 PM

To: Rachael McKechnie <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Penelope Cooper <Penelope.Cooper@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; John Primrose

<John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ken Thomson <Ken.Thomson@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media Query - Ni'isjoohl memorial pole - Telegraph

Hi Rachael

Greatly appreciate you coming back on this. Yes I've now picked up Penelope's out of office and her phone is switched off (rightly so!).

Totally appreciate you'll have plans for today and very grateful if you'd be in a position to take a look later this afternoon.

Just adding Ken too for any thoughts/input around high-level positioning around this.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: Rachael McKechnie <Rachael.McKechnie@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:26 PM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Penelope Cooper <Penelope.Cooper@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; John Primrose

<John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Media Query - Ni'isjoohl memorial pole - Telegraph

Hi [redacted],

Penelope's on holiday so there's a high chance you won't get hold of her. I've got very little knowledge of this issue I'm afraid. I've not managed to contact colleagues who will know more yet and I'm not close to a computer to be able to check shared files. I probably can't get something back to you for a couple of hours - is that workable for your time frame? Clearly, I'll try and get something back to you before that if at all possible.

Best wishes

Rachael

Rachael McKechnie

Deputy Director, Cultural Futures and Major Events

Email: Rachael.McKechnie@gov.scot

Tel: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:14:16 PM

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: TO CLEAR - Herald on Sunday - Ni'isjoohl memorial pole

Thanks [redacted],
I would amend this to specify that the transatlantic transportation was covered by the Royal Canadian Air Force, to avoid implying they covered everything.
Many thanks
Penelope

Kind regards
Penelope Cooper
Director of Culture and Major Events

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 6:39:22 PM
To: Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Penelope Cooper <Penelope.Cooper@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Rachael Mckechnie <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TO CLEAR - Herald on Sunday - Ni'isjoohl memorial pole

All,

Removing the Minister and Cabinet Secretary for now.

Penelope and I have just spoken and discussed updated lines in the event the Minister asks for these – please see below:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The return of the Ni'isjoohl memorial pole was a decision reached between the National Museum of Scotland and the Nisga'a delegation. Its transportation was funded by the Royal Canadian Airforce meaning costs incurred by the NMS were kept to a minimum. The Scottish Government did not directly fund the memorial pole's return.’

Penelope – grateful for your views.

Many thanks,

[redacted]
Duty comms

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 5:32 PM

To: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>;

John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Rachael Mckechnie

<Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet

Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: TO CLEAR - Herald on Sunday - Ni'isjoohl memorial pole

PO Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development,

CC for info

PO Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

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Duty comms

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BILATERAL BRIEFING FIRST MINISTER

Key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are grateful for the incredible contribution of the Turkish community in Scotland. • We particularly appreciate the work of the Turkish Consulate General in Edinburgh, for example, in promoting exchange and collaboration on renewable energy, trade, tourism, culture and people to people links. • Congratulations on the recent centenary to celebrate Türkiye's [pronounced Toor-key-yeah] Republic Day. I know many people in Türkiye turned out to celebrate. • Keen to learn more about your net zero plans, 'zero waste project' and preserved areas/ecological corridors.
What	Bilateral meeting during COP28
Why	
Who	<p>TBC Planning Minister Mehmet Özhaseki</p>  <p>Hon. Mehmet Özhaseki is the Türkiye's Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. He has been actively involved in social foundations serving disadvantaged groups. He initiated projects such as Kayseri's first soup kitchen, student scholarships, and winter fuel funds. In 1994, he became the Mayor of Melikgazi, and in 1998, the Mayor of Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, winning five consecutive elections. His term was marked by the "Özhaseki Model Municipal Management" and projects like the UEFA-standard Kayseri Stadium, the Yamula Dam, and the Mount Erciyes tourism and ski centre. Serving as the Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, he launched projects like "Urban Planning Council", "Our City", and "Zero Waste", and revitalized regions affected by terrorism.</p>
Where	tbc
When	tbc
Agenda	
Media	XXX
Supporting official	XXX
Attached documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lines on Israel/Palestine - COP28 Scotland top lines - Türkiye core brief

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

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 welcome the temporary pause in fighting to support the release of some hostages and allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. We continue to support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza

- A ceasefire from all sides is needed to ensure the protection of innocent civilians and the delivery of essential supplies including include food, fuel, water, and medical provisions.
- To prevent further deaths, the bombs and rockets must stop, humanitarian and medical facilities must be protected, and civilians must be given unrestricted access to the basic necessities of life, 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.
- 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 of starvation, dehydration and spread of waterborne diseases, alongside extensive Israeli bombardments .
- 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.

Key climate points to make on Scotland at COP28

- Keen to learn more about your net zero plans, ‘zero waste project’ and preserved areas/ecological corridors.

Türkiye Core Brief

Head of State – President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (since 2014)

Government – Justice and Development Party (AKP)

Foreign Minister – Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (AKP)

Ambassador to UK – Ümit Yalçın (since Oct 2018)

UK Ambassador – Jill Morris (since Oct 2022)

Residents in UK – 500,000+



The country name of “**Türkiye**“ replaced “Turkey” at the UN in June 2022.

Internal country politics

President Erdoğan’s Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been in power since 2002, ending four decades of short-lived coalitions. It lost its parliamentary majority in the election of June 2018, but remains the largest party of the ruling People’s Alliance.

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

Turkey and Climate

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

The state-sponsored media report on Ankara’s calls for more concrete action against the impact of climate change and the prevention of global warming instead of commitment plans. Türkiye is working to reach a net zero emission goal by 2053 and double its goal to 41% by 2030. It has revised its climate change laws, boosted the size of its preserved areas and expanded its green spaces through ecological corridors. The country is also among the top three in the world with its 551 Blue Flag beaches.

In addition, Türkiye has invested significantly on boosting recycling through the “**zero waste** project” [spearheaded by first lady Emine Erdoğan]. A U.N.-endorsed ‘declaration of goodwill’, initially signed by the first lady and the U.N. chief, has since been endorsed by the spouses of nearly 30 heads of state, including France, South Korea, Paraguay and Cuba. The initiative primarily, which received recognition last year from UNDP and UN Habitat, aims to align the country with sustainable development principles, prevent uncontrolled waste and leave a “cleaner, developed” country for future generations.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Some 150,000 buildings across Türkiye have switched to the zero waste management system, which involves the separate disposal of garbage and recycling practices; and some 17 million people are said to have been educated on adopting zero waste practices since the project's inception in 2017.

Türkiye will host about 45 events during COP28 on different topics including compliance with climate change-related regulations, health, technology, transforming energy resources and zero waste. Transition funding for developing countries will be a key priority. Planning Minister Mehmet Özhaseki will represent Türkiye at the ministerial level.

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]

[Redacted – S32 International Relations]