

Annex A 202400394465 – For Release

- 1. The number and job title of all Scottish Government officials involved in the trip to Turkey by Nadia El-Nakla for summit of leaders' spouses organised by the First Lady of Turkey on November 15 2023.*
 - 2. Between November 1 and December 31 2023, any materials (briefing notes, emails, minutes) where the details of Ms El-Nakla's trip are discussed*
 - 3. Throughout the same dates (inclusive) any communications between the Turkish and Scottish governments, their officials, Ms El-Nakla and Mr Yousaf, where they exist (including letters, emails and message exchanges on platforms like Whatsapp)*
 - 4. Any cost of the trip, whether through travel, staffing or otherwise, incurred by the Scottish Government*
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1. Transcribed WhatsApp Communication between Scott Wightman (SW), Director of External Affairs and the Turkish Consul General (TCG)

6 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

SW: We will consult the First Minister s office

[redacted s.32]

7 November 2023

Missed voice call at 14:21 from TCG

8 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

9 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

SW: Thanks for your message and I apologise for not being able to take your call earlier. Our understanding is that Ms El-Nakla told the First Lady that she would not be able to commit to anything until she had more detail about the proposed declaration and event. It will be helpful if you are able to obtain further details as soon as possible.

10 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

SW: I will get back to you as soon as possible. You will appreciate that Ms El-Nakla is a private citizen with no formal position so this is not straightforward for us to manage

11 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

15 December 2023

Missed voice call from TCG

[redacted s.32]

18 December 2023

Missed voice call from TCG

SW: My apologies. I am in a meeting. I will call you back

[redacted s.32]

SW: Are you free to speak?

Voice call

2. Extract of Briefing Notes for Several Events and FMQs in December

Istanbul meeting

Ms El-Nakla attended the event as a private citizen and without any official or financial support from the Scottish Government;

[redacted s.30]

3. Email Chain – Advice on Ministerial Code

From: Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Cc: Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Ministerial declaration advice

Hi Chris

We spoke earlier and I've noted below the key points from that discussion.

[redacted s.30]

[redacted s.30]

Section 8 – interests of spouse, partner or close family member

This section asks Ministers to include details of any interest held by their spouse, partner or member of their immediate family (including parents, siblings or children) in any of the above categories, which might reasonably be perceived as relevant to their Ministerial responsibilities.

Paragraph 11.4 of the Ministerial Code says that Ministers should disclose to the Permanent Secretary the interests of their spouse or partner and close family which might be thought to give rise to an actual or perceived conflict. Where a spouse or partner's interests are deemed to be potentially relevant to a Minister's portfolio, arrangements are put in place to manage this.

Additional care is taken in considering which interests held by Ministers' family members should be included in the list so as to avoid excessive and unreasonable intrusion into their lives. It is important to recognise the right of these individuals to a degree of privacy over their affairs and also to avoid compromising their ability to continue in gainful trade and/or employment. Accordingly, judgments are made about which interests are directly and significantly relevant and should therefore be included in the list. What counts as "close family" is determined on a case by case basis. Ministers cannot be expected to know the detail of the affairs of all those they are related to, but where they have close and ongoing contact Ministers are expected to take reasonable steps to ensure they adhere to their responsibilities under Chapter 11 of the Ministerial Code.

I hope this is helpful but please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Helen

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:40 PM
To: Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>
Cc: Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: Ministerial declaration advice

Hello Helen,

[redacted s.30]

[redacted s.32]

There was no government involvement at all in relation to the visit – and she was supported by a staff member from the SNP.

[redacted s.30]

Happy to chat through if easier.

Thanks

Chris

4. Email Passing on Letter in Relation to Trip to Ms EI-Nakla

From: [redacted s.38] <[redacted s.38]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 6:51 PM
To: [redacted s.38]@snpmmedia.net
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Turkish Consulate General in Edinburgh - Note Verbale 23 November 2023

Hi [redacted s.38],

Please see the attached regarding Nadia's recent visit to Turkey. I trust you will forward onto Nadia.

Thanks,

[redacted s.38]

[redacted s.32]

Translation of Note in Attachment

[redacted s.32]