

1. Email 15 December

From: Kate Higgins [Redacted s38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 9:00 PM

To: [Redacted s38]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted s38]

Subject: Re: SpAds views: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Yes fine

Special advisor to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

[Redacted s38]

From: [Redacted s38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 8:35 PM

To: [Redacted s38] Kate Higgins [Redacted s38]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted s38]

Subject: SpAds views: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

SpAds,

The journalist has come back to ask if we can name any world leaders who have approached SG for advice.

Are you content for me to send on the following info?

A full report of COP28 meetings will come in due course.

Thanks

[Redacted s38]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: [Redacted s38]

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: [Redacted s38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 6:56 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition
<CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted s38]

Subject: RE: CAB SEC CONSIDERATION PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Many thanks [Redacted s38]. I will issue as below.

[Redacted s38]

Climate Secretary Màiri McAllan said:

“The Scottish Government, and Scotland generally, is held in high esteem on the world stage with regard to our approach to tackling climate change, our

renewable abundance and our commitment to climate justice, human rights and international co-operation.

“Conversations centre on knowledge exchange and for our part, both seeking info and sharing info on the issues we’re recognised for – for example, the £2 million Scotland pledged at COP26 for loss and damage, helped to break a 30-year impasse and galvanised more than \$700 million of funding, demonstrating what small countries can do when they apply themselves.

“Other examples include recent questioning at COP28 on how we managed to pioneer and take forward the world’s largest floating offshore wind leasing round and how we are planning to scale up our green hydrogen potential to both decarbonise our own industrial base and to export to Northern Europe. In addition we have also used co-chairmanship of the Under2 Coalition to set up policy forums on hydrogen and others - specifically to exchange knowledge and experience – underlining the Scottish Government’s commitment to being a good global citizen and making a constructive contribution to tackling the climate crisis.”

[Redacted s38]

Senior Media Manager
Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: [Redacted s38]

[Scottish Government](#) | [news.gov.scot](#)

From: [Redacted s38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 6:50 PM

To: [Redacted s38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted s38]

Subject: RE: CAB SEC CONSIDERATION PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Hi [Redacted s38],

Ms McAllan is now content but can we delete [Redacted s30 (b) (i)] Full report of COP28 meetings will come in due course.

Ms McAllan fully expects this has been checked for accuracy.

Thanks,

[Redacted s38]

Deputy Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition
CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot

[Redacted s38]

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

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

From: [Redacted s38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 5:38 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted s38]
Subject: RE: CAB SEC CONSIDERATION PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail
Copying [Redacted s38] on duty
--

[Redacted s38] | **Communications: News (Net Zero and Just Transition)**

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government

[Redacted s38]

Pronouns: She/Her

From: [Redacted s38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 5:28 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

<CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted s38]

Subject: CAB SEC CONSIDERATION PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Dear Cab Sec and PO,

Reflecting on your earlier comments, please find a re-worked comment for your consideration please, which has been agreed with spads.

Many thanks

[Redacted s 38]

Issue: Mairi McAllan told Parliament yesterday: "More often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts."

Can SG be specific in terms of which world leaders have approached it for advice and on which subjects please? If an exhaustive list is not possible to compile at short notice, are there any examples that can be offered?

Suggested response:

Climate Secretary Mairi McAllan said: [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]

--

[Redacted s38] | **Communications: News (Net Zero and Just Transition)**

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government

[Redacted s38]

Pronouns: She/Her

From: [Redacted s38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 3:59 PM

To: [Redacted s38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted s38]

Subject: RE: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

[Redacted s38],

The Cab Sec has noted and commented the following which I have left as is for ease of reference:

"Thanks - My point, in response to Willie Rennie where he asked me if I relay his perceived failings about Scotland to those I meet at COP, that actually the conversations I have are often with counterparts asking how we're delivering on such ambitious plans, including how we managed to pioneer and take

forward the world's largest floating offshore wind leasing round [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)], how we are planning to scale up our green hydrogen potential to both decarbonise our own industrial base and to export to Northern Europe [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]. So, as well as Loss and Damage, could we point to these? And how we have essentially used our Co-chairmanship of U2 to set up policy forums on hydrogen and others - specifically to exchange knowledge and experience. Knowledge exchange and the conversations I described are exactly the value we extract from time at COP.

[Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]

There are loads of examples. So I think the lines need to say something about the large number of bilateral meetings we conduct where conversations Centre on knowledge exchange and for our part, both seeking info and sharing info on the issues we're recognised for.

Could SpAds rework?

MM"

Grateful if these lines can be reconsidered.

Thanks,

[Redacted S 38]

Deputy Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot

[Redacted S 38]

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

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

From: [Redacted S 38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 3:06 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

<CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted S 38]

Subject: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Dear Cab Sec and PO,

FM PO copied for awareness due to link with Cop28

The Daily Mail has been in touch looking for a response to a statement made by Ms McAllan in Parliament yesterday on Scotland being approached by world leaders for advice.

They are looking for information on who has approached SG and about what. Rather than provide an exhaustive list – comms suggest that a statement centring around some of the key leaders that the FM and Ms McAllan met with during COP – and focussing on SG leading the way with loss and damage funding could address this issue.

Policy officials are content with the following however grateful for your consideration of the following please.

Many thanks

[Redacted S 38]

Issue: Mairi McAllan told Parliament yesterday: "More often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts."

Can SG be specific in terms of which world leaders have approached it for advice and on which subjects please? If an exhaustive list is not possible to compile at short notice, are there any examples that can be offered?

Suggested response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]

--

[Redacted S 38] **Communications: News (Net Zero and Just Transition)**

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government

[Redacted S 38]

Pronouns: She/Her

From: [Redacted S 38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 10:57 AM

To: [Redacted S 38]

Subject: Mairi McAllan - Daily Mail

[Redacted S 38]

As discussed...

I'm writing for tomorrow's Daily Mail.

Mairi McAllan told Parliament yesterday: "More often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts."

Can SG be specific in terms of which world leaders have approached it for advice and on which subjects please?

If an exhaustive list is not possible to compile at short notice, are there any examples that can be offered?

Kind regards,

[Redacted S 38]

2. Email 15 December

From: [Redacted S 38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 5:26 PM

To: [Redacted S 38]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted S 38]

Subject: RE: SPAD VIEW PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Ok thanks

Thanks

[Redacted S 38]

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 S 38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 5:25 PM

To: [Redacted S 38]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted S 38]

Subject: SPAD VIEW PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Spads,

Reflecting on the Cab Sec's feedback below – please find a re-worked comment for your consideration please.

Many thanks
[Redacted S 38]

Issue: Mairi McAllan told Parliament yesterday: “More often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts.”

Can SG be specific in terms of which world leaders have approached it for advice and on which subjects please? If an exhaustive list is not possible to compile at short notice, are there any examples that can be offered?

Suggested response:

Climate Secretary Mairi McAllan said: [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]

--

[Redacted S 38] **Communications: News (Net Zero and Just Transition)**

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government

[Redacted S 38]

Pronouns: She/Her

From: [Redacted S 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 3:59 PM

To: [Redacted S 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted S 38]

Subject: RE: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

[Redacted S 38],

The Cab Sec has noted and commented the following which I have left as is for ease of reference:

“Thanks - My point, in response to Willie Rennie where he asked me if I relay his perceived failings about Scotland to those I meet at COP, that actually the conversations I have are often with counterparts asking how we’re delivering on such ambitious plans, including how we managed to pioneer and take forward the world’s largest floating offshore wind leasing round [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)], how we are planning to scale up our green hydrogen potential to both decarbonise our own industrial base and to export to Northern Europe [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]. So, as well as Loss and Damage, could we point to these? And how we have essentially used our Co-chairmanship of U2 to set up policy forums on hydrogen and others - specifically to exchange knowledge and experience. Knowledge exchange and the conversations I described are exactly the value we extract from time at COP.

[Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]

There are loads of examples. So I think the lines need to say something about the large number of bilateral meetings we conduct where conversations Centre on knowledge exchange and for our part, both seeking info and sharing info on the issues we’re recognised for.

Could SpAds rework?

MM”

Grateful if these lines can be reconsidered.

Thanks,

[Redacted S 38]

Deputy Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot

[Redacted S 38]

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

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

From: [Redacted S 38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 3:06 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

<CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted S 38]

Subject: CAB SEC CLEARANCE PLEASE: World leaders and Scotland - Daily Mail

Dear Cab Sec and PO,

FM PO copied for awareness due to link with Cop28

The Daily Mail has been in touch looking for a response to a statement made by Ms McAllan in Parliament yesterday on Scotland being approached by world leaders for advice.

They are looking for information on who has approached SG and about what. Rather than provide an exhaustive list – comms suggest that a statement centring around some of the key leaders that the FM and Ms McAllan met with during COP – and focussing on SG leading the way with loss and damage funding could address this issue.

Policy officials are content with the following however grateful for your consideration of the following please.

Many thanks

[Redacted S 38]

Issue: Mairi McAllan told Parliament yesterday: “More often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts.”

Can SG be specific in terms of which world leaders have approached it for advice and on which subjects please? If an exhaustive list is not possible to compile at short notice, are there any examples that can be offered?

Suggested response:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: [Redacted S 30 (b) (i)]

--

[Redacted S 38] **Communications: News (Net Zero and Just Transition)**

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government

[Redacted S 38]

Pronouns: She/Her

From: [Redacted S 38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 10:57 AM

To: [Redacted S 38]

Subject: Mairi McAllan - Daily Mail

[Redacted S 38]

As discussed...

I'm writing for tomorrow's Daily Mail.

Mairi McAllan told Parliament yesterday: "More often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts."

Can SG be specific in terms of which world leaders have approached it for advice and on which subjects please?

If an exhaustive list is not possible to compile at short notice, are there any examples that can be offered?

Kind regards,
[Redacted S 38]

3. Email 20 December

From: [Redacted S 38] **On Behalf Of** DG Net Zero

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:30 AM

To: Freedom of Information [Redacted S 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted S 38]

Cc: [Redacted S 38]

Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780

[Redacted S 38]

I am first trying to ascertain the source of Ms McAllan's briefing before we look to find a home for these and similar previously raised.

Thanks

[Redacted S 38]

Head of Operations | DG Net Zero | Scottish Government

[Redacted S 38]

From: [Redacted S 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:23 PM

To: DG Net Zero [Redacted S 38]

Cc: [Redacted S 38]

Subject: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780

Importance: High

Good evening DG NZ,

Please see below a set of cases which we are struggling to allocate, which are about the same topic.

These are several FOI requests regarding the statement made by the Cab Sec last Thursday. The common theme in these requests is the following part of the statement " world leaders are approaching SG asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts". The briefing pack was created by HIB team within DECC, as per advice by the Cab Sec office. However, DECC are certain these request are not for them to lead on.

Cc: [Redacted S 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted S 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please see unallocated FOI request for your area.

This case has **18 days** until the final response deadline.

Can you please allocate by **14:00 tomorrow?**

Many thanks,
[Redacted S 38]

From: [Redacted S 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:48 AM
To: [Redacted S 38] Freedom of Information [Redacted S 38] DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted S 38]
Cc: [Redacted S 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted S 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389899

Copying to HiB colleagues.

[Redacted S 38]
Deputy Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition
CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot
[Redacted S 38]

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

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

From: [Redacted S 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:43 AM
To: DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted S 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389899

Good morning,

Please see the FOI request below. It looks like this may be in relation to your policy area. Please confirm this sits with you or advise us immediately if it does not; suggesting business areas that are better suited.

Please note the following:

Timescale

- The response to this case should issue as soon as possible and no later than the statutory deadline which is **18/01/24**.

Immediate Actions

Please:

- 'Assign to self' through the 'Case Actions' tab on MiCase: **MiCase - View Case 389899**
- The eRDM casefile can be found here: 202300389899 - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk). All correspondence and evidence of how you reached your final decision **MUST** be saved here.
- Send the requester an **FOI specific acknowledgement letter**, following the standard template (FOISA Request Templates, page 5). The acknowledgement issued by MiCase is not FOI specific and we are required to do this.
- Complete all relevant document as your case progresses, including the:
 - (i) **Mandatory Fol Statement of Compliance** template linked **here** via: "Roles & Responsibilities of an Fol case handler" - listing information identified as in scope and a summary of decisions made
 - (ii) Open and download the mandatory **Searches template** linked **here** recording details of searches carried out and the results.
 - (iii) Remember to consult the **casefile checklist** (attached).
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained in MiCase for ALL letters to the requester.

Sensitivity

- In FOISA terms we are assessing this case as **routine**. This means it should not require a Ministerial decision in terms of disclosure. *The sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been completed. If after searching you consider that the response requires a Ministerial decision please engage with the FOI Unit to help us reassess the case.*

- Please ensure that decisions on disclosure are taken by officials of appropriate seniority (normally C Band or above). You may find our Submissions Templates useful, linked [here](#)
- If necessary please sight your Comms team if you consider that parallel media handling is required.

Requests for legal advice, or requests which reference or incorporate legal advice

Requests for legal advice are subject to certain handling protocols. If you receive a request for or relating to legal advice, contact the relevant lawyers in the Scottish Government Legal Directorate (SGLD) who gave that advice to request a review of whether the material is subject to legal professional privilege (LPP). Your normal SGLD contact can help in identifying any legal advice in scope of the request. You must contact the offices of the Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General) if the request is for or relates to legal advice from the Law Officers. Please also CC digitalandinformationlaw@gov.scot.

If the request is being dealt with under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and you have shared legal advice with any external persons, please let the FOI Unit know.

Read our advice [here](#).

Requests which capture information about FFM and DFM

If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FM and/or DFM, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Guidance

Detailed guidance is available [here](#) Freedom of Information (FOI): SharePoint: 2020-2025 and SharePoint Collection.

Many thanks,

[Redacted s 38] | FOI Adviser (TRS) | Scottish Government | 2W St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Yammer: @FOI - Community

From: Central Correspondence Unit

<CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:10 AM

To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38]

Subject: FOI - E - TRIAGE - mairi mcallan world leaders comment - MiCase 389899

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:18 PM
To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: Request for Information

To the Scottish Government

Today, according the official report of the Scottish Parliament, Cabinet Minister Mairi McAllan said the following during portfolio questions:

“I did not need to narrate to world leaders what Willie Rennie has said, because more often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts.”

Please supply the information which substantiates this claim, with as much detail and references as possible. This should include any communications from and responses made to ‘world leaders’ as referenced.

[Redacted s 38]
Regards

Sent from Outlook for iOS

4. Email 20th December
From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 12:14 PM
To: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780

Hi [Redacted s 38]

Thanks for your email about the FOI. I nearly sent the below email but your email has been me the appropriate reassurance.

Regards

[Redacted s 38]

Kersti

As you will hopefully be aware we are receiving a significant number of FOI after Ms McAllan's portfolio question last week.

I personally think this would be for the International Climate Change to answer given they were the lead area for this PQ and I think Ms McAllan is talking about her international engagements including COP.

My main concern is rather than concentrating on answering the question with sufficient time for SPADs and Ministers to consider given the festive period teams are simply trying to avoid answering the question. Can this please be resolved urgently. Attached is the question and answer.

Thanks

[Redacted s 38] | Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition - Màiri McAllan MSP | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | [Redacted s 38] | Email: CabsecTNZJT@gov.scot

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

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

From: [Redacted s 38]

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 12:01 PM

To: DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted s 38]

Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780

Thank you [Redacted s 38],

That is appreciated. As mentioned below Cab Sec office, had advised this is one for HIB collauges. I have added the Cab Sec office to the chain, incase there is ant further advice.

Just keeping a record of requests below:

MiCase - View Case 390018

MiCase - View Case 390011

MiCase - View Case 389986

MiCase - View Case 389978

MiCase - View Case 389899

MiCase - View Case 389883

MiCase - View Case 389792

MiCase - View Case 389780

MiCase - View Case 390289

Many thanks,
[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** DG Net Zero
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:30 AM
To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780

[Redacted s 38]

I am first trying to ascertain the source of Ms McAllan's briefing before we look to find a home for these and similar previously raised.

Thanks

[Redacted s 38]
Head of Operations | DG Net Zero | Scottish Government
[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:23 PM
To: DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780
Importance: High

Good evening DG NZ,

Please see below a set of cases which we are struggling to allocate, which are about the same topic.

These are several FOI requests regarding the statement made by the Cab Sec last Thursday. The common theme in these requests is the following part of the statement " world leaders are approaching SG asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts". The briefing pack was created by HIB team within DECC, as per advice by the Cab Sec office. However, DECC are certain these request are not for them to lead on.

Can you please advise which area within DG NZ, this should go to for allocation ? It is clear that this will sit somewhere within the DG Net Zero Capacity.

Here is a link to the other questions which are similar in nature:
MiCase - View Case 390018
MiCase - View Case 390011
MiCase - View Case 389986

MiCase - View Case 389978
MiCase - View Case 389899
MiCase - View Case 389883
MiCase - View Case 389792
MiCase - View Case 389780

Many thanks,
[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:52 PM
To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38] DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; [Redacted s 38] Kersti Berge [Redacted s 38]
Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780

Hi

In line with similar queries on this issue this FOI case does not relate to a DECC specific policy issue but on a wider ask around world leader engagement. This case is not for DECC to lead in responding to.

[Redacted s 38] **Head of Operations – Energy and Climate Change**
[Redacted s 38]
I work compressed hours Monday to Thursday. I am available for urgent meetings on Fridays if required.



From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information
Sent: 18 December 2023 16:38
To: [Redacted s 38] DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389780
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please see unallocated FOI request for your area.

This case has **18 days** until the final response deadline.

Can you please allocate by **14:00 tomorrow?**

Many thanks,
[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:48 AM

To: [Redacted s 38] Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38] DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]

Cc: [Redacted s 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389899

Copying to HiB colleagues.

[Redacted s 38]
Deputy Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition
CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot
[Redacted s 38]

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

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

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:43 AM

To: DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]

Cc: [Redacted s 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI - TRIAGE - Cab sec for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition world leader comment - 202300389899

Good morning,

Please see the FOI request below. It looks like this may be in relation to your policy area. Please confirm this sits with you or advise us immediately if it does not; suggesting business areas that are better suited.

Please note the following:

Timescale

- The response to this case should issue as soon as possible and no later than the statutory deadline which is **18/01/24**.

Immediate Actions

Please:

- 'Assign to self' through the 'Case Actions' tab on MiCase: MiCase - View Case 389899
- The eRDM casefile can be found here: 202300389899 - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk). All correspondence and evidence of how you reached your final decision **MUST** be saved here.
- Send the requester an **FOI specific acknowledgement letter**, following the standard template (FOISA Request Templates, page 5). The acknowledgement issued by MiCase is not FOI specific and we are required to do this.
- Complete all relevant document as your case progresses, including the:
 - (iv) **Mandatory FoI Statement of Compliance** template linked **here** via: "Roles & Responsibilities of an FoI case handler" - listing information identified as in scope and a summary of decisions made
 - (v) Open and download the mandatory **Searches template** linked **here** recording details of searches carried out and the results.
 - (vi) Remember to consult the **casefile checklist** (attached).
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained in MiCase for ALL letters to the requester.

Sensitivity

- In FOISA terms we are assessing this case as **routine**. This means it should not require a Ministerial decision in terms of disclosure. *The sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been completed. If after searching you consider that the response requires a Ministerial decision please engage with the FOI Unit to help us reassess the case.*
- Please ensure that decisions on disclosure are taken by officials of appropriate seniority (normally C Band or above). You may find our Submissions Templates useful, linked **here**
- If necessary please sight your Comms team if you consider that parallel media handling is required.

Requests for legal advice, or requests which reference or incorporate legal advice

Requests for legal advice are subject to certain handling protocols. If you receive a request for or relating to legal advice, contact the relevant lawyers in the Scottish Government Legal Directorate (SGLD) who gave that advice to request a review of whether the material is subject to legal professional privilege (LPP). Your normal SGLD contact can help in identifying any legal advice in scope of the request. You must contact the offices of the Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General) if the request is for or relates to legal advice from the Law Officers. Please also CC digitalandinformationlaw@gov.scot.

If the request is being dealt with under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and you have shared legal advice with any external persons, please let the FOI Unit know.

Read our advice [here](#).

Requests which capture information about FFM and DFM

If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FM and/or DFM, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Guidance

Detailed guidance is available [here](#) Freedom of Information (FOI): SharePoint: 2020-2025 and SharePoint Collection.

Many thanks,

[Redacted s 38] | FOI Adviser (TRS) | Scottish Government | 2W St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Yammer: @FOI - Community

From: Central Correspondence Unit

<CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:10 AM

To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38]

Subject: FOI - E - TRIAGE - mairi mcallan world leaders comment - MiCase 389899

From: [Redacted s 38]

Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:18 PM

To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: Request for Information

To the Scottish Government

Today, according the official report of the Scottish Parliament, Cabinet Minister Mairi McAllan said the following during portfolio questions:

"I did not need to narrate to world leaders what Willie Rennie has said, because more often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts."

Please supply the information which substantiates this claim, with as much detail and references as possible. This should include any communications from and responses made to 'world leaders' as referenced.

[Redacted s 38]

Regards

Sent from Outlook for iOS

5. Email 18 December

From: [Redacted s 38]

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:21 AM

To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38] DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition [Redacted s 38] DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38]

Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition statement - 202300390040

Thanks [Redacted s 38]. I completely agree that this isn't for MPO to lead on. It is difficult because it is very vague in terms of the wording. I attach the wording below of the exchange in the Scottish Parliament to see if that helps to identify a suitable policy team to pick this up.

Willie Rennie (North East Fife) (LD)

Share

When the cabinet secretary was meeting world leaders, did she tell them about her Government's home energy scheme and that only 164 heat pumps have been installed in the first seven months of the programme, that it takes an age to get any money or grants out of Home Energy Scotland, and that many households just give up because it takes so long to get the money? Did she tell the world leaders that, and did she tell them how she was going to fix it?

Màiri McAllan

Share

I did not need to narrate to world leaders what Willie Rennie has said, because more often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish

Government and asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts. Although, in a process such as the decarbonisation of buildings, which is vast and complicated, there will always be issues to overcome, and the Scottish Government will always seek to do that, including by supporting Home Energy Scotland to support people on the ground. Willie Rennie's narrative does not support what I see in the role that I am privileged to hold in Government, nor what I see in my constituency, where many constituents are approaching me, having taken advantage of Scottish Government schemes to change their heating systems, which I remind members consist of support of up to £7,500 and more in rural areas.

Kind regards

[Redacted s 38]

Unit Head

Ministerial Private Office

The Scottish Government

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

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:55 AM

To: [Redacted s 38] DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

<CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38]

Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition statement - 202300390040

Importance: High

We believe this would be for the policy area who pulled the pack together for the statement, rather than the private office.

Adding in MPO to the email chain to share their thoughts?

[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38]

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:29 AM

To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38] DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition

<CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38]

Subject: RE: FOI - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition statement - 202300390040

Hi

This FOI, and FOIs on this issue, are not for DECC to handle and respond to take on. The FOI request relates to general enquiries from 'world leaders' and falls out with the DECC policy remit.

Best

[Redacted s 38]

Head of Operations – Energy and Climate Change

[Redacted s 38]

I work compressed hours Monday to Thursday. I am available for urgent meetings on Fridays if required.



From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information

Sent: 18 December 2023 10:23

To: DECC: Operations Team Mailbox [Redacted s 38]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition
<CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero [Redacted s 38]

Subject: FOI - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition statement - 202300390040

Good morning,

Please see the FOI request below. It looks like this may be in relation to your policy area. Please confirm this sits with you or advise us immediately if it does not; suggesting business areas that are better suited.

Please note the following:

Timescale

- The response to this case should issue as soon as possible and no later than the statutory deadline which is **18/01/24**.

Immediate Actions

Please:

- 'Assign to self' through the 'Case Actions' tab on MiCase: MiCase - View Case 390040
- The eRDM casefile can be found here: 202300390040 - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk). All correspondence and evidence of how you reached your final decision **MUST** be saved here.

- Send the requester an **FOI specific acknowledgement letter**, following the standard template (FOISA Request Templates, page 5). The acknowledgement issued by MiCase is not FOI specific and we are required to do this.
- Complete all relevant document as your case progresses, including the:
 - (vii) **Mandatory Fol Statement of Compliance** template linked here via: “Roles & Responsibilities of an Fol case handler” - listing information identified as in scope and a summary of decisions made
 - (viii) Open and download the mandatory **Searches template** linked here recording details of searches carried out and the results.
 - (ix) Remember to consult the **casefile checklist** (attached).
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained in MiCase for ALL letters to the requester.

Sensitivity

- In FOISA terms we are assessing this case as **routine**. This means it should not require a Ministerial decision in terms of disclosure. *The sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been completed. If after searching you consider that the response requires a Ministerial decision please engage with the FOI Unit to help us reassess the case.*
- Please ensure that decisions on disclosure are taken by officials of appropriate seniority (normally C Band or above). You may find our Submissions Templates useful, linked here
- If necessary please sight your Comms team if you consider that parallel media handling is required.

Requests for legal advice, or requests which reference or incorporate legal advice

Requests for legal advice are subject to certain handling protocols. If you receive a request for or relating to legal advice, contact the relevant lawyers in the Scottish Government Legal Directorate (SGLD) who gave that advice to request a review of whether the material is subject to legal professional privilege (LPP). Your normal SGLD contact can help in identifying any legal advice in scope of the request. You must contact the offices of the Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General) if the request is for or relates to legal advice from the Law Officers. Please also CC digitalandinformationlaw@gov.scot.

If the request is being dealt with under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and you have shared legal advice with any external persons, please let the FOI Unit know.

Read our advice here.

Requests which capture information about FFM and DFM

If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FM and/or DFM, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Guidance

Detailed guidance is available here [Freedom of Information \(FOI\): SharePoint: 2020-2025 and SharePoint Collection](#).

Many thanks,
FOI Unit

From: Central Correspondence Unit
<CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38]
Subject: FOI - NZ - TRIAGE - Within the Holyrood chamber, December 14th 2023, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition Mairi McAllan made the following statement - 202300390040

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 2:01 PM
To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Dear Sir or Madam,

Within the Holyrood chamber, December 14th 2023, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition Mairi McAllan made the following statement:

“More often than not, world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts.”

Given that meetings are required to be minuted by the Scottish Government, I would like to formally request the following:

Minutes of any meetings held that satisfy all the following criteria:

1. Are in the 24 month time period from 17th December 2021 - 16th December 2023.

2. Contain a recognised Leader of any UN member state as per the listing on the UN's website. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states>

3. Where the recognised World Leader has specifically asked for advice from the Scottish Government Minister(s) in attendance as to how Scotland is leading the way successfully in areas including health, the environment, the economy or education.

Given Ms McAllan's statement of "more often than not" one can only take from this that there must be lots of these minutes available, so if this indeed is the case, minutes of 3 meetings will suffice.

Kind regards
[Redacted s 38]

6. Email 15 December

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:36 AM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; [Redacted s 38] Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38]
Cc: DG Corporate [Redacted s 38]
Subject: RE: FOI - NZ - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary Mairi McAllan - 202300389780

Hi [Redacted s 38]

Thanks for your time just now. As discussed though we did brief on some of the questions, the one in question was a response to a question on heat pumps by Willie Rennie. I'm afraid I'm not sure who provided responses to that. See attached doc for Q&A ICC briefed about.

Happy to discuss further if helpful.

Cheerio

[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 9:36 AM
To: [Redacted s 38] Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38]
Cc: DG Corporate [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI - NZ - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary Mairi McAllan - 202300389780

Hi [Redacted s 38],

Copying to colleagues who took forward the Portfolio Question from yesterday who will hopefully be able to assist.

Thanks,

[Redacted s 38]

Deputy Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot

[Redacted s 38]

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

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

From: [Redacted s 38]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 8:47 AM

To: Freedom of Information [Redacted s 38]

Cc: DG Corporate [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI - NZ - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary Mairi McAllan - 202300389780

Thanks [Redacted s 38]

[Redacted s 38] /PO – are you able to confirm which policy area briefed/supported the Cab Sec on this at parliament yesterday?

Many thanks

[Redacted s 38] (*he / him*)

Ministerial Private Offices | Mobile: [Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information

Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 5:15 PM

To: [Redacted s 38]

Cc: DG Corporate [Redacted s 38] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI - NZ - TRIAGE - Cabinet Secretary Mairi McAllan - 202300389780

Importance: High

Good evening,

Please see the **FOI request** below. It looks like this may be in relation to your policy area. Please confirm this sits with you or advise us immediately if it does not; suggesting business areas that are better suited.

Please note the following:

Timescale

- The response to this case should issue as soon as possible and no later than the statutory deadline which is **17/01/24**

Immediate Actions

Please:

- 'Assign to self' through the 'Case Actions' tab on MiCase: MiCase - View Case 389780
- The eRDM casefile can be found here: 202300389780 - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk) All correspondence and evidence of how you reached your final decision **MUST** be saved here.
- Send the requester an **FOI specific acknowledgement letter**, following the standard template (FOISA Request Templates, page 5). The acknowledgement issued by MiCase is not FOI specific and we are required to do this.
- Complete all relevant document as your case progresses, including the:
 - (x) **Mandatory Fol Statement of Compliance** template linked here via: "Roles & Responsibilities of an Fol case handler" - listing information identified as in scope and a summary of decisions made
 - (xi) Open and download the mandatory **Searches template** linked here recording details of searches carried out and the results.
 - (xii) Remember to consult the **casefile checklist** (attached).
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained in MiCase for ALL letters to the requester.

Sensitivity

- In FOISA terms we are assessing this case as **routine**. This means it should not require a Ministerial decision in terms of disclosure. *The sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been completed. If after searching you consider that the response requires a Ministerial decision please engage with the FOI Unit to help us reassess the case.*
- Please ensure that decisions on disclosure are taken by officials of appropriate seniority (normally C Band or above). You may find our Submissions Templates useful, linked here
- If necessary please sight your Comms team if you consider that parallel media handling is required.

Requests for legal advice, or requests which capture legal advice

You should always consult the relevant team in Scottish Government Legal Directorate (SGLD) if you receive a request for/relating to legal advice or there is material from the Law Officers (the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General). Please also CC digitalandinformationlaw@gov.scot. Your normal SGLD contact can also help in identifying any legal advice which may be covered by LPP within the scope of the request.

Requests which capture information about FFM and DFM

If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FM and/or DFM, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Guidance

Detailed guidance is available here [Freedom of Information \(FOI\): SharePoint: 2020-2025 and SharePoint Collection](#).

Many thanks,

FOI Unit

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

From: [Redacted s 38]

Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 3:48 PM

To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: Cabinet Secretary Mairi McAllan

This is a formal FOI Request

Today in the Scottish Parliament Cabinet Secretary Mairi Macallan said

'More often than not world leaders are approaching the Scottish Government asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts.'

Please provide me with the following information -

1) Which world leaders have approached the Scottish Government for advice.

2) Which fronts or subjects is Ms Macallan referring to that they have they asked for advice on.

3) Which statistics, evidence or information is Ms Macallan using to support this statement that the Scottish Government is successfully leading the way on a number of fronts.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted s 38]

6.1 Attachment to email 15 December

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S60-02882

Colin Beattie is an SNP MSP. He is not a member of any cross party environmental or climate groups.

[Redacted s 38]

Q. Despite noise from Westminster, Scotland has shown itself willing and able to engage positively with the international community regarding the existential crisis that is climate change. Can I ask the cabinet secretary how the government intends to ensure that Scotland's voice is heard internationally and that the views of this country on climate and nature are not mistaken for the horrendous intransigence of the Westminster parties.

A. The Scottish Government is highly respected on the world stage with regard to its climate change plans and actions. We will continue to build on the positive international relationships we already have and pursue new relationships where appropriate. Our overseas offices provide a unique opportunity for the Scottish Government to engage with the appropriate international institutions on devolved matters. As a result of our ambitious action on loss and damage at COP26, over \$650 million for Loss and Damage has now been pledged during COP28.

By engaging and interacting directly and appropriately at an international level, we will ensure that the Scottish Government continues to be heard where it matters the most.

Q. The First Minister met with President Erdoğan of Türkiye without a FCDO official present. This has resulted in a letter being issued by Lord Cameron threatening to withdraw UK Government support for Scottish Government international relations. Why wasn't a FCDO official present?

A. As with every meeting between Scottish Ministers and International leaders, the Scottish Government had no issue with a FCDO representative attending the meeting. In this instance, the relevant UK official was made aware of it and invited to attend. These were exactly the same arrangements as for other meetings which the First Minister had with governments of other countries at COP 28, at which the FCDO official was present. The fast paced nature of events such as COP is that timings can change at the last minute. In this instance, the FCDO representative was elsewhere at the time it was convenient for the Turkish president to meet with the First Minister. Any threat by the UK Government to curtail the Scottish Government's international engagement is misguided and would work against Scotland's interest. We are more than happy to discuss with Lord Cameron the continuing support of the FCDO in facilitating the work that Scottish Ministers undertake in delivering for Scotland overseas.

Q. The First Minister met with President Erdoğan of Türkiye. Why was meeting was deemed appropriate given controversies surrounding Türkiye's human rights record?

A. The First Minister regularly meets with Heads of State. The First Minister and President Erdoğan discussed the need for urgent action on the climate crisis and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Q. What will a successful COP28 look like?

A. The success of COP28 rests on making clear progress on climate finance, fossil fuels and renewable energy in response to the Global Stocktake's conclusions. The mobilisation of the landmark Loss and Damage Fund has been an achievement at COP28, but we must now ensure that funds reach the communities that need them the most without adding to the Global South's debt burden.

Q. Given that the Scottish Government is a not signatory to the Paris Agreement, why did Ministers attend COP28?

A. Ministers participated in this year's summit to demonstrate, once again, our commitment to tackling the twin crises of climate and nature in tandem – and in a way that is just and fair for all. Ministers used their participation to ensure that Scotland continues to play a bridging role in bringing together young climate activists, women, and under-represented voices from the Global South to the table.

We announced a further £2m of funding for loss and damage, bringing the Scottish Government's total funding to £10m; and £300,000 to provide clean power to medical facilities in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda.

Q. How did the First Minister travel to COP28?

A. The First Minister travelled by commercial airliner and a full report on travel costs will be released in early 2024.

Q. How much has the Scottish Government's involvement at COP28 cost the Scottish taxpayer?

A. A full report on COP28 detailing what was achieved, who went, what they did and how much it cost will be published in early 2024.

Q. How many Scottish Government civil servants attended COP28 and at what cost to the Scottish taxpayer?

A. A full report on COP28 detailing what was achieved, who went, what they did and how much it cost will be published in early 2024.

Q. Is the carbon footprint created by Scottish Ministers and Civil Servants attending COP28 worthwhile?

A. Travel is an essential part of official Government business. Ministers take their responsibility to travel sustainably very seriously and aim to use more sustainable forms of transport wherever possible. No nation has all the answers, or the means, to

respond to the scale of the problem of climate change alone. This is why the bringing together of the global community at COP28 is so important.

Q. Given Scotland's Net Zero ambitions, did the First Minister or Cabinet Secretary meet with any oil or gas companies or their employees/ directors and if so, why?

A. The First Minister has been clear that any further extraction and use of fossil fuels must be consistent with Scotland's climate obligations and Just Transition commitments. Our focus is on reducing emissions, meeting our energy security needs and delivering affordable energy supplies, whilst ensuring a just transition for our oil and gas workforce to a renewables and net-zero future. As part of our support for this transition, the people of Scotland would expect the First Minister to engage constructively with major employers and industries in Scotland, as he does with all sectors of society.

[Redacted s 30 (b) (i)]

Q. How will the Scottish Government ensure that there a just transition in Scotland? What about jobs in the North East?

A. We are committed to working to secure a just transition to a climate resilient, net zero Scotland. We must harness all sectors of the economy to build a better and more equal Scotland.

The North East region has played a crucial role in our economy – in terms of energy security, tax revenues, and jobs. Its strengths will be crucial for our future: the skills, talent and experience there will support the buildout of low carbon technologies.

That is why we are delivering a Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray. It has already delivered £75m and will create jobs, support innovation, and secure the highly skilled workforce of the future.

List of COP28 Scottish Government Announcements

- The Scottish Government announced £250,000 to enable the delivery of two renewable energy capacity building projects in Zambia and Rwanda by Sustainable Energy for All, an international organisation working in partnership with the UN.
- First Minister Humza Yousaf announced that C40 Cities will receive £1 million from Scotland's Climate Justice Fund to focus efforts on addressing loss and damage in vulnerable communities.
- The Scottish Government, in partnership with direct-funding charity GiveDirectly, announced that they will provide £1 million from the Climate Justice Fund to support communities in Malawi to deal with the impacts of climate-induced loss and damage. This brings the total amount committed to address L&D from SG to £10m.
- At the Youth and indigenous Panel, Ms McAllan announced that the £1 million addition to the Humanitarian Emergency Fund, initially announced by the FM at New York Climate Week, will fund loss and damage projects in Pakistan, Zambia, Kenya and Ethiopia.
- The Scottish Government announced that, Scottish Charity, KidsOR, is to receive £324,900 for solar energy installation at 15 children's operating theatres across Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda to provide a clean and reliable power supply, which will dramatically reduce hospital carbon emissions.
- The Scottish Government reaffirmed their £500 million investment in Scotland's Just Transition Fund.
- The Scottish Government announced funding of £150,000 to Heriot-Watt University for online MBAs for women in Zambia, empowering long-term participation in Zambia's economic and social development.

7. Email 20 December

From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Scott Wightman
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:59 AM
To: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: FW: Fols World Leaders

Hi [Redacted s 38]

Sorry [Redacted s 38] had allocated these to you but I wanted to make sure that your managers were content for you to take them before we did. We can always re-allocate if they don't think you have capacity.

Thanks

[Redacted s 38]

[Redacted s 38] | Business Management Unit | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | Area 2H South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ
[Redacted s 38]



From: [Redacted s 38] **On Behalf Of** Scott Wightman
Sent: 20 December 2023 09:51
To: [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38] Scott Wightman [Redacted s 38]
Subject: Fols World Leaders

Morning everyone

[Redacted s 38] had agreed to lead on providing a contribution for the first part of the question below to ICC colleagues, for an Fol that they are leading on (following a discussion between Scott and Kersti):

- any information held regarding the number of requests for advice or information from world leaders, world leader offices or world government departments, in particular relating to renewables or renewable investment.

On December 14 in the Scottish Parliament, Mairi McAllan said:

- *More often than not World Leaders are approaching the Scottish Government asking for our advice on how we have managed to lead the way so successfully on a number of fronts*

We now have 9 Fols relating to this statement asking for names, dates etc, which will involve a trawl across the whole of SG. Scott has agreed that DEXA should lead on these, but that a single should cover all requests.

Before allocating these to [Redacted s 38], I wanted to check that you were content with this.

Thanks

[Redacted s 38] Business Management Unit | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | Area 2H South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ
[Redacted s 38]



From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: 19 December 2023 16:54
To: [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: RE: FOI caseload

I am content if you are [Redacted s 38], thanks for asking. Please keep [Redacted s 38] posted on workload and we'll reprioritise if and when required.

Thanks



[Redacted s 38] Head of EU Policy and Alignment | EU Secretariat
Europe Division | Directorate for External Affairs
Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

[Redacted s 38] www.gov.scot/eustrategy

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 4:21 PM
To: [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: Re: FOI caseload

Thanks for flagging.
Yes, happy for you to take on, subject to [Redacted s 38] being likewise.

[Redacted s 38]
Head of EU Secretariat

[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:57:55 PM
To: [Redacted s 38]
Cc: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: FOI caseload

Dear [Redacted s 38]

I've received another ask from BMU to take on a FOI. My capacity has substantially improved since we last pushed back on me having an FOI: with one substantial ask (working through our backlog to prepare a rolling annual report) and various "bitty" things on the side. Are you comfortable with me taking on a FOI at present?

Regards,

[Redacted s 38] | EU Secretariat |

DEXA, Scottish Government

Address: 2H South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Please note I am working from home and can be most easily reached by email or Teams.

8. Email 20 December

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 2:29 PM
To: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: RE: S6O-02882

Hi [Redacted s38],

That's correct, I led on PQ S6O-02882. The background note with the supplementary questions is the only document provided to PO.

I don't have any additional correspondence besides the info already on the PQ tracker system.

Do you need to speak to me tomorrow?

Thanks,

[Redacted s 38]

From: [Redacted s 38]
Sent: 20 December 2023 14:22
To: [Redacted s 38]
Subject: S6O-02882

Dear [Redacted s 38],

We have received a number of FOI and EIR requests in relation to PQ S6O-02882. In particular one request asked about the evidence base that the Cabinet Secretary was drawing upon in her supplementary questions. I've found the background note but I wanted to check whether there was any other correspondence relating to this?

Regards,

[Redacted s 38] EU Secretariat |

DEXA, Scottish Government

Address: 2H South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Please note I am working from home and can be most easily reached by email or Teams.