

## **FOI 202300385695**

“All electronic information in respect of communication between Humza Yousaf, or anyone on his behalf, and any other authority (Scot Gov, UK Gov, foreign gov etc) relating to Elizabeth El-Nakla and her husband Maged (his parents in law) and any other family member whilst they were in Gaza.”

**Response:**

## Document 1

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

**Sent:** Saturday, October 7, 2023 11:48 AM

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

**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Minister for Europe and International Development <MinisterEID@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <CabSecJHA@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; zzzDG Strategy and External Affairs <zzzDGSEA@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Neil Rennick <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Donald McGillivray <Donald.McGillivray@gov.scot>; Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; Communications Duty Box <CommunicationsDutyBox@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Hamas attack on Israel

Cabinet Secretary

[REDACTED]

We have alerted the FCDO to the known presence of two UK citizens in Gaza. FCDO Travel Advice for Israel has been updated but not yet for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including Gaza.

[REDACTED]

### **SCOTT WIGHTMAN**

Director for External Affairs

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

 [REDACTED]

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter

## Document 2

**From:** Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 7, 2023 2:45 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Fwd: PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

Thanks [REDACTED] I think the first message should have got through. Appreciate it will be hectic.

Scott

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**From:** Scott Wightman  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 7, 2023 9:16:57 AM  
**To:** crisis@fcdo.gov.uk <crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

### SCOTT WIGHTMAN

Director for External Affairs

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

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter



**From:** Scott Wightman  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 7, 2023 8:41 AM  
**To:** response@fcdo.gov.uk  
**Subject:** PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

Dear Response Centre

I am attaching passport details of two UK citizens who are currently in Gaza visiting an elderly relative and I understand in the vicinity of some of the Israeli attacks in response to the Hamas attacks overnight. The two are the parents-in-law of the First Minister. He is not expecting any exceptional support and is aware that consular assistance in Gaza is extremely limited. I have advised that Mr and Mrs El Nakla follow FCDO Travel Advice. I would be grateful if you could note their presence in Gaza and for any further advice you are able to offer at this stage.

Scott

**SCOTT WIGHTMAN**

Director for External Affairs

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay (Area 2H South)

Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

☎ [REDACTED]

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter



### Document 3

**From:** Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 8, 2023 2:36 PM  
**To:** Frank Strang <Frank.Strang@gov.scot>; Donna MacKinnon <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

**SCOTT WIGHTMAN**

Director for External Affairs

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

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter



**From:** Scott Wightman  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 8, 2023 2:36 PM  
**To:** Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

**SCOTT WIGHTMAN**

Director for External Affairs

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

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter



**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 8, 2023 1:30 PM

**To:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

All

FM has just had a call with [REDACTED] (SCS at FCDO) and has provided the below readout:

- FM [OUT OF SCOPE] and asked [REDACTED] for an overall situation report, with specific reference to the position of Scots currently in both Israel and Gaza.
- FM confirmed that he was aware of at least two Scots currently in Gaza, and asked what FCDO's advice is. [REDACTED] advised against travel to Gaza, but for those already in Gaza, FCDO don't have final advice yet because they are in the process of working with the Egyptian authorities to try and facilitate an exit via the opening of the Rafah Border in Egypt for UK citizens.
- FM gave permission for his in laws' details to be shared with the Egyptian authorities – **Scott**, you already have this info per Chris's email yesterday to share with the FCDO.
- [REDACTED] confirmed he would keep in touch with FM on the position with regards his in laws, to which FM confirmed that he would expect them to be treated in the same way as any British citizen caught up in Gaza.
- [REDACTED] promised a further update on the situation later today (I assume he has exchanged details with the FM directly, as I haven't seen any emails on this to our box).

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 October 2023 15:51  
**To:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

Hi Scott

I forwarded on your general update for Cab Sec to the FM earlier, but in terms of FCDO advice for his family, do you think anything is likely to come back? Anticipating him asking for an update.

Feel free to call me if quicker to discuss – [REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 07 October 2023 08:25  
**To:** Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Israeli/Gaza attacks

Scott,

Many thanks for taking my call so early on a Saturday.

As we discussed, the First Minister has notified me this morning that his wife's parents are currently in Gaza and are concerned for their safety given the proceedings overnight. They are visiting an elderly relative.

Their names are:

Elizabeth El-Nakla  
Maged El-Nakla

I have attached pics of their passports in case that is helpful.

[REDACTED]

As we discussed, the FM would be grateful if relevant FCDO contacts could be made aware of their presence and relevant FCDO advice and support could be extended to the FM and his wife. This can be facilitated through my office –[REDACTED] (copied) and me are the relevant contacts for that.

[REDACTED]

Thanks again for your help.

Let me know if you need anything further from me.

Chris

**Chris Mackie**

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



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba



## Document 4

[OUT OF SCOPE]

**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2023 6:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Consular: Gaza - El Nakla

[REDACTED]

Thank you – confirming safe receipt here and that we have both Maged & Elizabeth’s details fully logged on our system. We will try and get in touch with them now and keep you updated.

Please can I ask whether Elizabeth & Maged have any medical conditions or other vulnerabilities?

Appreciate this must be a desperately worrying time for the FM & his family – thank you again for sharing these details.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Consular Desk Officer** | Israel/OPTs response

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 09 October 2023 17:51  
**To:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; Scott Wightman (Gov) (External) <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Consular: Gaza

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for your help. Numbers are below and I’ve also re-attached passports. Do let me know if I can help with anything else.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Maged [REDACTED]  
Elizabeth [REDACTED]

**From:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 October 2023 17:46  
**To:** Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Consular: Gaza

Much appreciated, thank you both.

[REDACTED], grateful if you could keep crisis@fcdo.gov.uk copied just so we don't miss emails during shift handovers.

Thanks again,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] **Consular Desk Officer** | Israel/OPTs response

**From:** Scott.Wightman@gov.scot <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 09 October 2023 17:43  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot; Crisis Mailbox <crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Consular: Gaza

[REDACTED]  
Many thanks for your call. My colleague, [REDACTED], will pass the details to you directly.

Scott

**SCOTT WIGHTMAN**  
Director for External Affairs

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

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter



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## Document 5

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

From: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 6:04 PM  
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
Cc: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: Humza Yousaf

[REDACTED]  
Scott

SCOTT WIGHTMAN  
Director for External Affairs

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

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter

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

From: [REDACTED] @gov.scot> On Behalf Of First Minister  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 5:48 PM  
To: Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
Cc: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>  
Subject: FW: Humza Yousaf

Scott

See below - I'm assuming that we shouldn't do anything with this, but wanted to check in with DEXA colleagues whether you had any differing advice?

[REDACTED]

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

From: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
Sent: 11 October 2023 13:41  
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
Subject: FW: Humza Yousaf

Good afternoon,

For your consideration.

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]  
Performance Manager

Public Engagement Unit (MPO)  
CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 12:00 PM

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Humza Yousaf

I've contacted 2 of your constituency's this morning to see if Humza's wife's parents are still in Gaza as we have guys on the ground escorting people out of the region, if we can be of any assistance please contact myself here in Scotland at present [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] on the ground with teams in the region.

Kind regards [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Document 6

**From:** Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 8:19 AM  
**To:** Crisis Mailbox <crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: [REDACTED]

I'm afraid I missed [REDACTED] call last night. I'm available to take a call up to 0900 this morning or from 1030-1130. I'd be grateful if someone can give me a call please.

Many thanks

Scott

**SCOTT WIGHTMAN**  
Director for External Affairs

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

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter



**From:** Scott Wightman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 5:33 PM  
**To:** Crisis Mailbox <crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Urgent: [REDACTED]

Dear Crisis Centre

[REDACTED]  
Contact details for the [REDACTED] were given as [REDACTED]

We would be grateful for urgent advice please. Perhaps easiest if someone could give me a call.

Best wishes

Scott

**SCOTT WIGHTMAN**

Director for External Affairs

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

@Scott\_Wightman1 @scotland @scotgovinter



## Document 7

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 7:42 PM  
**To:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Good evening [REDACTED]

The First Minister noted that the Foreign Secretary is in the region at the moment and has asked if there is by way of an update on what the Foreign Secretary will be doing for UK citizens who are currently stuck in Gaza?

The First Minister would be happy to speak directly to Lord Ahmad if that would be easier – his personal mobile number is [REDACTED]

Grateful if you could confirm if Lord Ahmad would be content to speak with the First Minister.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**

**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**M:** [REDACTED]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

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**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 12:00 PM  
**To:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

[REDACTED]

Much appreciated - the Teams link works at this end and I've passed on to the others.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

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**From:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:53 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[PSMinisterAhmadCalendar@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PSMinisterAhmadCalendar@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Christopher Mackie <[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>; Scott Wightman <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for bearing with me while I arranged timings.

Is the following link okay for you?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot) On Behalf Of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Sent:** 10 October 2023 11:41

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)> [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot); Scott Wightman (Gov) (External) <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your help. As discussed grateful if you could send a Teams link for the call at 1215 today to [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)?

The First Minister will be joined by:

Chris Mackie, Principle Private Secretary  
Colin McAllister, Chief of Staff  
Scott Wightman, Director for External Affairs

I can pass on the Teams link to those listed above.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

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

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**From:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:41 AM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Good morning

Lord Ahmad has asked me to offer an urgent call with the First Minister to discuss the ongoing situation in Israel/Gaza, specifically with regards to his parents in law.

If the First Minister is content to take the call, we would be keen to set this up for later today or tomorrow.

If you have any questions or concerns please do let me know.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Diary Manager**

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, United Nations and the Commonwealth

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | Mob: [REDACTED]

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## Document 8

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 3:34 PM

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

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Chris,

No response to the below email – I've phoned [REDACTED] in his office and explained FM would like a urgent call today, will update you when we hear back and follow up on email (cc you).

(The lead PS in his team is [REDACTED] in case you wish to contact [REDACTED])

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG [REDACTED]

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**From:** Christopher Mackie <[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 3:01 PM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Hi team – did we ever get a response to the below?

Colin called – FM wants a call with FCDO today and I was going to approach them directly to try to push for it.

**Chris Mackie**

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

T: 0131 244 2557 | [REDACTED]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

**FirstMinister.gov.scot**

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** 11 October 2023 19:42  
**To:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>; Scott Wightman <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Good evening [REDACTED]

The First Minister noted that the Foreign Secretary is in the region at the moment and has asked if there is by way of an update on what the Foreign Secretary will be doing for UK citizens who are currently stuck in Gaza?

The First Minister would be happy to speak directly to Lord Ahmad if that would be easier – his personal mobile number is [REDACTED]

Grateful if you could confirm if Lord Ahmad would be content to speak with the First Minister.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**

**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**M:** [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 12:00 PM  
**To:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>; Scott Wightman <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

[REDACTED]

Much appreciated - the Teams link works at this end and I've passed on to the others.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG [REDACTED]

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**From:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:53 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Christopher Mackie <[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>; Scott Wightman <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for bearing with me while I arranged timings.

Is the following link okay for you?

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot) > **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Sent:** 10 October 2023 11:41

**To:** [\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) >

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot); Scott Wightman (Gov) (External) <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your help. As discussed grateful if you could send a Teams link for the call at 1215 today to [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)?

The First Minister will be joined by:

Chris Mackie, Principle Private Secretary  
Colin McAllister, Chief of Staff  
Scott Wightman, Director for External Affairs

I can pass on the Teams link to those listed above.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:41 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Good morning

Lord Ahmad has asked me to offer an urgent call with the First Minister to discuss the ongoing situation in Israel/Gaza, specifically with regards to his parents in law.

If the First Minister is content to take the call, we would be keen to set this up for later today or tomorrow.

If you have any questions or concerns please do let me know.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Diary Manager**

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, United Nations and the Commonwealth

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | Mob: [REDACTED]

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## Document 9

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 3:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Hi [REDACTED]

Following on from the below and as discussed on the phone the First Minister is seeking an urgent call with the Foreign Secretary or Lord Ahmad today please – I'd be most grateful if you could advise on availability?

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 7:42 PM  
**To:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Good evening [REDACTED],

The First Minister noted that the Foreign Secretary is in the region at the moment and has asked if there is by way of an update on what the Foreign Secretary will be doing for UK citizens who are currently stuck in Gaza?

The First Minister would be happy to speak directly to Lord Ahmad if that would be easier – his personal mobile number is [REDACTED]

Grateful if you could confirm if Lord Ahmad would be content to speak with the First Minister.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**

**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [REDACTED]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

**FirstMinister.gov.scot**

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

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**From:** [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot) > **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 12:00 PM

**To:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>; Scott Wightman

<[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

[REDACTED]

Much appreciated - the Teams link works at this end and I've passed on to the others.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary**

**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

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**From:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:53 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Christopher Mackie

<[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>; Scott Wightman <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for bearing with me while I arranged timings.

Is the following link okay for you?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> On Behalf Of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Sent:** 10 October 2023 11:41

**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot);  
[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot); Scott Wightman (Gov) (External) <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your help. As discussed grateful if you could send a Teams link for the call at 1215 today to [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)?

The First Minister will be joined by:

Chris Mackie, Principle Private Secretary  
Colin McAllister, Chief of Staff  
Scott Wightman, Director for External Affairs

I can pass on the Teams link to those listed above.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:41 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** PS Minister Ahmad - Calendar <[REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>

**Subject:** CALL REQUEST - Lord Ahmad FCDO

Good morning

Lord Ahmad has asked me to offer an urgent call with the First Minister to discuss the ongoing situation in Israel/Gaza, specifically with regards to his parents in law.

If the First Minister is content to take the call, we would be keen to set this up for later today or tomorrow.

If you have any questions or concerns please do let me know.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

**[REDACTED] Diary Manager**

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, United Nations and the Commonwealth  
Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED]

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## Document 10

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 10:44 PM  
**To:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Contact details

FCDO Crisis team,

As part of your wider comms exercise, grateful if you can please ensure the following individuals on the ground in Gaza are contacted with regards to any developments:

Elizabeth El-Nakla: [REDACTED]  
Maged El-Nakla [REDACTED]  
Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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



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## Document 11

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2023 2:32 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - support

[REDACTED]

Grateful for you coming back to me, and useful to have your number.

I'm aware the FM spoke with the Consular Director at midday, so our thanks to you and colleagues for arranging that call.

[REDACTED]

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



**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2023 1:02 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - support

[REDACTED]

See below (and apologies for the delay)

But my Director/Consular, [REDACTED] spoke directly to the FM about 60 minutes ago. Happy to speak if there's more.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Consular Services Department**  
[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) | Mobile [REDACTED]  
I'm using Arial 12pt to meet accessible [clear print standards](#)

**From**[REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2023 11:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Israel/Gaza - support

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has passed on your email. Do you have a contact number we could contact you on please?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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

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## Document 12

**From:** SOSFA Action <Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2023 7:50 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; SOSFA Action <Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot[REDACTED] @gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FS-FM call - follow-on

[REDACTED] Thank you. I will ask the team to follow up directly this evening.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DPPS/Foreign Secretary

[REDACTED]

**From**[REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** 14 October 2023 19:44  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; SOSFA Action <[Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)[REDACTED] @gov.scot[REDACTED] @gov.scot;  
[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** RE: FS-FM call - follow-on

FCDO PO,

The First Minister received a call from [REDACTED] at midday, but we have had no updates since. I understand SG External Affairs Officials are also seeking any available information from their counterparts in FCDO.

I would be very grateful if an update was able to be provided please.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

M: [REDACTED]



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[OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 8:51 PM  
To: First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
Cc: SOSFA Action <[Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Christopher Mackie <[Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
Subject: RE: FS-FM call - follow-on  
Hi [REDACTED],  
Many thanks for your help also in securing the call. Confirming I have relayed the First Minister's number to the Foreign Secretary.  
Looping in colleagues here who will be in touch over the weekend to relay any information.  
Thanks,  
[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | Tel: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> On Behalf Of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
Sent: 13 October 2023 20:12  
To: [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
Cc: SOSFA Action <[Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Sosfa-Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot](mailto:Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot); [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)  
Subject: FS-FM call - follow-on  
Hi [REDACTED]  
Our thanks for organising the call, and for the Secretary of State's time. As agreed between the First Minister and the Foreign Secretary, I am passing on the FM's personal number to allow contact.  
[REDACTED]  
Grateful if you can please confirm this has been picked up and passed on.  
As discussed, the FM's Private Office will be available across the weekend to relay any information on, or assist in anyway we can.  
Best,  
[REDACTED]  
Private Secretary to the First Minister  
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
M: [REDACTED]



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## Document 13

From: [REDACTED] @gov.scot> On Behalf Of First Minister  
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 3:12 PM  
To: [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
Cc: [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>;  
First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: Israel/Gaza - updates

[REDACTED]  
Very grateful for this clarification, as well as for [REDACTED] calling earlier.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Thanks,

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

**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 2:24 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - updates

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

[REDACTED]  
I understand that on their call, [REDACTED] undertook to clarify the nature of the [REDACTED].

All the best  
[REDACTED] | Crisis Gold – Consular – Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
On duty Sunday and Monday | Please copy all emails to the Crisis Mailbox: [crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)  
[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) | [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:15 AM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza - updates

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

I am currently calling from [REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:13:29 AM  
**To:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza - updates  
[REDACTED]I've just tried again and went to voicemail. I can keep trying if that is helpful.  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:34:50 AM  
**To:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza - updates  
[REDACTED]

Thank you. I will call the First Minister at 11am. My colleague [REDACTED]is taking over from me for the remainder of today and tomorrow and is fully briefed.

I have copied him in.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From**[REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:08 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Israel/Gaza - updates

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the calls this morning. As discussed, if you or a colleague are able to please give the First Minister a call at 11am.

A wider update from the FCDO to the Scottish Government would also be hugely appreciated.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

M: [REDACTED]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

[FirstMinister.gov.scot](https://www.firstminister.gov.scot)

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## Document 14

**From**[REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:17 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza

Calling now.

[REDACTED]  
Director Americas

---

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> on behalf of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:05:55 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza

Hi [REDACTED]

Would it please be possible for you to give the First Minister a call re. what the media are reporting that the Rafah crossing will be open tomorrow. The FM's number is[REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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



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[OUT OF SCOPE]

## Document 15

[OUT OF SCOPE]

**From**[REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 5:57 AM

**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza

Dear [REDACTED]

I wanted to let you know that we have just issued the below message to all registered British Nationals in Gaza.

We still have not had any formal confirmation that Rafah will open, but there is widespread media reporting that it will, including in Israel. In light of this we thought it sensible to issue the message.

We will endeavour to provide an update as soon as we have clearer information.

Kind regards

[REDACTED], Silver Crisis

“Dear British Nationals,

We are writing to update on the situation at the Rafah crossing. Media reports state that the crossing into Egypt is scheduled to open early on Monday morning. We have not had official confirmation and please be aware that any arrangements may be subject to change at short notice.

As stated previously, we have passed your details to the Egyptian authorities. However there is no guarantee that the Egyptian authorities will grant entry into the country if Rafah is opened. If you decide to try and make your way to the border, please ensure you have valid travel documentation with you for your entire group. Please also be aware that moving to the Rafah border is entirely at your own risk.

British Embassy staff will not be present at the border. Please call us as soon as you reach the Egyptian side of the border. You can contact us on the numbers below.

Travelling through the Sinai to Cairo is also completed at your own risk.

Should you require consular assistance or need to speak to us at any point, please contact + [REDACTED]. If you experience technical difficulties or if you are in the UK, call [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Silver Crisis | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | Email: [\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) | WhatsApp[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 15 October 2023 22:52

**To:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza

[REDACTED]

The First Minister asked about reports that the Rafah crossing will open to foreign nationals at 9am tomorrow. I have been in touch with our Ambassador to Egypt. We have not been able to confirm any such commitment by Egypt, and the news report is sourced to a Palestinian source not an Egyptian one. We currently have no reason to believe the Egyptian position has changed, but we are [REDACTED], if anything changes we will alert British nationals registered with us.

Sorry to dash the glimmer of hope in the report. I've texted the First Minister the main points above. [REDACTED] copied, is on duty overnight and will stay in touch with our team in Egypt. I'll be back on around 7am.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Crisis Gold – Consular – Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
On duty Sunday and Monday | Please copy all emails to the Crisis Mailbox: [crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)  
[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) | [REDACTED]

**[OUT OF SCOPE]**

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 3:12 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - updates

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

[REDACTED]

Very grateful for this clarification, as well as for [REDACTED] calling earlier.

The Scottish Government would still welcome a SitRep on the wider situation.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**[REDACTED]**

Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

**M:** [REDACTED]



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## Document 16

**From** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:44 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza

Morning [REDACTED]

Would it please be possible for a call to take place with the First Minister at 11.05am this morning? He is looking for an update on the latest position for UK nationals on the ground in Gaza, as well as FCDO's latest advice. He's likely to continue to be asked about this today and wants to provide reassurance where possible.

I will set-up a Teams meeting if you're able to confirm who will join.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

M: [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:52 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza

[REDACTED]

The First Minister asked about reports that the Rafah crossing will open to foreign nationals at 9am tomorrow. I have been in touch with our Ambassador to Egypt. We have not been able to confirm any such commitment by Egypt, and the news report is sourced to a Palestinian source not an Egyptian one. We currently have no reason to believe the Egyptian position has changed, but [REDACTED], if anything changes we will alert British nationals registered with us.

Sorry to dash the glimmer of hope in the report. I've texted the First Minister the main points above. [REDACTED] copied, is on duty overnight and will stay in touch with our team in Egypt. I'll be back on around 7am.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Crisis Gold – Consular – Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
On duty Sunday and Monday | Please copy all emails to the Crisis Mailbox: [crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)

[REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fcdo.gov.uk) [REDACTED]

**From**[REDACTED] [gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:06 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fcdo.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza

Hi [REDACTED]

Would it please be possible for you to give the First Minister a call re. what the media are reporting that the Rafah crossing will be open tomorrow. The FM's number is[REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

M: [REDACTED]

[OUT OF SCOPE]



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## Document 17

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:38 PM  
**To:** Scott Wightman <Scott.Wightman@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: HOLD: Call First Minister with FCDO

Scott, Colin,

1.45pm no longer works for FCDO. Aiming for 4.30pm. Will confirm shortly.

Thanks,

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



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**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** Scott Wightman <[Scott.Wightman@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Wightman@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: HOLD: Call First Minister with FCDO

Scott, Colin,

With apologies, the FM now can't do 12:30. He's asked for 1.45pm. I'll confirm as soon as FCDO respond.

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



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-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:12 AM

**To:** First Minister; Donna MacKinnon; Scott Wightman; Colin McAllister

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** HOLD: Call with FCDO

**When:** 17 October 2023 11:15-11:45 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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Passcode: [REDACTED]

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## Document 18

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 3:24 PM

**To:** First Minister

**Subject:** New Time Proposed: SG-UKG call - Israel/Gaza update

**When:** 17 October 2023 17:00-17:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Can we push this back. I'm joining a briefing for the FAC chair at 1645 and may be delayed

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## Document 19

**From:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 4:01 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: SG-UKG call - Israel/Gaza update

Hello [REDACTED]

Adding in [REDACTED] who is political lead this afternoon and will join the call.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Tel: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

*I sometimes find it more convenient to send emails outside core working hours. I do not expect you to respond if this is outside of your normal working hours.*

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** [REDACTED] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** 17 October 2023 15:44  
**To:** Scott Wightman (Gov) (External); [Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot](mailto:Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** SG-UKG call - Israel/Gaza update  
**When:** 17 October 2023 17:10-17:40 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]

Passcode: [REDACTED]

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

SCOTS Connect - Please note - You must have the explicit permission of the organiser to record this meeting and its attendees, using any technology.

[Learn more](#) | [Help](#) | [Meeting options](#)

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## Document 20

**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:18 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes 5pm can work.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]PS to the Director, Consular and Crisis | Consular Directorate  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles St | London | SW1A  
2AH| Room K4.12

[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)

Mob: [REDACTED]

**\*\*We are now in crisis response mode due to escalations in Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territories\*\***

**[REDACTED] is focused on assisting with the response and availability outside of the response is severely limited.**

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

[REDACTED]  
17:10?

Thanks,

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



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Hi [REDACTED]

Just after 1700 would work. Alternatively, 1500.

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | PS to the Director, Consular and Crisis | Consular Directorate  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles St | London | SW1A  
2AH | Room K4.12

[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)

Mob: [REDACTED]

**\*\*We are now in crisis response mode due to escalations in Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territories\*\***

**[REDACTED] is focused on assisting with the response and availability outside of the response is severely limited.**

**From**[REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:37 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; FirstMinister@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

[REDACTED]  
Does 4.30pm work?

Thanks,

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



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Hi [REDACTED]

Could we shift a little bit to 1400? [REDACTED] now needs to join another call with the G7.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] | **PS to the Director, Consular and Crisis | Consular Directorate**  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles St | London | SW1A 2AH | Room K4.12

[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)

Mob: [REDACTED]

**\*\*We are now in crisis response mode due to escalations in Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territories\*\***

**[REDACTED] is focused on assisting with the response and availability outside of the response is severely limited.**

**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:50 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Thanks, [REDACTED]

Meeting invitation has been issued.

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



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Hi [REDACTED]

That also works for both.

[REDACTED]  
Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:25:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED].gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

[REDACTED]  
Please ignore the 12:30am invitation just sent. Would 1.45pm work instead?

Thanks,

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



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:19 PM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>;  
First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]and[REDACTED]can also do before 1pm. Shall we say 12.30, on Teams?

[REDACTED]  
PS/Director

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:46:54 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>;  
[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>;  
[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

[REDACTED]

The FM can do any time before 1pm. Grateful if you can please let me know if there's a suitable slot and I'll issue a Teams invite.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

M: [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:50 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Sorry [REDACTED]! can't do that. and I think [REDACTED] is tied up at that time too. Are there other times?

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:46 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

Hi [REDACTED]

Would a call via Teams at 11.15am work?

Thanks,

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



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:07 AM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza (request from Scottish First Minister for call today)

[REDACTED], to confirm I've seen this. I'm in with the Foreign Secretary at the moment and will check times asap. I will do it if at all possible or see if a colleague can do so.

[REDACTED]could you please check?

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:44 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza

Morning [REDACTED]

Would it please be possible for a call to take place with the First Minister at 11.05am this morning? He is looking for an update on the latest position for UK nationals on the ground in Gaza, as well as FCDO's latest advice. He's likely to continue to be asked about this today and wants to provide reassurance where possible.

I will set-up a Teams meeting if you're able to confirm who will join.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

M: [REDACTED]



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## Document 21

**From:** [REDACTED ]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2023 9:43 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: Israel/Gaza: FCDO contacts this weekend

[REDACTED]

I'm off shift until Monday. [REDACTED] is Consular Gold if you wish to make contact.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [FirstMinister@gov.scot](#) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](#)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:44:05 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](#)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](#) <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](#)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza Morning [REDACTED]

Would it please be possible for a call to take place with the First Minister at 11.05am this morning? He is looking for an update on the latest position for UK nationals on the ground in Gaza, as well as FCDO's latest advice. He's likely to continue to be asked about this today and wants to provide reassurance where possible.

I will set-up a Teams meeting if you're able to confirm who will join.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

M: [REDACTED]



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## Document 22

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 21, 2023 8:34 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister for call today.

Yes that's the best number and yes read for your call. Thank you

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**  
**Office of the First Minister**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
**M:** [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 21, 2023 8:32 AM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister for call today.

[REDACTED]– correct? Ready for me to call?

[REDACTED]  
| Americas Director | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) | [REDACTED] | [call me on Teams](#)

**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 21, 2023 8:27 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister for call today.

Good morning.

The First Minister has asked for an urgent. FM would specifically like an update on the Rafah crossing as he has heard that the boarder may be opening to US citizens so would like to be updated on the latest position.

Grateful for confirmation on when a call can take place. I am available on the number below should you wish to call to arrange.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**

**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [REDACTED]



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\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*

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## Document 23

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 4:38 PM  
**To:** Humza Yousaf <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**  
**Office of the First Minister**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
**M:** [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 4:29 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

[REDACTED]

The team are not aware of any faults at our end, so it does look like the issue is with the Gaza infrastructure. We have resent the message to that number. It would be good to know when next the First Minister is in contact with his family whether the resend gets through – and of course if other messages in future fail.

All the best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Crisis Gold – Consular – Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
On duty Saturday and Sunday, [REDACTED] on from Monday | Please copy all emails to the Crisis  
Mailbox: [crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)  
[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) | [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 3:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

As discussed the FM's mother-in-law's contact number is [REDACTED]

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**  
**Office of the First Minister**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
**M:** [REDACTED]



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\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

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## Document 24

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 4:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

Thanks [REDACTED]  
appreciate you looking into that.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**  
**Office of the First Minister**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
**M:** [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 4:29 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

[REDACTED]

The team are not aware of any faults at our end, so it does look like the issue is with the Gaza infrastructure. We have resent the message to that number. It would be good to know when next the First Minister is in contact with his family whether the resend gets through – and of course if other messages in future fail.

All the best

[REDACTED]  
| Crisis Gold – Consular – Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

On duty Saturday and Sunday, [REDACTED] on from Monday | Please copy all emails to the Crisis Mailbox: [crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)  
[\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk) | [REDACTED]

**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot) > **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 3:25 PM  
**To:** [\[REDACTED\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk); Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

As discussed the FM's mother-in-law's contact number is [REDACTED]

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**  
**Office of the First Minister**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
**M: [REDACTED]**



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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## Document 25

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 7:11 PM  
**To:** Humza Yousaf <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

To note

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**  
**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**M:** [REDACTED]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

**FirstMinister.gov.scot**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 4:29 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

[REDACTED]

The team are not aware of any faults at our end, so it does look like the issue is with the Gaza infrastructure. We have resent the message to that number. It would be good to know when next the First Minister is in contact with his family whether the resend gets through – and of course if other messages in future fail.

All the best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Crisis Gold – Consular – Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
On duty Saturday and Sunday, [REDACTED]on from Monday | Please copy all emails to the Crisis Mailbox: [crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk | [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 3:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk >; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Israel/Gaza request from Scottish First Minister.

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

As discussed the FM's mother-in-law's contact number is [REDACTED]

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**M:** [REDACTED]



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## Document 26

**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

Really sorry – was just about to hit send on my other email

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** FirstMinister@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 16:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; FirstMinister@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

Thanks, [REDACTED] Appreciate the prompt response. I will issue a Teams link.

Speak shortly,

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



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## Document 27

**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 7:02 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

Just rang out. I left a message and will keep trying

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** FirstMinister@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 18:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>;  
FirstMinister@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

If you could call his # please: [REDACTED]

Thanks,

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



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 5:51 PM  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED] do you want to send me another teams link or would you like me to call his no?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 17:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

Appreciate that, [REDACTED]. I've let the FM know you'll call at 7pm.

Many thanks,

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



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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 5:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED] I can speak to our consular advice but I'm afraid it will be a limited update.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 17:03  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]  
Thanks for that update. Could one of you still please give the First Minister a call at 7pm?

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



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**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 4:57 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>;  
Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]

With apologies including for our emails crossing, I don't think we'll be in a position to add much at 7pm if the First Minister's request is for a political briefing. We are operating all weekend so please do test that with us over the weekend. We will message all British nationals in Gaza as soon as we have any information to share. We've been doing welfare calls over the past 48 hours in addition to our text message updates.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 16:42  
**To:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]

One of us would be happy to speak.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 16:38  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Cc: [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)

Subject: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]

Would you please be available this evening at 7pm for a call with the First Minister?

The Arabic news channels are reporting a possible ceasefire tomorrow, and we are keen to understand UK Government's understanding/intel of/on this.

Thanks,

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



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## Document 28

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2023 5:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza: Consular update for First Minister

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the update below - I've passed on to the FM that unfortunately no progress this afternoon in terms of the opening of Rafah.

Grateful to you and the team for keeping us updated.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary  
Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2023 4:02 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Israel/Gaza: Consular update for First Minister

[REDACTED]

I understand our consular team spoke to the First Minister's wife this morning, and that she's managed to make contact with her parents. I believe they have reported an increasingly difficult situation, including running low on drinking water and health concerns.

I'm afraid there's no progress I can report in terms of the opening of Rafah [REDACTED]. We sent the following message to all registered British nationals (the First Minister's wife is on the distribution list so should have received it).

*We understand phone and internet connectivity has been partially restored but is intermittent. We will try our best to contact you to check how you are. You can call us on [REDACTED] if calling is not possible, you can WhatsApp us on [REDACTED]. The Rafah*

*crossing remains closed for people leaving Gaza. We will provide further updates as we receive them.*

Our consular team are now attempting to WhatsApp/call everyone in Gaza to check the extent of the restored telecommunications.

I'm copying in [REDACTED] who is Gold political today.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office |  
K4.12 King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED][@fco.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Sent:** 28 October 2023 16:44

**To:** [REDACTED][@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdof.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED][@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdof.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED][@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdof.gov.uk)>; PUS Action  
<[PUS.Action@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdof.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdof.gov.uk)>; [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

Hello [REDACTED]

Hope you are well. As suggested below I just wanted to check in over the weekend on the back of your call with the FM yesterday in case there were any updates?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

**Deputy Private Secretary**

**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 5:44 PM

**To:** [REDACTED][@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdof.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdof.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED][@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdof.gov.uk)>;  
PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdof.gov.uk)>; Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdof.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdof.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

Appreciate that, [REDACTED]. I've let the FM know you'll call at 7pm.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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**From:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 5:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED], I can speak to our consular advice but I'm afraid it will be a limited update.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12 King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 17:03  
**To:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; FirstMinister@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>; Crisis Mailbox <Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]

Thanks for that update. Could one of you still please give the First Minister a call at 7pm?

[REDACTED]

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



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**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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**From:** [REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 4:57 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>;  
Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]

With apologies including for our emails crossing, I don't think we'll be in a position to add much at 7pm if the First Minister's request is for a political briefing. We are operating all weekend so please do test that with us over the weekend. We will message all British nationals in Gaza as soon as we have any information to share. We've been doing welfare calls over the past 48 hours in addition to our text message updates.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH [REDACTED][@fco.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 16:42  
**To:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; PUS Action <[PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]

One of us would be happy to speak.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH [REDACTED][@fco.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk)

**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot) <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** 27 October 2023 16:38  
**To:** [REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot); [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Israel/Gaza - call with FM - request

[REDACTED]

Would you please be available this evening at 7pm for a call with the First Minister?

The Arabic news channels are reporting a possible ceasefire tomorrow, and we are keen to understand UK Government's understanding/intel of/on this.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
M: [REDACTED]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

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## Document 29

**From:** [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 11:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza: Update

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for the earlier call, and for the written updates.

Please do continue to relay any information via this office, or we can arrange a call at short notice if required.

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



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**From:** [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza: Update

[REDACTED]  
One further update, again passing by email for ease:

[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | [REDACTED] [@fco.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 November 2023 09:42  
**To:** [FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)

**Cc:** Crisis Mailbox <[Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Crisis@fcdo.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Gaza: Update

[REDACTED]

I spoke to the First Minister. His parents-in-law's focus is on the immediate border crossing. But for information, I've had some more detail from our Embassy in Cairo about the Jordanian and UK transport on the other side. Sharing by email for ease:

[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Gold Consular, Israel/Gaza | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | K4.12  
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH [REDACTED] [@fco.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

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## Document 30

### Transcript of WhatsApp messages

[13/10/2023, 21:26:41] [REDACTED] FM - I've now got the relevant FCDO email address and named contacts for where we should send info re. anyone on the ground in Gaza and Israel who needs support. In the call, you mentioned you'd spoke to/heard from people direct. Do you have their contact details pls? Conscious time is of the essence if there's a risk to telecoms/electricity tonight.

[13/10/2023, 22:28:55] Humza Yousaf: The FCDO have texted my in-laws to say the Border may be open but that they have to risk the journey themselves. Ill copy their phone numbers below

[13/10/2023, 22:29:18] Humza Yousaf: The contact numbers of my parents-in-law are:

Elizabeth El-Nakla

[REDACTED]  
Maged El-Nakla

[REDACTED]  
[13/10/2023, 22:44:41] [REDACTED] Thanks, FM.

It'll be little consolation given the severity of the situation, but just to let you know we continue to receive many emails from the public passing on their thoughts and wishes to you, Nadia, and your family.

[13/10/2023, 22:45:16] [REDACTED] And just to confirm, I've passed those numbers onto the Crisis Team.

[13/10/2023, 22:45:22] Humza Yousaf: That's very kind. Many people have also messaged me directly and all their good wishes and prayers have been of great comfort to both Nadia and I.

[13/10/2023, 22:46:43] [REDACTED] I hope you manage to get some rest. I'll be in touch tomorrow with any developments. Expecting a SitRep from DEXA at 10am.

[13/10/2023, 22:47:34] Humza Yousaf: Thanks [REDACTED]  
[14/10/2023, 10:35:48] [OUT OF SCOPE]

[14/10/2023, 11:04:59] Humza Yousaf: I will confirm shortly. Do you have the FCDO crisis team number?

[14/10/2023, 11:09:50] [REDACTED] Thanks. No, but I've asked for it.

[14/10/2023, 11:28:09] [REDACTED]

[14/10/2023, 11:28:42] [REDACTED] ^ is the main centre number. We've also asked for a more direct line and to secure a call for when suits you.

[14/10/2023, 11:30:08] Humza Yousaf: Okay

[14/10/2023, 11:43:55] [REDACTED] You'll find DEXA's latest update in your mailbox.

[14/10/2023, 11:54:09] [REDACTED] Continuing to work on securing a direct number and a call, but the most senior consular officer on duty, [REDACTED], has offered to support you. It might be worth you emailing direct as well.

[14/10/2023, 11:55:19] [REDACTED] [@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:@fcdo.gov.uk)

[14/10/2023, 11:56:58] [REDACTED] To confirm: [REDACTED] Consular Director, FCDO

[14/10/2023, 12:19:25] [REDACTED] Can I please check the call took place? And if any actions for us?

[14/10/2023, 12:21:52] Humza Yousaf: It did and no actions. Was a brief overview of situation

[14/10/2023, 13:05:34] [REDACTED] Ok, thanks.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

## **Document 31**

**First Minister (FM) - Foreign Secretary (FS) call  
Wednesday 1 November at 14.15 to 14.30**

The FM thanked the FS for the call and invited him to provide an update on the Rafah border crossing. The FS responded that there is currently a lot of uncertainty however there may be the opportunity for foreign nationals to leave over the coming days. A priority list of British nationals [REDACTED] has been pulled together and shared with the Egyptians. He stated that they do not have control over when and if it will be actioned. The FS mentioned that both the FM's parents-in-law were on the list [REDACTED].

[OUT OF SCOPE]