

## FOI Documents for Question 1 (Pro-Palestine Marches)

Please note all references to '[redacted]' without an alternative section number are redactions under Section 38(1)(b) (personal data relating to a third party). For example, '[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>' has had a name and email address redacted.

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**Subject:** RE: FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCHES  
BETWEEN FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER TO SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023

**This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.**

Hi [redacted s38(1)(b)],

Ms Brown has noted.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown  
The Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
T: [redacted] | Ext: [redacted] | M: [redacted] | E: [ministerVCS@gov.scot](mailto:ministerVCS@gov.scot)

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

**Sent:** 15 December 2023 10:10

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <[DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care <[CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <[CabSecforES@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforES@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <[CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <[CabSecRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRALRI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <[CabSecSJ@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecSJ@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <[CabSecJHA@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJHA@gov.scot)>; Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <[MinisterforDAP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforDAP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Independence <[MinisterforIndy@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforIndy@gov.scot)>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <[MinisterforPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforPB@gov.scot)>; Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance <[MinisterCWPF@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCWPF@gov.scot)>; Minister for Local Government Empowerment & Planning <[MinisterLGEP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterLGEP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health & Women's Health <[MinisterPHWH@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHWH@gov.scot)>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport <[MinisterSCMWS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterSCMWS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <[MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <[MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot)>; Minister for Transport <[MinisterFT@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterFT@gov.scot)>; Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <[MinisterSBITT@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterSBITT@gov.scot)>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel &

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**Subject:** FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCHES BETWEEN FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER TO SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

**FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCHES BETWEEN FRIDAY 15 TO SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023**

Ministers may wish to note that protest activity in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict is continuing to take place across Scotland and there is potential for activity relating to the conflict to cause disruption, however, Police Scotland is aware of this and is planning its policing operations accordingly. Police Scotland's approach is to be facilitative to protestors, counter-protestors and other events that may be taking place to ensure that all can take place peacefully. This aligns with the Scottish Government's position which has been that we value people's human rights including the rights to peaceful public assembly and freedom of speech and see protest activity as being a central part of a health democracy.

**Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

## **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

Many of the protest events that have taken place in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow and Edinburgh, have turned into spontaneous marches and, although protest organisers are being encouraged to put in notifications if they intend to march, no marches had been notified at the time of writing in relation to any of the pro-Palestinian protests noted below.

### **Friday 15 December**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 16 December**

[redacted – out of scope]

**Dundee** (protest and march) Opposite Barclays Bank, City Centre, at 12:00 followed by a silent march which will be unlawful as it has not been notified to the local authority – its destination is currently unknown. Less than 100 people are expected to participate in this event.

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Sunday 17 December 2023**

[redacted – out of scope]

**Edinburgh** (walk) – Walk 4 Scotland will hold a 27 mile silent protest walk from Waverley Bridge to the Forth Bridges and back. This is a pro-Palestinian “sponsored walk to raise aid money and raise awareness for the people in Palestine”. The 27 mile walk is designed to symbolise the length of the evacuation trip from Northern Gaza to the South that was enforced upon the Palestinians by the Israeli Occupational forces. The walkers will gather at Waverley Bridge at 10:00 and the route, which has not been announced, “will not be too difficult, so that it suitable for all levels of walkers.” Provided the walkers use pavements and walkways this event is a walk (which does not need to be notified to the council) rather than a march (which does need to be notified to the council) and therefore the event would be legal. There is no indication of expected numbers, but participation in an event like this will be extremely weather dependant.

[redacted – out of scope]

### **General lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.

The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies. Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity. We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.

The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour. We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.

Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.

Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained. The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action to safeguard public safety.

The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative.

[redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
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## Document 2 – Marches Update – 22 December 2023

**From:** [redacted s38(1)(b)] <redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Victims & Community Safety

**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2023 9:28 AM

**To:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <[DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care <[CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <[CabSecforES@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforES@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <[CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <[CabSecRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRALRI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <[CabSecSJ@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecSJ@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <[CabSecJHA@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJHA@gov.scot)>; Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <[MinisterforDAP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforDAP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Independence <[MinisterforIndy@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforIndy@gov.scot)>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <[MinisterforPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforPB@gov.scot)>; Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance <[MinisterCWPF@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCWPF@gov.scot)>; Minister for Local Government Empowerment & Planning <[MinisterLGEP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterLGEP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health & Women's Health <[MinisterPHWH@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHWH@gov.scot)>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport <[MinisterSCMWS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterSCMWS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <[MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <[MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot)>; Minister for Transport <[MinisterFT@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterFT@gov.scot)>; Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <[MinisterSBITT@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterSBITT@gov.scot)>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel & Tenants' Rights <[MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot)>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <[MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot)>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <[MinisterforCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforCEID@gov.scot)>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <[MinisterEMR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterEMR@gov.scot)>; Minister for Housing <[MinisterHousing@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterHousing@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <[CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot)>; Minister for Energy and the Environment <[MinisterEE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterEE@gov.scot)>; Minister for Victims & Community Safety <[MinisterVCS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterVCS@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Mo Rooney <[Maureen.Rooney@gov.scot](mailto:Maureen.Rooney@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; SGPreparedness <[SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot](mailto:SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <[dgej@gov.scot](mailto:dgej@gov.scot)>; Director of Safer Communities <[DirectorofSaferCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorofSaferCommunities@gov.scot)>; SGoRR Information <[SGoRRInformation@gov.scot](mailto:SGoRRInformation@gov.scot)>; SCTU Duty Officer <[SCTU@gov.scot](mailto:SCTU@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted]

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**Subject:** RE: FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCHES  
BETWEEN SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER AND SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024

**This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.**

Hi [redacted s38(1)(b)]

Thanks. Ms Brown has noted this update.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown  
The Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
T: [redacted] | Ext: [redacted] | M: [redacted] | E: [ministerVCS@gov.scot](mailto:ministerVCS@gov.scot)

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

**Sent:** 21 December 2023 13:37

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <[DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care <[CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <[CabSecforES@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforES@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <[CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <[CabSecRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRALRI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <[CabSecSJ@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecSJ@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <[CabSecJHA@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJHA@gov.scot)>; Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <[MinisterforDAP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforDAP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Independence <[MinisterforIndy@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforIndy@gov.scot)>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <[MinisterforPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforPB@gov.scot)>; Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance <[MinisterCWPF@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCWPF@gov.scot)>; Minister for Local Government Empowerment & Planning <[MinisterLGEP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterLGEP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Public Health & Women's Health <[MinisterPHWH@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPHWH@gov.scot)>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport <[MinisterSCMWS@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterSCMWS@gov.scot)>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise <[MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot)>; Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans <[MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot)>; Minister for Transport <[MinisterFT@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterFT@gov.scot)>; Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade <[MinisterSBITT@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterSBITT@gov.scot)>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel & Tenants' Rights <[MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot)>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular

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**Cc:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Mo Rooney <[Maureen.Rooney@gov.scot](mailto:Maureen.Rooney@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; SGPreparedness <[SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot](mailto:SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <[dgej@gov.scot](mailto:dgej@gov.scot)>; Director of Safer Communities <[DirectorofSaferCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorofSaferCommunities@gov.scot)>; SGoRR Information <[SGoRRInformation@gov.scot](mailto:SGoRRInformation@gov.scot)>; SCTU Duty Officer <[SCTU@gov.scot](mailto:SCTU@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCHES BETWEEN SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER AND SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

**FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCHES BETWEEN SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER AND SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 23 December**

- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Glasgow** (protest and march) – Pro-Palestinian protest at Buchanan Street steps at around 13:00, organised by the Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign. Glasgow City Council have been engaged with by the Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee and they have notified their intent to march at 14:00 – Buchanan steps; Bath Street; Renfield Street; Union Street; Argyle Street; Queen Street; St Vincent Place; St Vincent Street; West Nile Street; Bath Street; and disperse at Dundas Street – with an estimated 3,000 participants. The Council has accepted the notification and therefore this march will be a legal march.

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Friday 29 December 2023**

- **Edinburgh** (procession) – Social Bite End Homelessness: Torchlight procession, expected number of participants 20,000. Start time 18:00 in the Meadows, end time 20:30 in Edinburgh City Centre.

### **Saturday 30 December 2023**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Wednesday 3 January 2024**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 13 January 2024**

- **Edinburgh** (protest and march) – the Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign is organising a national march in the capitol. We do not have any further details at his time.

### **Notes and general lines to take**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly (this happened in relation to the pro-Palestinian march that took place in Edinburgh on 2 December where notification only took a few days). It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

Many of the protest events that have taken place in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow and Edinburgh, have turned into spontaneous marches and, although protest organisers are being encouraged to put in notifications if they intend to march, no marches had been notified at the time of writing in relation to any of the pro-Palestinian protests noted below.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we

therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action to safeguard public safety.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**



## **FM/UK Engagement/ FCDO**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Policing/Justice**

- [redacted – out of scope]
- Arrangements are in place for the Torchlight Procession in Edinburgh on Friday 29 December.
- [redacted – out of scope]
- On Saturday 13 January the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign are arranging a national event in Edinburgh - there will also be a national event taking place in London.
- Police Scotland are aware of this activity and will put appropriate policing operations and resource in place and will continue to take a facilitative approach to all protests, vigils, counter-demonstrations and marches.
- [redacted – out of scope]

### **Internal Comms**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Any Other Business**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Date of next meeting**

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27 December at 11 am.

### **[redacted s38(1)(b)]**

Strategy, Performance, Delivery and Resilience Directorate  
Scottish Government



## **FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCH ACTIVITY ON SATURDAY 13 AND SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024**

[redacted – out of scope]

We are aware that the following events are planned:

### **Saturday 13 January**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Sunday 14 January**

[redacted – out of scope]

## **Notes and general lines to take**

### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly (this happened in relation to the pro-Palestinian march that took place in Edinburgh on 2 December where notification only took a few days). It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

Many of the protest events that have taken place in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow and Edinburgh, have turned into spontaneous marches and, although protest organisers are being encouraged to put in notifications if they intend to march, no marches had been notified at the time of writing in relation to any of the pro-Palestinian protests noted below.

### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.

- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action to safeguard public safety.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative.

[redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**

**External: [redacted]**



# **Document 6 – Briefing for FM Meeting with Jewish Student Representatives – 17 January 2024**

## **BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER**

### **MEETING WITH JEWISH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**17 JANUARY 2024, 14.15 – 15.00**

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted s38(1)(b)]

#### **ISRAEL/GAZA CONFLICT**

**ANNEX B**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **PROTESTS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

#### **The right to peaceful protest is central to all healthy democracies.**

- The Scottish Government is committed to upholding everyone’s human rights to public assembly and freedom of speech including the right to peaceful protest. This includes all those seeking to have their voices heard including both protestors and counter protestors.
- The management of protests and marches, including any criminality and public order issues that arise at these events, are operational matters for Police Scotland.
- Any instances of criminality, including hate crime, that occur at these events should be reported to Police Scotland for investigation.
- The Scottish Government has asked the Centre for Good Relations, an independent mediation and dialogue organisation, to work on the ground at the Israel-Palestine conflict protests to establish the potential for developing constructive dialogue between different people/organisations involved in protest activity, including those on both sides of the conflict.
- The Centre for Good Relations would be happy to engage with Jewish students on this.

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted s38(1)(b)]



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

**Subject:** FOR INFORMATION: Known protest activity on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 January 2024

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

**FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCH ACTIVITY ON FRIDAY 19 AND SATURDAY 20 JANUARY.**

[redacted – out of scope]

We are aware that the following events are planned for this weekend:

**Friday 19 January**

[redacted – out of scope]

**Saturday 20 January**

[redacted – out of scope]

**Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January 2024**

[redacted – not in scope]

**Notes and general lines to take**

**Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

**Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly (this happened in relation to the pro-Palestinian march that took place in Edinburgh on 2 December where notification only took a few days). It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

Many of the protest events that have taken place in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow and Edinburgh, have turned into spontaneous marches and, although protest

organisers are being encouraged to put in notifications if they intend to march, no marches had been notified at the time of writing in relation to any of the pro-Palestinian protests noted below.

### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.

The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies. Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.

We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.

The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour. We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.

Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.

Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained. The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action to safeguard public safety. The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative.

[redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Community Safety Unit  
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1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**



## **FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCH ACTIVITY ON SATURDAY 27 JANUARY.**

[redacted – out of scope]

We are aware that the following events are planned for this weekend:

### **Saturday 27 January**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), Saturday 27 January 2024**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly (this happened in relation to the pro-Palestinian march that took place in Edinburgh on 2 December where notification only took a few days). It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

Many of the protest events that have taken place in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow and Edinburgh, have turned into spontaneous marches and, although protest organisers are being encouraged to put in notifications if they intend to march, no marches had been notified at the time of writing in relation to any of the pro-Palestinian protests noted below.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
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- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal : [redacted]**  
**External : [redacted]**



- [redacted – out of scope]

**Internal Comms**

- [redacted – out of scope]

**External Comms**

- [redacted – out of scope]

**Date of next meeting**

- The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8 February.



[redacted – out of scope]

We are aware that the following events are planned for this weekend:

### **Saturday 3 February**

- **[redacted – out of scope]**
- **Edinburgh** (general protest) – The Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Edinburgh Castle (Castle Hill) at 13:00. This is a national event for Scotland and is therefore likely to be larger than the weekly events that take place in Edinburgh and could have around 2,000 participants. We understand that protestors will march from the Castle down the Royal Mile to the Scottish Parliament. A notification for the march had been submitted to Edinburgh City Council, but this has now been withdrawn and if a march does take place it will be unlawful.
- **[redacted – out of scope]**
- **[redacted – out of scope]**

### **Sunday 4 February**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Wednesday 7 February**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
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- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action to safeguard public safety.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative.

[redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal : [redacted]**  
**External : [redacted]**

## **Document 11 - Briefing for Minister For Higher Education And Further Education's Meeting With Lord Mann - 8 February 2024**

[Redacted 10 pages – out of scope]

### **Additional Briefing Annex D**

#### **PROTESTS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- **The right to peaceful protest is central to all healthy democracies.**
- The Scottish Government is committed to upholding everyone's human rights to public assembly and freedom of speech including the right to peaceful protest. This includes all those seeking to have their voices heard including both protestors and counter protestors.
- The management of protests and marches, including any criminality and public order issues that arise at these events, are operational matters for Police Scotland.
- Any instances of criminality, including hate crime, that occur at these events should be reported to Police Scotland for investigation.
- The Scottish Government has asked the Centre for Good Relations, an independent mediation and dialogue organisation, to work on the ground at the Israel-Palestine conflict protests to establish the potential for developing constructive dialogue between different people/organisations involved in protest activity, including those on both sides of the conflict.

[Redacted 3 pages – out of scope]



Protest activity in Scotland relating to the Israel-Palestine conflict is continuing with the regular pattern of events we have seen taking place including unauthorised marches, over most weekends. We have categorised these as general protests (such as the weekly gatherings we have seen across Scotland since the conflict began, and which have been largely peaceful); targeted protests (such as those aimed at Barclay's Bank or Starbucks because of their perceived complicity in supporting the conflict, which are generally peaceful but can become confrontational); and direct action (which is usually designed to be disruptive, but can be peaceful particularly when it is met with a constructive response).

We are aware that the following events are planned for this weekend:

### **Saturday 10 February**

The following protests all relate to the Israel-Palestine conflict:

- **[redacted – out of scope]**
- **Glasgow** (general protest) – The Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign: George Square 13:00. A march through the streets is expected. There has been no notification provided to Glasgow City Council therefore any march taking place will be unlawful.
- **[redacted – out of scope]**

Additionally, we are aware that these other events are taking place:

**[redacted – out of scope]**

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

In relation to organisers putting in notifications the key problem appears to be that the marches are made up of a range of groups and organisations which all agree on the overall aims of the protests, but have very different views on how those aims can be achieved. Notifications require someone to be named as the organiser and no one is prepared to be seen to be the organiser as they don't want to be held responsible for the behaviour of those that they cannot influence. [redacted under s30(b)(ii) (free and frank exchange of views)].

It is also becoming apparent that the protestors don't make much of a distinction between police and the councils, and just see both as the authorities which is problematic in terms of encouraging protestors to do things like inform police/councils of what they are planning to do. There is also a sense that the police are becoming more directive in relation to what protestors can and can't do, and this is likely to increase tensions between protestors and the police.

### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action to safeguard public safety.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W

Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal :** [redacted]  
**External :** [redacted]

# Document 13 - UK Government Amendment to UK Criminal Justice Bill: Pyrotechnic Possession at Protests Legislation – 14 February 2024

From: [redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Safer Communities Division  
14 February 2024

Minister for Victims and Community Safety

## UK Government Criminal Justice Bill: ‘Possession of Pyrotechnic Articles at Certain Public Processions and Assemblies’

### Priority and Purpose

**Urgent.** [redacted – out of scope]

### Recommendation

[redacted – out of scope]

### Context and Issues – Position in Scotland

In Scotland, the pyrotechnic provisions in the 2022 Act came into effect on 6 June 2023. This includes a new offence committed when a pyrotechnic article is possessed in a public place without a reasonable excuse or relevant exemption (such as relating to employment or other legitimate uses). In this way, Scottish legislation already prohibits the possession and the misuse of pyrotechnics at protests and marches (for example, at the national pro-Palestinian protest and march that took place in Edinburgh on 3 February three individuals were charged with pyrotechnic offences under the 2022 Act). Therefore the 2022 Act is already being used by Police Scotland to address the behaviours that the draft Bill amendment appears to be aiming to address.

[redacted – out of scope]

### Conclusions and next Steps

[redacted – out of scope]

**[redacted]**

Safer Communities Directorate/Division

[redacted]

Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List	For Action	For Information Portfolio interest	For Information Constituency interest	For Information General awareness
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs		X		

## Officials Copy List

DG Education and Justice

Don McGillivray, Director, Safer Communities

Mo Rooney, Deputy Director, Safer Communities

Anna Donald, Deputy Director, Criminal Justice

[redacted], Head of Serious Organised Crime

[redacted], Head of Community Safety Unit

[redacted], Community Safety

[redacted], Community Safety

[redacted], Community Safety

[redacted], Community Safety

[redacted], Community Safety

[redacted] Community Safety

[redacted], SGLD

[redacted], SGLD

[redacted], Police Strategy

[redacted], Police Powers

[redacted], Active Scotland

[redacted], Active Scotland

[redacted], Special Advisor



[redacted – out of scope]

Significant forthcoming events that we are aware of:

### **Friday 16 February**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 17 February**

The following protests all relate to the Israel-Palestine conflict:

- **[redacted – out of scope]**
- **Glasgow** (targeted protest and march which may turn into direct action) – The Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign and Gaza Genocide emergency Committee will hold a Scottish national protest. This is part of the global days of action that are now being organised every two weeks. The organisers have applied for a march which has been agreed by Glasgow City Council which waived the need for a 28 day notification period and agreed a route for the march. Protestors will assemble in George Square and march through George Square South; St Vincent Place; St. Vincent Street; Renfield Street; Union Street; Jamacia Street; Broomilaw; Anderston Quay; Lancefield Quay; Finnieston Quay; Congress Way and to the SEC where a demonstration will be held outside the Scottish Labour Party Conference. This event is likely to attract protestors from across Scotland and the estimated number of participants is 5,000.
- **[redacted – out of scope]**

### **Wednesday 21 February**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Thursday 22 February**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Friday 1 March – Sunday 3 March**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to

march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- We support Police Scotland's facilitative approach to public assemblies including protests and counter demonstrations to ensure everyone can have their voices heard.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action to safeguard public safety.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
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EH1 3DG

**Internal:** [redacted]

**External:** [redacted]



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

**Subject:** FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCH ACTIVITY  
FRIDAY 23 - SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

Protest activity in Scotland relating to the Israel-Palestine conflict is continuing with the regular pattern of events we have seen taking place including unauthorised marches, over most weekends. We categorise these as general protests (such as the weekly gatherings which have been largely peaceful); targeted protests (such as those aimed at Barclay's Bank or Starbucks because of their perceived complicity in supporting the conflict, which are generally peaceful but can become confrontational); and direct action (which is usually designed to be disruptive, but can be peaceful particularly when it is met with a constructive response).

[redacted – out of scope]. Separately we have previously reported that many of the protests taking place turn into unlawful marches which have not been notified to the local authority, it was therefore encouraging to learn that the Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee has notified Glasgow City Council of their intention to march every Saturday up to 16 March and is engaging constructively with the council on this.

Notable forthcoming events over the weekend that we are aware of:

### **Friday 23 February**

- [redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 24 February**

The following protests relate to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the war in Ukraine (20 February 2024 was the second anniversary of the start of the war):

- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Dundee** (general protest) – The Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign is organising a protest from Dundee Central Mosque to City Square at 14:00.
- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Glasgow** (general protest and march) – The Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign and Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee will assemble at the Buchanan Gallery steps at 13:00 then move to George Square for a march at 13:30 which is expected to go from the Square to Union Street and back to George Square. Around 1,000 are expected to attend.
- [redacted – out of scope]

**[redacted – out of scope]**

Notable activity beyond this weekend:

### **Friday 1 March – Sunday 3 March**

**[redacted – out of scope]**

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Fundamentally, issues relating to protests and marches are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will not be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.

- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**



## **Situation**

[redacted – out of scope]

## **Policing/Justice**

- [redacted – out of scope]
- National protests are now every fortnight and the next one will take place in Edinburgh this Saturday. A high turnout is expected and the protest will likely turn into an unlawful march. While details of this have not been published yet, it is likely that they will assemble at the foot of the Mound and march up the Mound, down the Royal Mile and hold a protest outside the Scottish Parliament. The tactic of slow marching has been deployed in numerous unlawful marches and it is expected this will continue.
- While the national protest will attract people from across Scotland, it is likely that local events will go ahead as well, although these will be smaller than normal.
- [redacted – out of scope]

## **Communities**

[redacted – out of scope]

## **Internal Comms**

[redacted – out of scope]

## **Economy** (see enclosed slides)

[redacted – out of scope]

## **AOB**

[redacted – out of scope]

Issued on behalf of [redacted] (Mrs)

Strategy, Performance, Delivery and Resilience Directorate | Scottish Government

Email: [redacted@gov.scot](mailto:redacted@gov.scot)

Please note that my working pattern is Monday to Thursday



Notable events we are aware of:

### **Friday 1 March**

- [redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 2 March**

- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Dundee** (general protest) – The Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign is organising a protest from Dundee Central Mosque to City Square at 14:00.
- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Glasgow** (general protest and march) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee will assemble at Barrowlands Park at 12:00 for a march to the Emirates Stadium to protest at the World Indoor Athletics Championship. This will be an unlawful march. The Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee had previously notified the council that they would march from George Square to Renfield Street and back and this march had been authorised by the council, however, it appears that they will not be holding this march anymore.
- [redacted – out of scope]

### **Sunday 3 March**

[redacted – out of scope]

Activity beyond this weekend to note:

### **Saturday 16 March**

[redacted – out of scope]

## **Notes and general lines to take**

### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

## Lines to take

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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- Such behaviour is not something that will not be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
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- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**



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

**Subject:** FOR INFORMATION: KNOWN PROTESTS AND MARCH ACTIVITY:  
FRIDAY 8 MARCH - SATURDAY 9 MARCH

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

Last weekend protest activity took place around the World Athletics Championships (1 to 3 March) in support of there being a blanket ban on Israeli athletes participating in any such events. There were no Israeli athletes participating in the championships, but a substantial march took place from the centre of Glasgow to the stadium. On Saturday evening two protesters from This is Rigged jumped a barrier from the stands in the arena and ran on to the track, unfurling Palestinian flags and chanting “Free Palestine” and “Boycott Israel, Boycott Genocide, Boycott Apartheid.” The BBC did not cover the demonstration on its livestream, cutting to the crowd, and the demonstrators claimed that the refusal to air the protest is a result of the BBC’s “scandalous” bias against Palestine and are calling on the public to “Boycott Genocide” by engaging in civil disobedience against the "Israeli Apartheid". They have also called on the public to boycott companies and events that support or directly fund the Israeli state.

[redacted – out of scope]

Since 7 October 2023 there have been weekly pro-Palestinian protests taking place across Scotland. Despite many of these morphing into unlawful marches, these events have been largely peaceful with few arrests. [redacted – out of scope]

Notable events we are aware of:

### **Friday 8 March**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 9 March**

- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Edinburgh** (general protest) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee weekly general protest at the Foot of the Mound at 13:00. This is likely to turn into an unlawful march.
- **Glasgow** (general protest and march) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee will assemble in George Square at 12:00 and march from south east corner of George Square at 14:00 to Vincent Place Street, Renfield Street, Union Street, Argyle Street, Queens Street, Ingram Street South Frederick Street and back to George Square. The estimated number of participants is 1,000. Notification of the march was submitted to Glasgow City Council which has agreed the march.
- [redacted – out of scope]

## **Saturday 16 March**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**



PS/Ministers

[redacted – out of scope] Marches are identified as such, however, it is worth noting that many protests morph into unlawful marches and we have only identified known marches below:

### **Saturday 16 March**

- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Glasgow\*** (general protest and march) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee and Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign (SPSC) have organised a protest and march assembling in George Square at 12:00 and marching from George Square at 14:00 to South Fredrick Street, Ingram Street, High Street, Glasgow Cross, Trongate, Glassford Street, Ingram Street, South Fredrick Street returning to George Square. The estimated number of participants is 1,000. This march has been approved by Glasgow City Council and has been approved.
- [redacted – out of scope]

### **Wednesday 20 March**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
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1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

## Document 20 – Meeting Protest Organisers – 19 March 2024

[redacted – out of scope]

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:32 AM

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

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

**Subject:** Meeting protest organisers on 27 March 2024

Colleagues

You will be aware that the Centre for Good Relations (CfGR) has been working on the ground to engage with protest organisers relating to the Israel/Palestine conflict. They have confirmed that there are a few of protest organisers who are keen to meet with the SG and CfGR is happy to arrange and facilitate the meeting. The date that has been identified for the meeting is Wednesday 27 March in Glasgow.

[redacted under s30(b)(ii) (free and frank exchange of views)]

I have spoken to CfGR about managing the expectations of what protest organiser can get out of a meeting with the SG, and been clear that this would only be a meeting with officials at which we could only outline SG policy positions and that this would be a relatively informal meeting. This would be an in-person meeting and I am contacting you to ask whether you would be able to join me for the meeting? At the moment I am looking for an in principle agreement to participate and will get more information about who will be attending in case that is a concern for you.

The key thing here is to allow protest organisers an opportunity to engage with the SG and the areas that they appear to be interested in are:

Protest and marches – what the SG's general position is and whether the SG is likely to adopt new laws that the UKG have been introducing (I can cover this).

Prevent and the new definition of extremism – what is the SG position and how this differs from the rest of the UK (could [redacted] or [redacted] cover this?)

Community engagement – what is the SG doing in this space (could [redacted] or [redacted] cover this?)

I would be grateful if you could confirm that you are willing and able to attend. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Community Safety Unit



## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[redacted – not in scope]. Marches are identified as such, however, it is worth noting that many protests morph into unlawful marches and we have only identified known marches (those which have been notified to the relevant local authority) below:

### **Saturday 23 March**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.

- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

## **Document 22 – Branch Heads Strategic Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

[redacted – out of scope]

Protest activity is continuing particularly relating to the Israel/Palestine situation with unlawful marches being a feature of many protests every week.

[redacted – out of scope]



## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[redacted – not in scope]. Marches are identified as such, however, it is worth noting that many protests morph into unlawful marches.

### **Thursday 28 March**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Friday 29 March**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Saturday 30 March**

- [redacted – not in scope]
- **Edinburgh** (general protest) – Palestine Land Day Torchlight Parade at the Foot of the Mound 17:30. This is clearly intended to be a parade (governed by the same rules as marches) but has not been notified to Edinburgh City Council. We therefore do not know where those participating intend to parade to, although Queen Elizabeth House (UK Government building); the Scottish Parliament; Bute House; and the American Embassy are the most common targets which are all walking distance from the Mound.
- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Community Safety Unit  
St Andrews House  
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Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**





<[Maureen.Rooney@gov.scot](mailto:Maureen.Rooney@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; SGPreparedness <[SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot](mailto:SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot)>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary  
<[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Cabinet  
Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <[CabSecJHA@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJHA@gov.scot)>; DG Education &  
Justice <[dgej@gov.scot](mailto:dgej@gov.scot)>; Director of Safer Communities  
<[DirectorofSaferCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorofSaferCommunities@gov.scot)>; SGoRR Information  
<[SGoRRInformation@gov.scot](mailto:SGoRRInformation@gov.scot)>; SCTU Duty Officer <[SCTU@gov.scot](mailto:SCTU@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>

**Subject:** UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY THURSDAY 4  
APRIL - SUNDAY 6 APRIL

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[Redacted – not in scope]. Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Thursday 4 April**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Saturday 5 April**

- [redacted – not in scope]
- **Dundee** (general protest and march) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee is organising a protest and march from the Central Mosque to City Square at 14:00. Estimated number of participants 500. This is an authorised march.
- [redacted – not in scope]
- **Glasgow** (march and general protest) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee is organising a march at 13:00 from George Square to St Vincent Place, St Vincent Street, Renfield St, Union Street, Jamaica Street, Broomielaw, Anderson Quay, Lancefield Quay, Clyde Arc, Finnieston Street, Govan Road, Pacific Quay to the BBC building to demand a boycott of the Eurovision Song Contest in protest against Israeli participation. Estimated Number of Participants 1,000. This march has been authorised.
- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Sunday 6 April**

[redacted – not in scope]

## **Notes and general lines to take**

### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]

Community Safety Unit

St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
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EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

## Document 25 – STUC Congress – 10 April 2024

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:13 PM

**To:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister

<[CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>

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

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

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

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

**Subject:** RE: STUC Congress - 16 April

Hi [redacted]

We are aware of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (SPSC) in relation to protest and marching activity. They were founded in 2000 and have therefore been around for some time. They have been consistently active in raising awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people. Since the last October they, along with the Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee (GGEC), have been at the centre of the pro-Palestinian protests that have been taking place across Scotland every week. My understanding is that before he was FM, Mr Yousaf had participated in SPSC events.

[redacted – not in scope]

Our specific interest here is protests and marches and I can confirm that at the weekly protests organised by the SPSC and the GGEC there have been frequent calls for politicians generally, and the FM specifically, to be more visible on this issue [redacted - s.30(b)(ii) free and frank exchange of views].

[redacted - s.30(b)(ii) free and frank exchange of views].

[redacted – not in scope].

Happy to discuss further.

[redacted s38(1)(b)]

[redacted – out of scope]



## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[redacted – not in scope] Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Saturday 13 April**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.

- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal : [redacted]**  
**External : [redacted]**



[redacted – not in scope]. Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Saturday 20 April**

- **[redacted – not in scope]**
- **Glasgow** (march) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee and “Believe in Scotland” are jointly holding a Scottish Independence march and rally, assembling at Kelvin Way at 11:30 with the march starting at 12:30. Proposed Route Kelvin Way, University Avenue, Gibson Street, Eldon Street, Woodlands Road, Charring Cross, Sauchiehall Street, Blythswood Street, Blythswood Square, West George Street, Nelson Mandela's Place, George Street, onto George Square (opp. North Hanover Street). Estimated Number of Participants 6,000. This march has been authorised by Glasgow City Council.
- **[redacted – not in scope]**

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
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- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal : [redacted]**

**External : [redacted]**



[redacted – not in scope]. Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Saturday 27 April**

- **[redacted – not in scope]**
- **Glasgow** (general protest and march) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee organising a protest at 12:00 in George Square followed by a march at 13:00 going from George Square to St Vincent Place, St Vincent Street, Renfield St, Union Street, Argyle Street, Queens Street, Ingram Street, South Fredrick Street and returning to George Square. The estimated number of participants is 1,000. This march has been authorised by Glasgow City Council.
- **[redacted – not in scope]**

### **Sunday 28 April**

- **[redacted – not in scope]**

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.

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- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**



## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[Redacted – not in scope]. Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **The Scottish Parliament Encampment**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Saturday 4 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]
- **Dundee** (march and protest) – The Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee has organised a march from the Unite Office in Blackness Road to Albert Square where a rally will take place. Estimated number of participants is 200. This march has been authorised by Dundee City Council.
- [redacted – not in scope]
- [redacted – not in scope]

#### **Sunday 5 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

## Document 30 – Officials Meeting on Israel/Gaza Note – 9 May 2024

### DEXA - Israel-Gaza Meeting – 9 May 2024

#### Attendees

[redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted],  
[redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted].

[redacted – out of scope]

Justice – [redacted s38(1)(b)]

- [redacted – out of scope]
- Some pro-Palestinian groups have been joining in anti-racism, trade union and pro-Independence marches.

[redacted – out of scope]



[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY FOR SATURDAY 11  
MAY AND SUNDAY 12 MAY

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[Redacted – not in scope].

Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **The Scottish Parliament Encampment**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Edinburgh University Encampment**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Saturday 11 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Sunday 12 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Evening of Sunday 12 May to evening of Monday 13 May**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application

process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

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- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

## Document 32 – Marches Update – 16 May 2024

**From:** [redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 4:49 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture

<zzzCabSecEFWC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

<DLODOBVSFLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

<CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

<CabSecNZE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

<CabSecforNRHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands

2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024

<CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecTransport@gov.scot>;

Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for

Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<redacted@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>;

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity 2023 <MinisterAC@gov.scot>; Minister for

Business <MinisterforBusiness@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping

the Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The

Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Minister for Climate Action <MinisterCA@gov.scot>;

Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance <MinisterCWPF@gov.scot>; Minister for

Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Minister for

Drugs and Alcohol Policy 2024 <MinisterforDAP2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Employment

and Investment <MinisterEI@gov.scot>; Minister for Energy, Just Transition and Fair Work

<MinisterEJTFW@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>;

Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Green

Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot>; Minister for

Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>;

Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans

<MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>; Minister

for Housing <MinisterforHousing@gov.scot>; Minister for Independence

<MinisterforIndy@gov.scot>; Minister for Local Government Empowerment & Planning

<MinisterLGEP@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024

<MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; Minister for

Public Health & Women's Health 2023 <MinisterPHWH@gov.scot>; Minister for Public

Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>; Minister for Small Business,

Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental

Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and

Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings,

Active Travel & Tenants' Rights <MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<redacted@gov.scot>; SGPreparedness <SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot>; [redacted]

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

[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>;



- [redacted – not in scope]

## **Notes and general lines to take**

### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

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- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
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I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

## **Document 33 - Background note: Edinburgh University Justice for Palestine Society – 23 May 2024**

### **Hunger strike**

[redacted – not in scope]

10. The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold. Peaceful assembly allows protest, cultural celebrations and holding memorials. Communities should be able to participate in such activities. However, the right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.

[redacted – not in scope]

## Document 34 – Marches Update – 23 May 2024

**From:** [redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 4:57 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture

<zzzCabSecEFWC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

<DLODOBVSFLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

<CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

<CabSecNZE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024

<CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024

<CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport

<CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and

Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Minister for

Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and

Connectivity 2023 <MinisterAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Business

<MinisterforBusiness@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the

Promise <MinisterCYPKP@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

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for Community Wealth & Public Finance <MinisterCWPF@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and

Alcohol Policy 2024 <MinisterforDAP2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Employment and

Investment <MinisterEI@gov.scot>; Minister for Energy, Just Transition and Fair Work

<MinisterEJTFW@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>;

Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Green

Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot>; Minister for

Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>;

Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, and Veterans

<MinisterHEFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>; Minister

for Housing <MinisterforHousing@gov.scot>; Minister for Independence

<MinisterforIndy@gov.scot>; Minister for Local Government Empowerment & Planning

<MinisterLGEP@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024

<MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; Minister for

Public Health & Women's Health 2023 <MinisterPHWH@gov.scot>; Minister for Public

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Innovation, Tourism and Trade <MinisterSBITT@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental

Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and

Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings,

Active Travel & Tenants' Rights <MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mo Rooney <Maureen.Rooney@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<redacted@gov.scot>; SGPreparedness <SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot>; [redacted]

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

[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>;

[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs

<CabSecJHA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Safer

Communities <DirectorofSaferCommunities@gov.scot>; SGoRR Information

<SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; SCTU Duty Officer <SCTU@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;  
[redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;  
SCTU Duty Officer <SCTU@gov.scot>

**Subject:** UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY FRIDAY 24 MAY TO  
FRIDAY 31 MAY

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[Redacted – not in scope]

Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Ongoing activity from Friday 26 April**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Friday 24 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Saturday 25 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]
- **Glasgow** (march and targeted protest) – Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee Day of Action assembling at George Square at 11:00 and then processing to Barclays Bank in the city centre to protest around the funding of arms to Israel. No march notification provided to Glasgow City Council.
- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Sunday 26 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Wednesday 29 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Friday 31 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

## **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

## **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

## **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]

Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road

Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**



recognition of Israel as an apartheid state committing a genocide on the Palestinian people.

[redacted - out of scope]



<redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;  
SCTU Duty Officer <SCTU@gov.scot>

**Subject:** UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY FRIDAY 31 MAY TO  
SUNDAY 2 JUNE

PS/First Minister  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries  
PS/Ministers

## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[redacted – not in scope]

Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Ongoing activity from Friday 26 April**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Friday 31 May**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Saturday 1 June**

- [redacted – not in scope]

### **Sunday 2 June**

- [redacted – not in scope]

## **Notes and general lines to take**

### **Protests**

[redacted – not in scope]

### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

## Lines to take

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

## Document 37 – Discussion on Palestine Marches Correspondence – 30 May 2024

**From:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2024 9:46 AM  
**To:** Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Micase (case ref 202400412717): “Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express”.

Many thanks for this Ewan – we will do that.

([redacted s38(1)(b)], could you please send the letter via micase?)

Best

[redacted]

**[redacted s38(1)(b)]**  
International Division  
Scottish Government  
Mobile (direct): [redacted]  
(NB, Monday is my non-working day)

---

**From:** Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 7:06 PM  
**To:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <[MinisterPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPB@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <[CabSecCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecCEAC@gov.scot)>; Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Micase (case ref 202400412717): “Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express”.

Hi,

This may be for PO rather than [redacted] but can we write back to this gentleman (given he wrote to Mr Hepburn in his ministerial capacity) saying simply the issue he raised is not a matter for the Scottish Government and suggesting he contacts the organisation concerned – in this case All Under One Banner,

Ewan

Ewan Crawford  
Senior Special Adviser to the First Minister,  
EU affairs and the constitution.  
Tel: [redacted]  
Mobile [redacted]

*Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot) for information.*

**From:** Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 3:30 PM  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Micase (case ref 202400412717): "Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express".

Hi,

I'll talk to Mr Hepburn.

But leave it on the system for now,

Ewan

Ewan Crawford  
Senior Special Adviser to the First Minister,  
EU affairs and the constitution.  
Tel: [redacted]  
Mobile [redacted]

*Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot) for information.*

---

**From:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <[MinisterPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPB@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <[CabSecCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecCEAC@gov.scot)>; Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>; Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Micase (case ref 202400412717): "Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express".

Thanks [redacted s38(1)(b)] – I'm copying in SpAds admin to this chain.

**Ewan/all** – can you provide a view please on how this should be handled? To note this is not a constituent of Mr Robertson or Mr Hepburn.

Full email exchange here:

<< Message: FW: Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express >>

Thanks  
[redacted]

**Attachment:**

From: [redacted s38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 6:03 AM  
**To:** Minister for Independence <[MinisterforIndy@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforIndy@gov.scot)>; MSP Hepburn J <[Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express

Dear Mr Hepburn MSP,  
I now contact you via your ministerial email address and look forward to a reply regarding my concern about Gaza and preferably today before Swinney makes any changes to the top brass.  
Thank you,  
[redacted]

**From:** "Hepburn J (Jamie), MSP" <[Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot)>  
**Date:** 6 May 2024 at 19:57:56 BST  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject: Re: Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express**  
Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. I couldn't see my Ministerial email address amongst those you contacted, although I do see you have used the generic Scottish Ministers email address. Your email should be picked up by my Private Office in due course.

As set out before, the quickest way to contact me regarding any matter you consider to relate to my Ministerial role is the one I have previously advised as being best to use, namely [ministerforindy@gov.scot](mailto:ministerforindy@gov.scot)

Thanks again for emailing me.

Yours,  
Jamie Hepburn MSP

Sent from my iPad

On 6 May 2024, at 19:23, [redacted] wrote:

Dear Mr Hepburn MSP,

I contacted you with my concern using your ministerial email address and that is good enough for me - for God's sake stop playing games and just read the thing and reply.

Thank you,  
[redacted]

On 6 May 2024, at 16:13, Hepburn J (Jamie), MSP

<[Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot)> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email. As advised previously, if you are contacting me in relation to my ministerial role then the email to contact me on is [jamie.hepburn.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:jamie.hepburn.msp@parliament.scot)

I can advise though that the issues you have mentioned in your email do not relate to any of the responsibilities as part of my ministerial portfolio.

Yours,  
Jamie Hepburn MSP

Sent from my iPad

On 6 May 2024, at 13:42, [redacted] wrote:

Dear Mr Hepburn MSP.

I can perfectly understand the frustration of the Independence Campaigners that pro-Palestinians seem to be hijacking their movement by waving Palestinian flags alongside the SNP's Scottish saltire. But for God's sake Jamie get a grip of reality, the Palestinian people have more pressing and imminent concerns than do the SNP as Scotland doesn't have rockets and missiles landing on its soil and I'm not aware that any armed foreign troops have entered and taken over George Square. So please Jamie as the Minister for Independence just ask your supporters to back off a little until the bloodshed in Gaza is over before complaining. Always happy to help out and especially in an election year.

Thank you,  
[redacted]

<https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-nationalists-fear-palestinian-campaigners-32741670>

\*\*\*\*\*

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## End of Attachment

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**From:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>;  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 12:04 PM  
**To:** Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <[MinisterPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPB@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <[CabSecCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecCEAC@gov.scot)>; Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>; Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] <redacted@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Micase (case ref 202400412717): "Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express".

Morning all,

My team was allocated this micase (case ref 202400412717) and headed up "Scottish nationalists fear Palestinian campaigners are hijacking their movement - Scottish Daily Express". Its an overtly political, not in Govt space, letter about Scottish national independence campaigners and references to Mr Hepburn's "supporters" in relation to the independence campaign. See below.

My team had rejected this case on basis it's in political not government space.

[redacted under Section 30(b)(ii) (free and frank exchange of views)]. My view remains that this letter is political, about independence and political stances in party space, and not suitable for a Government response. It is not about the SG response on Gaza.

Could this please therefore be removed from micase and forwarded on to either Mr Hepburn or Mr Robertson's MSP office as a party matter?

Many thanks

[redacted]

**[redacted]**

International Division

Scottish Government

Mobile (direct): [redacted]

(NB, Monday is my non-working day)

# Document 38– Centre for Good Relations Business Case for Protest Work – 30 May 2024

[redacted section 1 – out of scope]

## Section 2: Your Project

**2.1 Please provide an overview of what your project aims to achieve and how it will achieve this in less than 200 words.**

**Mediative presence at protests and demonstrations.** CfGR will deploy teams of practitioners and associates at selected protests, demonstrations and campaigning events across Scotland with a specific focus on those events which are likely to raise tensions or conflict. CfGR's work is intended to provide opportunities for the productive processing of disagreements and disputes, so as to help defuse potential tensions and conflict, and so that those participating, as well as anyone counter demonstrating, can exercise their human rights as peacefully as possible.

CfGR will work around these events to build relationships and to promote reflection, consideration, sharing of perspectives and dialogue which will aid the safe delivery of these events. To do this CfGR will develop activity which will allow them to work with individuals and groups away from the actual protests and demonstrations to encourage reflection and consideration in relation to the experiences they have had, what they have taken from that in terms of understanding, and their views about the positions and activities of other parties. The aim here is to get protestors to consider and understand the positions and activities of, for example, the police; council officers and councillors involved in decision making on marches, to increase understanding of the workings of different organisations and encourage dialogue between those organisations based on a level of trust and empathy which also acknowledges the motivations and strategies of protest organisers.

From this, and with the explicit permission of those CfGR will speak to, we will encourage collaborative working wherever this is possible to ensure the safe delivery of protest activity. Dialogue will be undertaken by shuttling between different organisations until we have built their capacity, and they can continue dialogue without support. Specifically, we have been asked to facilitate dialogue between protestors and the Scottish Government and this will be part of the work we deliver in 2024/25.

[redacted - out of scope]

## Section 3: Business Plan

**Please detail the activities you will be undertaking within your project(s) with emphasis on their intended impact and value below:**

<b>Objective of this activity Who benefits from this activity; the impact and</b>	<b>Proposed Activity Including who will be delivering, how and where it will take place including key milestones</b>	<b>Time scale of activity (frequency/dates)</b>	<b>Estimated Cost of activity (£)</b>
---	--	---	---------------------------------------

<b>value; and how it contributes to a safer comms objective</b>			
[redacted - out of scope]			Up to £59,800
To be present at and work around selected protests and demonstrations to build relationships and promote shared perspectives. 60%	CfGR will deploy teams of practitioners and associates at selected protests and campaigning events in Scottish cities. They will work around these events in order to build relationships and to promote reflection, consideration, sharing of perspectives and dialogue as appropriate.	April 2024 – March 2025	
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]		
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]		
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]		
TOTAL			Up to £59,800

### 3.2 What are the major milestones and timescales for your project(s)?

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
Engagement with pro-Palestinian groups, and presence at protests, demonstrations and events	This will be required throughout the year – evidence clearly indicates that pro-Palestinian groups are developing a long-term campaign to address the plight of the Palestinian people. Therefore, protest activity on this issue is likely to be a feature of Scottish life for some time to come. We will aim to engage with all of the currently known pro-Palestinian organisations by the end of May and work with them through the year. Based on pilot work this will lead to CfGR being present at and working around a minimum of 24 protests (this will vary in response to world and

	domestic events) but we expect to average attendance at two to three protests a month.
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]

**3.3 How will you be monitoring and presenting the progress and impact of the project(s) including the difference you have made for intended recipients?**

Please ensure you are able to demonstrate the value your project(s) brings to communities.

[Rest of document out of scope]



## **UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[redacted – out of scope]

Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Ongoing pro-Palestinian student activity**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Saturday 8 June**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Sunday 9 June**

[redacted – out of scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.

- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
Safer Communities Division  
St Andrews House  
1W  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Internal: [redacted]**  
**External: [redacted]**

# Document 40 – Centre for Good Relations Signed Grant Letter – 12 June 2024

[Redacted standard terms of grant letter – out of scope]

**This is Annex A as referred to in the foregoing offer of Grant from the Scottish Ministers to the Centre for Good Relations.**

## ANNEX A

### Project

Mediative presence at protests and demonstrations. CfGR will deploy teams of practitioners and associates at selected protests, demonstrations and campaigning events across Scotland with a specific focus on those events which are likely to raise tensions or conflict. CfGR's work is intended to provide opportunities for the productive processing of disagreements and disputes, so as to help defuse potential tensions and conflict, and so that those participating, as well as anyone counter demonstrating, can exercise their human rights as peacefully as possible.

CfGR will work around these events to build relationships and to promote reflection, consideration, sharing of perspectives and dialogue which will aid the safe delivery of these events. To do this CfGR will develop activity which will allow them to work with individuals and groups away from the actual protests and demonstrations to encourage reflection and consideration in relation to the experiences they have had, what they have taken from that in terms of understanding, and their views about the positions and activities of other parties. The aim here is to get protestors to consider and understand the positions and activities of, for example, the police; council officers and councillors involved in decision making on marches, to increase understanding of the workings of different organisations and encourage dialogue between those organisations based on a level of trust and empathy which also acknowledges the motivations and strategies of protest organisers. From this, and with the explicit permission of those CfGR will speak to, we will encourage collaborative working wherever this is possible to ensure the safe delivery of protest activity. Dialogue will be undertaken by shuttling between different organisations until we have built their capacity, and they can continue dialogue without support. Specifically, we have been asked to facilitate dialogue between protestors and the Scottish Government and this will be part of the work we deliver in 2024/25.

### Business Plan

<b>Objective of this activity Who benefits from this activity; the impact and value; and how it contributes to a safer comms objective</b>	<b>Proposed Activity Including who will be delivering, how and where it will take place including key milestones</b>	<b>Time scale of activity (frequency/dates)</b>	<b>Estimated Cost of activity (£)</b>

[redacted - out of scope]		Up to £59,800	
To be present at and work around selected protests and demonstrations to build relationships and promote shared perspectives. 60%	CfGR will deploy teams of practitioners and associates at selected protests and demonstrations and campaigning events in Scottish cities. They will work around these events in order to build relationships and to promote reflection, consideration, sharing of perspectives and dialogue as appropriate.		April 2024 – March 2025
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]		
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]		
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]		
TOTAL		Up to £59,800	

### Milestones

Milestones	Timescales
Engagement with pro-Palestinian groups, and presence at protests, demonstrations and events	This will be required throughout the year – evidence clearly indicates that pro-Palestinian groups are developing a long-term campaign to address the plight of the Palestinian people. Therefore, protest activity on this issue is likely to be a feature of Scottish life for some time to come. We will aim to engage with all of the currently known pro-Palestinian organisations by the end of May and work with them through the year. Based on pilot work this will lead to CfGR being present at and working around a minimum of 24 protests (this will vary in response to world and domestic events) but we expect to average attendance at two to three protests a month.
[redacted - out of scope]	[redacted - out of scope]

## Monitoring

[redacted - out of scope]

## Document 41 – Marches Update – 13 June 2024

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2024 2:23 PM

**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <CabSecNZE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; Minister for Climate Action <MinisterCA@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy 2024 <MinisterforDAP2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Housing <MinisterforHousing@gov.scot>; Minister for Business <MinisterforBusiness@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Minister for Employment and Investment <MinisterEI@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Housing <MinisterforHousing@gov.scot>

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**Subject:** UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY SATURDAY 15 JUNE TO SUNDAY 16 JUNE

PS/First Minister

PS/Cabinet Secretaries

PS/Ministers

**UPDATE ON KNOWN PROTEST AND MARCH ACTIVITY**

[redacted – out of scope]

Marches, including parades and processions, are simply identified as marches. Numerous protests have morphed into unlawful marches, particularly those organised in support of Palestine, and we expect this pattern to continue.

### **Saturday 15 June**

- [redacted – out of scope]
- **Glasgow** (march and general protest) – Stop The War Coalition Scotland in association with CND Scotland and the STUC. This will be a national (Scottish) protest – there will be a national march and protest taking place in London. This is part of the Stop Arming Israel Campaign. Assembly Point is Glasgow Green at 10:30 and then marching at 11:00 from Saltmarket to Clyde Street, Broomielaw, Glasgow Bridge, Bridge Street, Eglinton Street, Turriff Street, Pollokshaws Road, Victoria Road, Queens Drive, Langside Road, Queens Drive, and enter Queens Park Recreation area. Estimated number of participants is 3,000. The rally in Queens Park will have guest speakers including **Amer Anwar** and **Humza Yousaf**. This event is likely to attract media interest.
- [redacted – out of scope]

### **Sunday 16 June**

- [redacted – out of scope]

### **Notes and general lines to take**

#### **Protests**

[redacted – out of scope]

#### **Marches**

Unlike protests, march organisers are subject to a statutory 28 day notification meaning they are legally obliged to inform the local authority about their intention to march a minimum of 28 days in advance of it taking place, however, in exceptional circumstances councils can waive this and grant permission very swiftly. It is important to be clear that this is a notification process and not an application process. The presumption is that those notifying their intention to march will be allowed to have their event and that the minimum of level of conditions (for example, relating to the timing or route of the march) will be applied.

#### **Lines to take**

If any antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence takes place in relation to protests or marches then it is likely that we will be asked for comment. Issues relating to protests and marches on the ground are operational matter for Police Scotland and we therefore suggest that the Scottish Government uses the following lines as the basis of any response:

- The right to peaceful public assembly and freedom of expression are important rights that the Scottish Government is committed to uphold.
- The right to peaceful assembly/protest is at the heart of all healthy democracies.
- Peaceful assembly allows us to protest, celebrate culture and hold memorials and it is right that our communities should be able to participate in such activity.
- The right to peaceful public assembly and expression should never be used to justify any form of hateful, violent, intimidating or otherwise criminal behaviour.
- We are clear that there is no place for criminality or hate crime on our streets, and fully support Police Scotland to take appropriate and proportionate action in response to such behaviour.
- Such behaviour is not something that will be tolerated, and we support Police Scotland to take appropriate action in response to any criminal offences being committed at, or around, marches and parades.
- Police Scotland has powers available under the Public Order Act 1986 to deal with any disorder arising and to ensure that public safety and order is maintained.
- Police Scotland is a rights based organisation underpinned by Human Rights which supports individuals and groups' right to protest.
- The deployment of police officers and the decision around the use of tactical options for crowd management is a matter for Police Scotland.

I hope you find the above informative. We will continue to monitor developments.

[redacted]  
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