

Commissioners - Q1 links

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Scottish Information Commissioner	<a href="#">Annual reports   Scottish Information Commissioner (itspublicknowledge.info)</a>
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Standards Commission for Scotland	<a href="#">Annual Accounts   The Standards Commission for Scotland (standardscommissionscotland.org.uk)</a>

Q4. All internal correspondence and external correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Government, briefings written for ministers, and notes held about Humza Yousaf refusing a request to appear in front of the Scottish Affairs committee as shown here: <https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/politics/humza-yousaf-snubs-snp-mp-31857405>

-Can this include discussions about why the invitation was rejected by Spads/civil servants?

**Please see below response to Q4. For ease of reference we have ordered emails by date and to avoid repetition, we have removed duplicate emails and provided the letters referred to as separate attachments. Exemption 38(1)(b) applies to the redaction of personal information.**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 11:47 AM  
**To:** First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** Scottish Affairs Committee [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Dear Office of the First Minister,

Please see attached correspondence from Pete Wishart MP, Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee, to the First Minister, inviting him to give oral evidence in the new year.

Kind regards, [redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **Letter 1 - Invitation from SAC attached to above**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** Emily Mackintosh [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Colin McAllister [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Kevin Pringle [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Jack Middleton [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** FW: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

And another request/invitation, which I'll leave with you in the first instance.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **Letter 1 - Invitation from SAC attached to above**

**From:** Colin McAllister [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 7:37 PM  
**To:** First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Emily Mackintosh [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Kevin Pringle [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Jack Middleton [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** Donald Cameron [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Commission a draft reply reiterating out position. On the IGR point, if Donald (copied) agrees it is sensible, offer AR.

Thanks.

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Donald Cameron [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:48 AM

**To:** Colin McAllister [redacted 38(1)(b)]; First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Emily Mackintosh [redacted 38(1)(b)] Kevin Pringle [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Jack Middleton [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] , [redacted 38(1)(b)], [redacted 38(1)(b)], [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Thanks Colin, AR has already accepted an invitation to appear in relation to their IGR inquiry (we provided written evidence in the Autumn). His session was scheduled for early January but moved at committee's request and now agreed for 11 March.

If [redacted 38(1)(b)] gets a commission out I'll tie the loose ends and get a reply in the system.

Donald

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 12:49 PM

**To:** Donald Cameron [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] , [redacted 38(1)(b)], [redacted 38(1)(b)], First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FW: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Donald,

Please see the attached letter from the Scottish Affairs Committee.

Grateful for an advice note and a draft response please.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Letter 1 - Invitation from SAC attached to above**

**From:** Donald Cameron [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 6:52 PM

**To:** First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

[redacted email]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Dominic Munro [redacted 38(1)(b)]; DG Strategy and External Affairs [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Permanent Secretary [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Colin McAllister [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Kevin Pringle [redacted 38(1)(b)], Emily Mackintosh [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)];

**Subject:** RE: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)],

Attached is a draft response to Pete Wishart's letter inviting the FM to appear before the Scottish Affairs Committee. The draft reflects the approach to previous invitations on the basis of the First Minister's extensive commitments, his accountability to the Scottish Parliament, and on this occasion, the fact that Mr Robertson has already accepted an invitation to appear before the Committee in early March to discuss its inquiry into intergovernmental relations.

Best wishes

Donald

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **Letter 2 – Draft response to SAC attached to above**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of First Minister** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 04 January 2024 11:00

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Scottish Affairs Committee [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Dear [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Thanks for the letter and invitation. Please find attached a response from the First Minister.

Best,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **Letter 3. FM Signed response to SAC attached to above**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:02 AM

**To:** First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Scottish Affairs Committee [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Confirming receipt, thanks for sending this response through.

Kind regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:03 AM

**To:** Donald Cameron [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Dominic Munro [redacted 38(1)(b)]; DG Strategy and External Affairs [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Permanent Secretary [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Colin McAllister [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Kevin Pringle [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Emily Mackintosh [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; First Minister [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Correspondence from Scottish Affairs Committee to First Minister

Donald,

Thanks for the draft letter. The First Minister is content with the proposed approach and response. The letter has now issued – please find attached a copy for records purposes.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]



## Scottish Affairs Committee

**Rt Hon. Humza Yousaf MSP**  
**First Minister of Scotland**  
**St Andrew's House**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH1 3DG**

18 December 2023

Dear First Minister,

Further to our letter dated 3 July 2023, the Scottish Affairs Committee would like to re-iterate its open invitation to you to give evidence to the Committee at a date which might be convenient to you. This would be an opportunity to discuss policy areas related to recent inquiries and your priorities as First Minister. It would also be a chance for you to comment on current intergovernmental relations between the UK and Scottish governments, which is the focus of the Committee's current inquiry on *Intergovernmental relations: 25 years since the Scotland Act 1998*.

We hope you will re-consider our invitation, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Wishart". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Pete Wishart MP**  
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee

Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP  
First Minister of Scotland



St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0300 244 4000

Pete Wishart MP  
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1 0AA

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December 2023

Dear Pete

Thank you for your letter of 18 December inviting me to give evidence to the Committee.

Unfortunately, due to my extensive commitments as First Minister, I am unable to accept the invitation to appear before the Committee.

As the committee is aware, I am accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the decisions and actions of the Scottish Government. Sessions such as weekly First Minister's Questions and my evidence sessions with the Scottish Parliament Conveners Group are an important feature of my commitment to ensuring that the Parliament can fully discharge its essential scrutiny function.

I understand that the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Angus Robertson, has accepted an invitation to discuss the Scottish Government's written evidence to your inquiry *Intergovernmental relations: 25 years since the Scotland Act 1998*, with the Committee in early March.

I am sure the Committee will welcome the opportunity to discuss these important matters with Angus.

With all good wishes

HUMZA YOUSAF

Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP  
First Minister of Scotland

 **Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0300 244 4000

Pete Wishart MP  
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1 0AA

4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Pete,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December inviting me to give evidence to the Committee.

Unfortunately, due to my extensive commitments as First Minister, I am unable to accept the invitation to appear before the Committee.

As the Committee is aware, I am accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the decisions and actions of the Scottish Government. Sessions such as weekly First Minister's Questions and my evidence sessions with the Scottish Parliament Conveners Group are an important feature of my commitment to ensuring that the Parliament can fully discharge its essential scrutiny function.

I understand that the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Angus Robertson, has accepted an invitation to discuss the Scottish Government's written evidence to your inquiry, *Intergovernmental relations: 25 years since the Scotland Act 1998*, with the Committee in early March.

I am sure the Committee will welcome the opportunity to discuss these important matters with Angus.

With all good wishes,



**HUMZA YOUSAF**