

Annex A – Information for Release

Q: Can you release all correspondence, briefings or any documents relating to Nadia El-Nakla's attendance at the summit for national leaders' spouses in Istanbul in November.

1. Transcribed WhatsApp Communication between Scott Wightman (SW) and the Turkish Consul General (TCG)

6 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

[Out of scope]

8 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

9 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

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

10 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

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

11 November 2023

[redacted s.32]

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

Istanbul meeting

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

[redacted s.30]

3. Excerpts from Briefing to Permanent Secretary – 12 January 2024

[Not in scope]

11. [Not in scope] As is reported in the Guardian article, Ms El-Nakla attended a “United for Peace in Palestine” summit of leaders’ spouses which called for a ceasefire in Istanbul on 15 November 2023, at the invitation of the first lady of Turkey, Emine Erdoğan. **[redacted s.32 and s.30]**

[Not in scope]

Annex B – Excerpts from Article in the Guardian

[Not in scope] “On Thursday, El-Nakla revealed that Turkey had submitted the names of her remaining family members as individuals they were willing to accept as refugees, after she attended a summit of leaders’ spouses in Istanbul demanding a ceasefire at the invitation of the first lady of Turkey, Emine Erdoğan.” [Not in scope]

Annex C – Draft Response from Permanent Secretary to First Minister

[Not in scope]

[redacted s.30]

[Not in scope]

4. Email Chain – Advice on Ministerial Code and Excerpt of Ministerial Code

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

Hi Chris

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

[redacted s.30]

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

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

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

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

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

Helen

Helen Webster (she/her) | Deputy Director for Cabinet, Parliament and Governance | Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support | Scottish Government

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

Hello Helen,

I would be grateful for some advice on the First Minister's ministerial declarations, following his wife's recent visit to Turkey.

[redacted s.32]

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

Can I ask whether the FM's ministerial declaration needs to be updated to reflect this visit?

Happy to chat through if easier.

Thanks

Chris

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

[redacted s.38]

5. Email Passing on Letter in Relation to Trip to Ms El-Nakla

From: [redacted s.38]<[redacted s.38]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 6:51 PM

To: [redacted s.38]@snpmmedia.net

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Turkish Consulate General in Edinburgh - Note Verbale 23 November 2023

Hi [redacted s.38],

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

Thanks,

[redacted s.38]

[redacted s.38]

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

M: [redacted s.38]

[redacted s.32]

Translation of Note in Attachment

[redacted s.32]