

## Document 1

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 March 2022 13:47  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: SENSITIVE - Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Hi [REDACTED], Keeping you in the loop on this one, but not for onward forwarding. Thanks also for the explanation earlier on, no harm done! Let's just hope both companies voluntarily withdraw their request for labels.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 March 2022 11:38  
**To:** [MinisterELR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterELR@gov.scot)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Minister,

As we discussed on Wednesday please find attached a briefing setting out the issue regarding two separate intended shipments of seed potatoes from Scotland to Russia. The issue is significant as it requires Scottish Government officials to liaise with the Russian authorities, and to inspect and issue the necessary paperwork in order for this trade to proceed. REDACTED Attempts to persuade the companies concerned to withdraw the exports have, at least in one case, met with failure. Due to the perishable nature of the shipment and the need for a quick response I would be grateful for your urgent consideration of this matter. I should also inform you that one of the companies concerned has informed us that they will seek legal advice if we cause them to miss this export opportunity and have stated that they must know whether we are prepared to conduct the necessary work by Monday 7/3/2022.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**SASA**  
**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**  
**The Scottish Government**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

**ATTACHMENT**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**SASA, ARE Directorate**  
**Tel:** [REDACTED]  
**4/03/2022**

## **Minister for Environment and Land Reform**

### **SEED POTATO EXPORTS TO RUSSIA**

#### **Purpose**

**1. To inform you that:**

- Two companies are going through the statutory process with the Scottish Government, in relation to inspection and official controls to allow the export of 3,050 tonnes of seed potatoes to Russia (which equates with £1.5M in income).
- REDACT
- Short of the companies voluntarily stopping these exports, the only alternative action open to us would be to ask the UK Government to include seed potatoes or food and agricultural products within the UK sanctions.
- Due to time pressures, the need to start the export process in order to get the seed to Russia in time for planting and the perishable nature of this shipment, it is likely that including agricultural products within UK sanctions will come too late for this issue.

#### **Priority**

- 2. Urgent**

#### **Background**

- 3.** After the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia many nations across the world have imposed severe economic sanctions on Russia. The Scottish Government has supported the strict implementation of sanctions and has yesterday (3/3/2022) published an open letter calling on Scottish businesses to stop trade and investment activity with Russian businesses.
- 4.** Scotland exports approximately 260,000 tonnes of seed potatoes annually to a large number of countries World-wide. The Scottish seed potato sector has come through a particularly damaging period as a result of EU Exit and the impact of the pandemic on both the hospitality sector and international trade. As a result of EU exit the EU (and Northern Ireland, who must comply with the EU's plant health regime) have banned the importation of seed potatoes from GB. Numerous attempts to negotiate a reopening of these markets have thus far met with failure, resulting in the loss of markets which previously imported roughly 30,000 tonnes of Scottish seed potatoes each year. The lack of availability of containers and shipping resulted in delays causing the final shipment of the season to Egypt being rejected by the authorities there and additional losses for the sector.

5. Russia is a small but emerging market for Scottish seed potatoes.  
REDACTED
  - a. Solana, a German owned company but with offices in Forfar is seeking to export REDACTED.
  - b. [REDACTED, OUT OF SCOPE]

**Russia has a particularly complicated import process for seed potatoes. Officials from the exporting country must formally notify the Russian authorities (Rosselkhozadzor) of intended exports. These details are also entered by the importer on a Russian Government IT system. Both submissions must match in order to be cleared for export.**

**Different stages in the process had been reached when the UK sanctions were introduced against Russia.**

- a. Solana, Scottish Government officials had already contacted the Russian authorities, prior to the introduction of sanctions, to provide them with details of the intended exports. The British Embassy in Moscow has been notified and included in all correspondence. Under normal circumstances confirmation that these consignments have been cleared for export would be sought but this has not been done yet.
- b. [REDACTED, OUT OF SCOPE]

As far as officials are aware all proposed exports have been logged on the Russian IT system by the relevant importers.

6. Following the introduction of UK sanctions, both companies have been contacted by Scottish Government officials on 1/3/2022 to enquire whether they would be willing to voluntarily stop these exports. Company representatives were informed of Scottish Ministers' views and the need for Scottish businesses to sever connections with Russia.
  - a. Solana, officials have held discussions with the UK-based senior management and also with the parent company in Germany, the latter on 2/3/2022. REDACTED They also recognise that they are unlikely to receive payment but consider it important for the maintenance of their operation in Russia and the food security of local, ordinary Russians (though clearly these crops could also be used to feed the Russian army). They have enquired whether they would be eligible for compensation or if Scottish Government officials would refuse to inspect and certify this shipment.
  - b. [REDACTED, OUT OF SCOPE]

7. It is important to recognise that both companies are working to very tight deadlines in order to ship the seed potatoes to Russia in time for planting early April 2022. Solana were in contact with officials yesterday to inform us that they would need to be informed whether we could begin the process of inspection, issuing labels, etc. by Monday 7/3/2022 in order to meet their deadline. They stated that they would be seeking legal advice if we failed to signal we would provide them with the necessary services by this date.

### **Legal position**

8. REDACTED

### **UKG position**

9. In terms of the UK Government position, I have spoken with the UK Chief Plant Health Officer based in Defra, REDACTED
10. REDACTED. By way of context, Russia banned the importation of many agricultural products as counter-sanctions against the EU, in response to our own sanctions when they were introduced after the Russian-backed separatist fighting/invasion of Eastern Ukraine and the Crimea in 2014. Should the UK Government agree to the inclusion of all food and agricultural products within a deepening sanction regime, it is important to recognise that this may come too late for this particular case. However, signalling that this is something Scottish Ministers will push for sends a strong signal to Scottish companies, and in particular our seed potato sector for the future. In addition, officials will also contact their counterparts from EU Member States to determine whether this is a move that is being considered by them, as this may help develop our thinking on the scope of a future sanction regime.

### **Recommendation**

11. The Minister is invited to note:
  - a. That 2 companies with operations in Scotland are seeking to export seed potatoes to Russia
  - b. That officials have encouraged both companies to stop these exports
  - c. REDACT
  - d. I would therefore welcome advice on what action officials should take if the companies wish to continue with the exports to Russia at this time. It is important to recognise that a quick decision is required (by 7/3/2022) if inspections and authorisation are to proceed. REDACTED

4/03/2022

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
SASA, ARE Directorate  
Tel: [REDACTED]

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister					X
Deputy First Minister					X
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Islands			x		
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport			x		
Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity					X
Lord Advocate					X
Solicitor General					

[REDACTED]

### Document 3

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:07 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

Hi [REDACTED],

Mr Matheson has noted for his interests.

I have since updated him on the developments on discussions with both companies alongside FM's views.

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Private Secretary  
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 07 March 2022 19:50

**To:** First Minister

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

**Importance:** High

PS / First Minister,

Please find attached a note from Ms McAllan regarding the potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia.

Many thanks

[REDACTED] | Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -  
Màiri McAllan

The Scottish Government | Web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) | Tel: [REDACTED] | Email:  
[MinisterELR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterELR@gov.scot)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 10:05 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

Sorry but no. The primary intent of the Minister's note is obviously to inform the FM but an important secondary function is to provide an opportunity for the FM to intervene should she wish to do so. Contacting the company at this point with a definitive position would undermine that function. I am content that colleagues speak to the company and assure them that we are very close to a final position but I would not be content with a final position being articulated until the FM responds. That said, I will seek a swift response from FM.

Regards

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 March 2022 09:16  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

Hi [REDACTED],

I can see [REDACTED] is copied in and I have copied in [REDACTED] as I feel they may be better placed to advise on this.

Many thanks

[REDACTED] | Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -  
Màiri McAllan  
The Scottish Government | Web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) [[REDACTED]]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 March 2022 09:09  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

Hi [REDACTED],

Is it okay for me to contact the companies to let them know we will carry out the necessary work or do I have to wait till the FM responds to the Minister?

REDACTED

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 March 2022 19:50  
**To:** First Minister  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia  
**Importance:** High

PS / First Minister,

Please find attached a note from Ms McAllan regarding the potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia.

Many thanks

[REDACTED] | Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -  
Màiri McAllan  
The Scottish Government | Web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) | Tel: [REDACTED]

## Document 5

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 2:16 PM  
**To:** DirectorARE@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT FW: Official Sensitive: Russia sanctions: SG due diligence

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies, appreciate I did not really answer the question asked and on top I can update a bit, please delete my first email on this subject!!!

The Issue:

- Two companies have applied to export 3,000 tonnes of Scottish seed potatoes to Russia
- Scottish Government officials will be required to inspect these shipments and issue the necessary paperwork to facilitate the exports
- REDACTED
- REDACTED
- Officials will attempt to persuade the companies concerned to stop these exports, find alternative markets, etc.



[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 March 2022 12:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT FW: Official Sensitive: Russia sanctions: SG due diligence

All

Grateful for remaining responses as soon as possible so I can consolidate and give [REDACTED] a draft reply to [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government  
| P1 SPUR | Saughton House | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD| Tel: [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 11:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT FW: Official Sensitive: Russia sanctions: SG due diligence  
**Importance:** High

All

This is the email from [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] made reference to in this morning's Forward Look meeting.

Grateful if you could please undertake the due diligence outlined below and come back to Andrew with details of what you have done by **noon tomorrow**.

[REDACTED] – I know you have already been in touch with [REDACTED], and will want to note the text highlighted in green below.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government  
| P1 SPUR | Saughton House | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD| [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 08:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Official Sensitive: Russia sanctions: SG due diligence

To: Thursday morning Directors Network invitees

Dear colleagues

As you'll be aware, there are many different aspects to the current Ukraine/Russia situation. In order to ensure a consistent approach across SG in relation to one important aspect - **sanctions against Russia** - it has been agreed to establish a sanctions oversight and coordination function in the Directorate for International Trade and Investment. Policy responsibility for individual sanctions-related issues will remain with the relevant policy teams, but DITI will keep a central record of such issues and help colleagues ensure consistency with SG's overall stance on sanctions, as well as carrying out central sanctions-related commissions such as a comparison of UK, EU and US sanctions regimes. This coordination function will not extend to aspects other than sanctions.

We are aware that many directorates will already be contributing to the daily ministerial briefing on concurrent risks, and will aim to avoid duplication by drawing on that existing material as much as possible.

The First Minister has made clear that SG's position is to support the strongest possible sanctions regime: *'If the current situation doesn't make the maximum possible sanctions ... necessary and urgent, it's hard to imagine what would. This is not a time for half measures.'* The FM has also acknowledged that sanctions will inevitably have a negative impact on the countries applying them as well as on those at whom they are targeted.

As an early action within this new sanctions coordination function, **this message is to seek your input into an exercise commissioned by the FM at SGORR** over the weekend. The FM has asked for a comprehensive exercise to be carried out across SG and our agencies, **to check for any actions or behaviours that could be perceived as inconsistent with SG's stance on sanctions**. In essence, anything that could be viewed as 'continuing to do business with Russia' could potentially be problematic. Examples could include grants or commercial relationships between SG/its agencies and businesses linked to Russia; ministerial attendance at events involving businesses or others linked to Russia; or Russia-related investments by local authorities' and/or agencies' pension funds.

Please carry out such a check for your business area. Please note that this exercise is not limited to the content of the sanctions regime itself, but is aimed at any action or relationship with a link to Russia which therefore needs to be considered for consistency with SG's position on sanctions.

If in your business area you can identify any action or relationship, involving the SG directly or indirectly through its agencies, which gives rise to a **serious risk** of inconsistency, please flag this to me **by return**. An example might be a procurement relationship with a Russian firm to which an agency is contractually tied.

I would also be grateful for returns by close on **Tuesday, 1 March** summarising briefly what **actions you propose to take** to implement the FM's request, such as reviewing your business area for any links to Russia or writing to agencies to ask them to report any such links. This will enable us to give initial feedback to the FM by Wednesday.

Of course the need for consistency is not a one-off exercise. Please work on the basis that the FM wishes us to follow this approach for as long as sanctions are in place, and in particular flag up to us any serious issues whenever they come to light.

Please reply using this Subject line and to save colleagues' inboxes, do not 'Reply To All'. Nil returns would be appreciated.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]  
Trade Policy, DIT  
Scottish Government  
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[REDACTED]

#### **Document 8**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

[REDACTED],

To confirm, I have spoken to both companies now to let them know that SASA/RPID will now commence the necessary work on these exports. I also took the opportunity to inform them of the FM's/SG's view and the weakness of their argument when set against the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 March 2022 10:48  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

[REDACTED]

I intend to speak to both companies this morning to say that we are very close to a decision but we are still waiting for the FM to respond to the Minister's note of last night before we can inform the companies of our final position.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 March 2022 10:36  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia  
**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

REDACTED

Grateful for advice.

Kind regards  
**[REDACTED]**  
Private Secretary  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands  
2N.08  
St Andrews House

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 March 2022 19:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia  
**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

Please find attached a note from Ms McAllan regarding the potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

**[REDACTED]** | Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Land Reform -  
Màiri McAllan  
The Scottish Government | Web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) |[REDACTED]

#### **Document 14**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:47 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: SASA Letter

Hi [REDACTED]  
Thanks, I assumed you would say that but just wanted to check.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 May 2022 17:31  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: SASA Letter

Hi [REDACTED]

I am not aware of any other case where there has been an approach by a company seeking compensation because the SG's actions (or inaction) allegedly caused it to incur losses.

More widely, SG took a firm position that where companies did the 'right thing' morally speaking, by heeding Kate Forbes' request and voluntarily severing links with Russia, SG would not offer compensation. We did say we might help in other ways Eg by helping companies find alternative markets for their exports (Scott could prob give a more exhaustive description if that would help). My understanding is that there have been exceedingly few if any approaches to SG by companies on the subject of compensation relating to their voluntary actions.

(REDACTED)

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Director, Trade Policy  
Scottish Government  
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
Pronouns: he/him  
Tel (mobile) 07747 643046

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 May 2022 17:03  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: SASA Letter

[REDACTED] – I don't know the answer to this but sending on to colleagues who may be able to help before [REDACTED] comes back on Monday.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 May 2022 12:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: SASA Letter

Hi [REDACTED]

I got [REDACTED] out of office and was hoping you might be able to answer my question below? Not a problem if this has to wait for his return.... I thought I would ask.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 May 2022 12:12  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: SASA Letter

Hi [REDACTED]

I was writing to ask if there was a view across govt. with regards industries that have incurred losses due to the loss of trade with Russia. You can see from the attached that this is not a straightforward case as the exporter contests that due to delays in the issuance of the necessary documentation they incurred losses due to their exports missing a window of opportunity. As a consequence they believe they are entitled to compensation. (REDACTED) but I was really just writing to enquire on the general point, our approach to industries that have suffered losses due to this trade route effectively closing. Do you know or has the SG ever provided any financial support to industries that have incurred losses due to the lost trade with Russia, due to ongoing conflict in Ukraine? Should stress I am not seeking funds here, just want to know if this has ever been done.

REDACTED

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 May 2022 12:30  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SASA Letter

Good Afternoon ,

Please find attached a reply from ourselves in relation to the e/mail, letter sent from SASA, on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Please feel free to call me either any time today, or tomorrow after the SASA export meeting .

I am busy prior to this with internal zoom calls and an offsite meeting locally.

Many thanks in anticipation of your efforts

[REDACTED]

## Document 15

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 31 March 2022 09:19

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: seed potato exports to Russia - update - COMMERCIAL SENSITIVE

Hi [REDACTED]

Ms McAllan has noted the update below. The Minister has highlighted the discussions last week that we should continue doing all we can to support the producers to find alternative markets.

Grateful if you can please consider the comments from Ms McAllan.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [Active Travel and Tenants' Rights – Patrick Harvie](#)  
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 30 March 2022 16:05

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** seed potato exports to Russia - update - COMMERCIAL SENSITIVE

Hi [REDACTED]

This is to provide Ms McAllan with a brief update on the two Scottish companies ([REDACTED] and Solana) who have been exporting seed potatoes to Russia, following our meeting on 24 March where I mentioned to the Minister the emerging media reports that [REDACTED] were cancelling their remaining orders for shipment to Russia from the two growers, and she asked for further details on various points as covered below.

Colleagues have been in touch with both [REDACTED] and Solana who have confirmed that REDACTED have indeed cancelled orders from them that hadn't yet

been despatched/were in the process of despatch. With [REDACTED] cancelling their orders, this leaves only a small proportion of Solana's shipments to Russia which are for other customers remaining in progress and requiring issue of phytosanitary certificates by SG.

We are not party to the commercial agreement between [REDACTED] or Solana, but media reports say that [REDACTED] stated that the Scottish potato growers will be fully compensated and will not end up out of pocket. We understand they are looking for an alternative use for those potatoes outside Russia, but at this stage that is likely to be difficult to arrange. Conditions on the ground in Ukraine, and the fact that these are varieties for crisp production, are likely to make that option unviable.

From colleagues' discussion with Solana (a German company) it appears that [REDACTED] cancellation is also likely to apply to their orders from other European countries which have been exporting seed potatoes to Russia – France, Netherlands and Germany – although this is unconfirmed. Feedback from Solana is that exports to Russia from those countries for other customers are otherwise continuing, with certification by the relevant national authorities.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | SASA Policy and Pesticides Survey Unit | The Scottish Government |  
Mobile: [REDACTED]

## Document 16

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 12:35 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: SASA Letter - Russia

Dear [REDACTED]

Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I have set out our response in the attached letter.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **SASA**  
**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**  
**The Scottish Government**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 June 2022 09:14  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: SASA Letter - Russia

Good morning, [REDACTED]

Following on from my last correspondence sent to you on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May and after your reply sent back to me on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May I was enquiring as to whether there had been any further developments, in terms of the Scottish government, their involvement and the consequent restrictions, imposed on us in sending Scottish seed potatoes to Russia.

The delay from the SASA department in issuing labels and Phyto-sanitary certificates stopped us with our proceedings for over two weeks. We were then unable to send Scottish seed potatoes to Russia.

We have our annual conference in Leipzig coming up at the end of the month and I will be asked then as to what if any developments may have materialised during this visit.

This is why I have copied in my German colleague REDACTED.

We are particularly concerned now that the actions taken by the Scottish government did not in any way influence or affect the action of President Putin and instead aided and abetted our ex-EU compatriots instead. They appear to have supplied seed when we were delayed in doing so. The Scottish growers are very aware of these actions too and whilst they have sympathy for us as Solana they still need to be compensated.

Our request for compensation is merely to try and mitigate the losses of the Scottish growers and our own losses -not trying to cover any loss of profit.

We need to discuss this as the pressure is escalating from the Scottish growers regarding their losses .

Please can you forward any update in progress, or can we arrange a teams or zoom meeting to discuss all of this issue in greater depth.

Many thanks in anticipation of your efforts.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] **Sent:** 25 May 2022 11:49  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: SASA Letter

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter which I acknowledge receipt of. We will need some time to consider the points you raise and I will be back in touch with you in due course.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **SASA**  
**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**  
**The Scottish Government**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 May 2022 12:30  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SASA Letter

Good Afternoon ,

Please find attached a reply from ourselves in relation to the e/mail, letter sent from SASA, on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Please feel free to call me either any time today, or tomorrow after the SASA export meeting .

I am busy prior to this with internal zoom calls and an offsite meeting locally.

Many thanks in anticipation of your efforts

[REDACTED]

### **Document 17**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 4, 2022 9:01 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Russia- request for written confirmation on Scottish label restriction to Russia.

Hi [REDACTED]

When I spoke to [REDACTED] yesterday morning, I informed her at present we could not print labels for Russia as due to the current conflict, the matter was being discussed at a far higher level than myself. I did also mention (but I believe she already knew this) that we were currently unable to print for Russia via the SPUDS system.

It is all most unfortunate and with it being a food related export, a tricky situation for ministers, a case of dammed if they do and dammed if they don't.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 03 March 2022 12:49

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Russia- request for written confirmation on Scottish label restriction to Russia.

Hi [REDACTED]

See the attached, this is a fast moving and delicate situation so just to be clear should this come up again our line should be.....

We are seeking views from Scottish Ministers as to how we should handle exports to Russia during the conflict in the Ukraine, this make take a few days to sort out. Until we hear how Scottish Ministers wish us to proceed we will be pausing the issuing of labels, phytosanitary certificates etc. for this short period. We hope to give further clarity within a week.

I will respond back to Solana along these lines.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 03 March 2022 12:35

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Fw: Russia- request for written confirmation on Scottish label restriction to Russia.

Good afternoon [REDCATED]

Following on from earlier conversation this morning and the intervention of my German colleagues, I need to be advised as to why with no advance warning REDACTED colleague has been told by your Perth Labelling office that Russia has been taken off of the SASA approved export list. She has been refused labels .

When I spoke to you yesterday in the presence of my German colleague REDACTED, we were told that Scottish Government were asking whether Scottish businesses would act on a voluntary basis in withdrawn both business transactions to or from Russia and also any business status within Russia itself. We or rather Mr Grimm went to great length to inform you of the humanitarian supply risk any sanction whether we volunteered or not would have on the country. If the Russian people do not plant potatoes this season, they stand a huge risk of not eating ware potatoes next season.

We today need a written explanation from your offices at SASA or even by Scottish government itself as to why we cannot apply for Seed Potato labels from SASA. We also need to know why we cannot receive a Phyto Sanitary certificate for shipment of these potatoes.

[REDCATED]account of what she has been told by one of your colleagues this morning is attached to this mail, for submission .

We need to ask and have written clarification fully on this point.

Regards

[REDCATED]  
Unit 4 ,  
Stody Hall Barns ,  
Stody , Melton Constable ,  
Norfolk NR24 2HP

#### **Document 19**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 4, 2022 7:49 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Russia- request for written confirmation on Scottish label restriction to Russia.

Hi [REDACTED]

Once again apologies if I misunderstood you when we spoke yesterday and to confirm I will let our Minister know you need to be clear of our position on Monday next week. I should also direct you to the [open letter](#) released by the Scottish Government yesterday urging businesses to stop trading with Russia.

I am of course happy to meet up with you and your colleagues and am free from 2PM onwards if you or one of you colleagues could send a Teams invitation.

Regards and of course, let's speak later on today

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Russia- request for written confirmation on Scottish label restriction to Russia.

Good evening, [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e mail sent earlier today.

I think that you must have misunderstood me, as I did not imply, we had 2 to 3 weeks before it became critical in the movement of these contracted seed potatoes to Russia, we instead need to know much sooner.

We would like to catch up tomorrow preferably in the afternoon to discuss more this situation we find ourselves in.

Would you be available then ?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 March 2022 13:12  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Russia- request for written confirmation on Scottish label restriction to Russia.

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email. I apologise for any confusion that may have been caused by my colleague. To be clear and as I explained to you and REDACTED when we spoke yesterday and in a subsequent follow-up call to you late afternoon, we have laid out the case to our Minister, including giving a summary of the points made by both REDACTED and yourself at our earlier meeting. Our Minister has asked for some time to reflect on all the information she needs to consider and as I said to you yesterday afternoon this may take a few days. In the meantime, we have **paused** activities with regards exports to Russia until we hear how our Minister wishes us to proceed. I understand that we have a window of 2-3 weeks before the seed must be on its way to Russia. I am confident I will be able to give further clarity to you next week, at the latest.

I appreciate how frustrating this must be for you and your customers but trust you can also appreciate this is an exceptional situation and that our Minister must also consider that the stated aim of the Scottish Government is to support Ukraine by working with Scottish businesses to reduce trade with Russia.

Regards and rest assured I will be in touch with you directly once we hear back from our Minister.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **SASA**  
**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**  
**The Scottish Government**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 March 2022 12:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Russia- request for written confirmation on Scottish label restriction to Russia.

Good afternoon[REDACTED]

Following on from earlier conversation this morning and the intervention of my German colleagues, I need to be advised as to why with no advance warning REDACTED my colleague has been told by your Perth Labelling office that Russia has been taken off of the SASA approved export list. She has been refused labels .

When I spoke to you yesterday in the presence of my German colleague REDACTED, we were told that Scottish Government were asking whether Scottish businesses would act on a voluntary basis in withdrawn both business transactions to or from Russia and also any business status within Russia itself. We or rather REDACTED to great length to inform you of the humanitarian supply risk any sanction whether we volunteered or not would have on the country. If the Russian people do not plant potatoes this season, they stand a huge risk of not eating ware potatoes next season.

We today need a written explanation from your offices at SASA or even by Scottish government itself as to why we cannot apply for Seed Potato labels from SASA. We also need to know why we cannot receive a Phyto Sanitary certificate for shipment of these potatoes.

[REDACTED] account of what she has been told by one of your colleagues this morning is attached to this mail, for submission .

We need to ask and have written clarification fully on this point.

Regards

[REDACTED]

## Document 20

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 8:49 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Russia and Belarus - Seed Potato Exports

[REDACTED]

Just keeping you in the picture..... REDACT

REDACTED

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 17:55  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Russia and Belarus - Seed Potato Exports

Thanks – REDACT

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 17:49  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Russia and Belarus - Seed Potato Exports

Hi [REDACTED]

Scotland exports around 260,000 tonnes of seed potatoes annually, so this is a small amount. It is significant however because we have been trying to reopen this market after it closed when Russia originally invaded eastern Ukraine back in 2014, and the Russian's imposed counter sanctions on EU exporters (as we were then) after the EU introduced sanctions against Russia. This trade is also significant to the companies concerned because they are still feeling the pain of losing the EU market on EU exit. When my colleagues are back online tomorrow I'll let you know as a percentage of these companies total export business what this will represent, but the value of this material is likely to be around £1.5M. I also suspect it will be individual growers rather than the companies themselves that will bear the brunt of this. Just for info, these potatoes were grown under contract by Scottish growers and were being exported to the [REDACTED] Russian operation to ultimately feed into domestic crisp production there.

REDACTED The issue is pressing for us as we would actually be issuing labels tomorrow if this was to go ahead. To confirm though, I have paused this until REDACTED on what our options are but we probably only have to the end of the week to decide how we will deal with this.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 17:10  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Russia and Belarus - Seed Potato Exports

Doing three things:

- (1) Changing the subject of this so that it is not just one of 100s of e-mails called 'Russia'
- (2) [REDACTED] – have you any sense whether these potential exports are (i) new contracts the companies are pursuing rather than contractual obligations they are fulfilling; and (ii) whether 3000 tonnes is a very small/small/large/very large quantity of seed potatoes relative to the overall scale of these two companies – is it, for example, 1%/10%/50% of their turnover?
- (3) If we can't help them with compensation can we (or someone else) help them find substitute markets? Eg when Russian sanctions prevented sale of mackerel to Russia in 2014 we helped mackerel producers sell to Japan.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 16:43  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks, REDACTED. Depending on what we get back we can also try and persuade the companies themselves not to pursue these exports but suspect they will be quickly back asking for compensation. We'll keep you posted as this develops....

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 16:25  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi [REDACTED], I touched on this just now in the SGORR(O). I'm afraid I need to rush away at 1630 to collect a prescription. Copying Richard in as this looks quite significant.



My gut feeling is:

FM would view this as in the sensitive category.

- REDACTED
- REDACTED
- Maybe a quick analysis of what options SG has followed by a ministerial submission setting out those options and seeking a decision REDACTED

Does that help? In my new vision for the Sanctions bit of the daily SGORR ministerial brief I would see this is the 'specific sanctions-related issues' section owned by individual policy teams rather than the 'sanctions overview' section which my team will supply.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Scottish Government  
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
Pronouns: he/him  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 12:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: RE: Russia and Belarus

[REDACTED] Would you have any availability today for a call on this issue? [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 11:49  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

[REDACTED]  
At first sight this falls squarely in the territory set out by [REDACTED] in his note of earlier today. The fact that this is a prospective new trade (in seed potatoes) suggests that it could be controversial.

Redacted

Please could you explore the matter with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy,  
The Scottish Government,  
REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 11:31  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi [REDACTED] See below. What would you advise we do? I presume we'll have to stop this but the exporters will be pretty quickly on our backs. [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 11:27  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi [REDACTED]

I have 2 exporters (Solana and [REDACTED]) trying to export at the moment. In total there will be in the region of 3000 tonnes. Unfortunately I'm quite heavily involved as there has to be official notification from SASA to RKN (Russian department of agriculture) and I am in the middle of getting various documents translated.

REDACTED

[REDACTED]  
**SASA**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 10:49  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi,

Do you know if any of our seed producers are trying to get seed exports into the above? We're probably going to be asked to dissuade them from doing this if they are.

[REDACTED] **SASA**  
**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**  
**The Scottish Government**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

## Document 21

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 10:00 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Rough Notes for today's meetings with Solana and Saltire

Minister,

Sorry these are a bit rough but in the time available hopefully they will suffice.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**SASA**

**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**

**The Scottish Government**

Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK

[REDACTED]

## ATTACHMENT

### **Briefing Notes for Meetings with [REDACTED] regarding seed potato exports to Russia (7/3/22)**

#### **GENERAL POINTS:**

- The Scottish Government has a long history of supporting the Scottish seed potato sector
- SASA, a Division of the Scottish Government works closely with the industry to maintain standards and provide technical support to open up new markets.
- The Scottish Government has been pushing UKG hard to find ways to re-establish trade with the EU (& NI) since EU exit.
- The Scottish Government is a major funder of R&D into potato innovation and last year announced £2.2M funding for a 5-year programme to improve our management of PCN
- With the loss of AHDB the Scottish Government is actively pursuing planning to ensure vital services are not lost, such as providing funding to establish a storage research facility at the James Hutton Institute, and also to provide stop-gap funding to maintain disease surveillance activities such as fight against blight and aphid monitoring.

- It also intends to explore ways it can promote Scottish seed exports and will work closely with development agencies to ensure we can identify and establish trade with new markets and provide a national marketing campaign for our seed potatoes.

**Briefing notes for meeting with [REDACTED] (10:30 7/3/22)**

**On the call:**

[REDACTED]

**Background:**

[REDACTED] breeds, produces and distributes seed potatoes Worldwide. Throughout the company's history it has bred resistant, high-yielding varieties and has supplied seed to a range of markets and end uses (processing, immediate consumption, etc.). Their range comprises around 60 different varieties. The company is headquartered in Germany but have their own subsidiary companies in a number of regions around the World and owns farms in eight different countries, and is represented by sales offices in a further 23 countries.

REDACT

**Overview:**

REDACTED. They recognise they may never receive payment for the seed but believe they have a duty to their Russian operation (which they wish to maintain and grow), their employees there and the ultimate consumers of the potatoes. They believe they should not get involved in politics and that they have a duty to carry on working as they are an important contributor to food security in the region. They are also clear that other parts of their business in the EU are continuing to export to Russia at this time.

It is not clear the nature of the contracts the company has with its Scottish growers though it is likely that should this export fall through to Russia Scottish growers may take the biggest hit.

**[REDACTED, OUT OF SCOPE]**

**Overview:**

REDACT

**Document 24**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 1:49 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Solana Varieties

Hi [REDACTED],

No they are two different grades because Russia have requested 40t S grade and I was planning on taking it from the same Verdi stock as REDACTED has a lot of Verdi.

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 February 2022 13:42  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Solana Varieties

Hi [REDACTED]

Should the two different grades of Verdi from REDACTED be the same grade?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 February 2022 10:32  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Solana Varieties

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached a revised excel sheet showing the stock numbers for the Russian order. The only one that is subject to change is the Opal Kincaigie stock, some of this tonnage may have to come from one of the other Opal stocks that are listed on this sheet because there's a higher level of scab than I would like in the Kincaigie stock so it might not grade out with the tonnage I need.

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 2:03 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Solana Varieties

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached a copy of the varieties and farms we are sending seed from.

ATTACHMENT REDACTED

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Document 25**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 2:37 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fw: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Hi [REDACTED] ,

Thank you for your e mail.

Ok so in terms of the documentation - the Argus Fito has been given to us by the Russian authorities, which we have in turn have handed over to you as our contact/representative of SASA.

This e mail confirms that in terms of this documentation we accept commercial liability in respect of the consignments being dispatched to Russia without confirmation of clearance.

We must point out that passage of these potatoes has been delayed by one week to date due to the pause in proceedings of allowing labels and Phyto sanitary certificates.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:22 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the information. Unfortunately as I have no familiarity with the Argus phyto system and cannot read Russian I am not in a position to verify the screenshots meaning. I have forwarded to colleagues in the embassy to confirm that it gives clearance for import. However, as previously discussed, if Solana is certain that clearance is given on the system please confirm that Solana accepts commercial responsibility for this interpretation and SASA will authorise issuing of phytosanitary certificates prior to any official confirmation.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 March 2022 10:44  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fw: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Good morning, [REDACTED]

Following on from our conversation a little while ago, please find below the screen shot of the Argus Phyto document as sent by [REDACTED].

I would like to think this documentation would be suffice to assure SASA of the acceptance required for clearance of export and of the intentions of the Russians to import.

Please could you advise me of this being the case .

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

---

From: REDACTED

Sent: 09 March 2022 10:17  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: WG: WG: Exports to Russia

The screenshots from Argus Phyto. They are 10 minutes old

Von: REDACTED>  
Betreff: Re: WG: Exports to Russia

Hallo REDACTED  
Hier sind Screenshots von Argus Phyto für UK. Alles ist grün.

ATTACHMENTS REDACTED

09.03.2022 12:40, REDACTED пишет:

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 March 2022 09:34  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Exports to Russia

Good morning [REDACTED]

As you are aware SASA has notified the Russian authorities of Solana's export plans as required by RKN. These notifications have to be approved by Russia before they are cleared for import. Unfortunately, SASA have no access to the system which shows consignments are cleared for export and hence I have asked the British Embassy in Moscow to update me when this happens. Due to the current political climate I am concerned that embassy staff may be some time in responding to these requests although, from previous conversations with Solana, I understand that you already believe that your export consignments are already cleared. Therefore, exceptionally and due to the time pressures involved, SASA is prepared to issue the necessary phytosanitary certificates to enable Solana consignments be dispatched to Russia without confirmation of clearance. However, before this can happen, I will require written acceptance of commercial liability with regard to this. An email is acceptable.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

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or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

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--

С уважением / Mit freundlichen Grüßen  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 26**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:34 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Exports to Russia

Good morning [REDACTED]

As you are aware SASA has notified the Russian authorities of Solana's export plans as required by RKN. These notifications have to be approved by Russia before they are cleared for import. Unfortunately, SASA have no access to the system which shows consignments are cleared for export and hence I have asked the British Embassy in Moscow to update me when this happens. Due to the current political climate I am concerned that embassy staff may be some time in responding to these requests although, from previous conversations with Solana, I understand that you already believe that your export consignments are already cleared. Therefore, exceptionally and due to the time pressures involved, SASA is prepared to issue the necessary phytosanitary certificates to enable Solana consignments be dispatched to Russia without confirmation of clearance. However, before this can happen, I will require written acceptance of commercial liability with regard to this. An email is acceptable.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 27**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 12:38 PM

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Solana UK - SASA paperwork reference number?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 February 2022 12:01  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Solana UK - SASA paperwork reference number?

Hi [REDACTED],  
I'm also not shure, what was this number for. The confirmed requests from the last year all have different numbers.  
But probably it is the number of the very first request, where I just put Solana UK as growing and loading place. After that I had to change it and to make requests for each certain loading place.  
Anyway, please find attached my new requests for this season. SASA can use these numbers for their paperwork.  
Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

11.02.2022 13:36, [REDACTED]:  
Morning [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at SASA is just completing some paperwork which he is hoping to send out later today.  
Last year on the Attached document there was a number quoted - 434579- we are not sure what this number is for and if there is another number that he must quote on his years paperwork?  
I look forward to hearing from you.  
Regards  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

С уважением / Mit freundlichen Grüßen  
[REDACTED]  
**Document 28**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:20 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Russia  
Sensitivity: Private

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see the attached. These are all we have done so far.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 2:13 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Russia

Afternoon all

Please could you send me the numbers of any phytos issued for Russia up to now. There appear to be problems on the horizon with Russia querying the authenticity of phytos.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

**Document 29**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 3:27 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Sensitive: Russia

All

Please be aware that no labels or phytos should be produced or tuber inspections done for potatoes destined for Russia until further notice. SPUDS has had Russia disabled as a destination for the avoidance of mistakes.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 30**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 3:18 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Sensitive: Russia

All

As a result of the current situation in Ukraine please do not issue any labels for export to Russia (Saltire and Solana) until further notice. I hope to have official clarification on this shortly but up to that point it would be as well to keep this under wraps. I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of any applications.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 31**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 2:27 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Solana - Russia

[REDACTED]

Solana first applied for labels for Russia on 28 February 2022, they made 6 applications for 150 tonnes with a date of closing of 3 March, as per your instructions we did not print these labels and to avoid any being printed in error we rejected all 6 applications on SPUDS on 2 March 2022.

REDACTED

REDACTED

In summary we inspected & passed 140 tonnes and we issued Phytos for 120 tonnes between 21 March 2022 & 20 April 2022.

It should be noted that the first 4 Phytos issued on 21 March 2020, were re-issued on 30 March due to amendments requested by Solana..

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SGRPID  
Central Area Office  
Strathearn House  
Perth  
PH1 1RX  
[REDACTED]

**Document 32**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 1:14 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Russia

[REDACTED]

For info I think Solana have been exporting in 20 tonne loads so that's 7 phytos

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 25 March 2022 12:59  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Russia

Thanks a lot [REDACTED],

Just been keeping an eye on label orders and Solana have requested 140 tonnes so far today, 50 for Inverurie and 90 for Inverness.....

[REDACTED]  
Scottish Government  
Rural Payments and Inspections Division  
(Potato Labelling Section)  
Thainstone Court  
Inverurie  
AB51 5YA  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 March 2022 12:54  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Russia

Hi [REDACTED],

As I was in the office today I have posted a handful of watermarked sheets up to you, should be enough to get by.

Thanks and have a good weekend too.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA, Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh EH12 9FJ  
[REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED] | W: [www.sasa.gov.uk](http://www.sasa.gov.uk)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 25 March 2022 10:21  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Russia

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for the update.

I spoke to REDACTED from Solana yesterday to gauge their demand for the paper. He indicated they would be doing approximately 7 loads from the Inverurie and Inverness areas. On that basis we will have enough paper, and are happy to produce the Inverness phyto if needs be.

I will however bear in mind your advice about contacting REDACT if needs be.

Kind regards and have a good weekend.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Scottish Government  
Rural Payments and Inspections Division  
(Potato Labelling Section)  
Thainstone Court  
Inverurie  
AB51 5YA  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 25 March 2022 09:57  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Russia

All

You will have no doubt seen in the press that Pepsico will no longer be exporting seed potatoes to Russia. This obviously has a severe effect on REDACTED exports as they were all destined for Pepsico in Russia. The other exporter to Russia, Solana, has confirmed today that they will continue to export to non Pepsico customers in Russia. Therefore you can expect to receive phyto requests from Solana in due course. The bulk of these potatoes will be in the Perth office area with a few loads coming out of [REDACTED] and one from [REDACTED]. I assume from yesterdays' conversations that you will have enough paper to finish these. If not contact [REDACTED] and he will get some up to Inverurie.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 33**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 3:16 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Russia

All

Please be aware that Solana have accepted commercial liability regarding the Russian clearance for entry so phytos can be produced for them as and when required.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 34**

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:38 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Hi REDACT

Thank you for the confirmation, it's much appreciated.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 10 March 2022 10:07  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Hi [REDACTED],

The screens from the Argus-Phyto system (RSK's system for import control of plants) in the email below indeed state that import is approved. Column 11 is titled "Status" and all rows are marked with "Import it allowed".

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 March 2022 14:24  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see email below and extract from Argus phyto. Please could you confirm that this states that the consignments in question are cleared for import into Russia.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
SASA



Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 March 2022 10:44  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fw: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Good morning, REDACT

Following on from our conversation a little while ago, please find below the screen shot of the Argus Phyto document as sent by REDACTED

I would like to think this documentation would be suffice to assure SASA of the acceptance required for clearance of export and of the intentions of the Russians to import.

Please could you advise me of this being the case .

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 March 2022 10:17  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: WG: WG: Exports to Russia

The screenshots from Argus Phyto. They are 10 minutes old

Von: [REDACTED]  
Gesendet: Mittwoch, 9. März 2022 11:05  
An: [REDACTED]  
Betreff: Re: WG: Exports to Russia

Hallo [REDACTED],  
Hier sind Screenshots von Argus Phyto für UK. Alles ist grün.

REDACTED

09.03.2022 12:40, [REDACTED]:

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 March 2022 09:34  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Exports to Russia

Good morning [REDACTED]

As you are aware SASA has notified the Russian authorities of Solana's export plans as required by RKN. These notifications have to be approved by Russia before they are cleared for import. Unfortunately, SASA have no access to the system which shows consignments are cleared for export and hence I have asked the British Embassy in Moscow to update me when this happens. Due to the current political climate I am concerned that embassy staff may be some time in responding to these requests although, from previous conversations with Solana, I understand that you already believe that your export consignments are already cleared. Therefore, exceptionally and due to the time pressures involved, SASA is prepared to issue the necessary phytosanitary certificates to enable Solana consignments be dispatched to Russia without confirmation of clearance. However, before this can happen, I will require written acceptance of commercial liability with regard to this. An email is acceptable.

Best regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 35**

From: [REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:07 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: DEAR COLLEAGUES. PLEASE CONFIRM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CERTIFICATE SG/141/S/21/878

Dear sir or madam

In reply to your query I can confirm that the scanned phytosanitary certificate above (SG/141/S/21/878), relating to seed potatoes exported from Scotland to the Russian Federation is authentic and has been issued by Scottish Government officials.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
SASA  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
[REDACTED]

### **Document 36**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 8:01 AM  
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: DEAR COLLEAGUES. PLEASE CONFIRM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CERTIFICATE SG/141/S/21/879

Dear sir or madam

In reply to your query I can confirm that the scanned phytosanitary certificate above (SG/141/S/21/879), relating to seed potatoes exported from Scotland to the Russian Federation is authentic and has been issued by Scottish Government officials.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

SASA

Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 March 2022 10:37

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: DEAR COLLEAGUES. PLEASE CONFIRM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CERTIFICATE SG/141/S/21/879

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 March 2022 10:32

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: DEAR COLLEAGUES. PLEASE CONFIRM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CERTIFICATE SG/141/S/21/879

DEAR COLLEAGUES. PLEASE CONFIRM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CERTIFICATE SG/141/S/21/879

[REDACTED]

### **Document 37**

All, For info., a copy of the letter sent to Solana today. Will keep you posted. Thanks!

**From: Redacted Sent:** 17 June 2022 12:35

**To: Redacted**

**Subject: RE: SASA Letter - Russia**

Dear **Redacted**,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I have set out our response in the attached letter.

Regards

**Redacted**  
**Chief Plant Health Officer for Scotland and Head of SASA**  
**SASA**  
**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**  
**The Scottish Government**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
T: +44(0)131 244 8925 | M: +44(0)7825356028  
E Redacted W: [www.sasa.gov.uk](http://www.sasa.gov.uk)

**From: Redacted**  
**Sent:** 15 June 2022 09:14  
**To: Redacted**  
**Subject:** Re: SASA Letter - Russia

Good morning, **Redacted**

Following on from my last correspondence sent to you on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May and after your reply sent back to me on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May I was enquiring as to whether there had been any further developments, in terms of the Scottish government, their involvement and the consequent restrictions, imposed on us in sending Scottish seed potatoes to Russia.

The delay from the SASA department in issuing labels and Phyto-sanitary certificates stopped us with our proceedings for over two weeks. We were then unable to send Scottish seed potatoes to Russia.

We have our annual conference in Leipzig coming up at the end of the month and I will be asked then as to what if any developments may have materialised during this visit.

This is why I have copied in my German colleague **Redacted**.

We are particularly concerned now that the actions taken by the Scottish government did not in any way influence or affect the action of President Putin and instead aided and abetted our ex-EU compatriots instead. They appear to have supplied seed when we were delayed in doing so. The Scottish growers are very aware of these actions too and whilst they have sympathy for us as Solana they still need to be compensated.

Our request for compensation is merely to try and mitigate the losses of the Scottish growers and our own losses -not trying to cover any loss of profit.

We need to discuss this as the pressure is escalating from the Scottish growers regarding their losses .

Please can you forward any update in progress, or can we arrange a teams or zoom meeting to discuss all of this issue in greater depth.

Many thanks in anticipation of your efforts.

**Redacted**  
Solana Seeds UK Ltd

---

**From: Redacted**  
**Sent:** 25 May 2022 11:49  
**To: Redacted**  
**Subject:** RE: SASA Letter

Dear **Redacted**,

Thank you for your letter which I acknowledge receipt of. We will need some time to consider the points you raise and I will be back in touch with you in due course.

Regards

**Redacted**

**Chief Plant Health Officer for Scotland and Head of SASA**  
**SASA**  
**Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy**  
**The Scottish Government**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
**Redacted**  
**E: Redacted** | **W: [www.sasa.gov.uk](http://www.sasa.gov.uk)**

**From: Redacted**  
**Sent:** 24 May 2022 12:30  
**To: Redacted**  
**Subject:** SASA Letter

Good Afternoon ,

Please find attached a reply from ourselves in relation to the e/mail, letter sent from SASA, on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Please feel free to call me either any time today, or tomorrow after the SASA export meeting .

I am busy prior to this with internal zoom calls and an offsite meeting locally.

Many thanks in anticipation of your efforts

**Redacted**

Solana Seeds UK Ltd

**Document 38**

Hi **Redacted**

Thanks for that. I'll make sure the area offices are informed so there should be no delays in issuing documentation.

Regards

**Redacted**

**SPCS and Export Manager**

**SASA**

Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK

**T: + Redacted**

**E: Redacted** | **W: [www.sasa.gov.uk](http://www.sasa.gov.uk)**

**From: Redacted**

**Sent:** 09 March 2022 14:37

**To: Redacted**

**Subject:** Fw: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Hi **Redacted**,

Thank you for your e mail.

Ok so in terms of the documentation - the Argus Fito has been given to us by the Russian authorities, which we have in turn have handed over to you as our contact/representative of SASA.

This e mail confirms that in terms of this documentation we accept commercial liability in respect of the consignments being dispatched to Russia without confirmation of clearance.

We must point out that passage of these potatoes has been delayed by one week to date due to the pause in proceedings of allowing labels and Phyto sanitary certificates.

Best Regards

**Redacted**

Solana Seeds UK Ltd

---

**From: Redacted**

**Sent:** 09 March 2022 11:22

**To: Redacted**

**Subject:** RE: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Dear **Redacted**

Thank you for the information. Unfortunately as I have no familiarity with the Argus phyto system and cannot read Russian I am not in a position to verify the screenshots meaning. I have forwarded to colleagues in the embassy to confirm that it gives clearance for import. However, as previously discussed, if Solana is certain that clearance is given on the system please confirm that Solana accepts commercial responsibility for this interpretation and SASA will authorise issuing of phytosanitary certificates prior to any official confirmation.

Best regards

**Redacted**

**SPCS and Export Manager**

**SASA**

Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK

**T: + Redacted**

**E Redacted** | **W:** [www.sasa.gov.uk](http://www.sasa.gov.uk)

**From: Redacted**

**Sent:** 09 March 2022 10:44

**To: Redacted**

**Subject:** Fw: WG: Exports to Russia - Argus Phyto document

Good morning, **Redacted**

Following on from our conversation a little while ago, please find below the screen shot of the Argus Phyto document as sent by **Redacted**.

I would like to think this documentation would be suffice to assure SASA of the acceptance required for clearance of export and of the intentions of the Russians to import.

Please could you advise me of this being the case .

Many thanks

**Redacted** Managing Director

Solana Seeds UK Ltd

**Redacted**

---

**From:** Redacted  
**Sent:** 09 March 2022 10:17  
**To:** Redacted  
**Subject:** WG: WG: Exports to Russia

The screenshots from Argus Phyto. They are 10 minutes old

**Von:** Redacted  
**Gesendet:** Mittwoch, 9. März 2022 11:05  
**An:** Redacted  
**Betreff:** Re: WG: Exports to Russia

Hallo Redacted,  
Hier sind Screenshots von Argus Phyto für UK. Alles ist grün.

Redacted  
Redacted  
09.03.2022 12:40, Redacted пишет:

---

**From:** Redacted  
**Sent:** 09 March 2022 09:34  
**To:** Redacted  
**Subject:** Exports to Russia

Good morning Redacted

As you are aware SASA has notified the Russian authorities of Solana's export plans as required by RKN. These notifications have to be approved by Russia before they are cleared for import. Unfortunately, SASA have no access to the system which shows consignments are cleared for export and hence I have asked the British Embassy in Moscow to update me when this happens. Due to the current political climate I am concerned that embassy staff may be some time in responding to these requests although, from previous conversations with Solana, I understand that you already believe that your export consignments are already cleared. Therefore, exceptionally and due to the time pressures involved, SASA is prepared to issue the necessary phytosanitary certificates to enable Solana consignments be dispatched to Russia without confirmation of clearance. However, before this can happen, I will require written acceptance of commercial liability with regard to this. An email is acceptable.

Best regards

Redacted  
**SPCS and Export Manager**  
**SASA**  
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK  
**T:** + Redacted  
**E:** Redacted | **W:** [www.sasa.gov.uk](http://www.sasa.gov.uk)



## Document 39

Extract from Horticulture Roundtable meeting briefing for Minister – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### SEED POTATO EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

#### Lines to take

- **NOTE: COMMS REDACTED IS HOLDING OFF PROVIDING LINES UNTIL WE HAVE CLARITY ON HOW MINISTERS WISH TO PROCEED**
- The position of Scottish Ministers is clear, Scottish Businesses should cease trading in Russia to show support and solidarity with the people of Ukraine.
- Scottish Ministers are aware that there are seed potato shipments which were originally intended for shipment to Russia.
- Ms McAllan spoke with the businesses involved on 7 March to urge them to consider whether this trade is now appropriate.
- Separate Ministerial consideration of the issue is ongoing.
- Scottish Ministers also recognise the difficult period the seed potato sector is going through at present as a result of the impact that EU exit and the pandemic has had on business.

#### **Background**

Two companies are going through the statutory process with the Scottish Government, in relation to inspection and official controls to allow the export of 3,050 tonnes of seed potatoes to Russia (which equates with £1.5M in income).

#### REDACT

Scottish Government Officials and the Minister for Environment and Land Reform have encouraged both companies to stop these exports. One of the companies has been unwilling to comply.

The issue is significant as it requires Scottish Government officials to liaise with the Russian authorities, and to inspect and issue the necessary paperwork in order for this trade to proceed.

Due to the perishable nature of the shipment and time pressures that require the seed potatoes to be in Russia in time for planting April 2022, advice from Ministers has been sought (4/3/2022).

One of the companies concerned has informed SG they will seek legal advice if they miss this export opportunity and have stated that they must know by 7/3/2022 if the necessary work can be carried out by officials.

Farmers Guardian and NFUS are aware of this issue and have already enquired as to what the Scottish Government intends to do.

## Document 40

Hi REDACTED,

Many thanks indeed, just to check my understanding of a few things below with a view to us giving the Minister an update shortly (or to help in dealing with FMQ etc queries this week) – the figures are especially likely to need correcting since drawn from various earlier emails and I'm not sure if some of the numbers might overlap or have changed. REDACTED mentioned that you and she had a query today through Defra about the authenticity of the certificates issued so far – might be helpful for the three of us to have a word tomorrow if responding would involve contact with the authorities there, given the sensitivities?

Update for checking:

REDACTED

Of the REDACT and Solana shipments from Scotland to Russia, the quantities which have been or are in the process of being shipped are as follows:

REDACTED

REDACTED has informed us that some of their shipments are for customers other than REDACTED and that they still intend to proceed with these. This would result in a total Solana shipment to Russia of 500t [or should that be 350 plus 500?]

With PepsiCo cancelling their orders, this leaves only a small proportion of Solana's shipments to Russia remaining in progress and requiring issue of phytosanitary certificates by SG.

REDACTED

No seed potato exports to Russia had been planned from other parts of the UK; other European countries exporting seed potatoes to Russia include France, Netherlands and Germany. Feedback from Solana (a German company) is that exports from those countries are continuing, with certification by the relevant national authorities.

Many thanks indeed,

REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 09:51

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: Briefing on seed potato exports

Hi REDACTED

I'm just off the phone to the second company exporting to Russia (Solana). They inform me that although some of their potatoes were destined for REDACTED some are also destined for other customers. They fully intend to carry on exporting to those customers for as long as they are able and envisage a total of approx. 500 tonnes to be exported to Russia. They have been a little slow off the mark so the bulk of this is still to be exported.

As Solana is a German company they were also able to update me on the state of play in the EU. Exports of seed potatoes are continuing apace from the main countries to numerous Russian customers although it is suspected the Pepsico ban will apply there as well.

Regards

REDACTED

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 09:22

**To:** REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Briefing on seed potato exports

Thanks REDACTED and thanks for clarifying, I didn't realise they were both for REDACTED, so all of this makes a bit more sense!

**From:** REDACTED

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 09:15

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: Briefing on seed potato exports

Hi REDACTED

There were only 2 companies exporting from Scotland. As far as I am aware they had the same customer (Pepsico) who have now stopped the exports. I am about to call the second company and will get back to you with any updates.

REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 09:02

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: Briefing on seed potato exports

Hello,

I'm the only policy person in today, so I'm afraid if we get any enquiries today it will be me dealing with it and I've not been very close to this.

Can I check then, are you both saying below that no companies are sending any seed potatoes to Russia?

Thanks

REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED

**Sent:** 25 March 2022 08:10

**To:** REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Briefing on seed potato exports

REDACTED

I've answered your questions below.

REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED

**Sent:** 24 March 2022 18:27

**REDACTED**

Hi all,

I updated the Minister just now on the latest news on the seed potato exports, and she was keen to find out more about the following – any info you have on any of those (or can readily find out) would be much appreciated and I can put an update together on Monday:

REDACTED

- Do we know what other companies are currently doing (e.g. whether growers in England/EU countries still exporting)?

Scotland was the only UK country exporting to Russia. Exports have been taking place from France, Netherlands and Germany. As above, I don't know what the situation is now.

- Is there any way we can support the two growers in finding alternative markets for the cancelled shipments (and in particular is there any potential to support growers in REDACTED

Many thanks indeed,

REDACTED

## **DOCUMENT 41**

First Minister,

### **Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia**

Noting your response to yesterday's advice, I have undertaken further activity to establish what, if anything, is doable on this matter.

I probed the legal position, and colleagues confirmed two keys points:

1. That it would be unlawful for officials not to fulfil their various statutory inspection and certification duties in relation to seed potatoes presented for export; and
2. That we could not amend the devolved law which obliges officials to undertake these checks because this would pertain to a reserved purpose (i.e., sanctions).

With this in mind, I spoke with both companies separately, pressing the moral position, and reiterating our strong expectation (as set out in Ms Forbes' note) that organisations divest from Russia. I stressed that the more stringent and coordinated our approach the greater the impact on the Russian regime.

While I believe our argument resonated with the companies, they mooted a counter moral argument that potatoes are likely to provide sustenance for ordinary Russians and not Putin and his associates.

However, ultimately, both companies' main contention was that, neither UK nor EU countries were legally restricting the export of foodstuffs, including potato products, to Russia in the way we were asking them to voluntarily desist. They understood this was not part of the formal UK sanctions regime and so ultimately could not be enforced by Scottish government.

I stressed the possibility of food items being included in future, formal sanctions (noting reports that Putin is instructing broad restrictions on fertiliser exports) and secondly, stressed the strong public feeling about the need for concerted action (from individuals, governments and businesses alike) to assist Ukraine.

On that note, I enquired about provision of seed to Ukraine and both companies indicated their ongoing commitment to try to deliver contracts, with one of the companies (Solana) indicating that they remain in close contact with Ukrainian customers and want to help them receive and deliver their supply. With Ukrainian food security in mind, I offered the Scottish Government's assistance with delivering consignments to Ukraine.

Scotland's seed potato sector is significant -the second biggest exporter in Europe, after the Netherlands. It is one of Scotland's agriculture's success stories and has developed a global brand and reputation for quality and innovation which has taken decades to establish. However, the industry is suffering due to the overnight loss of the EU market (after EU Exit) and the impact of the pandemic. The loss of the Russian market could have far-reaching consequences for both businesses and the Scottish seed growers that supply them. Throughout the Brexit process, we have established good relationships with producers and I and the Rural Affairs Secretary are now taking forward long-term work to help establish growth and trade.

Due to the perishable nature of the consignment and time pressures that require the seed to be in Russia in time for planting April 2022, both companies are seeking assurance from us today (7/3/22) that officials will carry out the necessary checks and provide the paperwork to allow these exports to take place. In the circumstances, despite having pressed our moral argument, I do not see that we have any alternative option than to proceed.

I appreciate this is not the desired outcome, but is the result of having reached the limits of our legal powers.

Yours sincerely,

**MMc**

**Document 42**

---

**From:** REDACTED On Behalf Of First Minister

**Sent:** 08 March 2022 10:59:29 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

**To:** First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands; Minister for Environment and Land Reform; Saddler G (SASA)

**Cc:** REDACTED, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport; Lord Advocate; Solicitor General; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity; DG REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

Additionally, and with specific regards to the line While I believe our argument resonated with the companies, they mooted a counter moral argument that potatoes are likely to provide sustenance for ordinary Russians and not Putin and his associates.

in the Minister's note – FM stressed that if that was to be the test more broadly, then no sanctions would be applied at all.

Thanks,  
REDACTED

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

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



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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**From:** REDACTED **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** 08 March 2022 10:55

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <[CabSecRAI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRAI@gov.scot)>; Minister for Environment and Land Reform <[MinisterELR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterELR@gov.scot)>; REDACTED First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

All,

Coming back on this chain given it's the most recent update. REDACTED However, FM would like it made clear to the companies just how dimly we view this, and also how threadbare their arguments are in light of the death and destruction being witnessed in Ukraine.

Thanks,  
REDACTED

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

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



Office of the First Minister of Scotland  
**FirstMinister.gov.scot**  
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**From:** REDACTED **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

**Sent:** 08 March 2022 10:36

**To:** Minister for Environment and Land Reform <[MinisterELR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterELR@gov.scot)>;  
REDACTED, First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** REDACTED, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <[CabSecRAI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRAI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <[CabSecNetZET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNetZET@gov.scot)>; Lord Advocate <[LordAdvocate@gov.scot](mailto:LordAdvocate@gov.scot)>; Solicitor General <[SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot](mailto:SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot)>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <[MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot)>; REDACTED < NT - Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

**Importance:** High

REDACTED

See attached received by Ms Gougeon from NFUS.

Grateful for advice.

Kind regards

**REDACTED**

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

2N.08

St Andrews House

REDACTED

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

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

**From:** REDACTED <[REDACTED](#)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform

**Sent:** 07 March 2022 19:50

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

**Cc:** REDACTED Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <[CabSecRAI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRAI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <[CabSecNetZET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNetZET@gov.scot)>; Lord Advocate <[LordAdvocate@gov.scot](mailto:LordAdvocate@gov.scot)>; Solicitor General <[SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot](mailto:SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot)>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <[MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot)>; REDACTED

**Subject:** URGENT -Note to FM - Potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia

**Importance:** High

PS / First Minister,

Please find attached a note from Ms McAllan regarding the potential supply of Scottish seed potato to Russia.

Many thanks

**Document 43**

Minister for Environment and Land Reform

## **SEED POTATO EXPORTS TO RUSSIA**

### **Purpose**

12. To inform you that:

- Two companies are going through the statutory process with the Scottish Government, in relation to inspection and official controls to allow the export of 3,050 tonnes of seed potatoes to Russia (which equates with £1.5M in income).
- REDACTED
- Short of the companies voluntarily stopping these exports, the only alternative action open to us would be to ask the UK Government to include seed potatoes or food and agricultural products within the UK sanctions.
- Due to time pressures, the need to start the export process in order to get the seed to Russia in time for planting and the perishable nature of this shipment,



it is likely that including agricultural products within UK sanctions will come too late for this issue.

## Priority

### 13. Urgent

## Background

14. After the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia many nations across the world have imposed severe economic sanctions on Russia. The Scottish Government has supported the strict implementation of sanctions and has yesterday (3/3/2022) published an open letter calling on Scottish businesses to stop trade and investment activity with Russian businesses.
15. Scotland exports approximately 260,000 tonnes of seed potatoes annually to a large number of countries World-wide. The Scottish seed potato sector has come through a particularly damaging period as a result of EU Exit and the impact of the pandemic on both the hospitality sector and international trade. As a result of EU exit the EU (and Northern Ireland, who must comply with the EU's plant health regime) have banned the importation of seed potatoes from GB. Numerous attempts to negotiate a reopening of these markets have thus far met with failure, resulting in the loss of markets which previously imported roughly 30,000 tonnes of Scottish seed potatoes each year. The lack of availability of containers and shipping resulted in delays causing the final shipment of the season to Egypt being rejected by the authorities there and additional losses for the sector.
16. Russia is a small but emerging market for Scottish seed potatoes. Against the backdrop of our statutory obligations SASA is in the process of liaising with the Russian authorities and is required to carry out the necessary phytosanitary (plant health) inspections and issue the documentation to facilitate export.
  - a. **Solana**, a German owned company but with offices in Forfar is seeking to export 1,000 tonnes.
  - b. **REDACTED** a Scottish farmers' cooperative with its HQ in Aberdeen is seeking to export 2,050 tonnes

Russia has a particularly complicated import process for seed potatoes. Officials from the exporting country must formally notify the Russian authorities (Rosselkhoznadzor) of intended exports. These details are also entered by the importer on a Russian Government IT system. Both submissions must match in order to be cleared for export.

Different stages in the process had been reached when the UK sanctions were introduced against Russia.

- c. **Solana**, Scottish Government officials had already contacted the Russian authorities, prior to the introduction of sanctions, to provide them with details of the intended exports. The British Embassy in Moscow has been notified and included in all correspondence. Under normal circumstances confirmation that these consignments have been cleared for export would be sought but this has not been done yet.

d. **REDACTED**

As far as officials are aware all proposed exports have been logged on the Russian IT system by the relevant importers.

- 17. Following the introduction of UK sanctions, both companies have been contacted by Scottish Government officials on 1/3/2022 to enquire whether they would be willing to voluntarily stop these exports. Company representatives were informed of Scottish Ministers' views and the need for Scottish businesses to sever connections with Russia.

**REDACTED**

- 18. It is important to recognise that both companies are working to very tight deadlines in order to ship the seed potatoes to Russia in time for planting early April 2022. Solana were in contact with officials yesterday to inform us that they would need to be informed whether we could begin the process of inspection, issuing labels, etc. by Monday 7/3/2022 in order to meet their deadline. They stated that they would be seeking legal advice if we failed to signal we would provide them with the necessary services by this date.

**Legal position**

- 19. REDACTED

**UKG position**

- 20. REDACTED

- 21. REDACTED By way of context, Russia banned the importation of many agricultural products as counter-sanctions against the EU, in response to our own sanctions when they were introduced after the Russian-backed separatist fighting/invasion of Eastern Ukraine and the Crimea in 2014. Should the UK Government agree to the inclusion of all food and agricultural products within a deepening sanction regime, it is important to recognise that this may come too late for this particular case. However, signalling that this is something Scottish Ministers will push for sends a strong signal to Scottish companies, and in particular our seed potato sector for the future. In addition, officials will also contact their counterparts from EU Member States to determine whether this is a move that is being considered by them, as this may help develop our thinking on the scope of a future sanction regime.

**Recommendation**

22. The Minister is invited to note:

- e. That 2 companies with operations in Scotland are seeking to export seed potatoes to Russia
- f. That officials have encouraged both companies to stop these exports
- g. That in the event that one, or both, are unwilling to voluntarily halt these exports, REDACTED
- h. I would therefore welcome advice on what action officials should take if the companies wish to continue with the exports to Russia at this time. It is important to recognise that a quick decision is required (by 7/3/2022) if inspections and authorisation are to proceed. It is likely should we fail to meet this deadline Solana may commence legal proceedings against the Scottish Government.

#### **Document 44**

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2022 to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands and the Minister for Environment and Land Reform regarding the export of Scottish seed potatoes to Russia. I have been asked to reply on their behalf.

The Scottish Government recognises the efforts of Solana Seeds UK Ltd in developing the export market for Scottish seed potatoes to Russia and it is deeply regrettable that this has been impacted by the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia. People around the world have all watched on in horror at the action taken by Russia. The Scottish Government position is clear and that is, along with our economic agencies, we will use all available powers not to support trade and investment activity with Russia. This position was set out in the open-letter to Scottish businesses from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy Secretary, Kate Forbes, MSP, on 3 March 2022 and was reiterated by me in our meetings at that time and also by the Minister for Environment and Land Reform when she met with you on 7 March 2022. Many businesses and other organisations have already shown commendable corporate values and leadership, in divesting their interests in Russia, their trading relationships with Russian entities and their participation in lucrative Russian contracts. We support these decisions and would encourage all Scottish businesses to follow their example.

Where a company makes the decision to export any plants or other plant products from Scotland, including seed potatoes, Scottish Government officials are required to carry out various activities in relation to this, including the inspection and certification of goods. Our engagement with Solana Seeds UK Ltd was carried out diligently and in line with those statutory obligations.

While the Scottish Government are unable to provide any financial support, Ministers will continue to support the Scottish seed potato sector on export matters, particularly during this highly unusual and difficult period, to maintain other existing markets and to develop new ones. In that respect you may wish to note that we are already liaising with NFU Scotland on the plans being developed for the new National Seed Potato Organisation, a possible successor to AHDB Potatoes, and this is likely to include the sector working closely with SASA to provide support on export related issues.

Dear Minister, All,

My name is REDACTED and I am the Managing Director of Solana Seeds UK Ltd.

We are a potato seed business with offices both in Tayside in Scotland and Norfolk in Eastern England. Our head office is based in Hamburg and besides trading in seed potatoes all over the world we have access to our own breeding stations , in Holland and Germany where we develop new varieties too.

Recently we have been involved in sending seed potatoes to Russia. This would have been the second season in doing so.

It took us nearly eight years to achieve this from Scotland and we had recognition for doing so.

This has now all been stopped due to the war. These potatoes were planned in terms of contracts through our German office to their Russian customers.

We were delayed in the beginning due to instructions from Scottish government to SASA who needed time to investigate whether or whether not these pre-planned and contracted seed potatoes would be permissible to send to Russia due to the war.

This delay prevented us from having no time to send all the tonnage. Now we are left with a considerable amount of tonnage of seed potatoes in Scotland with no home for them to go too. Our contracted growers in Scotland will still be expecting payments for these potatoes, and this has massive ramifications in terms of losses and solidity for both our Scottish operation and the staffing, from our Scottish office which, we opened in August 2021.

For now, we believe our German parent company will continue to support us. However, what we are asking for from the Scottish government is, would there any means of support towards both our losses and now stagnated growth strategy which was planned for our Scottish operation moving forward for the future?

I am available to discuss this at almost any time ,and would appreciate a call or mail back please to verify the acceptance of this mail.

Many thanks in anticipation of your efforts

Kind Regards

REDACTED

#### **Document 45**

Dear colleagues

As you'll be aware, there are many different aspects to the current Ukraine/Russia situation. In order to ensure a consistent approach across SG in relation to one important aspect - sanctions against Russia - it has been agreed to establish a sanctions oversight and coordination function in the Directorate for International Trade and Investment. Policy responsibility for individual sanctions-related issues

will remain with the relevant policy teams, but DITI will keep a central record of such issues and help colleagues ensure consistency with SG's overall stance on sanctions, as well as carrying out central sanctions-related commissions such as a comparison of UK, EU and US sanctions regimes. This coordination function will not extend to aspects other than sanctions.

We are aware that many directorates will already be contributing to the daily ministerial briefing on concurrent risks, and will aim to avoid duplication by drawing on that existing material as much as possible.

The First Minister has made clear that SG's position is to support the strongest possible sanctions regime: *'If the current situation doesn't make the maximum possible sanctions ... necessary and urgent, it's hard to imagine what would. This is not a time for half measures.'* The FM has also acknowledged that sanctions will inevitably have a negative impact on the countries applying them as well as on those at whom they are targeted.

As an early action within this new sanctions coordination function, this message is to seek your input into an exercise commissioned by the FM at SGORR over the weekend. The FM has asked for a comprehensive exercise to be carried out across SG and our agencies, to check for any actions or behaviours that could be perceived as inconsistent with SG's stance on sanctions. In essence, anything that could be viewed as 'continuing to do business with Russia' could potentially be problematic. Examples could include grants or commercial relationships between SG/its agencies and businesses linked to Russia; ministerial attendance at events involving businesses or others linked to Russia; or Russia-related investments by local authorities' and/or agencies' pension funds.

Please carry out such a check for your business area. Please note that this exercise is not limited to the content of the sanctions regime itself, but is aimed at any action or relationship with a link to Russia which therefore needs to be considered for consistency with SG's position on sanctions.

If in your business area you can identify any action or relationship, involving the SG directly or indirectly through its agencies, which gives rise to a serious risk of inconsistency, please flag this to me by return. An example might be a procurement relationship with a Russian firm to which an agency is contractually tied.

I would also be grateful for returns by close on Tuesday, 1 March summarising briefly what actions you propose to take to implement the FM's request, such as reviewing your business area for any links to Russia or writing to agencies to ask them to report any such links. This will enable us to give initial feedback to the FM by Wednesday.

Of course the need for consistency is not a one-off exercise. Please work on the basis that the FM wishes us to follow this approach for as long as sanctions are in place, and in particular flag up to us any serious issues whenever they come to light.

Please reply using this Subject line and to save colleagues' inboxes, do not 'Reply To All'. Nil returns would be appreciated.

Many thanks.

REDACTED

#### **DOCUMENT 48**

Thank you for your attached letter dated 19 May 2022. This was in response to my email sent to your department on the 14 April 2022.

**REDACTED** feels that we need to challenge some of the references made in your letter acting on behalf of itself and that of it is supporting Scottish seed supplier.

Kate Forbes indeed wrote to us as well as many other businesses in Scotland on the 3 March 2022. However, due to the prevention of us not being able to obtain the required paperwork and restriction of being unable to draw the labels from the appropriate ministry offices, we could not start any preparation for shipment. We believe other businesses were not subjected to similar restrictions during this time. REDACTED and our Russian colleagues lost a critical minimum of 10 days were we could have moved these consignments of seed potatoes.

As it transpired, your actions almost certainly had no impact in anyway an affect as a sanction towards Russia. Instead, other countries in Europe seized the opportunity and sent seed potatoes in lieu of the consignments we could not. Your engagement many have been carried out diligently and in line with statutory obligations but certainly ten days too late. We question the legalities of this restriction and will seek legal advice on this important matter.

We believe to, that the SASA Rural Payments and Services based in Inverurie further delayed issuing of paperwork and labels beyond this date. We are not sure whether this was an official stance or not? This is why we classify the delay as a minimum of 10 days.

Our farmers who in good faith produced these seed potatoes are seeking compensation. They have turned to us. We now have to turn to the Scottish Government.

[Continued on the next page.]

As you know already, we as a company have spent six long years trying to procure and develop a market for Scottish Seed Potatoes to be sent to Russia. We as Solana succeeded where others before us had failed miserably. We believed at that stage the unification of Germany, Scotland and our office and personnel in our own Russian office could have made this a long-term trade agreement. Unselfishly we felt other Scottish seed producers would benefit from efforts also.

Then along came the war.

Nobody believed the war would happen and our reputation with the Scottish seed producers directly involved in this instance is very poor. As a company we cannot finance their losses.

Please can we request a call; Zoom or Teams to discuss this problem which needs to be addressed by the Scottish Government so we can as Solana Seeds go back to the Scottish seed producers with answers?

Perhaps the farmers should seek compensation rather than us?

With such a high level of importance attached to this problem we feel a meeting with Minister Gougeon, Minister McCallan and Minister Forbes as well as yourself is required.

With Royal events about to descend on us it, and extra holidays on the calendar, it may be prudent to leave any proposed call until week commencing 13 June 2022. There is a chance that my German colleague may be over that week too.

Please can you get back to me with your thoughts

Many thanks in anticipation of your response.

## Document 49

Redacted

From: REDACTED  
Sent: 28 February 2022 16:43  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi REDACTED,

REDACTED to see how much scope we have with regards refusing to issue the necessary certification. Depending on what we get back we can also try and persuade the companies themselves not to pursue these exports but suspect they will be quickly back asking for compensation. We'll keep you posted as this develops....

From: REDACTED  
Sent: 28 February 2022 16:25  
To: REDACTED  
Cc: REDACTED [DirectorDITI@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorDITI@gov.scot)  
Subject: RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi REDACTED, I touched on this just now in the SGORR(O). REDACTED. Copying REDACTED in as this looks quite significant.

My gut feeling is:

FM would view this as in the sensitive category.

- REDACTED
- REDACTED
- Maybe a quick analysis of what options SG has followed by a ministerial submission setting out those options and seeking a decision? If the answer is that legally we have no choice but to process the documentation, at least we will have ministerial cover although ministers may say can't we ask the exporters to voluntarily abstain. If the answer is that we can choose to slow down or stop, but only at risk of challenge, we will have ministerial cover for that.

Does that help? In my new vision for the Sanctions bit of the daily SGORR ministerial brief I would see this is the 'specific sanctions-related issues' section owned by individual policy teams rather than the 'sanctions overview' section which my team will supply.

REDACTED  
Deputy Director, Trade Policy  
Scottish Government  
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ



Pronouns: he/him  
Tel (mobile) REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: 28 February 2022 12:02  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: FW: RE: Russia and Belarus

REDACTED, Would you have any availability today for a call on this issue?

From: [DirectorARE@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorARE@gov.scot) <[DirectorARE@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorARE@gov.scot)>  
Sent: 28 February 2022 11:49  
To: REDACTED  
Cc: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

REDACTED,

At first sight this falls squarely in the territory set out by REDACTED in his note of earlier today. The fact that this is a prospective new trade (in seed potatoes) suggests that it could be controversial.

Presumably SASA (with the approval of Ministers) could decide not to provide the necessary administrative support accepting that there may be a legal risk.

Please could you explore the matter with REDACTED

REDACTED

-----

,

Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy,  
The Scottish Government,  
Mobile REDACTED  
Email: [DirectorARE@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorARE@gov.scot)

From: REDACTED  
Sent: 28 February 2022 11:31  
To: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <[DirectorARE@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorARE@gov.scot)>  
Subject: FW: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi REDACTED, See below. What would you advise we do? I presume we'll have to stop this but the exporters will be pretty quickly on our backs.

REDACTED

Subject: RE: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi REDACTED

I have 2 exporters (REDACTED) trying to export at the moment. In total there will be in the region of 3000 tonnes. Unfortunately I'm quite heavily involved as there has to be official notification from SASA to RKN (Russian department of agriculture) and I am in the middle of getting various documents translated.

I would assume that I just carry on until I hear otherwise although the general waste of time would be a bit annoying if nothing comes of it. If we are to be trying to dissuade them in an informal fashion I can't see them not going ahead as the contracts will be worth substantial sums.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: 28 February 2022 10:49  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Russia and Belarus

Hi,

Do you know if any of our seed producers are trying to get seed exports into the above? We're probably going to be asked to dissuade them from doing this if they are.

## Document 51

**From:** REDACTED on behalf of: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <[MinisterELR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterELR@gov.scot)>  
**Date:** Sunday, 06 Mar 2022, 7:05 pm  
**To:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>, REDACTED Minister for Environment and Land Reform <[MinisterELR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterELR@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <[CabSecRAI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRAI@gov.scot)>, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <[CabSecNetZET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNetZET@gov.scot)>, Lord Advocate <[LordAdvocate@gov.scot](mailto:LordAdvocate@gov.scot)>, Solicitor General <[SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot](mailto:SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot)>, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <[MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot)>, DG Net Zero <[DGNetZero@gov.scot](mailto:DGNetZero@gov.scot)>, REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Hi REDACTED,

Thanks for taking my call. As discussed the Minister would appreciate an early call on this at 8:15. I will send over a diary invite separately including George Burges, REDACTED, REDACTED and REDACTED

Ms McAllan would also like a meeting with the companies involved so that she can make clear why it's essential they withdraw from exporting to the Russian market. I thought two calls on at 10:30 and one at 11:30. If those times do not work we can look at other ones. I would be grateful for briefing for the Minister for these meeting by 9:45

In terms of the early meeting with Mc McAllan would like to discuss:

1. REDACTED
2. UK sanctions compared with EU sanctions and an understanding why food not on UK list and whether it's on EU list (is it on ethical grounds?)
3. what EU doing as regards seed potato exports to Russia
4. what options we might have or be able to offer to the companies as alternatives?
5. What do we need to call on UKG to do to ensure this issue doesn't arise again?

Ultimately, the companies need to appreciate the importance of divesting from Russian markets – and how crucial collective action is in this regard. Can briefing for the meeting with the companies include points on this.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss.

Thanks

REDACTED

**REDACTED** | Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson | The Scottish Government | Web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) | Mob REDACTED | Email: [CabSecNetZET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNetZET@gov.scot)

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**From:** REDACTED > **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** 06 March 2022 16:48

**To:** REDACTED Minister for Environment and Land Reform

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

**Cc:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <[CabSecRAI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRAI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <[CabSecNetZET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNetZET@gov.scot)>; Lord Advocate <[LordAdvocate@gov.scot](mailto:LordAdvocate@gov.scot)>; Solicitor General <[SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot](mailto:SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot)>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <[MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot)>; DG Net Zero <[DGNetZero@gov.scot](mailto:DGNetZero@gov.scot)>; REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Thanks for this update.

The First Minister has commented that this is very unsatisfactory and has asked for Ministerial engagement with the companies involved to express our concerns and ask that they withdraw from exporting to the Russian market.

Best wishes

REDACTED

**Sent:** 04 March 2022 11:38

**To:** Minister for Environment and Land Reform <[MinisterELR@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterELR@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <[CabSecRAI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRAI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Seed Potato Exports to Russia

Minister,

As we discussed on Wednesday please find attached a briefing setting out the issue regarding two separate intended shipments of seed potatoes from Scotland to

Russia. The issue is significant as it requires Scottish Government officials to liaise with the Russian authorities, and to inspect and issue the necessary paperwork in order for this trade to proceed. REDACTED. Attempts to persuade the companies concerned to withdraw the exports have, at least in one case, met with failure. Due to the perishable nature of the shipment and the need for a quick response I would be grateful for your urgent consideration of this matter. I should also inform you that one of the companies concerned has informed us that they will seek legal advice if we cause them to miss this export opportunity and have stated that they must know whether we are prepared to conduct the necessary work by Monday 7/3/2022.

Regards

**Document 16 (a)**

REDACTED  
Managing Director  
Solana Seeds UK Ltd.

17 June 2022

Dear Mr REDACTED

Thank you for your letter of 23 May and please accept my apologies for the delay responding to you. The Scottish Government recognises the many sacrifices made by industry as we collectively demonstrate our opposition to the war in Ukraine. We accept that the loss of trade to Russia has had consequences for your business and the growers who supply seed to you.

On 28 February, 2022 we received your request for labels after you had heard that your seed consignments had been cleared for import by the Russian authorities. I spoke with you on 2 March, 2022 and again on 4 March, 2022 and took the opportunity to highlight the recent correspondence from the Finance Secretary encouraging Scottish businesses to cease trading with Russia, in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and as a response to the invasion by the Russian forces. You met with the Minister for Environment and Land Reform on 7 March, 2022 when she again set out the Government's position and encouraged you not to export seed potatoes to Russia. At the meeting you declared a willingness to pursue the trade and that afternoon SASA instructed the relevant RPID area office to undertake the necessary work to facilitate trade.

I think it is important to set out this chronology and to have regard to the context of our usual export season and processes. Late winter/early spring is an incredibly busy period for the industry as a whole, and for our staff in area offices and our team of inspectors. In addition, particular difficulties have arisen due to the Covid pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. It was therefore always likely that there would be a number of days from receipt of your request to the issuance of labels and other parts of the process such as dressing seed prior to inspection and the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.

At the same time the Scottish seed industry as a whole was experiencing severe logistical problems due to the lack of availability of haulage and shipping making international trade at that time particularly difficult. This situation persists to this day. It is unfortunate that events led to the loss of trade for your business and the seed growers that supply you. However, for the reasons set out above the Scottish Government does not accept that it is responsible for that loss.

Your sincerely,

REDACTED