

Document 1

From: PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 October 2024 18:15

To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Cc: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Urgent Advice - Death of Former First Minister of Scotland

OFFICIAL

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for the calls earlier.

I understand the Salmond family is in touch with an FCDO contact via the Global Response Centre. Our Ambassador in Skopje has also been in touch with the Salmond family's representative today.

On repatriation protocol, please be assured I have passed this on to the relevant teams in the FCDO as a matter of urgency, and the PUS is also aware.

I will update you as soon as I can.

Best wishes

[redacted] | Assistant Private Secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretaries, Sir Philip Barton and Nick Dyer | Permanent Under-Secretaries' Joint Private Office | [redacted] | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk | Mobile: +44 (0)

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** PermanentSecretary@gov.scot

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 11:32 AM

To: PUS Action <PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk>

Cc: PermanentSecretary@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; DGSEA@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Urgent Advice - Death of Former First Minister of Scotland

Morning [redacted]

As discussed, you are aware of the news yesterday that Former First Minister passed away suddenly whilst at a speaking event in Macedonia. We were in touch with your Global Response Centre team last night to confirm consular support and contact with the Salmond family.

Scottish Ministers have been in touch with JP this morning and we would now appreciate clarification of the following two points as soon as possible to allow updated briefing for our Ministers:

1. The contact name and details of the lead FCDO official (including contact point for family); and
2. Details of the repatriation protocol for a former First Minister of Scotland.

JP is very happy to speak to Sir Philip directly today by phone if helpful.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Permanent Secretary's Office | 1N-07, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [redacted]

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Document 2

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Sent: 14 October 2024 18:14

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Death of Former First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond

PS/First Minister,

Please find attached note of the Deputy First Minister's call with Minister Doughty today.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Priobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [redacted] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 1:00 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Death of Former First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond

Thanks [redacted],

The FM would appreciate an update from that call as soon as possible after it has happened.

John Webster

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> on behalf of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 12:14:46 PM

To: John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Death of Former First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond

John,

For the benefit of the copylist, I can confirm DFM is undertaking a call at 14:15 today with Minister of State for Europe, North America & UK Overseas Territories, Stephen Doughty MP.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Prìobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

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M: [redacted]

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From: John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 4:55 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Death of Former First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond

[redacted],

FM thanks DFM for this further update.

FM has confirmed that DFM should lead on the call with FCDO Minister Doughty tomorrow.

Grateful if you could liaise with Shona Riach on arrangements, keeping FMPO updated on this email chain.

Thank you,

John Webster

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

T: [redacted]



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

The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found [here](#).

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From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 4:46 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Cc: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Death of Former First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond

All,

DFM passes on her thanks for this advice.

For the sake of the copy list, DFM has confirmed she has spoken to a representative of the family and also Tasmia Ahmed Sheikh who remains in North Macedonia. DFM has also continued engaging with SoSfS, who is engaging with Foreign Secretary.

[redacted] They understand that the FCDO are willing to arrange either RAF or Commercial flight. However, DFM understands that there are only two commercial flights per week. This remains the priority for us to resolve Gov to Gov. DFM says it will be the point she emphasises tomorrow morning in any call with the UKG and the point that she would invite the FM to confirm if he leads on the call with UKG tomorrow.

[redacted]

DFM says the family's primary concern is the safe arrival of the body.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Prìobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

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M: [redacted] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 4:07 PM

To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Death of Former First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond

Good afternoon [redacted],

[redacted – not in scope]

The First Minister has spoken with the Deputy First Minister about the need to ensure the Scottish Government is doing all that it can to support Mr Salmond's family in the swift repatriation process. The First Minister has also asked the Permanent Secretary and John Webster, PPS to pursue this issue and secure a call with FCDO Ministers to press this necessity.

The First Minister has asked the DFM to undertake that call should the First Minister not be available due to the restrictions at the Investment Summit tomorrow.

The First Minister would like to stress the urgency of this action and asks colleagues to ensure we have a cohesive and swift approach to ensuring all this happens.

Grateful for confirmation that the above has been picked up and [redacted – not in scope]

Many thanks,

[redacted]

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

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [redacted]

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[redacted – not in scope]

Document 2 attachment

Note of call between DFM [redacted] Forbes and FCDO Minister of State for Europe Stephen Doughty – Monday 14 October 2024

Minister Doughty shared his personal condolences. He knew the former First Minister and was hugely saddened by his sudden loss. He was in Luxembourg and had that afternoon spoken to the North Macedonian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister who had both offered their condolences and offered their help to ensure a smooth repatriation. The embassy team were also fully engaged and had been in direct contact with the Salmond family.

The Deputy First Minister thanked Minister Doughty. She knew that the family had appreciated all the good wishes and the cross-party support. She thanked UKG for their response and the exceptional support from the FCDO team and the Ambassador in particular.

Ministers agreed that it was important to handle this sensitively and to ensure that the family knew that they had the full support of both governments. There could be no suggestion of delay from either UKG or SG. The necessary paperwork would be completed by the end of the day on **Monday** so it was important to act quickly to put arrangements for repatriation in place.

[redacted]

[redacted] The FCDO had looked at the option of using the RAF. Ultimately this would be a decision for the MoD but in general they would only agree to use of the RAF where there was no commercial option. In addition Minister Doughty pointed out that use of the RAF was likely to introduce further delay – it would likely take 3-5

days for the necessary protocols to be agreed. Even with good will from the Macedonian authorities necessary clearances would need to be in place for a UK military plane to land there. FCDO protocol generally only considered RAF flights for members of the royal family. So SG could make the request to the MoD – through the Scottish Office – but FCDO’s advice was that this was likely to introduce further delay and prohibitive expense. Private charter options were available and FCDO would work with SG to ensure dignified treatment at both ends of the flight. Whatever the SG and the family decided they would have FCDO’s support to ensure that the repatriation was as dignified and straightforward as possible

DFM raised the issue of airports. The main airport was three hours drive from where the body is but there was a small airfield much closer. The family were keen to explore whether it would be possible to use that airport.

Minister Doughty said that FCDO would be happy to look at options for airports and would arrange transport to the airport. He asked that SG discuss further with the family and come back to FCDO with a very specific request. He would personally ensure that everything possible was done to facilitate our requests.

DFM thanked him for his support. We would come back with a specific ask. We would look at alternatives to the RAF but if we could not find something that worked for the family we might have to return to that option.

Document 3

From: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 15 October 2024 12:16

To: Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[redacted]@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>

Subject: readout of FCDO call with the family

For info here is the record of the FCDO call with [redacted]

“Dear Shona, [redacted],

Following our earlier meeting, please see the readout below of my colleague [redacted]’s call with [redacted] at 11:15:

[redacted]

Shona

[redacted]

Document 4

From: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 14 October 2024 14:02

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Some additional advice from FCDO on the RAF option. I think the point that military assistance will only be authorised if a commercial option is not available is important.

“Requests for military assistance to the civilian authorities, or MACAs as they are known, have quite strict rules attached to them. The process for a MACA if SG requests one is that it has to be submitted to SoS Scotland for authorisation before going to the Defence Secretary for approval. I understand that this is because Defence is reserved under the Scotland Act so the formal request to the Defence Secretary has to come from SoS Scotland. The first rule of MACAs is that military assistance will only be authorised if a commercial option is not available. [redacted]

Shona
[redacted]

[redacted – not in scope]

From: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 11:59 AM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

I have spoken again to the FCDO Director.

[redacted]

She is also going to get advice from the embassy on middle ground options:

- Are there any options for a private chartered flight. How much might that cost.
- What do the commercial flights actually look like. What are the options into Scottish airports.

She is also going to get advice for us on how a commercial flight option would run. If there were flight changes how could we ensure that it was a smooth process.
[redacted]

Shona
[redacted]

[redacted – not in scope]

From: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 10:29 AM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: Former First Minister

All

I just spoke to the Sarah Taylor FCDO's Director Consular. They are keen to ensure that the family and SG have all the support and help that they need to ensure a smooth repatriation.

[redacted]

For the call with the Europe Minister, [redacted] will provide official support. I will be on a train but will try to join – wifi permitting. I understand that either [redacted] from the Perm Sec's office will also join.

Shona
[redacted]

From: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:01 AM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Great. Thanks. I'll let them know and will give them the DFM mailbox to arrange details.

Shona
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 8:34 AM

To: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Hi Shona,

DFM is content to meet at 14:15.

Please let us know if Minister Doughty's office will issue a link, if so please can this be sent to the DFM mailbox.

Grateful for confirmation of who will provide official support on the call and if there are any briefing materials DFM should have sight of in advance.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Priobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

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From: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 8:23 AM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

[redacted]

FCDO have offered a call at 1415 with Minister Doughty. Would that work for the DFM?

Shona
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 6:55 PM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Hi Shona,

Can I check if there has been an update from FCDO on the timing of tomorrow's call?

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Priobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA
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M: [redacted] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 4:28 PM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Former First Minister

Thank you [redacted] and all for hard work today. Best wishes, JP

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> on behalf of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 4:23 PM
To: John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Thanks John,

DFM has commented that she has spoken to a spokesperson for the family and they are grateful for contact directly with the Ambassador. Contact has significantly improved over the course of today.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Prìobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted] E: DFMCSEF@gov.scot

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From: John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Shona,

I have just spoken with FM. Just to be absolutely clear for everyone on this chain including DFM's office.

If the time offered by Minister Doughty falls in a slot tomorrow **that FM can do** he will lead on the call, if it proves impossible given his intense programme of commitments at the Summit tomorrow, DFM is standing ready and we will make sure her office knows FM has had to stand down and leave this to her to lead on.

Best wishes,

John Webster

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



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

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From: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 3:46 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

[redacted]

Thanks very much. I am in touch with the relevant FCDO Director. She has suggested that the call should be with Minister Doughty who as Europe Minister is responsible for North Macedonia and has been dealing with the case. But they will get back to us to confirm that and to propose times asap.

She also tells me that the Ambassador has been in direct contact with the Salmond family, at their request.

Shona
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 2:29 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Shona/[redacted]

DFM has spoken to FM, who is content for DFM to undertake the call.

Shona, I would be grateful if you could advise on timings from FCDO for this call to take place tomorrow.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Priobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [redacted] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 2:13 PM

To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Good afternoon,

The First Minister is content to undertake a conversation at the appropriate time tomorrow.

If UK Ministers availability is limited it may be more practical for the Deputy First Minister to undertake. In the first instance, could you please ask FCDO what times they would be available to speak with the First Minister and we can let you know if we can make that work around the First Ministers engagements tomorrow.

[redacted] – Grateful if the DFM could be on stand by to undertake the call if the First Minister is not able too.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

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

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [redacted]

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From: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 2:04 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Thanks [redacted]

I'll be in touch with FCDO and will get back to you.

Shona
[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 1:59 PM

To: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster

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

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Shona,

DFM is content to lead on the call unless FM wishes to.

Grateful if FM's office can advise, when possible.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP**

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Priobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a'
Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

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M: [redacted] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 12:52 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] McGivern <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[redacted]@gov.scot>; John Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Dear Private Offices,

The Permanent Secretary has asked me to check whether either the FM or DFM would like us to set up a call with an FCDO Minister tomorrow to discuss protocol around the repatriation.

As you know the Permanent Secretary and his office are in touch with the FCDO on the details of the repatriation protocol, however the FM or DFM may like to speak directly to an FCDO Minister in order to make clear the importance the Scottish Government places on a smooth repatriation which observes all appropriate protocol.

Baroness Chapmen of Darlington is the FCDO Minister responsible for devolution, while Hamish Falconer is responsible for Consular business. We would advise that either of these Ministers would be appropriate for this conversation.

Shona

Shona Riach (she/her)

Director, Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government

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



From: Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 12:05 PM

To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Lesley Fraser <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Helen Webster <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Hi [redacted]

Quick update:

1. We are in touch with the FCDO Perm Sec's and have requested urgent advice on the protocol on repatriation of a former First Minister. We will provide an update when we receive that. JP is also in direct touch with the FCDO Perm Sec.
2. [redacted] at FCDO is the lead contact for the Salmond family. His direct number is [redacted]. He has been in touch with Mr Salmond's family morning and advised that he is reaching out again now to the family. Please note that this matter has been reclassified as sensitive by the FCDO centre given its high profile so there was no further information he could share with me directly over the phone.
3. Advice is being prepared by Cabinet Secretariat on SG protocols and handling for FM/DFM consideration.
4. Further advice is being prepared on whether FM/DFM wish to reach out to FCDO Ministers to request a meeting tomorrow.

Happy to discuss.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Permanent Secretary
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Anna Kynaston <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Former First Minister

Morning [redacted],

Officials spoke to FCDO Global Response Centre last night. They confirmed that they were in touch with the family and that the Consular office is in contact with local authorities in Macedonia.

There was no timeline for repatriation last night. SG officials catch up at 10.30 this morning and will provide a further update following that.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Former First Minister

PS/Permanent Secretary

DFM has asked what progress has been made here, and if SG has formally made contact with UKG to accelerate this and make provision for a speedy return?

Grateful for an update this morning.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Prìobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Sent: Saturday, October 12, 2024 8:50 PM
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; John-Paul Marks <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted] McGivern <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Subject: Former First Minister

PS/Permanent Secretary

The Deputy First Minister has asked for confirmation that the Scottish Government is engaged at the highest levels to ensure that everything is being done to support the return of the body of the Former First Minister to Scotland from North Macedonia as a matter of priority.

DFM asked for this to be passed on to the Permanent Secretary.

I would be grateful for confirmation.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Prìobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [redacted] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

Document 5

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:57 AM
To: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: Press release

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Shona, [redacted],

Grateful if you could send the press release to Newsdesk@fcdo.gov.uk FAO [redacted], copying to myself, [redacted].

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Assistance Department | Consular Directorate
[REDACTED] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles Street | London |
SW1A 2AH
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2024 16:32
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]
(Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

[redacted]

Shona
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 12:53 PM
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]
(Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

[redacted]

Shona
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:39 AM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk;
[redacted] (Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Cc: [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@ukgovscotland.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk); [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Hi Shona,

Many thanks, the FCDO press line is as below.

Press line: ‘We are providing consular support to the family of Alex Salmond following his death in North Macedonia and are in contact with the local authorities and Scottish Government.’

Background:

- On 12 October, the Prime Minister released [this statement](#) following Mr Salmond’s death.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Consular Country Casework Teams | Consular Directorate | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED] King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | **email:** [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk) | [redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot) <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 14 October 2024 19:12

To: [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted] (Consular) <[\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

Cc: [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted]ce.rockey@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Thanks everyone for all your help today.

[redacted]

Best,

Shona

Shona
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:31 AM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; John Primrose <[redacted]@gov.Scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Bringing our Director Consular Sarah Taylor into this chain.
Shona – Sarah plans to give you a ring this morning
Sarah – Shona's phone number below

Victoria Billing | Director Europe (Mediterranean & Western Balkans)
[redacted]
Chief of Staff: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:12 AM
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; John Primrose (Scot Gov) (External) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ryan.McRobert@gov.scot; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

[redacted]

Thanks for this. That time would work for the DFM. Can I suggest that we put private offices in touch to arrange details? Her office inbox is dfmcseq@gov.scot.

Shona
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 7:50 AM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; John Primrose <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Dear Shona,

Minister Doughty is available at 1415 today for a call with the DFM. Would that work on your side?

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy Head, Western Balkans Programme Unit | Europe Directorate

[redacted] | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | King Charles St | London | SW1A 2AH

E-mail: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk) | www.gov.uk/fcdo Tel. [redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 17:14
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk <[redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk>; John Primrose (Scot Gov) (External) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot). [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Victoria

Some further information ahead of a possible call tomorrow

The primary issue that the DFM will want to raise on the call tomorrow is the importance that the family place on confirmation that a flight will be available by Tuesday for repatriation. We understand that this is the earliest point at which the body might be available for repatriation – once the necessary paperwork is complete. The family understand that the FCDO are willing to arrange either RAF or Commercial flight but that there are only two commercial flights per week. This remains the priority for us to resolve Gov to Gov.

Scottish Ministers are also hearing from the family that engagement has improved significantly since they have been in direct contact with the Ambassador. They and we are grateful for this direct engagement.

Shona
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 3:41 PM
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; John Primrose <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

Victoria

Thanks very much for the update and for everything that your team have been doing. A call with Minister Doughty would be very welcome. At our end I think that it will be the DFM – contrary to my last email where I suggested that it might be the FM.

Shona
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk; John Primrose <[redacted]@gov.Scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Shona

Nick Pickard has forwarded your email on to me as I cover North Macedonia and my team have been working closely with the Embassy in Skopje and GRC/Consular in response to

death of the former First Minister. Our Ambassador is also been in touch with the family at their request.

We will get back to you with a proposed time and Ministerial counterpart asap, but I think it might be best to be Minister Doughty who has been dealing most closely with the case so far (as Europe Minister so responsible for North Macedonia).

Apologies if anyone has already got back to you as I can see a few FCDO colleagues in the cc list but I had wanted to acknowledge your request swiftly.

Victoria

Victoria Billing | Director Europe (Mediterranean & Western Balkans)

[redacted]

Chief of Staff: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: Nick Pickard <[\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 2:08 PM

To: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk);

Subject: FW: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Nick Pickard ♦ Director Europe Bilateral ♦ Europe Group ♦ Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH [redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot) <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 2:03 PM

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

Cc: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; Nick Pickard <[\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [\[redacted\]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ukgovscotland.gov.uk); John Primrose (Scot Gov) (External) <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

Subject: Urgent request for a ministerial call - former First Minister repatriation

Dear [redacted]

I am writing to request a call tomorrow between [redacted] Forbes, our Deputy First Minister, and an FCDO Minister to stress the importance that the Scottish Government places on a smooth repatriation of the body of the former First Minister Alex Salmond. We thought that Baroness Chapman (devolution) or Hamish Falconer (consular) would be most appropriate but are open to your advice.

Our Permanent Secretaries have been in touch and our Perm Sec's office has also had advice from your Global Response Centre team. I understand that [redacted] (from the global response team) has spoken directly to the Salmond family. So I think that everything that needs to happen is happening. Nonetheless given the importance and sensitivity we would find a Ministerial call helpful.

Best wishes,

Shona

Shona Riach (she/her)
Director, Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government
Mobile: [redacted] | Email: [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)



Document 6

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 5:00 PM
To: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Shona, [redacted],

An update on today's developments:

- Necessary ground clearances granted (with thanks to [redacted] for his help with this). The charter flight landed at Ohrid at 16:11 UK time.
- The family have asked for Mr Salmond's luggage to be placed on the charter flight, which will be accompanied by a representative from [redacted].
- The running order for tomorrow is below (UK timings). The family have confirmed that Tasmina will ensure the Saltire flag is properly secured to the coffin.
- [redacted] has spoken to [redacted] to run through what tomorrow will look like. The family are content with the plans. We have also managed expectations around the possibility of press around the airport perimeter and along the journey to the airport.

09:30 Former President Ivanov and the official delegation arrive at Ohrid Airport

09:30 Vehicle with coffin departs for airport with a police escort

09:50 Vehicle arrives at airport
10 Guards of Honour in full uniform waiting at the platform (red carpet in place)
Vehicle parks
6 guards lift the coffin and pass through trellis
Guards give last salute
The official delegation gives last salute
10:00 Take-off
13:45 Arrival at Aberdeen International Airport (AIR X, tail number 9H-JPC, flight number
AXY4769)

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Assistance Department | Consular Directorate
[REDACTED] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles Street | London |
SW1A 2AH
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 October 2024 11:29
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

All,

The CAA has confirmed it has now granted the operator a Foreign Carrier Permit, so they should have the relevant clearances now.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of Strategic Support and Governance
Workplace Division | Scottish Government | [redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2024 10:53
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

[redacted],

Many thanks – that is welcome news.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Assistance Department | Consular Directorate
[REDACTED] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles Street | London |
SW1A 2AH
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 October 2024 10:44
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]@gov.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

The application has been received and is being processed by the CAA – there were some omissions in the original paperwork, but no issues foreseen now and should be completed within the next hour. I'll let you know when this is done.

Thanks,
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 October 2024 10:35
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

Hi [redacted],

I spoke with [redacted] last night and am about to speak to him again – will provide a further update soon.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of Strategic Support and Governance
Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 17 October 2024 10:33
To: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk); [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot); [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk);
[\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk); [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk); [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk); [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)
Subject: FW: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

[redacted] – copied – is leading for us and has been in touch with the CAA.

Shona
[redacted]

From: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 10:29 AM
To: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)
Cc: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk); [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk); [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk);
[\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)
Subject: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Helpfully, we've just received a contact:

[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Assistance Department | Consular Directorate
[REDACTED] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles Street | London |
SW1A 2AH
[redacted]

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 October 2024 10:25
To: '[redacted]@gov.scot' <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

Shona, [redacted],

Good morning. [redacted] have called to inform that they have not yet received ground clearance from Aberdeen airport / Civil Aviation Authority. We would be grateful if you could speak to the airport to request the approvals are expedited. Relevant documents and reference numbers are attached for info if required.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Assistance Department | Consular Directorate
[REDACTED] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles Street | London | SW1A 2AH
[redacted]

From: [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot) <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 16 October 2024 17:13

To: [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

Cc: [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL

That is very helpful. Thank you.

We will share with others here and will reach out to Aberdeen Airport.

I don't see any need for a call tomorrow but if things change you know where to reach me.

Shona
[redacted]

OFFICIAL

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

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 5:09 PM

To: Shona Riach <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>; [redacted][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted][@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL

Shona, [redacted],

A quick update on today's developments:

- The full set of paperwork from the local funeral director has been finalised.
- Aircraft is booked and paid for and will be positioned tomorrow, ahead of repatriation on Friday.
- The charter company are proceeding with lodging the necessary applications for ground clearance from the UK Civil Aviation Authority and North Macedonian equivalent for ground clearance. Colleagues at the Embassy will follow up on the latter to ensure this is approved quickly. Would it be possible for Scottish Government to check with the CAA if they can expedite permissions to land at Aberdeen once we receive the reference number?
- Repatriation is tentatively scheduled for Friday at 11:00, arriving at Aberdeen Airport later that day. The NM Government are preparing a Guard of Honour send off, which will be attended by former President Ivanov, Tasmina, and one BBC reporter. HMA North Macedonia will also be in attendance, accompanied by a comms officer.
- [redacted] has been in regular communication with [redacted], and the family are aware of all the above.

If you're content with where things are, we will update as and when there are further developments. Or we can schedule another call tomorrow morning?

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Assistance Department | Consular Directorate
[REDACTED] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles Street | London |
SW1A 2AH
[redacted]

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2024 12:13
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL

Thanks [redacted]. Helpful to see.

Shona
[redacted]

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 12:08 PM
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

OFFICIAL

Dear Shona, [redacted],

Following our earlier meeting, please see the readout below of my colleague [redacted]'s call with [redacted] at 11:15:

[redacted]

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Assistance Department | Consular Directorate
[REDACTED] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles Street | London | SW1A 2AH
[redacted]

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 October 2024 09:19
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

OFFICIAL

Thanks [redacted], yes that would be great if you could set up. Can you please invite [redacted] from my side?

[redacted] | Head of Consular Country Casework Teams | Consular Directorate | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED] King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | **email:** [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk | [redacted]

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 October 2024 09:15
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted]

Could we do a Teams call please as [redacted] will be joining Shona. I'm happy to set this up.

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Director's Office | Directorate for Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government | Area 2H South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ
T: [redacted]



OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:11 AM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Airports

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted],

Yes I would be. Would you like to arrange a teams call or a phone call? If on teams, let me know if I can bring in someone else from my team or if Shona would prefer 1-1.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Consular Country Casework Teams | Consular Directorate | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED] King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH
| **email:** [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk | **[redacted]**

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 October 2024 09:09
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted]

Shona has a call with the DFM at 10am and has asked if you would be free to speak after that?

Kind regards
[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Director's Office | Directorate for Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government | Area 2H South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ
T: [redacted]



OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:42 AM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] (Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Global Response Centre <response@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

OFFICIAL

Morning Shona,

Would it be helpful from your side to have a call to discuss next steps today? I can set one up on Teams or please just call me directly on [redacted]. We need to contact the Salmond family this morning to pass some paperwork from the local funeral director so keen to understand the latest discussions you've had with them before we do so.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Consular Country Casework Teams | Consular Directorate | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED] King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 October 2024 17:23
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted] (Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Global Response Centre <response@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

Hi Shona,

Thank you for this helpful update. Do let us know the feedback after that conversation and we'll provide any further support needed. Noted on the RAF point.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Consular Country Casework Teams | Consular Directorate | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED] King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | **email:** [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk | [redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 5:22 PM
To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted] (Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Global Response Centre <response@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

OFFICIAL

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

Shona
[redacted]

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 5:04 PM
To: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] (Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Global Response Centre <response@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

OFFICIAL

Shona,

Thanks again for your time earlier today.

I'm conscious you are briefing your DFM shortly. If there are any urgent actions arising from this meeting, my colleagues in the Global Response Centre (in copy) stand ready to support overnight if needed. Otherwise, I'd be happy to speak again in the morning about next steps.

My colleague [redacted] is in contact with the Salmond family point of contact [redacted]. He will speak to her again at the end of the day to confirm a couple of details about arrangements. We're not clear on what information about the private charter option you have shared with the family so for the moment he will not comment on this as to not complicate things further at this distressing time. From tomorrow, it would be helpful for us to understand who from the Scottish Government is liaising with the family and what information has been shared with them if this is possible so we're on the same page.

All the best,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Consular Country Casework Teams | Consular Directorate | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED] King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH | **email:** [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk | [redacted]

OFFICIAL

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 3:46 PM
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted] (Consular) <[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Airports

Shona,

Thank you for your call earlier today.

As discussed, an International Funeral Director can be appointed to coordinate the repatriation of Mr Salmond. Normally, the next of kin would be responsible for making this appointment however a nominated point of contact (i.e. the Scottish Government) should be able to make this appointment on the family's behalf with their consent.

We provide a list of UK based international funeral directors but do not have any specific recommendations as to who you appoint: [UK-based international funeral directors - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). The international funeral director (IFD) will be able to work with the local funeral director in North Macedonia (who we are in regular contact with) to ensure all the necessary local and UK requirements are met to bring Mr Salmond home. This includes providing documents such as a local civil registry death certificate, a certificate of embalming and a certificate giving permission to transfer the remains to the UK. I would strongly advise that you do appoint an IFD as they are best placed to manage these processes and will be well versed in what is needed. I understand that the family have expressed a preference for a local funeral director as well, if the local funeral director is not able to manage the international repatriation then it should be possible that they take over after Mr Salmond has landed in Aberdeen.

The IFD should also be able to assist with providing quotes and logistical arrangements for a private charter flight to return Mr Salmond. If you have any issues with them providing you with these quotes, please do let us know and we will see if we can assist here.

Please note, these are private companies and there would be a cost attached which the FCDO would not be able to pay. In normal circumstances, the family or the individual's insurance company would cover the costs.

Please do let me know if you have any further questions.

All the best,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Head of Consular Country Casework Teams | Consular Directorate | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | [REDACTED] King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH
| **email:** [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk) | **[redacted]**

From: [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot) <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 3:13 PM
To: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>
Cc: [redacted] (Consular) <[\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk)>
Subject: Airports

[redacted]

Thanks for your earlier email. Following the ministerial call we are looking at options for a private chartered flights. I wonder if the Embassy could give us an urgent view on airports. I am told that there is an airfield – Ohrid St Paul the Apostle Airport – 15 minutes drive from where the body is. The family seem very concerned by the long drive to the main airport. Could the embassy give us an urgent view on whether it would be possible for a chartered flight to fly out of there? I guess the question is whether it is suitable for a plane of this sort and whether it would be possible to arrange for accompanying team to leave from there. We have a follow up call with the DFM at 5pm so any views by then would be very much appreciated.

Thanks in advance

Shona

Shona Riach (she/her)
Director, Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government
Mobile: [redacted] | Email: [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

Document 7

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk

Sent: 17 October 2024 11:29

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

Subject: FCDO / Scottish Government - Alex Salmond Repatriation

Hi [redacted]

I have been informed by [redacted], the International Funeral Director, that the local funeral director in Aberdeen is ready for collection tomorrow but is unclear on exactly where they need to arrive and how this will be managed. They are in contact with Aberdeen Airport and are awaiting a response. As I know that you have liaised with the airport, please could you just check that everything is in order on that side and they are coordinating with the local funeral director (details below)?

[redacted]

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Consular Casework Manager | Consular Directorate | King Charles Street | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | London SW1A 2AH | Email: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk [redacted] | Consular Casework Manager for: Ukraine, France, Poland, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland, Liechtenstein. GOV.UK/FCDO | FCDO YouTube | FCDO Flickr | FCDO on Twitter | FCDO on Facebook

Document 8

From: Katherine Goodwin <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** DG Corporate

Sent: 15 October 2024 17:23

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Nick Ford <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Alison Coull <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Aileen Wright <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Anna Kynaston <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Chief Financial Officer <cfo@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>

Subject: Official Sensitive - Update on repatriation of Former First Minister Mr Salmond

FM
DFM

[redacted – not in scope]

Officials remain in regular touch with the FCDO, including regarding liaison and support for the family.

[redacted – not in scope]

Kind regards
Katherine

Katherine Goodwin | Chief of Staff to Lesley Fraser, DG Corporate | Scottish Government | [redacted]

Responsibility for filing key documents and communications to the corporate record, including those sent to DG Corporate, rests with relevant policy and operational areas. The DG Office Team does not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Document 9

From: Shona Riach <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 October 2024 09:27

To: Lesley Fraser <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Subject: call with FCDO

I just spoke to the FCDO they have all the same understanding as us and are happy to liaise directly with the international funeral directors and the Hunter Foundation. They believe that the repatriation should happen tomorrow.

They are in touch with the North Macedonians around what is happening at that end. Their understanding is that there will be a guard of honour and that the President of NM will be there. They are thinking about attendance from the embassy on protocol grounds. But they will not get involved in supporting broadcasters etc. [redacted]

They are not planning any proactive press lines but [redacted] is going to get me contact details for someone in their press office for [redacted] to be in touch with.

Shona

Shona Riach (she/her)

Director, Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government

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

Document 10

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Sent: 14 October 2024 12:48

To: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; PS Minister Doughty - Action <psministerdoughtyaction@fcdo.gov.uk>

Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Deputy FM/Minister Doughty call today

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for your email. I can confirm the below contact numbers:

Deputy First Minister - [redacted]

[redacted] (Deputy Private Secretary) – [redacted]

Shona Riach (Director, External Affairs & Culture) - [redacted]

Anna Kynaston (Principal Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary) - [redacted]

[redacted] (Head of Permanent Secretary Office) - [redacted]

I would be grateful if you could confirm joining details.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP

[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Priobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [redacted] E: DFMCSEF@gov.scot

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

From: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 11:23 AM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; PS Minister Doughty - Action <psministerdoughtyaction@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Deputy FM/Minister Doughty call today

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted],

Thanks very much for your response. Minister Doughty is currently travelling so I think Teams will be tricky. However our office could set up a call via the No10 Switch board so that way

officials could also listen into the call? If that suits you, could you send the phone numbers for all the relevant people that should be invited and we can set up the call?

Best,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Assistant Private Secretary | Minister of State for Europe, North America & UK Overseas Territories | Stephen Doughty MP
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | [\[redacted\]](#)

OFFICIAL

From: [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](#) <[\[redacted\]@gov.scot](#)> **On Behalf Of** [DFMCSEG@gov.scot](#)
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 12:13 PM
To: PS Minister Doughty - Action <psministerdoughtyaction@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [\[redacted\]@fcdo.gov.uk](#); [DFMCSEG@gov.scot](#)
Subject: RE: Deputy FM/Minister Doughty call today

You don't often get email from dfmcseg@gov.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email. Would it be possible for this call to take place via Microsoft Teams in order that Private Office and an SG official can be present?

If this is appropriate, please can you share an Microsoft Teams link.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – [redacted] Forbes MSP
[redacted], Leas-rùnaire Priobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: [redacted] E: DFMCSEF@gov.scot

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OFFICIAL

From: PS Minister Doughty - Action <psministerdoughtyaction@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 10:53 AM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <dfmcseg@gov.scot>
Cc: PS Minister Doughty - Action <psministerdoughtyaction@fcdo.gov.uk>; [redacted]fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: Deputy FM/Minister Doughty call today

OFFICIAL

Dear Deputy First Minister's Office,

I understand FCDO colleagues have been in touch to confirm that Minister of State Stephen Doughty has offered to have a call this afternoon at 1415 UK time and that you have confirmed that time works for the Deputy First Minister.

Are you able to please confirm what number Minister Doughty should call to reach the Deputy First Minister?

Best,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Assistant Private Secretary | Minister of State for Europe, North America & UK Overseas Territories | Stephen Doughty MP

[redacted] | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | King Charles St, London, SW1A 2AH | [\[redacted\]](#)

Document 11

[redacted]