

FOI 202400401024

Exchange 1

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:04 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: For consideration: The Herald, FM on flight to Qatar

Fine, thanks

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:03:00 PM
To: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For consideration: The Herald, FM on flight to Qatar

Hi Kevin,

GB News have also asked for lines on this. I'll reissue shortly, any problems let me know.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 1:06 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For consideration: The Herald, FM on flight to Qatar
Yes, ok, copying Callum for info.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 1:05 PM
To: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For consideration: The Herald, FM on flight to Qatar
Thanks Kevin. Content to send to DFM for awareness and issue I'll send this afternoon?

[REDACTED]

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 12:57 PM

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

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For consideration: The Herald, FM on flight to Qatar

Thanks [REDACTED]

I think best to send the below as background, with one suggested addition . .

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 12:53 PM

To: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>

Subject: For consideration: The Herald, FM on flight to Qatar

Hi Kevin,

Copying FMPO for awareness.

I've had a look at the system and it doesn't seem whether we've been asked if FM is away in recent years. [REDACTED]

I'd suggest a background line along the below (or calling [REDACTED] to deliver verbally). Grateful for your thoughts.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

News | First Minister's Communications Media Manager

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9020

www.gov.scot/news

For information

The First Minister is on leave during the parliamentary recess this week, with the Deputy First Minister covering his duties. For security reasons, the First Minister's travel arrangements are not made public.

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 12:32 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Subject: Herald / FM

Hi, I've had the following message from [REDACTED] at The Herald.

"I've heard that Humza Yousaf and his wife flew out to Qatar on Saturday from Edinburgh.

"Can you confirm if this? Is he on holiday or is it a business trip?"

Kevin Pringle
Special Adviser

Room 5N.01 St Andrew's House
Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]

Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot

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

Exchange 2

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:51 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: D Mail

Hi [REDACTED]

Would it be possible for you to send over an image of any story the Mail carried today on the FM's break in Qatar?

Thanks

Kevin

Exchange 3

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 8:04 PM
To: Humza Yousaf <humza.yousaf@snp.org>
Cc: Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>
Subject: Tuesday note

Evening FM

A brief note summarising the main issues of the day.

[REDACTED]

- The Herald in the print edition (though not online) headlined you being in Qatar: “Yousaf jets off to state accused of funding terrorist groups”. Only the Mail and Gina Davidson at LBC contacted me about it, to both I pointed out as background the close relationship between the UK and Qatar historically (a British protectorate until the 1970s) and now, eg: Qatar-UK inaugural Strategic Dialogue 2023: joint communiqué - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). The online headline was the more neutral: “Yousaf heads to Qatar for holiday after Cabinet reshuffle”.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Exchange 4

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 7:27 PM
To: Humza Yousaf <humza.yousaf@snp.org>
Cc: Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: Monday note

Evening FM

A brief note summarising the main issues of the day.

[Redacted]

- The Herald published a story about your break: Yousaf heads to Qatar for holiday after Cabinet reshuffle | The Herald ([heraldscotland.com](https://www.heraldsotland.com))

The following information was given:

The First Minister is on leave during the parliamentary recess this week, with the Deputy First Minister covering his duties. For security reasons, the First Minister's travel arrangements are not made public.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Exchange 6

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 3:59 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Operations Manager

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 3:00 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>;
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the First Minister
Office of the First Minister

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

The First Minister's box closes at 1400hrs, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found [here](#).

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.

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

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 2:29 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

Thank you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Operations Supervisor

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 2:04 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

[Redacted]

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

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

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From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 12:22 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [Redacted]

Great thanks for the update ill let [Redacted] know

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Operations Manager

[Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Web: [Redacted]
Twitter: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 12:20 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

Just to flag, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Diary Secretary
Office of the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |

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] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 2:16 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Ok thanks for the update

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Operations Manager

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:17 AM
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Cc: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [Redacted]

Thanks [Redacted].

[Redacted]

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Diary Secretary
Office of the First Minister

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

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From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:37 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [Redacted]

Hi Hannah

Yes confirmed [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Operations Manager

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:23 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for confirming – will this be [REDACTED]?

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:18 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Ok – confirmed

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Operations Manager

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:17 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>;
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

Yes please – [REDACTED]

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Diary Secretary
Office of the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

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] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:15 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi

Yes no problem [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Operations Manager

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: [REDACTED]

Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:56 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: FirstMinister@gov.scot

Subject: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon

Apologies, please can we [REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Diary Secretary

Office of the First Minister

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

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 2:41 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Just checking if this was required?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Operations Manager

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:42 PM
To: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Operations Supervisor

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Web: [Redacted]
Twitter: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:01 AM
To: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [Redacted]

Thanks [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Operations Supervisor

[Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Web: [Redacted]
Twitter: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:47 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]. Details are:

[REDACTED]

Many thanks,
H

[REDACTED]

Diary Secretary
Office of the First Minister

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

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] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:16 AM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Operations Supervisor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
FirstMinister@gov.scot
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:14 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: FirstMinister@gov.scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Good morning,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Diary Secretary
Office of the First Minister

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

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

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Exchange 7

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:17 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Sensitive)
<[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: IN CONF: First Minister visiting Doha

Hi [REDACTED]

That's a kind offer for which the First Minister was very grateful. He asked me to pass on that he [REDACTED] as he's taking a family holiday, but asked me to convey his best wishes and thanks.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] |Team Leader, International Relations |Directorate for External Affairs|Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ |Tel [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 10:38 AM
To: Stuart Adam <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Sensitive)
<[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: IN CONF: First Minister visiting Doha

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Please do let us know if of interest, and Zoe, in copy, can arrange.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:44:29 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: IN CONF: First Minister visiting Doha

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you're well. I work in International Relations team at the Scottish Government. The First Minister, Humza Yousaf, will visit Doha on a private visit with his family from 10-15 February, arriving and departing on the Edinburgh flights. There's no official element to his visit and he isn't asking for any contact with or support from the Embassy, but thought you should be aware he'd be on your patch.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

Stuart Adam | Team Leader, International Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel [REDACTED]

Exchange 8

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 3:50 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mofa.gov.qa>

Subject: RE: First Minister of Scotland visiting Qatar

Dear [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] no assistance will be required on this occasion. He is very much looking forward to visiting Qatar with his family.

With very best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of the First Minister

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

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 11:22 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mofa.gov.qa>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: First Minister of Scotland visiting Qatar

Thank you [REDACTED], likewise nice to be in touch.

[REDACTED]. I'm cc'ing my colleague, [REDACTED], who works in the First Minister's office to take this forward.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] International Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mofa.gov.qa>

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 10:59 AM

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

Subject: Re: First Minister of Scotland visiting Qatar

[REDACTED]

On 8 February 2024 at 14:38:12 GMT, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this email finds you well. We met when His Excellency the Ambassador visited Scotland last year, and met my Director Scott Wightman.

I wanted to let you know that the First Minister of Scotland, Mr Humza Yousaf, will visit Qatar with his family from 10-15 February. The visit is purely recreational in nature and the First Minister is not seeking any formal engagement whilst visiting your country, but we thought it important to inform the Embassy as a courtesy.

Please let me know if you need any more information, otherwise I look forward to meeting you on your next visit to Scotland.

Best regards,

██████████

██████████, International Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Exchange 9

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 4:00 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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