

Note of meeting, Israeli Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Daniela Grudsky Ekstein and Angus Robertson, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

8 August 2024

14:30 hours

St Andrews House

Attendees

Angus Robertson, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (AR)

Daniela Grudsky Ekstein, Deputy Chief of Mission to the UK (DG)

Hodaya Avzada Head of Civil Society and Domestic Affairs

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)], [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)], International Relations

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)], International Relations

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)], PS Cabinet Secretary

1. AR welcomed DG to Scotland. [REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)], [REDACTED – s.30(c)]

Regional situation

2. AR recalled that the Scottish Government had condemned Hamas' 7 October attacks and had repeatedly called for hostages to be released. An immediate ceasefire on all sides was necessary to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, recognising that that would take two willing sides. Every effort must be taken to reduce civilian casualties. [REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)], [REDACTED – s.30(c)]

3. The Scottish Government's position remained that the Palestinian people had the right to self-determination and that a secure Israel should be able to live in peace and security. There was value in dialogue between Scotland and Israel as critical friends. The Scottish Government position has long been in support of a two-state solution, achieving the inalienable right of Palestinians to self-determination in a viable state alongside peace and security for Israel.

4. [REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)], [REDACTED – s.30(c)]

Combating Antisemitism

5. AR noted that the recently published Community Security Trust Report had shown a worrying increase in antisemitic incidents across the UK. While the number in Scotland was very low, we would continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of hatred. FM had met with faith community leaders the previous day at Bute House.

6. [REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)], [REDACTED – s.30(c)]

Israel/Scotland relations

7. [REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)], [REDACTED – s.30(c)]

8. [REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)], [REDACTED – s.30(c)] More broadly, it was important that we promoted the best possible relationships between the peoples of Scotland, Israel and Palestine. [REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)], [REDACTED – s.30(c)]

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]
International Relations

Note of meeting, Israeli Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Daniela Grudsky Ekstein and Angus Robertson, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (14/8/24)

[REDACTED – s.30(c)]
[REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)]
[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

Note of meeting, Israeli Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Daniela Grudsky Ekstein and Angus Robertson, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (9/8/24)

[REDACTED – s.30(c)]
[REDACTED – s.32(1)(a)(i)]
[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

Email thread - RE: OFFSEN: Visit of Israeli DCM to Scotland

From: [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024
Sent: 06 September 2024 10:37
To: [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFSEN: Visit of Israeli DCM to Scotland

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.

Hi [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)],

Many thanks for this. Mr Robertson is content.

Best,

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture CabSecCEAC@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2024 12:00 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; John Primrose

<John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED –

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED –

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED –

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: OFFSEN: Visit of Israeli DCM to Scotland

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

I recognise CabSec will not have had the opportunity to clear this note given his leave, so reattaching with a couple of factual amendments so it's at the top of the inbox.

Regards,

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)] International Relations | Directorate for Culture & External Affairs | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 7:53 AM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFSEN: Visit of Israeli DCM to Scotland

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

Thanks for this. I've revisited my notes and amended as attached.

Regards,

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)] International Relations | Directorate for Culture & External Affairs | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

From: [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 11:35 AM

To: [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFSEN: Visit of Israeli DCM to Scotland

Hi [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)],

[REDACTED – s.30(b)(ii)]

Many thanks,
[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture CabSecCEAC@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 11:06 AM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; John Primrose

<John.Primrose@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED –

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED –

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications

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<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFSEN: Visit of Israeli DCM to Scotland

Hi [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)],

I hope that you are well. Please see attached minute of yesterdays meeting. I would be grateful if you could please confirm if Cab Sec is content.

Thanks

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)], International Division, External Affairs Directorate, The Scottish Government

[REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)] | [REDACTED – s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Due to Covid-19, I am working from home as are the majority of Scottish Government employees.
