

## **Annex B**

### **Doc 001**

**From:** John Swinney <John.Swinney@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 10 January 2025 17:08  
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: For clearance: Herald query - Chris McEleny comments - Alex Salmond tribute

Approved.

FM

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**From:** [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] on behalf of First Minister  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 4:38:35 PM  
**To:** John Swinney  
**Subject:** FW: For clearance: Herald query - Chris McEleny comments - Alex Salmond tribute  
Content to clear?  
[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]  
**Deputy Private Secretary**  
**Office of the First Minister**

**From:** [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 10 January 2025 16:26  
**To:** First Minister  
**Cc:** [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; Helen Webster ; Lesley Fraser ; DG Corporate ; Andrew Bruce ; John Webster ; Julie Grant ; Permanent Secretary ; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; Communications First Minister ; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] ; Jack Middleton ; Colin McAllister ; Ross Ingebrigtsen  
**Subject:** For clearance: Herald query - Chris McEleny comments - Alex Salmond tribute  
Good afternoon FMPO,

The *Herald* has asked if the SG would like to comment on remarks by Chris McEleny (below) regarding the establishment of an educational establishment in tribute to the late former First Minister Alex Salmond.

Comms suggest the following line in response, which has been cleared by DG Corporate and SpAds – very grateful for the FM's clearance.

Many thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

#### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

“The First Minister led Parliament in a Motion of Condolence in October 2024 and paid tribute to Mr Salmond’s enormous contribution to political life in Scotland, across the UK and beyond.”

#### **QUERY:**

CM said: "I think the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament should be driven in that regard by first and foremost Alex's family, then his friends. But, as we saw at his memorial service at St Giles Cathedral, there are a vast number of people in Scotland who saw Alex as part of their family.

"They would want a suitable tribute to Alex, whether that's a statue, a stone, a building.

"Alex was always a big supporter of Sir Sean Connery's foundation which helps people get advances and opportunities in education. I think considering that thanks to Alex Salmond young people in Scotland have access to free education, then some sort of an educational establishment in his name would probably be fitting."

"In the US it's common that a library is established in the former president's name. For instance there is the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, the Carter Center. I think Alex is not the sort of man you just name a bridge or street after.

"He is someone whose legacy will last well beyond our lifetimes. Alex is of the stature of someone who will last the test of time."

**[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager**

First Minister's Communications

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

m: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

**Doc 002 – Duplicate of Annex A**

**[Duplicate]**