

202500462173: Review of 202500457300 Meeting between the First Minister and Eric Trump: Documentation

Note of meeting – 21 March 2025:

**From:** John Webster  
**Sent:** 21 March 2025 08:48  
**To:** First Minister  
**Cc:** Shona Riach; John Primrose; Richard Rollison; Colin Cook; Colin McAllister; Emily Mackintosh; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Official Note: First Minister Meeting with Senior VP Trump Organisation, Eric Trump

First Minister,

You met with the Senior Vice President of the Trump Organisation, Eric Trump (ET), on Thursday 13 March. Also present at the meeting were Sarah Malone (SM) - Executive Vice President, Trump International, Scotland – Colin McAllister, John Webster and Emily Mackintosh.

The meeting, which had been requested by the Sarah Malone, coincided with a visit to Scotland during which Mr Trump would visit Trump org investments in Scotland – including golf properties at Turnberry and the soon to launch second course at Trump Aberdeen Links in Balmedie.

You began by welcoming ET to Scotland, recognising the significant ongoing investment by Trump Org in Scotland's economy – particularly our tourism and leisure sectors – and welcoming the opportunity to discuss future investment plans. You stressed the important role that inward investment played in transforming the Scottish economy, and your commitment to an open dialogue with all major investors.

You noted with concern the recent incident at the Trump Turnberry property, condemning the damage caused by vandalism and offered reassurance that the relevant authorities would continue to take the incident seriously.

ET restated his family's commitment to and passion for Scotland. He stressed that this commitment was long term. He narrated the journey he had been on since purchasing the Turnberry property and redeveloping it, and set out plans for the launch of the second course at Trump Aberdeen links later this year. SM welcomed the opportunity to an open dialogue with the international investment community and set out some of the challenges she had faced at a local level.

**John Webster**

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister  
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: 0131 244 2557| M: [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

Email exchange on comms and confirmation of meeting – 11-13 March 2025:

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 14:59  
**To:** Emily Mackintosh; Jack Middleton;  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Ross Ingebrigtsen; Colin  
McAllister; Sean McGivern; Julie Grant  
**Cc:** First Minister; John Primrose; John  
Webster; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Thanks Emily, will send onto FMPO for awareness and issue to those who have requested comment.

Thanks,  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

**First Minister Communications**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)] Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9022

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

**From:** Emily Mackintosh  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 14:57  
**To:** Jack Middleton ; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Ross Ingebrigtsen ;  
Colin McAllister ; Sean McGivern ; Julie Grant ; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]**Cc:** First  
Minister ; John Primrose ; John Webster ; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Changes below – this has been cleared by the FM.

Emily

**First Minister meets with Eric Trump**

First Minister John Swinney welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, and Sarah Malone, Executive Vice President of Trump International, to his official residence of Bute House this afternoon to discuss investment in Scotland.

Following the meeting, a Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The First Minister welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to Bute House to discuss the contribution Trump International provides to Scotland's economy.

"The First Minister regularly meets with business people regarding investment in Scotland.

"The meeting with Mr Trump provided an opportunity to discuss Scotland's investment potential and the First Minister was pleased to hear about the company's continued commitment to Scotland, in particular Aberdeenshire and Ayrshire."

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

This was the first meeting between the First Minister and Eric Trump.

Mr Trump's office requested a meeting with the First Minister some time ago, which was arranged for when Mr Trump was visiting Scotland.

The meeting took place at Bute House, Edinburgh, on Thursday 13 March.

**From:** Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 13 March 2025 14:43

**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Julie Grant <[Julie.Grant@gov.scot](mailto:Julie.Grant@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Tweak.

**Jack Middleton**

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[jack.middleton@gov.scot](mailto:jack.middleton@gov.scot)

*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](http://www.lobbying.scot).

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 13 March 2025 14:29

**To:** Taylor Scott <[Taylor.Scott@gov.scot](mailto:Taylor.Scott@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Julie Grant <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Hi all,

Thanks for sight of this, copying [redacted s.38(1)(b)] and [redacted s.38(1)(b)] also for IR interests going forward.

Thanks  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 13 March 2025 14:26

**To:** Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Julie Grant <[Julie.Grant@gov.scot](mailto:Julie.Grant@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Thanks Ross. Suggested updates to the comment to cover some of these points.

### **First Minister meets with Eric Trump**

First Minister John Swinney welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, and Sarah Malone, Executive Vice President of Trump International, to his official residence of Bute House this afternoon to discuss Trump International.

Following the meeting, a Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The First Minister welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to Bute House to discuss the contribution Trump International provides to Scotland’s economy.

“The First Minister regularly meets with business people regarding investment in Scotland.

"The meeting with Mr Trump provided an opportunity to discuss Scotland's investment potential and the First Minister was pleased to hear about the company's continued commitment to Scotland, in particular Aberdeenshire and Ayrshire."

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

This was the first meeting between the First Minister and Eric Trump.

Mr Trump's office requested a meeting with the First Minister some time ago, which was arranged for when Mr Trump was visiting Scotland.

The meeting took place at Bute House, Edinburgh, on Thursday 13 March.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)] Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

**From:** Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 13 March 2025 14:03

**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Julie Grant <[Julie.Grant@gov.scot](mailto:Julie.Grant@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Hi all

Some questions from the post-FMQ briefing that we said we would see if we could answer afterwards:

Where is the meeting taking place?

Can we have a list of who is sitting in the meeting (both from the Trump Organisation and from SG)?

Is it a lunch (i.e. is any food being served)?

How did the meeting come about – who requested it?

Is this the First Minister's first meeting with Eric Trump, or have they met before?

Can we see the agenda?

Thanks

Ross

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**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Sent:** 13 March 2025 13:51

**To:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Julie Grant <[Julie.Grant@gov.scot](mailto:Julie.Grant@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Adding [redacted s.38(1)(b)] who will issue once we have clearance/further input. Can I also confirm if someone will flag this statement to Trump International for awareness.

### **First Minister meets with Eric Trump**

First Minister John Swinney welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to his official residence of Bute House this afternoon to discuss Trump International.

Following the meeting, a Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The First Minister welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to Bute House to discuss the important contribution Trump International provides to Scotland's economy.

“The First Minister regularly meets with business people of significance operating in Scotland, whatever their personal or family politics.

"The meeting with Mr Trump provided an opportunity to discuss Scotland's investment potential and the First Minister was pleased to hear about the company's continued commitment to Scotland."

**ENDS**

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)]** The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh  
Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029  
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**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 13 March 2025 11:36

**To:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Julie Grant <[Julie.Grant@gov.scot](mailto:Julie.Grant@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

All,

Please find updated comms handling.

If asked in advance:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The First Minister regularly meets with significant businesses operating in Scotland, whatever their personal or family politics. The meeting is intended to discuss the Trump International's golf and hospitality businesses in Ayrshire and the North East."

### **Background**

The First Minister will today meet with Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, at Bute House to discuss the role Trump International plays in Scotland's economy.

We will look to proactively confirm the meeting has taken place and issue a proactive comment upon conclusion of the meeting. Suggested draft below.

### **First Minister meets with Eric Trump**

First Minister John Swinney welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to his official residence of Bute House this afternoon to discuss Trump International.

Following the meeting, a Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The First Minister welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to Bute House to discuss the important contribution Trump International provides to Scotland's economy.

"The First Minister regularly meets with business people of significance operating in Scotland, whatever their personal or family politics.

"The meeting with Mr Trump provided an opportunity to discuss Scotland's investment potential and the First Minister was pleased to hear about the company's continued commitment to Scotland."

**ENDS**

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)] | [redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 13 March 2025 11:16

**To:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Julie Grant <[Julie.Grant@gov.scot](mailto:Julie.Grant@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [[redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\] @gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Adding @Ross and @Julie for briefing purposes.

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)] [redacted s.38(1)(b)]** The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 12 March 2025 17:10

**To:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Thanks Colin. We can hold these lines and review tomorrow.

In advance:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The First Minister regularly meets with significant businesses operating in Scotland, whatever their personal or family politics. The meeting is intended to discuss the Trump International’s golf and hospitality businesses in Ayrshire and the North East.”

Following the meeting:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The First Minister regularly meets with business people of significance operating in Scotland, whatever their personal or family politics. He met with Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to discuss the important contribution Trump International provides to Scotland’s economy. The First Minister discussed Scotland’s investment potential and was pleased to hear about the company’s continued commitment to Scotland.”

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)]| Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

**From:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 11 March 2025 18:31

**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

I would amend the advance to read:

“The First Minister regularly meets with significant businesses operating in Scotland, whatever their personal or family politics. The meeting is intended to discuss the Trump International’s golf and hospitality businesses in Ayrshire and the North East.”

[redacted - 30(b)(ii)]

On the line for after the meeting, I would suggest:

"The First Minister regularly meets with business people of significance operating in Scotland, whatever their personal or family politics. He met with Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to discuss the important contribution Trump International provides to Scotland's economy. The First Minister discussed Scotland's investment potential, alongside the importance of golf and tourism for our economy, and was pleased to hear about the company's continued commitment to Scotland."

Obviously, this will need to be considered following the meeting.

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

0131 244 3248

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]



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**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 11 March 2025 12:16

**To:** Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Hi all

Please find suggested lines to take.

- If asked for comment **ahead of** meeting:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

- If asked for comment **following** the meeting:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The First Minister met with Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to discuss the important contribution Trump International provides to Scotland's economy. The First Minister discussed Scotland's investment potential, alongside the importance of golf and tourism for our economy, and was pleased to hear about the company's continued commitment to Scotland."

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)] Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

**From:** Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 07 March 2025 10:49

**To:** John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton

<[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

John W will provide official support.

Thanks,

Emily

**From:** John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 07 March 2025 10:47

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton

<[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Yes, will you need any official support?

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** 07 March 2025 10:46

**To:** Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton

<[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting on Thursday 13th

Thanks Emily – we'll make arrangements with BH colleagues to organise refreshments, assuming the meeting will take place in the Drawing Room.

**John/[redacted s.38(1)(b)]** – could we please have a short briefing note and lines to take by COP Tuesday?

I will also mention to [redacted s.38(1)(b)] for awareness.

Thanks

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2025 10:34 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; John Webster <[John.Webster@gov.scot](mailto:John.Webster@gov.scot)>; John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Meeting on Thursday 13th

Dear all,

The First Minister will host the Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, Eric Trump, at Bute House for an introductory meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 1330.

The discussion will focus on Mr Trump's investment in Scotland, and he would also like to share his future plans for the golf courses in Ayrshire and Aberdeenshire.

Attendees will be as follows:

Eric Trump – Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation

Sarah Malone - Executive Vice President, Trump International, Scotland

Larry Glick – Executive Vice President of Development at the Trump Organization

[redacted s.38(1)(b)] – there will be no need for proactive comms, but could you please draft a holding line for before and after the meeting and send round this copy list?

Many thanks,

Emily

**Emily Mackintosh**

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]/ 0131 244 5599

[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)

*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](http://www.lobbying.scot).*

Email exchange and briefing – 13 March 2025:

**From:** Emily Mackintosh  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 11:09  
**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; First Minister; Ross Ingebrigtsen  
**Cc:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Colin McAllister; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Gary Cox; John Primrose  
**Subject:** Re: Briefing - FM meeting with Eric Trump - 13 March 2025

Many thanks [redacted s.38(1)(b)] - much appreciated.

E

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**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 11:07:36 AM  
**To:** Emily Mackintosh ; First Minister ; Ross Ingebrigtsen  
**Cc:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Colin McAllister ; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Gary Cox ; John Primrose  
**Subject:** RE: Briefing - FM meeting with Eric Trump -13 March 2025

Hi Emily

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you. We don't have exact figures but estimate about **340-360 employed** across Trump MacLeod House & Lodge, Balmedie, Aberdeenshire and Trump Turnberry, Ayrshire with **potential for further job creation** at the new MacLeod Golf Course, Aberdeenshire.

Sarah Malone, Executive Vice President of Trump International Scotland stated last year that **around 600 people are employed directly by Trump businesses** but we are not able to verify this figure.

Kind regards,  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted s.38(1)(b)] Directorate for Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government | [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
Pronouns she/her

---

**From:** Emily Mackintosh  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 10:47  
**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; First Minister ; Ross Ingebrigtsen  
**Cc:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Colin McAllister  
**Subject:** RE: Briefing - FM meeting with Eric Trump -13 March 2025

Thanks [redacted s.38(1)(b)], we spoke and you are going to get this number from colleagues.  
Copying Ross.

Emily

---

**From:** Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 12 March 2025 17:15  
**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Briefing - FM meeting with Eric Trump -13 March 2025

[redacted s.38(1)(b)],

Just tightening copy list. Could I please get a number for Trump International employees based in Scotland (at Turnberry and Aberdeenshire)

Many thanks,  
Emily

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**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 11 March 2025 18:09  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Gary Cox <[Gary.Cox@gov.scot](mailto:Gary.Cox@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Shona Riach <[Shona.Riach@gov.scot](mailto:Shona.Riach@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Briefing - FM meeting with Eric Trump -13 March 2025

Apologies – with SpAds now included in copy.

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)]** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] | Directorate for Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government | [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
Pronouns she/her

---

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 11 March 2025 18:08  
**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** John Primrose <[John.Primrose@gov.scot](mailto:John.Primrose@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@fcdo.gov.uk)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Gary Cox <[Gary.Cox@gov.scot](mailto:Gary.Cox@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]<  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted  
s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
Shona Riach <[Shona.Riach@gov.scot](mailto:Shona.Riach@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Briefing - FM meeting with Eric Trump -13 March 2025

FMPO

With apologies for the late hour and thanks to colleagues in copy please see attached the briefing for the First Minister's meeting with Eric Trump.

Kind Regards,  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)]** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]| Directorate for Culture and External  
Affairs | Scottish Government | [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
Pronouns she/her

**BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER  
MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, TRUMP ORGANISATION, ERIC TRUMP  
13 March 2025**

<b>Key message</b>	Recognises the valuable contribution of Trump International to Scotland's economy and that the organisation's commitment to continue to invest in Scotland is greatly appreciated.
<b>What</b>	A meeting with the Executive Vice-President of the Trump Organisation, Eric Trump
<b>Why</b>	To discuss the important contribution Trump International provides to Scotland's economy, the investment climate within Scotland, and the value of golf and tourism for Scotland's economy.
<b>Who</b>	Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation  Sarah Malone, Executive VP, Trump International, Scotland Larry Glick, Executive VP of Development at the Trump Organization
<b>Where</b>	Bute House
<b>When</b>	Thursday 13 March 2025 – 13:30
<b>Likely themes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The US is Scotland's most important international trading partner and holds key opportunities for growth.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting official</b>	<b>John Webster</b> , Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
<b>Attached documents</b>	<b>Annex A:</b> Top Lines <b>Annex B:</b> Biographies <b>Annex C:</b> Trump Organization Investments in Scotland <b>Annex D:</b> R&A and Trump Turnberry <b>Annex E:</b> Golf Events and Tourism

## TOP LINES

### US ENGAGEMENT

- The USA is one of Scotland's most important markets and source of inward investment. We hope the US will always be a close trading partner, supporting a positive trading environment which benefits businesses in Scotland and the US.
- Scotland appreciates the lasting social, cultural and economic ties we have with the USA and we will work to make sure these ties continue to flourish.
- I recognise the valuable contribution of Trump International to Scotland's economy and that the organisation's commitment to continue to invest in Scotland is greatly appreciated.

### TOURISM

The Scottish Government values the investment The Trump Organization has made in our Visitor Economy over many years, providing jobs and experiences.

Golf is a connecting force for good between our natural assets, cultural ties and sport.

This supports one of our national priorities of growing the visitor economy, which continues to perform strongly with overseas visitors, particularly those from USA which is a key market.

### GOLF AND GOLF EVENTS

Golf is important to Scotland's economy and reputation. Our golf events help us maintain our worldwide reputation as the 'Home of Golf' and we are proud of Scotland's portfolio of golf events, including The R&A's major championships and our annual national Opens.

**[If asked about Trump Turnberry hosting R&A events, particularly The Open - the President and Trump Organization wish Trump Turnberry to return to the rota of courses eligible to host The Open, but that that's a decision solely for The R&A]**

- The Scottish Government has a funding relationship with the R&A to support their events in Scotland, but all venue decisions are solely at the discretion of the R&A and the Scottish Government is informed of venue selection after the decision has been made. The Scottish Government is not involved in the decision-making process.

**[If asked about the recent pro-Palestine vandalism at Trump Turnberry]**

- Investigation of criminal incidents is an operational matter for Police Scotland
- The service prioritises reports based on the THRIVE model (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigative opportunity, Vulnerability and Engagement)
- The Scottish budget for 2025-26 will deliver an investment of a record £1.62 billion for policing – an increase of £70 million on 2024-25.'

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Eric Trump**, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organization



Eric Trump oversees all aspects of management and operation of the Organisations' global real estate, including new project acquisition, development and construction. Eric actively spearheads the rapid growth of Trump Golf, bringing the portfolio from three properties in 2006, to nineteen today.

With locations in New York, New Jersey, Florida, North Carolina, California, Scotland, Ireland, United Arab Emirates and Indonesia, Eric is responsible for overseeing the construction, management and operations of each Trump Golf property. Eric also led the £200 million renovation of Trump Turnberry, home to four British Open Championships.

**Sarah Malone**, Executive Vice President, Trump International, Scotland



Malone is the most senior and trusted member of Trump's business team in Scotland and for the past 15 years the executive vice-president of the Trump International Golf Links, at Balmedie, near Aberdeen. Her husband is former Editor of the Press and Journal, Damian Bates.

Malone, from Peterhead, 20 miles north of Aberdeen, grew up in a Christian home, although she says her own religious journey began as a young adult. She was studying at Glasgow School of Art when she started attending the Covenant Life Church, known today as Destiny Church. After art school, she attended Anglia Ruskin University before moving into arts management and returning to Scotland. In five years at the Gordon Highlanders Museum, she turned it into a top-rated attraction and in 2008, featured as “the face of Aberdeen”.

**Lawrence ‘Larry’ Glick** – Executive Vice President of Development at the Trump Organization



According to LinkedIn Glick manages Trump's portfolio including acquiring land, golf courses, and hotel/condos for the Trump Organization. Glick also manages the marketing of Trump golf courses and runs Trump Productions for the entertainment industry.

Prior to joining the Trump Organization in 2007 Glick worked for American Express. He has a bachelor's degree in business and corporate communications from the University of Albany,

## TRUMP ORGANIZATION INVESTMENTS IN SCOTLAND

### **Trump MacLeod House & Lodge, Balmedie, Aberdeenshire**

The Trump Organization, bought the 1,400-acre Menie estate, along with Menie House (now renamed Trump MacLeod House and Lodge), in 2006. Situated eight miles north of Aberdeen. This was turned into a five-star golf resort called Trump International Scotland.

- Trump International Scotland reported pre-tax losses of £738,344 in 2022, despite a 74% increase in revenue to £3.6m. The club, which employs 81 staff, posted a loss of £697,000 in 2021.

### **Trump Turnberry, Turnberry, Ayrshire**

The Trump Organization purchased this 800-acre site on the west coast of Scotland in 2014, intending to turn it into “the finest golf and spa resort in the world”. It was already home to a golf and spa resort at the time, with a hotel dating back to 1906 and updates made by successive owners.

The Trump Organisation says it invested £200 million in the hotel and Ailsa golf course, which reopened in 2016

Trump Turnberry reported a pre-tax profit of £571,000 in 2022, marking the first profitable year since its acquisition in 2014 for £60m.

Employees are reported to be in the region of 260-280

Trump Turnberry won the Best Luxury Experience in Scotland at the Thistle Awards 2024

### **MacLeod Golf Course, Aberdeenshire**

- Named after the US President’s Scottish-born mother, the Trump Organization’s third Scottish golf course is due to open in the summer of 2025.
- The 18-hole course spans hundreds of acres of the Aberdeenshire coastline and claims to be “the greatest 36 holes on earth”, according to Eric Trump, Vice President of the Trump Organization, “we have the greatest sand dunes anywhere in the world, the vast North Sea and the most incredible land!”
- Trump International claims that the new course is “one of the most environmentally friendly and sustainable” ever built. Some conservation groups are calling on Aberdeenshire Council to reject the proposal for the course.

## R&A AND TRUMP TURNBERRY

### Renewed agreement with the R&A

- A renewed agreement between the Scottish Government/VisitScotland and The R&A was publicly announced on 28 October 2024. The agreement is for an 11 year period from 2024-34.
- The agreement guarantees that 14 R&A major championships will be staged in Scotland across its lifetime, including 5 stagings of The Open.
- Funding is £1 million per annum, with a split of £700k per annum from the Scottish Government and £300k per annum from VisitScotland.

### The Open 'rota' of venues and Trump Turnberry

- The R&A has a 'rota' of 10 golf courses in the UK that are eligible to host The Open. Each Open is awarded to one of these venues to host.
- Turnberry was previously a venue for The Open but has not been on the rota of courses eligible to host the championship in recent years. The Open was last held at Turnberry in 2009.
- We are aware that President Trump and the Trump Organization are keen that Trump Turnberry returns to the rota and once again hosts The Open. They may also wish to host other R&A major championships, although The Open will be the key target as it is by far the most high-profile and prestigious event.

### Scottish Government Position on Trump Turnberry

- SG has a funding relationship with the R&A to support their events in Scotland, but all venue decisions are solely at the discretion of the R&A and the Scottish Government is informed of venue selection after the decision has been made. The Scottish Government is not involved in the decision-making process.

### Response on R&A Position on Trump Turnberry

- The R&A's position on Trump Turnberry is for them to take as an organisation and SG discussing their position is not recommended. For awareness, however, The R&A has previously put a position in the public domain, albeit when President Trump was not in office, as below:
  - Ahead of the 2023 Open, the R&A's then Chief Executive Martin Slumbers reiterated the R&A position on taking the event back to Turnberry, saying: "Until we're confident that any coverage at Turnberry would be about golf, about the golf course and about the championship, we will not return any of our championships there."

[redacted - 30(b)(i)]

## **ANNEX E**

### **GOLF EVENTS AND TOURISM**

#### **Background of importance of golf and golf events to Scotland**

- Scotland is recognised internationally as the 'Home of Golf'.
- We have more than 550 courses across the country, from championship courses, many of which host tournaments, to hidden gems.
- Scotland's golf tournaments showcase Scotland as the perfect stage for major events and show our first-class courses to a global audience.
- Scotland has an impressive recent record in the delivery of golf events, including the Ryder Cup in 2014 and Solheim Cup in 2019 (both at Gleneagles) and hosting The Open approximately every two years.
- 2024 was an exceptional year for golf events in Scotland, as we successfully delivered all five of the high-profile tournaments that could be held here, comprising:
  - The three major championships: The Open, The AIG Women's Open; and the Senior Open;
  - Our two annual national Opens: Genesis Scottish Open and the Women's Scottish Open.
- All five of the events were supported by Scottish Government funding.

#### **Benefits of golf events to Scotland**

- The Open brings direct economic benefit of at least £60 million each time it is held in Scotland, and usually significantly more.
- Independent research from Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre has found that The 152nd Open at Royal Troon generated an estimated £87.3 million in total economic impact – new money entering the economy – for Scotland. Total economic impact for Ayrshire was an estimated £43.8 million.
- The 2024 Genesis Scottish Open brought £19.2 million in economic impact for Scotland, including £7.8 million for East Lothian.
- Our golf events also bring destination marketing benefits, while customer feedback confirms that golf events inspire people to visit as golf tourists.
- Furthermore, Scotland's golf events include the delivery of activity across key policy agendas such as health and wellbeing, sustainability, accessibility and inclusion.

#### **Visitors from the USA account for a significant proportion of Scotland's visitors**

- In 2023, there were 794,000 visitors to Scotland from USA with an associated spend of £1.2 billion. Visitors from USA accounted for 20% of all overseas visitors and over a third (34%) of all overseas visitor spend.
- Edinburgh was the most popular destination for visitors from USA with 487,000 visitors (61% of all overseas visits) spending £463 million (37% of all overseas visitor spend). The Highlands were the next most popular with 18% and 9% of visits and spend respectively, followed by Glasgow (14% and 7%).
- 18% of all nights spent in the UK by visitors from the USA in 2023 were spent in Scotland, the second highest of all UK regions behind London (45%).

#### **International Connectivity**

- Scotland is now served by United, Delta, JetBlue and American with direct routes to Boston, Washington, Newark, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Orlando.
- These routes are proving very successful for both the USA and Scottish markets, with the Atlanta route in particular proving to be attractive for golf tourism.
- We continue to work closely with Scotland's airports to further grow direct connectivity with the USA with Dallas, Charlotte and Houston routes of particular interest.
- We are very supportive of Edinburgh Airport's ambition to secure a USA pre-clearance facility which would further stimulate demand, making travel easier for leisure and business passengers, with visitors from the USA benefitting on their journey home.

Email exchange – 14 March 2025:

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 14 March 2025 17:06  
**To:** Sean McGivern; Colin McAllister; Jack Middleton; Ross Ingebrigtsen; Ewan Crawford; Spads Admin; David Hutchison; Emily Mackintosh  
**Cc:** Communications First Minister; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

As discussed, I will reissue the lines as previously agreed without the background note.

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** Sean McGivern  
**Sent:** 14 March 2025 16:55  
**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Colin McAllister ; Jack Middleton ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; Ewan Crawford ; Spads Admin ; David Hutchison ; Emily Mackintosh  
**Cc:** Communications First Minister ; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture ; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

[redacted s.38(1)(b)] – so I'm clear, have you discussed that with Colin?

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 14 March 2025 16:54  
**To:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Communications First Minister <[CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

Thanks Colin,

For further awareness plan to reissue the lines with a background note clarifying FM's position on the state visit.

Many thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

### Notes to Editors

As the First Minister has made clear, if a state visit could help solidify US support for Ukraine, if that is part of what supporting Ukraine means in practice, then it is a possibility.

International solidarity to support Ukraine: First Minister's statement - 4 March 2025 - gov.scot

**From:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 14 March 2025 16:32

**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Communications First Minister <[CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

[redacted s.38(1)(b)],

Reissue. Ta

Regards,

**Colin McAllister**

Chief of Staff

---

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 4:12:22 PM

**To:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>; Colin

McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh  
<Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>;  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]<  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted  
s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

SpAds,

Michael Blackley at the Daily Mail has now requested a response to comments made by Russell Findlay about the meeting. In them Mr Findlay calls for FM to withdraw his demand to cancel President Trump's state visit.

Grateful to know if SpAds are happy with FM Comms reissuing our lines or if SpAds wish to provide a response. Full query below.

Many thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

As discussed, in relation to the comments below could I please ask if the First Minister will withdraw his call for the State visit for Donald Trump to not go ahead?

Scottish Conservative leader Russell Findlay said: "Following this bout of hypocrisy, common sense now dictates that John Swinney should withdraw his demand to cancel the state visit.

"The people of Scotland expect the First Minister to do the job he's paid for and not act like a pound shop global statesman.

"Hopefully this episode will serve as a lesson that such grandstanding and meddling on issues beyond his remit are contrary to our country's interests."

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)] [redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

First Minister's Communications  
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

**e:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**m:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**Pronouns:** he/him

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 14 March 2025 11:50

**To:** Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton  
<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>;

Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Communications First Minister <[CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

Thanks Sean,

If nothing further I will reissue to PA at 12:15.

Many thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 14 March 2025 09:52

**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>; Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>; Emily Mackintosh <[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Communications First Minister <[CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

Ok – copying Colin and Emily.

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 14 March 2025 09:36

**To:** Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Ewan Crawford <[Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot](mailto:Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot)>; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Communications First Minister <[CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)] <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

Copying in further comms colleagues.

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 14 March 2025 09:33

**To:** Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>;

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]<

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted

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

**Subject:** For SpAd input - Media Query -FM right of reply/Slater interview - PA

Good morning SpAds,

PA have been on to us this morning for a response to comments made by Lorna Slater on GMS this morning regarding FM's meeting with Eric Trump yesterday (See below).

FM Comms intend to reissue the statement that we sent out yesterday following the meeting. For further awareness our statement was read out on the programme this morning as a response to Ms Slater.

Grateful for your views.

Many thanks,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

## **RESPONSE FOR REISSUE**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The First Minister welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to Bute House to discuss the contribution Trump International provides to Scotland's economy.

"The First Minister regularly meets with business people regarding investment in Scotland.

"The meeting with Mr Trump provided an opportunity to discuss Scotland's investment potential and the First Minister was pleased to hear about the company's continued commitment to Scotland, in particular Aberdeenshire and Ayrshire."

## Notes to Editors

As the First Minister has made clear, if a state visit could help solidify US support for Ukraine, if that is part of what supporting Ukraine means in practice, then it is a possibility.

[International solidarity to support Ukraine: First Minister's statement - 4 March 2025 - gov.scot](#)

## MEDIA QUERY

Appearing on the BBC's Good Morning Scotland programme, Ms Slater warned the First Minister that he could not trust the Trump family.

She said: "Donald Trump will turn on his friends and allies the instant he sees that it is in his interest to do so.

"Building up relationships with him is putting businesses at risk because he could turn on them at any time.

"Look at what's happened to Canadian businesses just about overnight."

She said the meeting was a "really bad call and a bad message to send that he [Mr Swinney] wants to be friends with Donald Trump and his businesses".

She added: "There's a completely different thing between the First Minister having a personal meeting with someone who's part of the Trump empire.

"Of course, Scottish businesses are going to continue to have relationships with American businesses and Canadian businesses and European businesses.

"Of course, those business relationships are still there.

"It's the message that the First Minister is sending about whose side he's on."

Ms Slater said the UK had to show it was on Europe's side as she described the President as "too risky an ally".

She added: "There is a question about the message that the First Minister wants to send by meeting with Eric Trump in this way, and I just think the First Minister has made a bad call.

"This isn't going to protect Scottish businesses. He is showing trying to show that he wants to be friends with Donald Trump. Yeah, and I don't agree with that.

"Donald Trump isn't welcome here, and his politics are not welcome here."

Ms Slater said the First Minister "had a choice" about which businesses he chose to meet with.

She said it was a "bad call" for Mr Swinney to "signal support for the kind of businesses the Trump organisations support".

"The Trump organisation has not proved to be the kind of business that we really want to see in Scotland," she said.

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)] [redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

First Minister's Communications

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

**e:** [\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)

**m:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**Pronouns:** he/him

Draft meeting note – 19 March 2025:

**From:** Emily Mackintosh  
**Sent:** 19 March 2025 16:17  
**To:** John Webster; Colin McAllister  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Note : Meeting with Eric Trump

Works for me

**From:** John Webster  
**Sent:** 19 March 2025 14:25  
**To:** Colin McAllister ; Emily Mackintosh  
**Subject:** Draft Note : Meeting with Eric Trump

Both,

[redacted - s.30(b)(ii)]

JW

FM,

You met with the Senior Vice President of the Trump Organisation, Eric Trump (ET), on Thursday 13 March. Also present at the meeting were Sarah Malone (SM) - Executive Vice President, Trump International, Scotland – Colin McAllister, John Webster and Emily Mackintosh.

The meeting, which had been requested by the Sarah Malone coincided with a visit to Scotland during which Mr Trump would visit Trump org investments in Scotland – including golf properties at Turnberry and the soon to launch second course at Trump Aberdeen Links in Balmedie.

You began by welcoming ET to Scotland, recognising the significant ongoing investment by Trump Org in Scotland's economy – particularly our tourism and leisure sectors and welcoming the opportunity to discuss future investment plans. You stressed the important role that inward investment played in transforming the Scottish economy, and your commitment to an open dialogue with all major investors.

You noted with concern the recent incident at the Trump Turnberry property, condemning the damage caused by vandalism and offered reassurance that the relevant authorities would continue to take the incident seriously.

ET restated his family's commitment to and passion for Scotland. He stressed that this commitment was long term. He narrated the journey he had been on since purchasing the Turnberry property and redeveloping it, and set out plans for the launch of the second course at Trump Aberdeen links later this year. SM welcomed the opportunity to an open dialogue with the international investment community and set out some of the challenges she had faced at a local level.

J

**John Webster**

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

T: 0131 244 2557| M: [redacted s.38(1)(b)]



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](#).

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

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

Email exchange – 13 March 2025:

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 15:05  
**To:** First Minister  
**Cc:** Jack Middleton; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; Ross Ingebrigtsen; Colin McAllister; Sean McGivern; Julie Grant; Emily Mackintosh; John Primrose; John Webster; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** For awareness: Multiple outlets - meeting with Trump International

FMPO,

I understand these have been cleared separately by the First Minister. Please see below for awareness lines we will issue to STV, Daily Record, The National, Scotsman, Telegraph, requesting comment on the meeting with Trump International this afternoon.

Many thanks,  
[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

### **First Minister meets with Eric Trump**

First Minister John Swinney welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, and Sarah Malone, Executive Vice President of Trump International, to his official residence of Bute House this afternoon to discuss investment in Scotland.

Following the meeting, a Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The First Minister welcomed Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organisation, to Bute House to discuss the contribution Trump International provides to Scotland’s economy.

“The First Minister regularly meets with business people regarding investment in Scotland.

“The meeting with Mr Trump provided an opportunity to discuss Scotland’s investment potential and the First Minister was pleased to hear about the company’s continued commitment to Scotland, in particular Aberdeenshire and Ayrshire.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

This was the first meeting between the First Minister and Eric Trump.

Mr Trump's office requested a meeting with the First Minister some time ago, which was arranged for when Mr Trump was visiting Scotland.

The meeting took place at Bute House, Edinburgh, on Thursday 13 March.

**[redacted s.38(1)(b)] [redacted s.38(1)(b)]**

**First Minister Communications**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted s.38(1)(b)] Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9022

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

Correspondence – 13 March 2025:

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted  
s.38(1)(b)]>  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 18:25  
**To:** First Minister

HOW DARE YOU WELCOME ERIC TRUMP! HE HAS NO POLITICAL  
AFFILIATIONS WHATSOEVER! HE'S AN ABOMINATION!

Correspondence – 13 March 2025:

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted  
s.38(1)(b)]>  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 22:52  
**To:** First Minister  
**Subject:** Eric trump

Why are you meeting with the dictator's son? You and your party have always been an abomination to the Scottish people and you'll be out on your keester next time around. Can't understand how it took almost 20 years for the zealots to figure you out. Good riddance I see yer mate has abandoned the drowning ship after the police got involved. Couldn't make it up

Correspondence – 14 March 2025:

From: [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]>

Sent: 14 March 2025 11:03

To: First Minister

Subject: Have you no principles?

First Minister,

Really, hosting Eric Trump? Have you no principles? This just encourages the Trump/ Musk

reckless behaviour. They are destroying democracy in the US and alienating every long-

standing democratic ally except the cowardly UK. Must we continue to grovel?

Sincerely,

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]

Correspondence – 17 March 2025:

**From:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]< [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot>  
**Sent:** 17 March 2025 13:13  
**To:** First Minister  
**Subject:** Concerns with meeting with Eric Trump, Trump Organization, - [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** John Swinney MSP Office  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 6:47 PM  
**To:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** John Swinney MSP Contact Us Submission

**Name:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Email:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Phone:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Address:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Post Code:** [redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Eric Trump

**Message:** I am making contact to inform you of my absolute disagreement with your decision to meet with Eric Trump. While I can only speculate in regard to the purpose of you meeting this person at Bute House, we are told it was nothing to do with Scottish or American politics. If it was then in relation to his fathers businesses in Scotland can we therefore assume you will be rolling out the red carpet for all other business leaders? To arrange such a meeting at a time of unprecedented global instability caused by this family is a disgrace to your office and our country. They should be ignored. You are not in touch with the national feeling on this man, and his family.

[redacted s.38(1)(b)]