ANNEX J

ENGAGEMENT BRIEFS

HMA Breakfast

Key message	I welcome your assessment of the state of play in negotiations. Securing a tariff reduction for whisky is my top priority and I am keen to align with you to achieve that aim.
What	Breakfast briefing with HMA Peter Mandelson and BEW trade leads
Why	Set out the Scottish Government's priorities for the visit and ensure all sensitives and concerns of UKG are addressed.
Who	• **Peter Mandelson**, His Majesty's Ambassador to the USA (HMA) • **Mungo Woodfield,** Minister Counsellor for Trade & Global Issues • **[Name – redacted s38(1)(b)],** Principal Private Secretary to HMA
Where	British Ambassador's Residence 3100 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20008
When	**08:15 – 09:00**
Likely themes	Relationship with US Administration, trade and tariffs
Media	Please refer to comms plan.
Supporting official	**[Name – redacted s38(1)(b)],** Principal Private Secretary **Colin McAllister**, Chief of Staff **[Name – redacted s38(1)(b)],** Head of Scottish Government USA
Attached documents	**ANNEX A:** Summary **ANNEX B:** Biography

ANNEX A

SUMMARY

This will be the first engagement on your visit to Washington D.C., providing context on the current UK-US relationship and progress on delivery of the Economic Prosperity Deal ahead of the President's State Visit to the UK, 17-19 September.

It will provide an opportunity for you to re-emphasise your support for tariff-free trade with the US and for Scotland's whisky sector, representatives of which are joining you on this visit.

Objectives

- To understand the state of play in negotiations
- To underscore the importance of securing tariff exemption for Scotch whisky

ANNEX B

BIOGRAPHY

Rt Hon Lord Peter Mandelson, British Ambassador to the US

Ambassador Mandelson took up post on 10 February 2025. He has held a range of senior positions in government under Prime Minister Tony Blair and later Gordon Brown. He was First Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from 2008 to 2010. From 1985 to 1990, Peter was the Labour Party's Director of Campaigns and Communications. He was Secretary of State for Business and Trade (1998) and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1999 to 2001). Peter was European Commissioner for Trade from 2004 to 2008. Ambassador Mandelson is co-founder of Global Counsel, a global public policy advisory firm.