

1.

From: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>

Sent: 19 September 2025 11:11

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

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

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland

<Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; Communications

First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

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

<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce <Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>

Subject: URGENT: OFFSEN: UK recognition of Palestine

PS/First Minister

ISSUE

1. The Prime Minister is expected to announce that the UK will recognise the State of Palestine, possibly on Sunday 21 September. The First Minister has been invited to attend a ceremony at the Palestinian Mission in London at 1100 on Monday 22 September to mark the occasion.

PRIORITY

2. Urgent – comms over the weekend and decisions over representation.

BACKGROUND

3. The UK Government announced in July that it would recognise the State of Palestine, "...by the UN General Assembly" unless Israel agreed to a durable ceasefire, allowed the UN to restart humanitarian aid into Gaza, committed to a long-term and sustainable peace process towards a two-state solution, and ceased West Bank annexations. Israel has rejected these conditions in word and deed. The UN General Assembly begins on Tuesday 23 September.
4. [redacted s32]
5. [redacted s28]

6. [redacted s32]

7. In terms of formalities, recognition means that the Palestinian Mission will become an Embassy, though not immediately as there will be an accreditation process. Dr Zomlot will not hold the formal rank of a fully-accredited Ambassador until he presents his credentials to the King.

SENSITIVITIES

8. [redacted s30]

9. [redacted s30]

COMMUNICATIONS

10. Communications advice will follow.

NEXT STEPS

11. [redacted s30]

[redacted s38]

[redacted s38] | [s38] | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel [redacted s38]

2.

From: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>

Sent: 19 September 2025 15:00

To: [s38] <[s38]@fcdo.gov.uk>; Devolution Unit <devolution.unit@fcdo.gov.uk>; [s38] <[s38]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [s38] <[s38]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Cc: Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>

Subject: IMMEDIATE: Palestine Mission event

Importance: High

Colleagues

<CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce <Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Palestine: First Minister's visit to London

[redacted s38]

Please find attached an updated version of the brief following today's events and information from the Palestinian Mission. [redacted s28]

Safe journey,

[redacted s38]

[redacted s38] | [s38] | Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel [redacted s38]

From: [redacted s38]

Sent: 19 September 2025 16:15

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

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

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce <Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: Palestine: First Minister's visit to London

[redacted s38]

[redacted s32]

[redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: OFFSEN: UK recognition of Palestine

Many thanks [redacted s38].

SpAds – any views to add before I submit to the FM?

[redacted s38] [s38]
Private Secretary
Office of the First Minister
Mobile: [s38]

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

5.

From: [redacted s38] [s38] <[redacted s38].[s38]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 22 September 2025 07:18

To: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

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

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland

<Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister

<CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Mark Boyce <Mark.Boyce@gov.scot>; [redacted

s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford

<Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Palestine: First Minister's visit to London

[redacted s38],

For benefit of the chain the First Minister agreed to attend the ceremony at the Palestinian Mission.

Many thanks,
[redacted s38]

[redacted s38] [s38]

Private Secretary
Office of the First Minister
Mobile: [s38]

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