**From: [redacted]**
**Sent:** 02 September 2025 11:50
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**
**Subject:** RE: OFFSEN - Flags - for decision

Thanks **[redacted]**

Kind regards

**[redacted]**

**[redacted] [redacted]**

**[redacted] [redacted]**

The Scottish Government

Mobile **[redacted]** or **[redacted]**

Email: **[redacted]** or protocolandhonours@gov.scot

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**From: [redacted] [redacted] On Behalf Of** First Minister
**Sent:** 02 September 2025 11:49
**To:** John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Colin

McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**
**Subject:** RE: OFFSEN - Flags - for decision

**[redacted]**

FM statement at 1450 and debate ends at 1715.

Many thanks,

**[redacted]**

**[redacted] [redacted]**

**Private Secretary**

**Office of the First Minister**

**Mobile: [redacted] [redacted]**

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**From:** John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>
**Sent:** 02 September 2025 11:31
**To:** Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>;

Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**

; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher ,<Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**

**Subject:** RE: OFFSEN - Flags - for decision
**Importance:** High

Thanks Jack / hi everyone,

Plan for flags as follows.

Palestine flag raised precisely when FM stands up in parliament to deliver his statement.
Palestine flag lowered as per practice at the end of the business day.

Can we ensure that whoever from the House team is raising and lowering is made aware that they are highly likely to be filmed – and that they bear that in mind for appearances.

Very best wishes,

**John Webster**

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

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

**T: [redacted]| M: [redacted]**

Office of the First Minister of Scotland
FirstMinister.gov.scot
Priomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

**The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday.** Further details, including preferences, can be found here.

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**From:** Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>
**Sent:** 02 September 2025 10:55
**To:** Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**

**Subject:** RE: OFFSEN - Flags - for decision

Has this been confirmed on another chain as happening as Colin expressed below? Thanks

**Jack Middleton**

Special Adviser to the First Minister

jack.middleton@gov.scot

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**From:** Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
**Sent:** 29 August 2025 17:31
**To:** Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**
**Subject:** RE: OFFSEN - Flags - for decision

My view would be that the flag be raised to coincide with the start of FM's parliamentary statement.

Regards

**Colin McAllister**

Chief of Staff

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**From:** Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>
**Sent:** 29 August 2025 17:08
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**

**Subject:** RE: OFFSEN - Flags - for decision

**[redacted]**

I understand this note is being put to FM alongside the revised Cabinet paper.

In addition to the points set out below it would also be helpful to understand exactly what time the flag will be raised and lowered since that is likely to prompt public interest and we will want to manage that into the comms and wider handling for the day.

Grateful for any SpAd and comms views to inform FM's decision on that.

Many thanks,

Helen

**Helen Webster (she/her)** | Deputy Director for Cabinet, Parliament and Governance & Secretary of Commissions | Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support | Scottish Government

E: Helen.Webster@gov.scot | Mob: **[redacted]**

*Working from home and from SG offices and the Scottish parliament. Available on MS Teams, email or mobile. Please note I'm working flexibly and do not usually work on Friday afternoons. If you receive this outwith normal working hours please do not feel you need to pick this up outside of your own working pattern.*

**From: [redacted] [redacted] On Behalf Of** First Minister
**Sent:** 27 August 2025 14:43
**To:** Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**
**Subject:** RE: OFFSEN - Flags - for decision

Thanks Helen – as mentioned Stuart will incorporate this ask into the wider paper coming back to the FM.

**[redacted] [redacted]**

**Private Secretary**

**Office of the First Minister**

**Mobile: [redacted] [redacted]**

***Temporary cover as the Private Secretary for Cabinet Secretary for Housing***

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**From:** Helen Webster <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>
**Sent:** 27 August 2025 10:48
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** ; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**
**Subject:** OFFSEN - Flags - for decision

FMPO

Further to the exchange below, and to yesterday's Cabinet discussion on same, to confirm that I have formally asked the House Team to order two Palestinian flags in order to meet the ask that the flag is flown from SG buildings alongside associated Parliamentary activity scheduled for Wednesday 3 September.

My understanding is that the Palestinian flag will be flown from those buildings with flag poles (SAH and VQ) for that day only; **grateful for confirmation on this point.**

The Scottish Government's Flag Flying Guidance notes that Scottish Government (SG) main buildings which have four flag poles:

- should fly the Saltire and European flag
- plus flags indicated in the schedule
- St Andrews House will fly the Ukrainian Flag when possible

As such, the flags flying at SAH currently include the Saltire, the European flag and the Ukrainian flag. There is a fourth flagpole currently held for other flags set out in the schedule. This – published - schedule notes that the Merchant Navy Flag will be flown on Wednesday 3 September.

This means that all four flagpoles at SAH will be in use that day and in order to fly the Palestinian flag on 3 September, one of the other listed flags (Saltire, European Flag and Ukrainian flag) will need to be lowered for the day. This is not an issue at VQ, where the Ukrainian Flag is not flown.

The decision on which flag to lower at SAH rests with the First Minister. My recommendation would be that the European flag is lowered for the day and our guidance provides for this in stating that 'the First Minister has instructed that the European flag is flown from SG buildings. This will be on a daily basis except for specific flag flying dates.'

**Grateful for the First Minister's views please.**

Copying to wider colleagues for awareness, and to comms colleagues for comms handling in line with wider messaging.

Many thanks,

Helen

**Helen Webster (she/her)** | Deputy Director for Cabinet, Parliament and Governance & Secretary of Commissions | Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support | Scottish Government

E: Helen.Webster@gov.scot | Mob: **[redacted]**

*Working from home and from SG offices and the Scottish parliament. Available on MS Teams, email or mobile. Please note I'm working flexibly and do not usually work on Friday afternoons. If*

*you receive this outwith normal working hours please do not feel you need to pick this up outside of your own working pattern.*

**From:** Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:41:39 PM
**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
**Cc:** Lord Advocate <LordAdvocate@gov.scot>; Solicitor General <SolicitorGeneral@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Minister for Business and Employment <MinisterforBE@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** ; John Primrose <John.Primrose@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Kavita Chetty <Kavita.Chetty@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Graham Fisher <Graham.Fisher@gov.scot>; David Barnes <David.Barnes@gov.scot>; Richard Rollison <Richard.Rollison@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Kenneth Hogg <Kenneth.Hogg@gov.scot>; Colin Cook <Colin.Cook@gov.scot>; Nick Ford <Nick.Ford@gov.scot>; Nick Bland <Nick.Bland@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>; Kenneth Hannaway <Kenneth.Hannaway@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Russell Bain <Russell.Bain@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Nikki Archer <Nikki.Archer@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**; **[redacted]**; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat Inbox <CabinetSecretariat@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** ; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**
**Subject:** Immediate - Submission Israel/Gaza Options

PS/First Minister

Please find attached an immediate submission setting out options for action which could be taken by the Scottish Government in response to the crisis in Gaza, in line with the First Minister's request on 20 August.

**[redacted – out with scope]**.

- **[redacted – out with scope].**
- **[redacted – out with scope].**
- **[redacted – out with scope].**
- **[redacted – out with scope].**

**[redacted – out with scope].**

**[redacted – out with scope].**

Rachel

**Rachel Sunderland**

Head of International Relations, Population and Migration Division | Directorate for Culture and External Affairs Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot |

P save paper - do you need to print this e-mail?

Directorate for Culture and External Affairs
21 August 2025

First Minister

**SUBMISSION – ISRAEL/GAZA: OPTIONS**

## Priority and Purpose

1. This submission distils options for action which could be taken by the Scottish Government in response to the crisis in Gaza, in line with the First Minister's request on 20 August.

## Recommendation

2. [redacted – out of scope].

## Context and Issues

3. **[redacted – out of scope].**

## Analysis of Options

4. **[redacted – out of scope].**

5. **[redacted – out of scope].**

Economic options

6. **[redacted – out of scope].**

7. **[redacted – out of scope].**

8. **[redacted – out of scope].**

9. **[redacted – out of scope].**

10. **[redacted – out of scope].**

11. **[redacted – out of scope].**

12. **[redacted – out of scope].**

Humanitarian options

13. **[redacted – out of scope].**

- **[redacted – out of scope];**

14. **[redacted – out of scope]:**

- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**;.

Call on the UK Government to:

- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**;
- **[redacted – out of scope]**.
- [redacted – out of scope].

15. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Sensitivities

16. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

17. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

18. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

19. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

20. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

21. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

22. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

**[redacted – out of scope]**.

23. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

24. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

25. Showing support for Palestine Action is a criminal offence, pending any change arising from legal challenges. Flying the Palestinian flag as set out in Annex C is not itself indicative of support for Palestinian Action but given the high profile nature of the issue we need to be clear in our messaging to differentiate the two.

26. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

27. **[redacted – out of scope]**..

## Quality Assurance.

28. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Conclusions and next Steps

29. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

**[redacted ]**
International Relations, DCEA

| Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List | For Action | For Information Portfolio interest | For Information Constituency interest | For Information General awareness |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lord Advocate | | | | X |
| Solicitor General | | | | X |
| Deputy First Minister | | X | | |
| Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs | | X | | |
| Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice | | X | | |
| Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | | X | | |
| Minister for Further Education | | X | | |
| Minister for Equalities | | X | | |
| Minister for Business and Employment | | X | | |
| Minister for Public Finance | | X | | |
| | | X | | |

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| DG Strategy and External Affairs |
| DG Communities |
| DG Education and Justice |
| DG Economy |
| DG Exchequer |
| Kenneth Hogg |
| Martin Johnson |
| Director for Safer Communities |
| Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights |
| Director for International Trade and Investment |
| Solicitor to the Scottish Government |
| Legal Secretariat to the Lord Advocate |
| Andrew Bruce |
| Rachel Sunderland |
| David Barnes |
| Kavita Chetty |
| John Primrose |
| Lisa Baird |
| Penelope Curtis |
| Naureen Ahmad |
| Nick Bland |
| Helen Webster |
| **[redacted]** |
| **[redacted]** |

| Officials Copy List |
| --- |
| [redacted] |
| Director, Economic Development |
| [redacted] |
| Orlando Mason |
| Graham Fisher, SGLD |
| Kenneth Hannaway, SGLD |
| [redacted]. |
| [redacted]. |
| [redacted]. |
| [redacted]. |
| Russell Bain |
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| Debbie McCall |
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| Nick Ford |
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| Colin McAllister |
| Ewan Crawford |
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| Cabinet Secretariat |
| Protocol and Honours |
| Communications CEAC |

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| --- |
| Communications First Minister |

**ANNEX A**

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Summary:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

## Actions:

- [redacted – out of scope].

## Risks:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Summary:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

## Actions:

- [redacted – out of scope].

## Risks:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Summary:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

## Actions:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

## Risks:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Summary

[redacted – out of scope].

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

- [redacted – out of scope].

## Risks

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Summary:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

## Action:

- [redacted – out of scope].

## Risks

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

.

## Action

- [redacted – out of scope].

## Risks

- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Summary:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

## Action:

- [redacted – out of scope].

## Risks

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – out of scope]
- [redacted – out of scope].

**ANNEX B**

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Risks:

- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].
- [redacted – out of scope].

**ANNEX C**

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Actions**:
[redacted – out of scope].

**Risks**:
[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Actions**:
[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risks**:
Showing support for Palestine Action is a criminal offence, pending any change arising from legal challenges. Flying the Palestinian flag is not itself indicative of support for Palestinian Action but given the high-profile nature of the issue there is likely to be those who seek to conflate the two and we need to be clear in our messaging to differentiate. Accusations of supporting Hamas (rather than the Palestinian people) would be levelled.

[redacted – out of scope].

**Action**:
[redacted – out of scope].

**Risks**:
[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Action:**
[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risk**:
[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].;

**Action**:

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risk:**

- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Action:**

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risk:**

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Action:**

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risk**:

[redacted – out of scope]..

[redacted – out of scope].

**Action:**

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risk**:

[redacted – out of scope]..

[redacted – out of scope].

**Action**:

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risk**:

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

**Action:**

[redacted – out of scope].

**Risk:**

[redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope].

## Action:

**[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Risk:

**[redacted – out of scope].**

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Directorate for Culture and External Affairs
12 August 2025

First Minister
Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

**SUBMISSION – ISRAEL/GAZA: FORWARD LOOK**

## Priority and Purpose

1. This submission sets out a range of options for action which could be taken by the Scottish Government in response to the crisis in Gaza.

## Recommendation

2. [redacted – out of scope].

## Context and Issues

3. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

4. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

5. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

*Options*

6. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

7. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

8. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

9. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

10. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

11. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

12. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

13. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Sensitivities

14. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

15. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

16. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

17. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

18. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

19. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Legal considerations

20. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

21. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

22. Showing support for Palestine Action is a criminal offence, pending any change arising from legal challenges. Flying the Palestinian flag as set out in **Annex C** is not itself indicative of support for Palestinian Action but given the high profile nature of the issue there is likely to be those who seek to conflate the two and we need to be clear in our messaging to differentiate the two.

23. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

24. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Quality Assurance

25. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Conclusions and next Steps

26. **[redacted – out of scope]**

**[redacted]**
International Relations, DCEA

| Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List | For Action | For Information Portfolio interest | For Information Constituency interest | For Information General awareness |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lord Advocate | | | | X |
| Solicitor General | | | | X |
| Deputy First Minister | | X | | |
| Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs | | X | | |
| Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice | | X | | |
| Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | | X | | |
| Minister for Further Education | | X | | |
| Minister for Equalities | | X | | |
| Minister for Business and Employment | | X | | |
| Minister for Public Finance | | | | |

| Officials Copy List |
|---|
| Permanent Secretary |
| DG Strategy and External Affairs |
| DG Communities |
| DG Education and Justice |
| DG Economy |
| DG Exchequer |
| Kenneth Hogg |
| Martin Johnson |
| Director for Safer Communities |
| Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights |
| Director for International Trade and Investment |
| Solicitor to the Scottish Government |
| Legal Secretariat to the Lord Advocate |
| Andrew Bruce |
| Rachel Sunderland |
| David Barnes |
| Kavita Chetty |
| John Primrose |
| Lisa Baird |
| Penelope Curtis |
| Naureen Ahmad |
| Nick Bland |
| Helen Webster |
| **[redacted]** |
| **[redacted]** |
| Orlando Mason |
| Graham Fisher, SGLD |

| Officials Copy List |
| --- |
| Kenneth Hannaway, SGLD |
| **[redacted].** |
| **[redacted].** |
| **[redacted].** |
| **[redacted].** |
| Russell Bain |
| **[redacted].** |
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| [redacted]. |
| **[redacted].** |
| Debbie McCall |
| **[redacted].** |
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| **[redacted].** |
| **[redacted].** |
| Nikki Archer |
| **[redacted].** |
| **[redacted].** |
| **[redacted].** |
| Colin McAllister |
| Ewan Crawford |
| Jack Middleton |
| Cabinet Secretariat |
| Protocol and Honours |
| Communications CEAC |
| Communications First Minister |

## ANNEX A

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

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a) [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

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b) [redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

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**ANNEX B**

[redacted – out of scope]

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c) [redacted – out of scope].

**ANNEX C**

## DIPLOMATIC, DOMESTIC AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

**[redacted – out of scope]**:

a) **[redacted – out of scope]**..
b) **[redacted – out of scope]**.
c) **Flying the Palestinian flag** outside a Scottish Government building in solidarity with those suffering in Gaza and the West Bank, and in support of a two-state solution. Glasgow City Council have flown the Palestinian flag at the City Chambers to mark their solidarity at specific points during the conflict, but it does not fly permanently.
**d) [redacted – out of scope]**..
e) [redacted – out of scope]..
f) **[redacted – out of scope]**.
g) **[redacted – out of scope]**.
h) **[redacted – out of scope]**:
    i. **[redacted – out of scope]**;
    ii. **[redacted – out of scope]**
    iii. **[redacted – out of scope]**.

M) **[redacted – out of scope]**.
N) **[redacted – out of scope]**.

## Annex D

[redacted – out of scope]
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## ANNEX E

[redacted – out of scope]

[redacted – out of scope]

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- [redacted – out of scope].

[redacted – out of scope]

**11 August 2025**