

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:42 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>

Subject: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

PS / Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Copy: First Minister

Please find attached the parliamentary statement for the Deputy First Minister's appearing tomorrow, concerning the provision of information, including WhatsApps, to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

Please note that briefing will follow tomorrow morning.

The statement has been cleared by [redacted], Claire Tynte-Irvine and Davie Hutchison.

Please let me know if you have any questions on any of the above, I will be happy to help.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Covid Inquiries Response Unit Head
Covid Inquiry Information Governance Division
Covid Inquiries Response Directorate
Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Sent: 31 October 2023 08:19

To: [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

[redacted]

DFM has made some changes, comments, questions in the attached.

[redacted]

It would be helpful if the revised Q&A could be available **as soon as possible and no later than 13:30**.

Tabitha and [redacted] – could you please be in Parliament for 13:30 so that you can answer any questions DFM may have during her prep time.

Much appreciated

[redacted]

Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP

The Scottish Government

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

[redacted] Email: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:46 AM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [redacted]; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

[redacted]

The FM has also suggested some changes n the attached, [redacted]. Finally, the FM has added to the statement that we will be reaching out to the representatives of families bereaved by Covid to discuss any concerns they may have.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 9:06 AM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

[redacted]

DFM has made some comments on the back of FM changes within the attached (in blue)

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP

The Scottish Government

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

[redacted] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 9:41 AM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

[redacted] apologies further comments from DFM.

In relation to GMS this morning (transcript attached for ease) – DFM has emphasised the need for the below to be answered within the statement:-

[redacted]

The interviewee is asked what SG intend to do and assurance we will provide what information we have – [redacted].

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP

The Scottish Government

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

[redacted] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:47 AM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Colleagues,

With thanks, grateful if this copylist can be used, going forward – adding other colleagues who are working on external comms handling (I've forwarded them the latest version).

[redacted]

[redacted] | Deputy head of News, Scottish Government | [redacted]
----- The Scottish Government - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) -----



From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:51 AM

To: [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Also adding [redacted] to the copylist.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:58 AM

To: [redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted];

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>; Suzanne Hart <Suzanne.Hart@gov.scot>; [redacted],

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Colleagues,

We have been made aware that Labour may lodge an amendment to Mr Adam's business motion at 2pm today. The amendment they may lodge would be to change the statement today from a Ministerial statement to a First Minister's statement.

[redacted]

From conversations yesterday I believe they would be along the lines of DFM being the responsible Minister for the Covid-19 inquiry, but a firm set of lines would be greatly appreciated.

We'll need these by no later than 13:00 please.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP

The Scottish Government

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

[redacted] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:04 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [redacted]; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Thank you for this [redacted].

Proposed lines below, please let me know if you need anything else on this.

[redacted]

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 1:38 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [redacted]; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-

irvine@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>; Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

PS / Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Copy: First Minister

Please find attached the revised Q & A briefing pack to accompany the Deputy First Minister's statement on the provision of WhatsApps to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

Please let me know if you have any questions on any of the above, I will be happy to help.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Covid Inquiries Response Directorate

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

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of Scotland**



Scottish Government
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[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:19 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Hi [redacted]

As discussed, please find the attached statement for the record.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 3:49 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

PS / Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Copy: PS/ First Minister

With thanks for the comments from the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, please find attached an updated copy of the statement for this afternoon.

Please note this updated draft incorporates additional material from Colin McAllister, Geoff Huggins and has been cleared by [redacted] and DG Corporate.

Please let me know if you require anything else on this at the moment, the accompanying briefing pack will be sent up shortly.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Covid Inquiries Response Unit Head
Covid Inquiry Information Governance Division
Covid Inquiries Response Directorate
Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: Claire Tynte-irvine <Claire.Tynte-irvine@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 4:15 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [redacted]; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Tabitha Stringer <Tabitha.Stringer@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>;

[redacted]; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; Lesley Fraser <Lesley.Fraser@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; Linda Pooley <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Michael Chalmers <Michael.Chalmers2@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Parliamentary statement on provision of information UK Covid-19 Inquiry

[redacted]

With apologies for the delay please see answers attached. SpAds have confirmed they are content

Best wishes

Claire