

An Fhìor Urr Ailig Salmond BPA
Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
Am Prìomh Mhinistear
First Minister of Scotland

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
F/T: 0845 774 1741

Margo MacDonald MSP
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



6 December 2012

Dear Margo

I was glad to meet you and other party leaders earlier today to discuss how we take forward the report by Lord Justice Leveson on *An Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press*.

I was encouraged that we reached near unanimous agreement on the establishment of an expert group to look at the implications of the report for Scots law and am hopeful that by tomorrow we will have full unanimity.

As discussed, we would value any suggestions that you have for membership of the group. So that we can maintain the pace of progress could I ask you to send any such suggestions by the end of Monday 10 December 2012 to this address or to e-mail them to First.Minister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours for Scotland,

ALEX SALMOND

An Fhìor Urr Ailig Salmond BPA
Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
Am Prìomh Mhinistear
First Minister of Scotland

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
F/T: 0845 774 1741

Patrick Harvie MSP
Co-Convener of the Scottish Green Party
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



6 December 2012

Dear Patrick

I was glad to meet you and other party leaders earlier today to discuss how we take forward the report by Lord Justice Leveson on *An Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press*.

I was encouraged that we reached near unanimous agreement on the establishment of an expert group to look at the implications of the report for Scots law and am hopeful that by tomorrow we will have full unanimity.

As discussed, we would value any suggestions that you have for membership of the group. So that we can maintain the pace of progress could I ask you to send any such suggestions by the end of Monday 10 December 2012 to this address or to e-mail them to First.Minister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours for Scotland,

ALEX SALMOND

An Fhìor Urr Ailig Salmond BPA
Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
Am Prìomh Mhinistear
First Minister of Scotland

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
F/T: 0845 774 1741

Ruth Davidson MSP
Leader of the Scottish Conservatives
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



6 December 2012

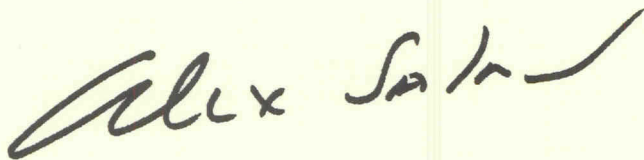
Dear Ruth

I was glad to meet you and other party leaders earlier today to discuss how we take forward the report by Lord Justice Leveson on *An Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press*.

I was encouraged that we reached near unanimous agreement on the establishment of an expert group to look at the implications of the report for Scots law and am hopeful that by tomorrow we will have full unanimity.

As discussed, we would value any suggestions that you have for membership of the group. So that we can maintain the pace of progress could I ask you to send any such suggestions by the end of Monday 10 December 2012 to this address or to e-mail them to First.Minister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours for Scotland,



ALEX SALMOND

An Fhior Urr Ailig Salmond BPA
Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
Am Prìomh Mhinistear
First Minister of Scotland

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
F/T: 0845 774 1741

Willie Rennie MSP
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



6 December 2012

Dear Willie

I was glad to meet you and other party leaders earlier today to discuss how we take forward the report by Lord Justice Leveson on *An Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press*.

I was encouraged that we reached near unanimous agreement on the establishment of an expert group to look at the implications of the report for Scots law and am hopeful that by tomorrow we will have full unanimity.

As discussed, we would value any suggestions that you have for membership of the group. So that we can maintain the pace of progress could I ask you to send any such suggestions by the end of Monday 10 December 2012 to this address or to e-mail them to First.Minister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours for Scotland,

ALEX SALMOND

RELEASED INFORMATION

Letters from former First Minister to other party leaders, 6 December 2012

Documents 1-5 attached separately.

Letter to former First Minister from Ruth Davidson

Document 6 attached separately.

Response from Ruth Davidson to former First Minister's letter of 6 December 2012

From: [redacted name and email] On Behalf Of Ruth.Davidson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
Sent: 10 December 2012 09:52
To: First Minister
Cc: [redacted email]
Subject: RE: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

Alex Salmond MSP
First Minister
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By email

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your letter dated 6 December on the establishment of an expert group to look at the implications of the report in Scotland.

I would be very keen to nominate Peter Watson to assist on the expert group. As you may be aware, Mr Watson has built up an international reputation in a number of fields including media law and high profile public inquiries. As well as a senior partner and head of litigation at Levy & McRae, Mr Watson also serves as a part-time Sheriff and would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the group.

I hope you will seriously consider approaching Peter Watson to assist with the expert group.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth

Ruth Davidson MSP
Leader of the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted email] On Behalf Of FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 6:07 PM
To: Davidson R (Ruth), MSP
Subject: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

Please see attached letter from the First Minister.

Kindest regards,

[redacted name]
Information and Office Manager
Private Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted phone number]

Response from Willie Rennie's office to former First Minister's letter of 6 December 2012

From: [redacted email]
Sent: 10 December 2012 09:43
To: First Minister
Subject: FW: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

For the attention of [redacted name]

[redacted name]

Willie Rennie has asked me to pass on to the First Minister that he would be content for Mark Douglas Home to serve on the expert group. Mr Rennie will not be making any further suggestions for members.

Many thanks

[redacted name]
Office of Willie Rennie MSP
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

----- Original Message -----

From: FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk [<mailto:FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>]
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 06:09 PM
To: Rennie W (Willie), MSP
Subject: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

Please see attached letter from the First Minister.

Kindest regards,

[redacted name]
Information and Office Manager
Private Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted phone number]

Response from Patrick Harvie to former First Minister's letter of 6 December 2012

From: Patrick.Harvie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
[mailto:Patrick.Harvie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk]
Sent: 10 December 2012 15:56
To: First Minister; [redacted name]
Subject: RE: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

Many thanks for your letter.

I would like to suggest two names for consideration as members of the expert group, bearing in mind that it will be for the First Minister to make a decision on all suggestions made by the opposition parties.

Shelagh McCall is a member of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, and has practiced law in Scotland as well as having worked with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Tony Kelly is the Chair of Justice Scotland, and has worked on a range of human rights cases as well as having an interest in the issues of devolved & reserved competence which will clearly be part of the expert group's work.

I offer these two suggestions without wishing to imply an order of priority between them. I believe that both could make a valuable contribution to the work of the expert group, and would be well qualified to consider the legislative aspects of press regulation, while also having a clear grasp of the various rights and interests involved.

Regards,

Patrick Harvie

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted email] On Behalf Of FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Sent: 06 December 2012 18:10
To: Harvie P (Patrick), MSP
Subject: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

Please see attached letter from the First Minister.

Kindest regards,

[redacted name]
Information and Office Manager
Private Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted phone number]

Response from Johann Lamont's office to former First Minister's letter of 6 December 2012

From: [redacted email]
Sent: 11 December 2012 13:30
To: First Minister
Subject: RE: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

Further to the First Minister's letter dated 6 December 2012 and the telephone call this morning I can confirm that Johann's suggestion for the membership of the expert group is Brian Fitzpatrick, former MSP.

Johann would also like the gender balance of the membership taken into consideration.

Kind regards
[redacted name]

[redacted name]
Office of Johann Lamont MSP
Scottish Labour Leader
M1.03A, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
DD: [redacted phone number] Mobile: [redacted phone number]
E:[redacted email]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted email] On Behalf Of FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 6:05 PM

To: Lamont J (Johann), MSP

Subject: Letter from First Minister - 6.12.12

Please see attached letter from the First Minister.

Kindest regards,

[redacted name]
Information and Office Manager
Private Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted phone number]

Email between officials regarding progress in setting up the Expert Group, 12 December 2012

From: [redacted name]

Sent: 12 December 2012 10:00

To: [redacted 7 names]; Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs; [redacted 2 names]; DG Strategy and External Affairs; [redacted 2 names]

Subject: Leveson Expert Group - Update

All,

Here's an update on where we got to last night in terms of acceptances to join the Expert Group that Lord McCluskey will chair to take forward the recommendations of the Leveson Report in Scotland.

Appointments

Confirmed acceptances: Lord John McCluskey (Margo's nomination), Ruth Wishart, Neil Walker and Peter Watson (Ruth Davidson's nomination)

Still to be approached / confirmed: David Sinclair (Comms Dir. for Victim Support Scotland) and possibly one other. FM will call David this morning to ask him to serve on the group. [redacted name] - Can you arrange a time for FM to call David Sinclair before the Xmas card launch and track down a contact number at Victim Support.

Once confirmed, group members will need formal appointment letters ([redacted name]).

Announcement

FM is keen to announce the membership of the group as soon as possible once the final one or two names are confirmed. He would like a press statement prepared ([redacted 2 names]) and wants to inform Opposition leaders in advance of that issuing ([redacted name]).

FM indicated that the press statement should stress that he has appointed a 'balanced panel' with experts in Scots law, respected journalists, legal practitioners and someone who can speak up for readers (victims). This statement should include a brief description of each members' qualifications / background ([redacted name] - **Can you provide please.** [redacted name] will send you the short biog that Ruth Wishart has supplied).

The group's terms of reference are attached. We will update again when we have the final set of names.

[deleted link to terms of reference – included below]

Regards,

[redacted name]

[redacted name]

Private Secretary to the First Minister of Scotland
Scottish Government
5th Floor, St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted phone number]
Mobile: [redacted phone number]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another 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.

Letters from former First Minister to other party leaders confirming set up of Expert Group, 13 December 2012

Documents 7-11 attached separately.

Letter from Johann Lamont to former First Minister, 13 December 2012

Document 12 attached separately.

Letter from former First Minister to Johan Lamont, 13 December 2012

Document 13 attached separately.

Expert Group terms of reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To consider the findings and recommendations made in the Part 1 of the Report of the Leveson Inquiry in respect of Press Regulation, and, accepting the main principles on which those recommendations are made, including in particular the need for statutory underpinning of a newly created, genuinely independent and effective system of Self-Regulation, to offer advice and recommendations as to the most appropriate means of achieving such statutory underpinning in Scotland, in the context of—

- the Scottish legal system;
- any other existing provisions in law that relate to publication by the Press in the UK;
- any developments in Press Regulation elsewhere in the United Kingdom arising out of the Leveson Inquiry;
- experience in regulation of the press outside of the United Kingdom, that might inform consideration of the recommendations made and the mechanisms suggested in the Part 1 Report of the Leveson Inquiry,

and to provide such advice and recommendations to the Scottish Government within 3 months.