

PROVIDED INFORMATION

Correspondence, physical or digital, along with any record or minutes of meetings concerning or occurring during Minister Dr Alasdair Allan's trip to Norway in February 2017

MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EUROPE: VISIT TO NORWAY: OSLO 15-19 FEBRUARY 2017

E-Mail Trail 1

From: [redacted]

Sent: 14 February 2017 15:21

To: Minister for International Development and Europe; [redacted]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy; DG Constitution and External Affairs; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Briefing - Dr Allan visit to Oslo - 15-19 February 2017

Importance: High

Hi [redacted]

Please find attached a **revised briefing and speaking note for the industry dinner** (Briefing Note 5).

Apart from the shortening of the speech, please note two further changes. Our proposed participant from [redacted] is no longer available to attend and we are currently awaiting confirmation of a final invitee from [redacted]. Once I have this representative's name I shall send an additional profile to be included in the briefing in market.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Engagement Partner - International Visits (Asia-Pacific)

Scottish Enterprise | www.scottish-enterprise.com

Scottish Development International | www.sdi.co.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** MinisterIDE@gov.scot

Sent: 13 February 2017 11:28

To: [redacted]; MinisterIDE@gov.scot; [redacted]

Cc: CabSecCTEA@gov.scot; MinisterUKNSPE@gov.scot; Ministerbie@gov.scot; dgso@gov.scot;
[redacted]

Subject: RE: Briefing - Dr Allan visit to Oslo - 15-19 February 2017

Hi[redacted],

Yes bullets would be perfect thanks.

[redacted]

[redacted] | **Private Secretary**

Office of Dr Alasdair Allan, MSP, Minister for International Development and Europe

📍 Scottish Government, Room 2N.15, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG [redacted]

✉ MinisterIDE@gov.scot | www.gov.scot

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 13 February 2017 11:19

To: Minister for International Development and Europe; [redacted]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy; DG Strategy and Operations; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Briefing - Dr Allan visit to Oslo - 15-19 February 2017

Hi [redacted]

I shall get on to this today.

Can I just check if the two sides of A4 refers to bullets rather than a full speaking note?

Thanks,

[redacted]

Engagement Partner - International Visits (Asia-Pacific)

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Scottish Development International | www.sdi.co.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** MinisterIDE@gov.scot

Sent: 13 February 2017 11:11

To: [redacted]; MinisterIDE@gov.scot

Cc: CabSecCTEA@gov.scot; MinisterUKNSPE@gov.scot; Ministerbie@gov.scot; dgso@gov.scot;

[redacted]

Subject: RE: Briefing - Dr Allan visit to Oslo - 15-19 February 2017

Hi[redacted],

Would it be possible for SDI colleagues to shorten the Industry Dinner speaking note please? Dr Allan feels it's slightly too long for informal introductory remarks. If we could aim for it to be two sides of A4 at the most that would be helpful.

Many Thanks

[redacted] | **Private Secretary**

Office of Dr Alasdair Allan, MSP, Minister for International Development and Europe

 Scottish Government, Room 2N.15, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I
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From: [redacted]

Sent: 09 February 2017 16:07

To: Minister for International Development and Europe

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy; DG Strategy and Operations; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Briefing - Dr Allan visit to Oslo - 15-19 February 2017

[redacted]/Minister,

With thanks to SDI colleagues, please now find attached:

Briefing and speaking note for industry dinner (Briefing note 5)

<< File: Dr Allan - Business Dinner - 16 Feb 17_6.docx >> << File: Dr Allan - Business Dinner - Speaking Bullets_1.docx >>

Briefing for meeting with isurvey (Briefing note 7)

<< File: Dr Allan - Meeting with iSurvey - 17 Feb 17_5.docx >>

I also attach an **updated draft programme** following our call this afternoon.

<< File: Norway - Dr Allan visit to Oslo - February 2017 - Draft programme.docx >>

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | 2H North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ [redacted]

E-Mail Trail 2

From: [redacted]

Sent: 06 February 2017 10:56

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Upcoming visit to Oslo

Hi[redacted],

I did thank you, hope you had a good weekend too.

I would plan for [redacted] and I to attend as many of the appointments as we can – though I'm conscious that might present some problems for us in terms of space in the car. Would you have time for a quick chat today and we could run through the programme and see which meetings someone from the Embassy would look to attend and how we might work the logistics?

I'll come back to you re. hotel asap.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government | [redacted], Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 February 2017 10:11
To: [redacted]
Subject: Upcoming visit to Oslo

Hi[redacted],

Hope you had a nice weekend.

Just wondering if you have any update on who will accompany the Minister to the various appointments that we have scheduled so far? The embassy team here are meeting this morning to decide who will accompany from our side.

Let me know what you have decided to do about the hotel. I've kept the booking I made just in case you hadn't managed to get the rate you wanted with your travel team. I can easily cancel, so just let me know.

I've just added iSurvey to the programme on the Friday morning at 1030. [redacted]from our DIT team emailed me to let me know that this had been booked in. Hope that's ok.

Thanks,

[redacted] | Political Adviser | British Embassy Oslo

Email: [redacted] | **Address:** Thomas Heftyegate 8, 0244 Oslo, Norway

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E-Mail Trail 3

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 January 2017 13:48
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Great. I've gone with 1300.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 January 2017 14:04
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

That's great. Yes both those slots are still available from my side.

Thanks for setting that up!

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 January 2017 11:15

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

Just a quick note to let you know that[redacted] is keen to meet with the Minister. I think we spoke about [redacted]during our first or second discussion...they are[redacted]

They are suggesting 1000 or 1300 on Friday 17th Feb. Are both slots still available from your side?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 January 2017 10:17

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Thanks[redacted].

Would the Oval room be an option? We were thinking that we would quite like to keep the dinner small and focussed so there can be an effective roundtable discussion and the Minister has an opportunity to speak to everyone. What do you think?

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government
|[redacted], Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ |[redacted]

From:[redacted]

Sent: 27 January 2017 08:36

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

Yes, the dinner will be in the main dining room since everyone will not fit in the smaller room.

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 January 2017 17:34

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Thanks[redacted]. Great if we could see the invites.

Can I just check which room we are in for the dinner? When we discussed with [redacted] earlier I think he mentioned the Oval room and we thought that would sit 10 – but if we have room for 22 I assume we're in the main dining room?

[redacted] is looking to arrange the separate meeting with [redacted] but that's not confirmed yet. [redacted]

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government
[redacted] Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 January 2017 12:44
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi [redacted],

Yes, we should be able to start sending out invites on Monday. We would normally do the wording for the invitations ourselves as they will be sent from the Ambassador, but we can certainly run it by you before sending if you would like.

I think we can fit 22 people round the table. So if there will be the Minister plus 4 or 5, and the Ambassador plus 1 or 2 embassy staff then there would be space for 11 externals. [redacted] suggested that you might want to have maybe 20 on your list so that there are reserves for if people cannot make it. We can send out invitations in your order of preference if you just let us know.

Are you any further with any of the separate industry meetings following your chat with [redacted]?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 January 2017 11:20

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi [redacted],

I've just had a call with [redacted]colleagues and[redacted]. We are planning to have a final guest list with contact details for the industry dinner ready tomorrow. If we get this to you tomorrow afternoon would you be in a position to send out invites on Monday?

Could you please confirm how many people we can have round the table in the Residence? Would you like me to suggest wording for an invitation or do you have a standard template that the Ambassador would use?

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government

[redacted]Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 January 2017 11:06

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

Following our chat yesterday and in no particular order, please see below:

- The industry dinner at the Residence is provisionally booked in for eating at 7pm but this is flexible, depending on the programme. It will be a sit down dinner and can include an introduction from the Ambassador and a speech by the Minister. We will send invites once we have your list and contact details. We can agree wording before we send.
- Our usual hotel suggestions [redacted] Have a look and let me know what you think. Previous visits have been very happy with [redacted] and it is very close to the Embassy. Happy to reserve rooms for you.
- There was a question about whether we could host the meeting with [redacted] – the Embassy would be happy to do this if the Minister would prefer it. Alternatively (I think someone mentioned this) we can give restaurant suggestions for a lunch meeting.
- Norwegian press, social media etc – contact at the Embassy will be [redacted] who is back on Monday. Worth noting that there is not an official photographer at the Ministry.
- [redacted] Cultural/historical ties – we wonder if Dr Allan might like to visit the Resistance Museum at Akershus Fortress. This would be a good fit in line with [redacted] thoughts yesterday on WW2 and the Shetland Bus between Scotland and Norway. [redacted]
- Meeting with State Secretary Elsbeth Tronstad has been arranged for 0945-1045 on Thursday 16 Feb. We would plan to go straight to the Parliamentary Committee meeting straight after (located close by) currently pencilled in at 1100-1200.

I think that's everything at this point. Let me know if you have thoughts on any of the above.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 January 2017 13:41
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi [redacted],

I hope you had a good weekend.

I just wanted to send an updated version of the programme following calls we had re. T&I engagements last week. The Minister has seen this and is content with our proposals. He is still keen to do something cultural, perhaps linked to historical ties, so we are having a think about that. Any suggestions welcome!

Policy

[redacted]

Commerce

- Meeting with [redacted]
- Industry lunch/dinner with business representatives

Civil Society

- Meeting with [redacted]
- Speech and Q&A at British Politics Society
- Attendance at a seminar with business school students

I'm quite keen to use some of our planning call tomorrow to discuss arrangements for the industry lunch/dinner as well as covering the other elements of the programme – would that suit from your point of view?

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government [redacted],
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 19 January 2017 16:45

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Thanks [redacted], that's great.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 January 2017 14:23
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

Yes that's fine from our side. Bearing in mind we haven't got anything concrete in the programme yet but it looks like we have plenty of content to fill two days, even if we don't manage to get everything on the list. I can start reaching out now that we have some dates in place.

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 January 2017 11:49
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

I've just heard from the Minister's office re. flights.

This is what they are proposing:

Wednesday 15th February

Depart Aberdeen 13:30 – Arrive Oslo 16:05

Sunday 19th February

Depart Oslo 09:10 – Arrive Edinburgh 10:00

[redacted]

Can you please let me know if this would suit from your side? [redacted] is quite keen to make bookings asap, particularly for getting him to/from Stornoway as these flights book up quite quickly.

Thank you,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government |
[redacted] Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 January 2017 07:47
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Ok great. Thanks [redacted].

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 January 2017 19:32
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi again!

Dr Allan's office passed on the biography below. Just let me know if you need anything further.

Thanks,
[redacted]

He was born in Ashkirk in the Borders in 1971 and attended Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, gaining a PhD in Scots Language in 1998.

Prior to becoming an MSP Alasdair was senior media relations officer for the Church of Scotland. He was named Gaelic journalist of the year in 2006. In addition he was also the National Secretary of the SNP from 2003 to 2006. Alasdair was elected MSP for the Western Isles in the 2007 election and served on the Local Government and Communities Committee, the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee and the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee, before becoming Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages in 2011. Since 2016 he has been Minister for International Development and Europe.

When not working, Alasdair sings with the Back District Choir in Lewis and takes part in the National Mod. He is learning Norwegian in any spare time that comes to hand.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 January 2017 18:11
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi Louise,

Good to speak to you too.

The names were:

[redacted]

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government
[[redacted], Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 January 2017 13:32
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi [redacted],

Good to talk to you today. I'm just going over my notes and updating the draft programme. As I mentioned earlier I'll wait on confirmation of dates before reaching out. As for new names on the list, there was mention of two that Dr Allan's team were reaching out to personally. Could you confirm who these were with please? I had meant to come back to it during our chat but it must have slipped my mind.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 January 2017 13:43
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

Many thanks for this – it's looking like a good programme.

We can talk through the questions you've asked on our call this afternoon. Look forward to speaking to you then.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 January 2017 10:28

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi [redacted],

As promised please see below list of potential meetings for the visit. I've highlighted a couple of specific questions for you but otherwise just let me know your thoughts.

Policy

[redacted]

Commerce - Potential companies for an industry lunch or dinner:

[redacted]

Civil Society

[redacted]

Is this all in line with what we discussed last week? Let me know if there is anything here you are not sure about.

Kind regards,

[redacted] | Political and Communications Advisor | British Embassy Oslo | [redacted]

Email [redacted] | **Address:** Thomas Heftyegate 8, 0244 Oslo, Norway

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 January 2017 14:28
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Thanks for this[redacted].

The clash on our side is no longer an issue so we are more flexible on dates, though we would still recommend earlier in the week if that is possible. Just let us know when you have an answer from the Minister's office. In the meantime I'll add latest thoughts on programme to our draft and send a copy over to you ahead of our catch up on Tuesday.

Have a great weekend.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Political and Communications Advisor | British Embassy Oslo |
[redacted] **Email**[redacted] | **Address:** Thomas Heftyesgate 8, 0244 Oslo, Norway

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 January 2017 17:35
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

Thanks for letting me know. I have been in touch with the Minister's office and they will come back to me to advise whether it would be feasible for him to arrive earlier. They will also pass on a more detailed biography as soon as they can.

In the meantime please see below aims/objectives for the visit:

The overarching objective of this visit is for the Minister to undertake engagements to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Scotland and Norway.

Aims:

- To strengthen diplomatic relations; by meeting with the Norwegian Government and pursuing cooperation in key areas of mutual interest*
- To promote Trade & Investment links; by engaging with the business community, in particular key Norwegian investors in Scotland*
- To celebrate cultural ties; by marking the historical and contemporary connections between Scotland and Norway*
- To promote Scotland's place in Europe; by explaining Scotland's position following the EU referendum*

[redacted]

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government
|[redacted], Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 January 2017 15:17

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your suggestions of dates. Apologies for the delayed response but there is a complication at the moment with that week, due to another proposed bilateral ministerial visit to attend a global forum to be held in Oslo. We are hoping that will be at the end of the week, but just waiting to have that confirmed. We would therefore suggest that Dr Allan should consider an earlier visit, arriving either Sunday night (12th) or Monday morning and leaving Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. However, we just need to confirm with London the exact plan for the Ministerial visit before we can confirm with you.

In the meantime, do those dates sound feasible from your side?

Many thanks,

[redacted] | Political and Communications Advisor | British Embassy Oslo |
[redacted] **Email** [redacted] | **Address:** Thomas Heftyegate 8, 0244 Oslo, Norway

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 January 2017 18:03
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi [redacted],

Just to update you on dates - unfortunately Dr Allan will not be able to make it out for the Burns event on the Thursday – as we expected he will need to be in Parliament that day and he also has an existing commitment on the 10th. It is a shame we can't make that work.

I think therefore that we are looking at him arriving on Tuesday 14th (there is a flight from Edinburgh arriving in Oslo at 14:35) and leaving again either on Thursday 16th (10:30 to Edinburgh) or on the Friday (08:40 to Aberdeen).

Would that work ok from your side?

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government
[redacted] Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 January 2017 14:32
To: [redacted]
Subject: Visit to Oslo: Scottish Int Dev Minister

Hi[redacted],

Good to talk to you and colleagues earlier. Many thanks for clarifying the aims of your visit.

Please note that until 30 January [redacted] will be leading on the visit from our side, with [redacted] taking over afterwards. I'll be supporting them both. Perhaps best if you and [redacted] touch base once a week while the rest of us contribute via email as and when necessary.

Grateful if you could let us soon about the preferred dates for the visit and send us the bio and the main aims and objectives for the visit for us to share with local interlocutors. We will aim to send you a draft proposal for the programme by cop this week/early next week for consideration.

Hope this is ok.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Head of Political Section | British Embassy Oslo | Thomas Heftyes gate 8 | 0244 Oslo, Norway |

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

E-Mail Trail 14

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 January 2017 14:59

To: [redacted]

Subject: Session with Scottish Minister for Europe - February 2017

Dear [redacted],

I am getting in touch regarding a visit to Oslo by our Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan, next month (biography [here](#)). I understand colleagues in the Embassy in Oslo may have made you aware of this visit.

I am keen to discuss with you the possibility of a seminar at the British Politics Society as part of his programme where the Minister could talk about Scotland's Place in Europe following the UK's EU referendum last year, and answer questions on this topic from your members. The Minister will be in Oslo from the evening of Wednesday 15th February until that weekend and would be flexible on when such an event could take place.

Please let me know if this would be of interest to you and I will be very happy to discuss with you further.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Policy Adviser | European Relations | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government
[redacted] Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ [redacted]

SCANCE Contribution

The Minister for International Development & Europe undertook a successful visit to Oslo last week (15-19 February). The objectives of the visit were to deepen diplomatic relations between Scotland and Norway, promote trade and investment links, celebrate cultural and historic connections, and explain Scotland's position on Europe. His programme included meetings with: State Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Elsbeth Tronstad; Head of Delegation to EEA & EFTA Parliamentary Committees, Svein Roald Hansen; the Parliament's Standing Committee on Energy & the Environment; the Norwegian Development Agency, NORAD; and research organisations SINTEF and the Norwegian Research Council; as well as a speech to the British Politics Society, visits to the Nobel Peace Centre and Norwegian Resistance Museum, and various media interviews.

[redacted]

Speaking Note

[redacted]

First Minister

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

REPORT OF VISIT TO OSLO – 15-19 FEBRUARY 2017

BRIEF OVERVIEW

I visited Oslo between 15-19 February to undertake a number of engagements to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Scotland and Norway.

The objectives of the visit were to deepen diplomatic relations, promote trade and investment links, celebrate cultural and historic connections, and promote *Scotland's place in Europe*

While there, I met with State Secretary to the Minister for EEA and EU Affairs, Elsbeth Tronstad, to clarify Scotland's position on Brexit. [redacted]

I gave a speech on *Scotland's Place in Europe* to around 60 academics and journalists at the British Politics Society and various interviews on the subject, including an interview in Norwegian which was broadcast on NRK (the national broadcasting agency) and picked up strongly on social media.

My programme also included meetings with parliamentarians (the Head of Delegation to the EEA/EFTA Parliamentary Committees, and members of the Environment and Energy Committee), the Norwegian Development Agency, the Norwegian Research Council and SINTEF, and a business dinner with Norwegian investors in Scotland. I also undertook cultural engagements to highlight the strong connections between Scotland and Norway.

Overall the visit was successful in meeting its objectives. [redacted]

KEY OUTCOMES

- Increased awareness in Norway of Scotland's position following the EU referendum outcome and understanding of our efforts to protect Scotland's interests
- Demonstration of Scottish Government commitment to deepening relations with a key partner in the Nordic region

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Elbeth Tronstad, State Secretary to the Minister for EEA and EU Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

Svein Roald Hansen, Head of Delegation to EEA & EFTA Parliamentary Committees

Members of the Parliament's Standing Committee on Energy & the Environment

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS, VISITS & MEETINGS

Meeting with Director General of the Norwegian Development Agency, NORAD

Meeting with representatives of research organisation SINTEF and the Norwegian Research Council

Meetings with Norwegian investors in Scotland – [redacted]

Speech to journalists and academics at the British Politics Society

Interviews with NRK, DN and Nationen

Visits to the Nobel Peace Centre and Resistance Museum

ALASDAIR ALLAN

Minister for International Development & Europe

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Bilateral meeting
Date	16 February 2017
Who	State Secretary to Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Elsbeth Tronstad
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AA set out Scotland's position on Brexit and wanting to retain membership of the Single Market, stated that 62% of Scottish electorate voted to remain. ET was interested in whether the 62% remain vote had increased since referendum.• AA responded stating that mood was still in favour, the Scottish Parliament voted in favour of pursuing differentiated solution for Scotland. Also 58 of 59 Scottish MPs wanting to remain.• AA put forward the position in 'Scotland's Place in Europe', reiterating that it was very much focused on the UK government and that we're not trying to draw other countries into the debate. Also that the paper represents a compromise, SG reserves right to hold independence referendum however this was not the option being pursued at the moment.• ET set out Norway's position. [redacted]• AA also spoke of further devolution of powers as set out in SPiE. [redacted]• Discussion then turned to practicalities regarding future arrangements and the amount of uncertainty there was currently.• [redacted]• ET closed meeting by stating that she appreciated the visit, and looked forward to working closely with us.
Actions	N/A
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe

	Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe DG Strategy & External Affairs EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]
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EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Bilateral meeting
Date	16 February 2017
Who	Norwegian Parliament Energy and Environment Committee Committee members were: Ola Elvestuen (Chair, Liberal Party) Anna Ljunggren (Labour) Per Rune Henriksen (Labour) Torhild Aarbergsbotten (Conservative) Jan-Henrik Fredriksen (Progress) Terje Aasland (Labour)
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA set out the strength of Scotland's bilateral relationship with Norway, spoke of importance of energy and climate change in this, particularly around renewables investment in Scotland, and North Sea oil and gas. Regardless of Brexit outcome, we would continue to work closely with Norway. • Committee was interested in our latest draft Energy Strategy and the Draft CC plan. AA spoke briefly on importance of this, and highlighted that he was particularly interested in Energy Efficiency schemes. Outlined our commitment to this. • Committee set out Norway's current position, committed to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030, has a strong Hydro sector (97% of electricity needs met by this), spoke in-depth about commitment to low carbon transport, with the need for cars to be zero emission by 2025. • [redacted]
Actions	N/A
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy DG Economy DG Strategy & External Affairs

	EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]
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EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Speech and Q&A
Date	16 February 2017
Who	Members of the British Politics Society – around 60 participants including journalists and academics
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA gave a speech outlining Scotland’s relationship with Norway and the northern region and Scotland’s Place in Europe <p>Questions focused on a range of issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns of how people voted in Scotland both in the independence referendum and EU referendum – AA explained it was difficult to point to trends but most pronounced difference in both was split between older and younger voters • Whether the Greenland/Denmark model was being considered – this had been discussed in the media previously but there were clear differences between this model and the position Scotland was in • What conditions would trigger a second independence referendum – AA explained that SG was first looking to find solutions as part of the UK but if these did not protect Scotland’s interests independence was an option on the table • How EFTA membership could be a possibility for Scotland without the UK being a member – AA explained that no solution was simple and any decision would need to be negotiated with the UK. The important thing for Scotland was continued membership of the single market • How it was possible for the UKG to decide to have a referendum without giving a clear alternative – AA drew contrasts with the Scottish independence referendum. The tone of the EU referendum had been very unpleasant at times. • Whether there was a contradiction in the Scottish Government position as it sought independence from the UK but was willing to ‘submit to’ Brussels and if EFTA would be a better option – AA explained that the SG saw being part of the EU as being part of the world while the UK was retreating from the world stage. EFTA was an option on the table

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the SNP's attitude towards EU membership had changed since the 1970s <p>Following the speech Dr Allan gave interviews to DN and Nationen newspapers.</p>
Actions	N/A
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	<p>Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe DG Economy DG Strategy & External Affairs EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Business dinner
Date	16 February 2017
Who	Hosted by UK Ambassador to Norway, Sarah Tiffin. [redacted]
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ambassador welcomed the guests to dinner with opening remarks focused on the background of the Residence and the links between Scotland and Norway. AA responded thanking the Ambassador for hosting the dinner, reiterated the strength of the links between Scotland and Norway, and thanked the companies present for their continued investment in Scotland. [redacted]
Actions	N/A
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	<p>Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe DG Strategy & External Affairs EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	17 February 2017
Who	Svein Roald Hansen, Head of Delegation to EEA & EFTA Parliamentary Committees
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [redacted] AA outlined SG's position in that we were seeking a

	<p>compromise with the UKG and confirmed that we wanted to be in the same customs union as rest of UK. [redacted]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had a number of meetings following the referendum result with other members of EFTA, [redacted]
Actions	N/A
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	<p>Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe DG Economy DG Strategy & External Affairs EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	17 February 2017
Who	Oivind Roegh, MD iSurvey
Key Points	[redacted]
Actions	SDI will follow up the meeting with a mail to Oivind Roegh, iSurvey's MD with key actions and agreed timescales for follow-up.
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	<p>Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe DG Economy DG Strategy & External Affairs EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	17 February 2017
Who	Jon Karleiv Andreas Lomøy, Director General for Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation [redacted]
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA explained that the SG doesn't have devolved responsibility for International Development (ID) work, nor is it funded by the UKG to undertake this work but does it because it's the right thing to do. That's why SG has a relatively small ID budget in addition to the UK's

	<p>Department for International Development (DFID) spend. He outlined the countries Scotland worked in – Zambia, Rwanda, Malawi and Pakistan, with a strong focus on Malawi given historical and cultural connections and in Pakistan, a focus on scholarships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA also outlined some of the priority themes the SF focuses on such as education; health; sustainable economic development; civic governance and society; food security; renewable energy; climate change and water and that SG works through NGOs to deliver on these. • NORAD works in twelve priority countries, including Malawi (their largest recipient of aid) and splits them into two groups, (i) those they work with in the long term and (ii) conflict affected countries. • NORAD have a 1% of GDP spend for ID work. They work in areas such as global health, education, climate change, job creation/economic development and humanitarian intervention. • AA was keen to hear about whether NORAD separated out humanitarian work from traditional aid. NORAD confirmed that this is separate from their long term work and that they distinguish between act of God/environmental disasters and man-made disasters. Many of the NGOs NORAD work though however work both in long term and humanitarian aid. NORAD have a £500m per year grant scheme for humanitarian work. • [redacted]
Actions	N/A
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	<p>Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe DG Economy DG Strategy & External Affairs EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan
Type of engagement	Speech and Q&A
Date	17 February 2017
Who	<p>Arvid Hallen, Director, Norwegian Research Council Tom-Espen Møller, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Research Council Morten Dalsmo, Director, SINTEF Digital Christina Hanssen, Senior EU Adviser, SINTEF Digital</p>

	Joe Gorman, Senior Researcher, SINTEF Digital
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JG gave a presentation on Scotland's links with Norway, highlighting the similarities in landscape and language • Representatives of SINTEF and the Research Council gave an overview of their work. Both institutes sit independently of Government, between Universities and industry • Participants explained the importance the Norwegian Government places on research, with almost 1% of GDP being allocated to research. The Norwegian Research Council has a budget of around €1.2bn. Funding comes from different Government Ministries so they have a varied research portfolio • In terms of participation in EU programmes (including Horizon 2020) Norway puts in a lot more funding than it gets out. The Government is clear that the focus is not on the rate of return, but on the value of international cooperation. It is vital to Norway to be an active partner in EU research - working with leading researchers in Europe is their main driver for involvement in Horizon 2020. The priorities of their national research plans thus align very well with EU strategy • Norway seeks to influence the development of EU funding programmes by being proactively involved in the process. Its strong national funding platform also gives it leverage as it is in a good position to support partnerships • [redacted]
Actions	Officials to explore ways of continuing dialogue with SINTEF and the Research Council and report to Ministers in due course.
Attending Official(s)	[redacted]
Copy List	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe DG Economy DG Strategy & External Affairs EU & International Engagement Teams EU Strategy Team [redacted]

Minister for International Development and Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Sarah Gillett

British Ambassador to Norway

Thomas Heftyes Gate 8

Oslo

0244

February 2017

I would like to thank you and your team once again for all your help and support in making arrangements for my visit to Oslo last week and for hosting the industry dinner. It was a pleasure to meet you all and I was grateful for your hospitality.

I found my visit to be very fruitful in terms of deepening diplomatic relations, promoting trade, investment and policy links and celebrating the many historical and cultural connections between Scotland and Norway.

I look forward to continued work with your team to build on this already strong relationship.

Alasdair Allan

Minister for International Development and
Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Elsbeth Tronstad

State Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[redacted]

February 2017

It was a pleasure to meet you and your colleagues during my visit to Oslo last week.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to discuss Scotland's links with Norway and our respective relationships with the EU. Norway is a very important partner for Scotland and I am keen to continue to build on the already strong relationship between our countries.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and I look forward to continued dialogue with you and your team.

Alasdair Allan

Minister for International Development and
Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Ola Elvestuen

Chair of the Standing Committee on Energy & the
Environment

[redacted]

February 2017

It was a pleasure to meet you during my visit to Oslo last week.

I would like to thank you and the other committee members for taking the time to meet with me to discuss Energy links between our countries. Scotland and Norway share strong ties, particularly in this field, and we look forward to continued collaboration on shared areas of interest.

Alasdair Allan

Minister for International Development and
Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Kristin Haugevik

British Politics Society Oslo

[redacted]

February 2017

It was a pleasure to meet you during my visit to Oslo last week.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to address members of the British Politics Society on Scotland's relationship with Norway and Scotland's place in Europe. I would like to thank you for making arrangements for the event and chairing the discussion.

Alasdair Allan

Minister for International Development and
Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Mr Svein Roald Hansen

Head of Delegation to EFTA and EEA Parliamentary
Committees

[redacted]

February 2017

It was a pleasure to meet you last week during my visit to Oslo.

I appreciate you taking the time to explain more about the work of your committee and Norway's relationship with EEA and EFTA. I was also grateful to have the opportunity to discuss Scotland's Place in Europe with you.

Scotland and Norway share close ties and I look forward to continued cooperation between our countries.

Alasdair Allan

Minister for International Development and
Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Jon Karleiv Andreas Lemøy

Director General

NORAD

[redacted]

February 2017

It was a pleasure to meet you and your colleagues during my visit to Oslo last week.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to learn more about NORAD's work and found it very useful to exchange experiences of our approaches to International Development.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and I hope we will meet again soon.

Alasdair Allan

Minister for International Development and
Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Ingvill Bryn Rambøl

Director of Information

[redacted]

February 2017

It was a pleasure to meet you during my visit to Oslo last week.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to visit the Nobel Peace Centre and to learn more about the Nobel Peace Prize. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us and explain the work that you do.

I hope to meet again in future.

Alasdair Allan

Minister for International Development and
Europe

Alasdair Allan MSP



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Ivar Kraglund

Director

Resistance Museum

February 2017

It was a pleasure to meet you during my visit to Oslo last week.

Thank you for taking the time to show me around the Resistance Museum. I was delighted to have the opportunity to learn more about Norway's history and the strong cultural connections between Scotland and Norway.

Alasdair Allan