

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 08 December 2016 12:06  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RT UK Interview Request

Hello there,

Please may we be sent a statement regarding the First Minister, who will not accept an offer of holding a second independence referendum if it takes place after the UK has left the European Union?

Please see article:

[http://www.thenational.scot/news/14952568.Sturgeon\\_snubs\\_May\\_s\\_offer\\_of\\_a\\_post\\_Br\\_exit\\_indyref2/](http://www.thenational.scot/news/14952568.Sturgeon_snubs_May_s_offer_of_a_post_Br_exit_indyref2/)

Can we please be sent the statement by 5pm today.

Best,

[redacted]

[redacted]

**News Producer**

Office: [redacted]

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 05 December 2016 09:34  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** media request

Hello.

My name is [redacted], I'm a reporter from RT International Channel.

Could you please answer questions on the Scotland's policy.

1. What about the second referendum for Scotland leaving UK. When it will be? Who can organize this referendum? What are the reasons for it ? Which UK's government's decisions in the nearest future could be the trigger to this referendum Scotland to be started?

2. Donald Trump says about the Brexit as a 'victory'. Do you think, that his policy can influence on the probability of Scotexit referendum?

3.I know, that Nicola Sturgeon was recently criticized for her attempts to maintain the country's links with the European Union (EU) by Jackson Carlaw. What are main misunderstandings now Between Scotland's policy&interests and UK's?

Thank you very much.

Your's sincerely, [redacted]

[redacted]

Journalist and Political analyst | RT.com

[redacted]

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/indamoscow>

**From:** [redacted]]

**Sent:** 03 November 2016 14:25

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** [sputnik.news](http://sputnik.news)[redacted]

**Subject:** Re: FoI requests

Many thanks [redacted]

This will be a separate story to the one related to the theft of the phones, which I am filing tomorrow morning and, as you know, I have a short line already from SG.

If I could get a response to these additional questions by close tomorrow that would be great.

Regards,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 03 November 2016 14:18

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** [sputnik.news](http://sputnik.news)[redacted]

**Subject:** RE: FoI requests

Hi [redacted],

I'll pass this onto our reactive news team and someone will come back to you with a response.

What is your deadline?

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 03 November 2016 13:20

**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [sputnik.news](#)[redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FoI requests

Dear [redacted],

I have a couple of queries regarding the FoI returns I've received today.

Firstly, in relation to FoI requests. When did the Scottish Government press office start taking the role of gatekeeper for FoI requests from the media? It implies such requests, and any subsequent response, is going through an additional validation process that individuals submitting FoI requests would not be subject to.

That would seem to be counter to the spirit of the legislation that was designed to bring about greater openness, transparency and accountability of public bodies, like the Scottish Government.

What is the advantage, to journalists, of adhering to such an "appropriate route", especially when, as far as I can see, it is met with deliberate obstructiveness?

In addition I would appreciate if you could advise whether it is normal for media enquiries to be cleared by the First Minister's SPAD/Official Spokesperson?

Lastly, can you confirm that media enquiries and FoI requests from Sputnik are being dealt in the same way as other media requests?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[redacted]

On Thu, Oct 6, 2016 at 5:02 PM, [redacted]> wrote:

Thanks [redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 06 October 2016 16:46  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FoI requests

Thanks [redacted],

That was not previously made clear to me, but happy to do that for future requests.

Regards,

[redacted]

On Thu, Oct 6, 2016 at 4:30 PM, [redacted]> wrote:

[redacted],

Thank you for your recent FoI requests (September 26). One of my colleagues may have already responded to say we have received these. However, I wanted to flag that as a journalist the appropriate FoI route is to submit your requests via the press office as we respond to Fols from the media.

The best address for you to do this via is: [redacted]

We will come back to you in due course on your requests.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Senior Communications Manager | Corporate Communications | [redacted] [redacted]

Scottish Government | [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 08 November 2016 11:09

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: [Media enquiry] Lost and stolen IT equipment - Scottish Government staff

Dear [redacted],

Police Scotland have confirmed to us there is no ongoing investigation into the theft of these mobile phones.

Does the Scottish Government wish to add anything to the one line statement it gave previously? Specifically, have any Scottish Government staff faced any disciplinary action resulting from the theft? Why did it take the Scottish Government 5 days to report the theft to Police?

An MEP we have spoken to today is accusing the Scottish Government of trying to cover up the theft.

My deadline is 2pm today.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Correspondent

Sputnik News (International)

[www.sputniknews.com](http://www.sputniknews.com)

[redacted]

On 4 October 2016 at 17:56, [redacted]> wrote:

Hi [redacted], here is our response – attributable to a Scottish Government spokeswoman.

“The thefts have been reported to police and, as such, it would not be appropriate for us comment further.”

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Senior Media Manager | Reactive Hub | Scottish Government | T[redacted] | M: [redacted]

[redacted] | [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 04 October 2016 15:16

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: [Media enquiry] Lost and stolen IT equipment - Scottish Government staff

Can you confirm this media enquiry is being dealt with please?

Many thanks,

[redacted]Correspondent

Sputnik News (International)

[www.sputniknews.com](http://www.sputniknews.com)

[redacted]

On 4 October 2016 at 09:09, [redacted]> wrote:

Good morning,

I am a journalist working for the international news agency, Sputnik.

I am looking for a response from the Scottish Government following information I received under Freedom of Information.

I asked for details of lost and stolen IT equipment by Scottish Government staff. Ref: [gary.fairley@gov.scot](mailto:gary.fairley@gov.scot) My ref: FOI 08/MH Your ref: FOI/16/01425

I am particularly interested in getting a line on the following information I received.

The theft of 48 telephone handsets values at £14,500 in 2013/14.

Was this theft reported to Police and were any charges brought?

Did the theft of these handsets involve any Scottish Government staff in the crime?

Any other relevant information in regard to this crime would be appreciated.

Did the loss of all the Blackberry handsets noted in the FOI return as well as the laptops take place inside Scotland?

Mr Fairley, IT Security Manager, states in his return:

“As a result of these measures which protect the information on devices, official data could not be accessed or amended/deleted by any individual without appropriate passwords, encryption or remote id tags.”

Does the Scottish Government not accept that even encrypted devices such as those listed are capable of being accessed by highly specialist companies and/or state players?

Finally was there any disciplinary action taken against staff who lost either mobile telephone handsets or laptops during the past 3 years?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Correspondent

Sputnik News (International)

[www.sputniknews.com](http://www.sputniknews.com)

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 23 August 2016 14:59

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: [Media enquiry] Lockerbie / PA103 prosecution imminent

Hi [redacted]

In response to your enquiry about a public inquiry on Lockerbie please see Scottish Government lines below:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"Mr Al-Megrahi was convicted in a court of law, his conviction was upheld on appeal, and that is the only appropriate place for his guilt or innocence to be determined.

"Any conclusions reached by an inquiry would not have any effect on either upholding or overturning the conviction."

In relation to any prosecution, this is a matter for the independent COPFS and it would not be appropriate for the Scottish Government to comment.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Media Manager

Ex. [redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 27 June 2016 16:51

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Media enquiry - re Rural Economy Secretary tells EU Farming Ministers Scotland committed to Europe.

Good afternoon,

I am a journalist with Sputnik, the international newswire service.

I am looking for a response from the Scottish Government in relation to the meeting Mr Ewing had with Phil Hogan today.

In May Mr Hogan told Sputnik that EU led sanctions against Russia was costing 5.3 billion Euros in lost exports and called for a "normalisation of relations" with Russia.

Today former NFU Scotland President George Lyon also called for a normalisation of relations with Russia, echoing calls by former UK Trade Minister Brian Wilson as well as Scottish food export organisations, such as the Scottish Pelagic Processors Association.

Does the Rural Economy Secretary support moves to bring about normalisation of trade with Russia and an end to agriculture and farming related sanctions?

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Correspondent

Sputnik News (International)

[www.sputniknews.com](http://www.sputniknews.com)

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 26 June 2017 15:33

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** media enquiry - DUP/Conservative deal/ reaction of Nicola Sturgeon

Hello, my name is [redacted], I'm correspondent for Sputnik news agency, I've called your press office few minutes ago.

If possible, I would like to get the comment of the following issue:

In regards to the DUP/Tory deal signed earlier today Nicolsa Sturgeon said -  
"Any sense of fairness sacrificed on the altar of grubby DUP deal to let PM cling to power, & Scots Tories influence in No10 shown to be zero" - that's the comment on her Twitter feed.

Why this deal is met with such a negative reaction?

Does the team of Mrs.Sturgeon is preparing to hold talks on the issue? What steps are being taken in this regard?

Looking forward to hearing from you!

[redacted]

**Correspondent**

**Sputnik News Agency**

[redacted]

[sputniknews.com](http://sputniknews.com)