

Annex B: Information Released under Freedom of Information Request: Fol/15/01829

From: **[Redacted]**  
Sent: 09 December 2014 13:21  
To: SG Communications Bounce Backs  
Subject: [Media Enquiry] Oil and gas report job losses

Hi,  
I wondered if the Energy Secretary might be issuing a statement on the back of the Oil and Gas UK report highlighting a potential 35,000 job losses over the next five years?

Many thanks,  
**[Redacted]**

**[Redacted]**  
Correspondent  
RIA Novosti  
**[Redacted]**

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From: **[Redacted]**  
Sent: 18 December 2014 11:36  
To: SG Communications Bounce Backs  
Subject: Re: Scottish economy to benefit from multimillion European investment NM

Good morning,  
Quick query; Does the Scottish Government believe that if there is an EU "in/out" referendum and the UK withdraws from Europe, will this investment, or a proportion of it, be at risk?

Many thanks,  
**[Redacted]**

**[Redacted]**  
RIA Novosti  
**[Redacted]**

Distributing to over 50 countries and in 14 languages.

On 2014-12-18 10:00, SG Communications wrote:

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- >
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- >
- > [1]
- >
- > EMBARGOED until 19/12/2014 00:01
- >
- > Scottish economy to benefit from multimillion European investment [1]

- >
- > More than €1.9bn is to be invested into Scotland's low carbon economy, digital infrastructure and initiatives to tackle poverty by the European Commission.
- >
- > The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) will bring a combined €985m in European funding to Scotland between now and 2020. The Scottish Government and public sector partners will contribute the remaining balance.
- >
- > Over the next six years the funds will be invested in a range of projects to help Scotland build a more innovative, low-carbon economy as well as promote international business, tackle poverty and get people back into work.
- >
- > Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities, Keith Brown, welcomed the approval of the new funds. He said:
- >
- > "The Scottish Government shares the Commission's ambitions for growth across Europe which is smart, sustainable and inclusive. These programmes will enable us to strengthen our research, development and innovation capabilities and help turn innovation into long-term and sustainable jobs and growth.
- >
- > "Scottish SMEs will benefit through ERDF-funded initiatives by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise and the local authorities aimed at joining up their support for business and bolstering competitiveness in Scotland, the UK and internationally. We need to continue progress on reducing Scotland's carbon footprint and significant funding has been allocated for the transition to a low carbon and resource-efficient economy.
- >
- > "We also share the Commission's ambitions to alleviate poverty in Scotland, to help those who have employment difficulties find work and to increase the skills of our workforce. Through ESF we will invest in education, skills and lifelong learning to ensure our workforce are better equipped to meet the needs of the labour market. The funds will also target deprived communities and those who are unemployed or on low incomes, focusing on innovative, adaptive and sustainable solutions to reduce poverty.
- >
- > "Now the Programme has been adopted we expect to see funds begin to be committed early in 2015."
- > NOTES TO EDITORS
- >
- > The Operational Programmes for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) were approved by the European Commission, signalling the start of both funding programmes in Scotland.
- >
- > ERDF will focus on five key areas:
- >
- > \* Research, technological development and innovation;
- > \* Improved access and quality of digital communication technology, particularly in rural areas;
- > \* Increasing the competitiveness of Scottish SMEs;
- > \* Support for activity to further develop a low-carbon economy;
- > \* Environmental protection and resource efficiency.
- >
- > ESF will provide investment focusing on four strategic funding priorities:
- >
- > \* Promotion of Labour Market Mobility;
- > \* Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty;

- > \* Investing in Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning;
- > \* Youth Employment Initiative.

> SG COMMUNICATIONS

> Email: [SGCommunications@scot.gov.uk](mailto:SGCommunications@scot.gov.uk)

> **[Redacted]**

> Email: **[Redacted]**

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> [2]

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From: **[Redacted]**

Sent: 30 December 2014 11:02

To: SG Communications Bounce Backs  
Subject: [Media enquiry] Ebola case - RIA Novosti/Russia Today NM

Good morning,

I have a query regarding the Ebola case and the suspected one in Aberdeen both involving medical workers returning from West Africa. I understand there has been a drive within the NHS in Scotland seeking volunteers amongst NHS staff to travel to West Africa to help treat patients there.

Can the Scottish Government clarify what additional safeguards and measures (if any) are taken to screen returning NHS staff who have been working in that region?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Correspondent

RIA Novosti

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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From: [Redacted]

Sent: 09 February 2015 10:22

To: SG Communications Bounce Backs

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: [Media enquiry] Avoidable deaths NHS Scotland - RIA Novosti/Russia Today NM

Good morning,

I am a journalist with RIA Novosti, part of the Russia Today international news organisation.

I am working on a follow up story to a piece that ran in the Telegraph at the weekend highlighting statistics showing 1000 people are dying "needlessly" in hospitals in England and Wales.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/nhs/11398206/Hunt-Sweeping-reforms-to-end-NHS-cover-up-culture.html>

I am looking to explore how these rates compare to the situation in Scotland and looking for reaction from the Scottish Government and details of the comparative Scottish figures.

I appreciate statistics maybe collated differently north and south of the border, but can you advise what figures there are on preventable mortality rates in Scotland.

Depending on the data can you also advise if Scottish Ministers plan to annually review such deaths in line with proposals announced by the UK Government?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Correspondent

RIA Novosti

[Redacted]

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From: **[Redacted]**

Sent: 09 February 2015 18:23

To: SG Communications Bounce Backs

Cc: **[Redacted]**

Subject: Re: [Media enquiry] Avoidable deaths NHS Scotland - RIA Novosti/Russia Today NM

Good afternoon,

I wonder if it might be possible to get a response to this enquiry today please?

Many thanks,

**[Redacted]**

**[Redacted]**

Correspondent

RIA Novosti

**[Redacted]**

On 2015-02-09 10:22, **[Redacted]** info wrote:

> Good morning,

> I am a journalist with RIA Novosti, part of the Russia Today

> international news organisation.

> I am working on a follow up story to a piece that ran in the Telegraph

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> "needlessly" in hospitals in England and Wales.

> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/nhs/11398206/Hunt-Sweeping-reforms-to-end-NHS-cover-up-culture.html>

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> the border, but can you advise what figures there are on preventable

> mortality rates in Scotland.

> Depending on the data can you also advise if Scottish Ministers plan

> to annually review such deaths in line with proposals announced by the

> UK Government?

> Many thanks,

> **[Redacted]**

> Correspondent

> RIA Novosti

> **[Redacted]**

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 18 February 2015 08:49  
**To:** SG Communications Bounce Backs  
**Subject:** [Media enquiry] National Crime Agency seizure of assets - RIA Novosti/Russia Today - CT

Good morning,  
I am working on a follow up story today following reports earlier this week related to criticisms of the National Crime Agency by the Home Affairs Select Committee that says not enough is being done to seize criminal assets.  
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/17/national-crime-agency-criminal-assets-commons-home-affairs-select-committee-nc>

I wondered if I could get a line from the Scottish Government on how well the Proceeds of Crime Asset Recovery had operated as a way to compare effectiveness.  
It is evident that the Scottish process is working to a more effective extent, but specifically why does the Scottish Government believe that to be the case? What factors make the Scottish system more effective than the efforts of the NCA?

Many thanks,  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
Correspondent  
RIA Novosti  
[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 10 June 2015 12:08  
**To:** SG Communications Bounce Backs  
**Subject:** Re: US business boosts for Scotland - CT

Hi,  
Wondering if you could send an itinerary of FM's visit to Washington please? I'm in DC at the moment.  
Thanks, [Redacted]  
- Correspondent, RIA Novosti

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** SG Communications  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 June 2015 09:58  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** US business boosts for Scotland

## US business boosts for Scotland

09/06/2015 14:55

### **Global data company Spire to open European HQ in Glasgow**

A US headquartered satellite-powered data company announced plans to open a European headquarters at Skypark, Glasgow today. Speaking at an US investor event in New York, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon welcomed the announcement which will see the company create over 50 new jobs to support the establishment of a Nano-Satellite design, development manufacturing and data management facility in Scotland.

The Glasgow site will be the company's third global office, further reinforcing Scotland's growing importance to the space industry worldwide. This significant expansion is being supported by £1.9m in grant funding from Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise.

During her visit to New York, the First Minister and the chief executive of Scottish Enterprise, Lena Wilson, addressed an audience of 40 senior business people to promote ongoing opportunities for US firms to take advantage of Scotland's competitive business environment, world-class sectors and talent pool. The event, which was co-hosted by Ernst & Young reinforces Scotland's strong position as the UK's biggest FDI region outside of London.

The First Minister said:

"This announcement clearly demonstrates Scotland's growing influence in the space technology industry. Our cost effective and supportive business environment, strong and highly skilled workforce, and world-class universities are not only enabling the development of Scottish companies but also attracting the world's most innovative companies such as Spire to Scotland.

"During my visit, I am pleased to be able to meet with companies already investing in Scotland and to meet those who are considering expanding in Scotland. The business event, jointly hosted by the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Ernst and Young reinforces their latest Attractiveness Survey, which showed that 2014 was Scotland's most successful year in the past decade for attracting US investments, and that we are continuing to hold our own as an attractive location for foreign investment in an increasingly competitive global market."

With an office in Glasgow, Spire will now have access to a strong base of talented engineers who are capable of solving some of today's most complex challenges in order to develop the next generation of GPS Radio Occultation technology. Spire's new European branch will also support Scotland's developing space

industry, creating more job opportunities and stimulating progressive technological advancements in the field of weather data collection for the entire world.

"The confidence placed in us from Scotland enables us to expand our global footprint to attract the skills and talent we need to deliver on the next generation of weather satellites," said Spire's CEO, Peter Platzer. "We are not only looking for the top one percent of the world's talent pool, but the one percent that demand constant challenge and improvement that has come to embody Spire's culture. And just as we aim to hire and nurture the best and brightest, we will continue to offer them a unique, well-rounded and international life experience with plenty of excitement to spare."

Lena Wilson said:

"This is an exciting time to be in the US following EY's recent research which showed almost half of all projects coming to Scotland in 2014 came from the US, representing a ten-year high for American investment."

"Attracting innovative US companies like Spire is a key component of our success. Spire's enhanced presence in Scotland will make a significant contribution to our space industry expertise and will open up a wealth of opportunities for SMEs in Scotland operating in the technology space."

### **Notes to Editors**

Follow @scotgovfm for updates on the First Minister's trip to the US.

The full Ernst and Young Report can be read at: <http://www.ey.com/GL/en/Issues/Business-environment/Ernst--Young-attractiveness-surveys>

### **SG Communications**

Email: [SGCommunications@scot.gov.uk](mailto:SGCommunications@scot.gov.uk)

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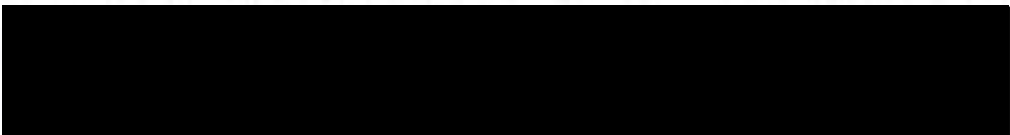
**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 09 September 2015 11:08  
**To:** Communications CEEA  
**Subject:** TV interview request from RT UK for HUMZA YOUSAF  
**Importance:** High

Dear communications,

The gov coms team suggested I get in touch with you as we'd love to re-invite International Development Minister **Humza Yousaf** for TV interview, via studio link to discuss the unfolding refugee and humanitarian crisis, the decision to order RAF Drone strikes on two British Jihadis and Cameron's pledge to take in 20,000 refugee's over the next five years. Interviews are around 10 minutes in length, pre-recorded as live and a one-to-one with presenter Afshin Rattansi. We generally film interviews weekdays between 11am and 5pm in 20 minute slots and I can offer:

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Sept between 12pm and 4.30pm  
w/c 14<sup>th</sup> Sept Mon-Fri between 11am and 5pm

Going Underground is the flagship UK current affairs series for the RT UK News channel. The series airs prominently to a domestic audience but also to an international audience on the RT News network with a global audience reach of over 700 million viewers.



Look forward to hearing back from you,  
[Redacted]

[Redacted] Senior Producer/Booker  
T: [Redacted] M: [Redacted]  
[Redacted]



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**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 02:03 PM

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** URGENT request

Dear [Redacted],

I was wondering if you are still managing media requests for Humza Yousaf and if not, then if you could let me know who does and how I could contact them. As you may remember, Humza Yousaf has appeared on our show before. We would like interview him again about GSHQ spying on Scottish MSPs and we would also be happy to talk about whatever he wants to discuss as well.

As last time we would do a good 10-minute interview with him (pre-recorded as live) and we can record it either via Skype or via a video-link from a studio either in Edinburgh or Glasgow.

I would really appreciate if you could come back to my request and thank you very much for your help in advance.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Senior Producer, RT



RTTY

Millbank Tower – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

21-24 Millbank

Westminster

London

SW1P 4QP

T: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 October 2015 13:28  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** Communications First Minister  
**Subject:** RE: TV interview request from RT UK

[Redacted],

You should be aware that it is SNP party conference this week in Aberdeen. That means the FM is unavailable to participate in the interview opportunities you have set out below.

Can I suggest you try approaching the SNP to see if they have a talking head that might be able to put the position you are interested in.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
**Head of First Minister Communications**  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [Redacted]  
| M: [Redacted]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

**FirstMinister.gov.scot**

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba



**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 October 2015 12:22  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** TV interview request from RT UK  
**Importance:** High

Dear [Redacted],

Hope you're well. I work on a UK current affairs series called '*Going Underground*' and now both the EU *remain* and *leave* campaigns have started we would love to invite **Nicola Sturgeon** to discuss the ramifications of an 'out' win in the referendum. We'd only need about 20 minutes of her time and can offer anytime today up to 6pm or Tuesday between 10.30am and 6pm via studio link from Edinburgh. If Nicola is unable to do today or tomorrow I can also offer the remainder of the week should she be available for no longer than 20 minutes.

Going Underground is the flagship UK current affairs series for the RT UK News channel. The series airs prominently to a domestic audience but also to an international audience on the RT News network with a global audience reach of over **700 million** viewers.

I'm attaching a recent interview with former Foreign Secretary Lord Owen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMmMFHtQ3nc> – Lord Owen

Look forward to hearing back from you,  
[Redacted]

[Redacted] Senior Producer/Booker

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



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