

Subject:

FW: Flag flying guidance - Daily Mail follow up

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From: [redacted])

Sent: 24 January 2018 18:28

To: [redacted])

Subject: Flag flying guidance - Daily Mail follow up

Hi[redacted])

Here is the information you asked for, apologies for the delay.

- Could you please confirm the name of every building operated by the SG, its related agencies and associated departments which display flags? **Only St Andrew's House and Victoria Quay have external flag poles within the core Scottish Government estate. We do not record which organisations have flagpoles or whether they fly flags.**
- How many days did each of these buildings fly the Union flag last year and how many times did they fly the Lion Rampant? **The Scottish Government flew the Union Flag on Remembrance Day - the Union Flag also forms part of the flags flown on Merchant Navy Day and Armed Forces Day. This has not changed since 2010.**
- Also, following Nicola Sturgeon's numerous Twitter posts, the Scottish Tories have called for the SG to simply change the guidance and reinstate the Union flag in its guidance. Will the SG be willing to do this? **SG policy on Royal birthday and anniversaries is for the Royal Banner, by Royal Assent, to be flown alongside the Saltire. The Royal Banner is the senior flag and it is an appropriate way to mark Royal Occasions in Scotland to fly it alongside the Saltire. We have no plans to change this.**
- Can you confirm what the guidance means for the other SG buildings like Atlantic Quay and Victoria Quay, and those buildings operated by agencies? **Only St Andrew's House and Victoria Quay have external flag poles within the core Scottish Government estate. Both St Andrew's House and Victoria Quay follow the policy adopted in 2010 and this has not changed. The flag-flying guidance is also issued to executive agencies and associated departments. However, it is not mandatory and it is a matter for organisations to decide their own policies. We do not record which organisations have flagpoles or whether they fly flags.**
- Do you accept that all agencies and quangos which followed the guidance were told to display the Union flag on these dates last year but are now no longer asked to? **No. We do not tell them what flag to fly - it is a matter for each individual organisation whether it flies any flags and what flag it flies.**

Thanks

[redacted]) | Newsdesk Manager | Scottish Government [redacted]) | <http://www.gov.scot>