

Document one

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	First Minister (FM)
Type of engagement	Courtesy meeting
Date	25 April 2018
Who	H.E. Libor Sečka (LS) , Czech Ambassador to the UK Dr Paul Millar (PM) , Honorary Consul General in Scotland
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FM welcomed LS and PM. LS thanked FM for her time and introduced Consul PM. LS explained he is interested in Brexit and analysing how we can proceed post-Brexit. [Redacted] • FM responded citing that the issue in media on the day (intergovernmental talks on Brexit Bill) is a technical aspect of Brexit upon which the Scottish Government disagrees with the UK Government. FM emphasised the UK wants to take control over powers and is an on-going issue; in her view the overall process of Brexit is at stake and risks making the situation worse (reference to CU & SM and Irish border implications). FM insisted on implications making it more difficult to resolve and stated Brexit is undeliverable in its suggested form due to inconsistencies in UK Govt positions, resulting in uncertainty whether an agreement can be reached. Scotland's position for participation in the Customs Union and Single Market. • LS stated discussions in London as well as our latest publication (Brexit: Protecting what matters - what's at stake for individuals in the Brexit talks) focus on finding a way not to lose this momentum. • FM highlighted a lack of political will to do this in the UK. She stressed that free movement is more important to Scotland because of the country's demographic profile. FM mentioned Scotland has the economic imperative of attracting talent and gave federal countries such as Australia and Canada as examples of countries that make it possible to be done. • LS went on to ask about the rights of EU nationals. He highlighted more than 100.000 Czechs live in the UK and the Republic would like to remain good friends with Scotland. LS particularly stated extensive participation in Scottish Festivals, important cooperation between universities and more potential in economic and scientific collaboration in the future. • FM emphasised we are keen to protect existing links and expand scientific links through renewable and sustainable energy and technology. She particularly

	<p>underlined that we are open to further cooperation with the Czechs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LS agreed stating people to people contact is important in order to make this happen. LS appreciates SG campaigns to bring more tourism in the country and asked about FM's trip to China, her feeling from the trip and referred to the increasing numbers of Chinese tourists in Scotland. • FM gave a brief overview of the China visit and agreed increased numbers in recent years will grow further with the first direct flight to Beijing from Edinburgh from June; leading as well to an even more successful relationship. • [Redacted] • LS asked about foreign trade independence in the future • FM stated that trade in the UK is important. Scotland is the second most important trade partner within the UK, however EU market is equally important. She mentioned that half of international exports are in the EU and it is important that this is not lost. • [Redacted] • LS understood that leaving the EU also impacts on public perception of identity in Scotland. LS thanked the FM and expressed hope for more cooperation in the future. • FM thanked LS and stated she is happy to explore more areas as discussed.
Actions	-
Comment	-
Attending Official(s)	[Redacted] European Engagement
Copy List	[Redacted]

Document two

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	First Minister
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	25 April 2018
Who	Alexandre Fasel, Ambassador of Switzerland to the UK Joachim Tomaschett, First Secretary Peter Muller-McDougall, Honorary Consul General
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The FM welcomed the Ambassador to Scotland. AF provided background on his visit, emphasised that he was keen to learn about Scotland's position on Brexit and is committed to visiting Scotland regularly.• FM outlined the current intra-UK discussions on-going related to the UK's withdrawal from the EU and its relationship to the UK-EU negotiations.• AF keen to understand SG position. FM outlined preference for Single Market and Customs Union, highlighted the work which has been undertaken on the impacts both by SG and UK. [Redacted]• AF asked about the relationship between Brexit and the possibility of a second independence referendum. FM outlined the SG's position on this.• AF inquired about the FM's letter regarding the Withdrawal Bill, felt the issue around powers was easily understandable for the Swiss due to the relationship between the Cantons and Federal Government. FM picked up on this point, highlighting that there is not a similar understanding of devolution in Westminster. AF interested in the Welsh angle and what that meant. The FM clear that whilst the Welsh Govt. has had common cause, it is a different case.• Discussion then turned to the bilateral relationship, with both the FM and AF reiterating their commitment to strengthening relations between Scotland and Switzerland. From the Swiss perspective, they were keen to highlight work being undertaken by Swiss companies in Scotland (notably on the renovation of the Glasgow Subway system) and that the Swiss Air Force is now training fighter pilots at Scottish bases and will participate in an air show in Scotland in September.
Attending Official(s)	[Redacted], European Engagement
Copy List	[Redacted]

Document three

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 09 April 2018 12:57
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Working visit to Scotland - Czech Ambassador_logistics

Hi [Redacted],

Thanks for your email. Yes, all meetings will take place at the Parliament.

Anything else, please let me know.

Kind Regards,
[Redacted]

[Redacted] European Engagement Policy Officer | European Relations | External Affairs Directorate | Scottish Government | [Redacted] Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | [Redacted] [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 06 April 2018 16:06
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Working visit to Scotland - Czech Ambassador_logistics

Dear [Redacted],

I am sorry I am getting back to you again but I just wanted to check with you whether the meetings with the Scottish Ministers will take place at the Scottish Parliament.

Thank you very much.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 04 April 2018 10:21
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Working visit to Scotland - Czech Ambassador

Dear [Redacted],

Yes, Wednesday the 25th at 12:00 is fine with us.

To sum it up, the meeting with Ms. Hyslop is scheduled for Thursday the 26th at 13:45-14:15 and the meeting with Mr. Russell for the same day at 15:30-16:15. I was

wondering whether it would be possible to have the meeting with Mr. Russell a little earlier so that the two meetings could be consecutive. If not, we will of course stick to the schedule as it stands.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

3. 4. 2018 v 16:57 [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted]

I hope all is well. Unfortunately, the First Minister will now have to be in the chamber due to parliamentary business on the 26th around the time arranged to meet the Ambassador. Apologies for the inconvenience. Her office suggests that we could reschedule for Wednesday the 25th at 12:00, if this suits the Ambassador?

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | European Engagement Policy Officer | European Relations | External Affairs Directorate | Scottish Government | [Redacted] | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | [Redacted] | [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 09 March 2018 16:26

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Working visit to Scotland - Czech Ambassador

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you very much for your email. I am pleased to confirm that Ambassador Secka will be happy to meet with the First Minister and Ms. Fiona Hyslop on 26 April.

I am looking forward to hearing from you on Mr. Russell's availability.

Many thanks once again for your kind assistance.

Have a great weekend,

[Redacted]

Od: [Redacted]
Komu [Redacted]
Kopie: [Redacted]
Datum: 09.03.2018 14:16
Předmět: RE: Working visit to Scotland - Czech Ambassador

Hi [Redacted],

I hope you are well. We are currently exploring ministerial diaries. For the moment we can confirm that the First Minister is available to meet with the Ambassador on 26 April, 14:30- 15:00 and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Ms Fiona Hyslop is available to meet on the same day at 15:50- 16:30. Both meetings will take place at the Scottish Parliament. I will come back to you for Mr Russell's availability.

Please let me know if this works for you, so far.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | European Engagement Policy Officer | European Relations | External Affairs Directorate | Scottish Government | [Redacted] | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | [Redacted] | [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 01 March 2018 13:24
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Working visit to Scotland - Czech Ambassador

Hello [Redacted],

Thanks for getting in touch. Yes, [Redacted] was in my team previously but has now moved on.

[Redacted], my colleague, had been looking into the previous diary slots and we had hoped to get back to you on them soon. We will look at the alternative dates below and come back to you shortly to let you know if Ministers are available.

Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | European Engagement Team Leader | European Relations | The Scottish Government | [Redacted] | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | [Redacted] | [Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 01 March 2018 12:33

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Working visit to Scotland - Czech Ambassador

Dear [Redacted],

I am writing from the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London. We intend to prepare a business trip to Scotland for Mr. Libor Secka, the Czech Ambassador. I believe that your colleague [Redacted] passed on my previous email to you in this matter.

I would like to let you know that, unfortunately, the slots I initially proposed in my email are no longer available in the Ambassador's diary.

Nevertheless, Mr. Secka would very much like to meet with the Scottish Ministers to discuss the current political affairs (including Brexit) as well as possibilities of cooperation in the fields of culture and arts.

I would therefore be grateful if you could check the availability of the Scottish Ministers (Ms. Nicola Sturgeon, Ms. Fiona Hyslop and Mr. Michael Russell) on the newly proposed dates 23 – 26 April (if possible all the meetings on the same day or split between two consecutive days).

Many thanks in advance for your assistance and I am looking forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]