

From: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:27 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Also, The National ran a story this morning relating to an Israel military flight which took off from Prestwick Airport on November 18th – “A Scottish airport is facing questions after it was revealed to have been used as a base for an Israeli military plane. Glasgow Prestwick, owned by the Scottish Government, saw the arrival of an Israeli Air Force plane shortly before 1pm on November 18.” The National journalist was following up the story which appeared in the Declassified UK website. It may be picked up by other media outlets, although we haven’t received any follow-up enquiries yet, and/or MSPs.

We were contacted yesterday by email for a comment. We did not respond.

Thanks
[Redacted]



Glasgow Prestwick Airport
Ltd.
Aviation House
Prestwick
KA9 2PL
Scotland
United Kingdom

[Redacted]

Communications and Marketing Manager

T: (+44) 01292 [Redacted]

M: [Redacted]

[Redacted]@glasgowprestwick.com

www.glasgowprestwick.com

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From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig [Redacted] @gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Kevin

Am following-up your email exchange with [Redacted]. You were seeking a factual information on GPA and trade agreements.

Please find below background and do get back in touch if anything you would like to discuss.

Best regards,
[Redacted]

[Redacted] she/her)
Team Leader | Strategic Commercial Assets Division
Directorate for Economic Development | Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU
[Redacted] | [Redacted] @gov.scot [Redacted]

- In November 2023, an Israeli Air Force plane landed at Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA).
- All aircraft landing at any aerodrome in the UK (including Glasgow Prestwick Airport) require to have Civil Aviation Authority permission to transit UK airspace or land in the UK.
- GPA is a stop over point for over 20 air forces - primarily the UK Air force, other NATO countries, and very occasionally from some Middle East countries. GPA confirm that the Israeli Air Force does not and has never used Prestwick Airport as a base and has not visited Prestwick since November 2023.
- **Out of Scope**

- In relation to the Israeli Air Force landing at GPA in November 2023, Janet Fenton, secretary of CND Scotland, lodged a complaint of a war crime with the Metropolitan Police on the grounds that because the Scottish Government owns the airport it was potentially 'aiding and abetting Israeli actions that constitute genocide in Gaza'.
- The National published a story on the complaint on 6 February 2024. Scottish Government response was as follows:

To comply with trade agreements between the UK and the EU, the business is required to operate on a commercial basis and at arm's length from the Scottish Government.

To note, 'trade agreements' was corrected by officials to be 'agreement' referring to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and EU.

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

[S6W-25435](#) Carol Mochan, Scottish Labour: To ask the Scottish Government, in light of reports that Israeli military planes have used Glasgow Prestwick Airport during the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine, whether it received any prior notification that this would happen.

Glasgow Prestwick Airport operates on a commercial basis and at arm's length from the Scottish Government. Operational decisions regarding the day-to-day running of the airport, are a matter for the management of Glasgow Prestwick Airport. Scottish Government did not receive any prior notification.

MSP for South Scotland (Region) 2021 - present day

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

From: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:43 PM
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig [Redacted]@gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Great, thanks

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:09:33 PM
To: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig [Redacted]@gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Thanks Kevin.

That sounds reasonable.

There's similar MiCase query from Ash Regan MSP in the system so agreeing lines with colleagues to respond to both would be helpful.

[Redacted]

From: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:01 PM
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig [Redacted]@gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Thanks ^[Redacted], there is no particular deadline but perhaps sometime next week?

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig [Redacted]@gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Thanks Kevin.

What's your deadline for this? The lines regarding GPA's commercial independence are [Redacted]

[Redacted]

For background, ^[Redacted] and State Aid advice was obtained by officials when Glasgow Prestwick Airport was purchased in 2013, however the regulatory regime in place now is clearly very different from that in 2013. [Redacted]

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 12:51 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Callum McCaig [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

It would be to get as much factual information as possible as to why we have taken the position we have, and whether there are any other options - for Spads info rather than media lines.

Thanks
Kevin

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot> on behalf of First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 12:44:49 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

SpAds – do you have a view in ^[Redacted] Q below? Thanks

Many thanks,
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister
Office of the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
M: 079[Redacted]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland
FirstMinister.gov.scot
Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

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From: [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:37 AM
To: [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>
cc: [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>;
[Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>;
Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkandenergy@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Good morning ^[Redacted]

[Redacted]taking a very similar MiCase [Out of scope]

Given the sensitivity of the matters being raised by the journalist, we have to be certain on any lines going out in response are [Redacted]. I'd appreciate a chance to catch up with [Redacted] comms colleagues and potentially Transport Scotland before we go back with anything in response to this.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Colin Cook
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:40 AM
To: Kevin Pringle <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>
Cc: Callum McCaig [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Hi [Redacted],

Please can you answer the points raised below?

[Out of scope]

Many Thanks,
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Senior Assistant to Director
Directorate for Economic Development
Scottish Government
M: [Redacted]

E: [\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU



From: Kevin Pringle <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 10:48 AM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot); Colin Cook <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Callum McCaig <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Thanks. And this was a query to me from a journalist at the National newspaper.

From: [\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot) **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 10:20 AM

To: [\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot); Colin Cook <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>; Callum McCaig <[\[Redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>

Subject: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Good morning both,

I am coming out to you both in the first instance, apologies if doesn't sit directly within your areas.

I am looking to get a note that addresses some of the non political points mentioned in the correspondence below in regards to trade agreements between UK and EU below please.

Grateful if you could confirm this has been picked up.

Thanks,

I hope you're well.

I am just off the phone with an expert on trade agreements to talk over the Scottish Government's reasoning for not intervening in the use of Prestwick Airport late last year by an Israeli Air Force plane.

I wanted to run a few things by you. I think I understand it on a practical level. As far as I can see it, the rules set out in the guidance on state-owned enterprises by the OECD are clear: "The government should allow SOEs full operational autonomy to achieve their defined objectives and refrain from intervening in SOE management."

But I am not sure I understand it politically. Surely the SG has been happy in the past to pick fights with the UKG on a variety of issues and I can't square the strength of the rhetoric on the war in Gaza with the SG staying fairly quiet on the use of Prestwick by the Israeli military.

The comment I got through the last story I did read as follows: "To comply with trade agreements between the UK and the EU, the business is required to operate on a commercial basis and at arm's length from the Scottish Government.

"Ministers do not intervene in commercial decisions at the airport."

I've since had clarification there was a mistake in the first sentence and it should refer to "the trade agreement btwn UK and EU" - not multiple trade agreements.

Can I also ask if the SG takes a view on whether the OECD guidelines should be included in the TCA? From Article 381 of the agreement: "Each Party shall respect and make best use of relevant international standards including the OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of State-Owned Enterprises."

I'd also ask whether I am correct to read into the SG's comment the implication that ministers might like to intervene in the operations of Prestwick Airport but feel hamstrung by the TCA rules?

Any help with this would be massively appreciated.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister

Office of the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: 077[Redacted]

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From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 7:21 PM
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; A[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Official Sensitive - Glasgow Prestwick Airport FM Advice

PS/Permanent Secretary

With thanks to colleagues, please find attached a background note for the Permanent Secretary ahead of wider engagement with FM tomorrow. We will send this a version of this note to the FM tomorrow afternoon and will check before if there was any feedback to consider.

Thank you and happy to address any comments tonight

[Redacted] | **Head of Operations and Asset Management Unit | The Scottish Government**
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 [Redacted] | M: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:21 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Colin McAllister [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman [Redacted] @gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Christopher Mackie [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>
Subject: Official Sensitive - Glasgow Prestwick Airport FM Advice

Good afternoon [Redacted]

Thanks for your call there.

As discussed, the First Minister has asked for advice following the Israeli Military plane which landed at Glasgow Prestwick airport (GPA) in November 2023.

The First Minister has asked what powers Ministers have over Air Force Military planes landing into Scottish Airports, such as Glasgow Prestwick in this instance.

Really grateful for advice on this.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister

Office of the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: 077 ^[Redacted]edacted]

The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found [here](#).



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Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

PS/Permanent Secretary

Please find below background briefing in relation to the request from First Minister:

- All aircraft landing at any aerodrome in the UK require to have Civil Aviation Authority permission to transit UK airspace or land in the UK.
- Determining which countries' aircraft can use UK airspace is a matter for the UKG and governed by Air Service Agreements between the UK and other Countries. These agreements make provision not only on aircraft arriving at and departing UK airports but also aircraft transiting UK airspace.
- It is up to individual airports to decide which customers to handle, the ability to use the UK and its airspace having already been determined through Air Service Agreements.
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA) is a commercial organisation. The airport is required to operate on a commercial basis and at arm's length from the Scottish Government. Ministers do not intervene in commercial decisions at the airport.
- GPA is an important stop over point for over 20 air forces – primarily the Royal Air Force and other NATO countries. The airport attracts important revenues (landing fees and fuel sales) from this market segment; and fuel sales are the airport's predominant revenue stream (see extract from accounts below).
- The Israeli Air Force does not and has never used Prestwick Airport as a base and has not visited Prestwick since November 2023.
- [Redacted]

• [Redacted]

• [Redacted]

|

[Out of Scope]

From: John-Paul Marks [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 2:33 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development
<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Official Sensitive - Glasgow Prestwick Airport FM Advice

V good thanks. I flagged briefly to FM verbally that this was fine & your advice would confirm, thanks
JP

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:33:19 AM
To: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development
<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Official Sensitive - Glasgow Prestwick Airport FM Advice

JP

[Redacted]

The trigger for this was The National (and commentary from Alba and the Greens) picking up the flight and reporting this in February ([Prestwick Airport faces questions after Israeli plane hosted | The National \(archive.is\)](#)). There was then an FOI which was tightly defined around ministerial correspondence with GPA that yielded no results from the journalist. This generated a further story on 9 March ([Israeli flight from Prestwick Airport sparks questions for Scottish Government | The National \(archive.is\)](#)). Here is the quote from the GPA CEO from the March article:

“All aircraft landing at any aerodrome in the UK (including Glasgow Prestwick Airport) require to have Civil Aviation Authority permission to transit UK airspace or land in the UK.

“Glasgow Prestwick Airport is an important stopover point for over 20 air forces – primarily our own UK Air force, other Nato countries, and very occasionally from some Middle East countries.

“We can confirm that the Israeli Air Force does not and has never used Prestwick Airport as a base and has not visited Prestwick since November 2023.”

[Redacted]

Thank you as well for the comment on the line and will strengthen this as it will be important to handle this carefully in the current process.

If you require anything further then please let me know

[Redacted] | Head of Operations and Asset Management Unit | The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 [Redacted] | M: [Redacted]

From: John-Paul Marks <[Redacted] @gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 8:01 AM

To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary

<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development

<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Official Sensitive - Glasgow Prestwick Airport FM Advice

Hi [Redacted] thank you. Excellent note. Just two points please:

- The Israeli Air Force does not and has never used Prestwick Airport as a base and has not visited Prestwick since November 2023.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks JP

[[Duplicated text]

]

]

[[Duplicated text]

]

]

]

[Duplicated text]

]

[Duplicated text]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

FirstMinister.gov.scot

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:29 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Cc: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs
<DGSEA@gov.scot>; Scott Wightman [Redacted] @gov.scot>; DG Economy
<DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Christopher Mackie <[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy
<CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Official Sensitive - Glasgow Prestwick Airport FM Advice

PS/First Minister

Please find attached further advice on this matter

Thank you

[Redacted] | **Head of Operations and Asset Management Unit | The
Scottish Government**
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 [Redacted] | M:
[Redacted]

[Redacted] [Duplicated text]

[Redacted]
[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

FirstMinister.gov.scot

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 18 March 2024 16:35
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick
Importance: High

[Redacted] and [Redacted]

Apologies as I missed this additional part around [Redacted]

This line has gone to the National but I don't think it was used in the article so we must amend this:

"Glasgow Prestwick Airport operates on a commercial basis and at arms-length from the Scottish Government.

[Redacted]

The National have gone to GPA and its for them to comment on this [Redacted]
Can we also ensure that GPA's comms are sighted on lines please?

Thanks

[Redacted] **Operations and Asset Management Unit | The Scottish Government**
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 244 [Redacted] | M: 07392 [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 6:00 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>
Subject: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

FMPO,

Following the First Minister's interview with The National in which he discussed the Israeli Air Force aircraft which was refuelled at Prestwick Airport in November, we are anticipating media approaches for comment this evening and/or over the weekend. The draft lines below have been prepared in conjunction with policy officials and spads.

Grateful for an indication of whether the First Minister is content.

Thanks,
[Redacted]

Draft line

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"Glasgow Prestwick Airport operates on a commercial basis and at arms-length from the Scottish Government.

[Redacted]

Background

All aircraft landing at any aerodrome in the UK require to have Civil Aviation Authority permission to transit UK airspace. Determining which countries' aircraft can use UK airspace is a matter for the UK Government.

[Redacted]
Communications Team [Redacted]

Economy, Net Zero and Energy | 07917 [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>
Sent: 15 March 2024 16:33
To: [Redacted] Communications; [Redacted] Ian Forgie
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: External - RE: External - Re: External - THE NATIONAL: Prestwick Airport

Thanks, [Redacted]
[Redacted] - please respond as I've suggested.
[Re

Sent from Outlook for iOS

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:31:21 PM
To: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; Communications <Communications@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; Ian Forgie <iforgie@glasgowprestwick.com>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: External - RE: External - Re: External - THE NATIONAL: Prestwick Airport

[Redacted]

Absolutely fine with that. [Redacted] . And so there is clear rationale of why that happens (and by whom).

I expect that it will come back to us which is fine for me

thanks

[Redacted] Operations and Asset Management Unit | The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 244 [Redacted] | M: 07392 [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:17 PM
To: Communications <Communications@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; Ian Forgie <iforgie@glasgowprestwick.com>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: External - Re: External - THE NATIONAL: Prestwick Airport

[Redacted]
,

I suggest you go back with the standard lines about the airport being operated at arms length from the Scottish Government.

On the question of communications from FM or SG – the reporter needs to direct the question to SG.

[Redacted] – any issues with this approach?

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

[Out of scope]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Out of scope]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Out of scope]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Duplicated text]

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[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

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r...

Newsquest Media Group Limited
[Duplicated text]

|

Hi [Redacted]

See below from The National. You may have received the same enquiry.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] has picked this up in [Redacted] absence – I'll ask her to hold off on a response until I hear back from you, in case you have any comments.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Out of scope]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Out of scope]

[Redacted]

From: Hamish Morrison [Redacted] @thenational.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 2:02 PM
To: Communications <Communications@glasgowprestwick.com>
Subject: External - THE NATIONAL: Prestwick Airport

Hi there,

I hope you're well.

I am looking for comment in response to FM Humza Yousaf saying he is looking at what the Scottish Government can do to prevent Israeli air craft landing at Prestwick Airport.

He told The National: "The Government would be given advanced notice, we own the airport and take an arms-length approach to it in terms of its operations, so we will always seek to [...] once we saw reports of this, we will always seek to have engagement with the airport around its operations and its activity but we do genuinely try to stay hands off, that's not the only company we do that with. With the other...Ferguson Marine which we own, for example, which we tend to be a bit hands off in that regard. I wasn't aware of that until it was reported in the press, therefore we ask some questions [...]"

"We're asking the questions about what we legally can and can't do and I better be careful because there are things that I can do and there are things that I'm not able to do as per our arrangement with Prestwick Airport. We're definitely asking the question because I can understand people's concern and people's upset."

Can you please tell me whether the Airport has received any correspondence from the FM or from the SG more generally about stopping Israeli planes from using the airport.

Can you please send over a response before 5pm today?

Best
H

Hamish Morrison
Political reporter (Westminster)
T: [Redacted]

[Out of scope]

From: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>
Sent: 18 March 2024 22:00
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Ian Forgie; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: External - RE: External - RE: External - RE: National press enquiry

Thanks [Redacted] – have shared our statement with [Redacted].

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:55 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot; [Redacted] @gov.scot; [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] [Redacted]@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @gov.scot
Cc: Ian Forgie <iforgie@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: External - RE: External - RE: External - RE: National press enquiry

[Out of scope]

Hi [Redacted],

The Sun has just been in touch about this – would you be able to send them your statement? It's [Redacted]@thesun.co.uk

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
First Minister's Communications
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: [Redacted] @gov.scot
m: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:58 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Forgie [Redacted]@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: Re: External - RE: External - RE: National press enquiry

Not aware of any Ministers on GMS but adding Kirsty for duty in case she has more up to date info.

[[Duplicated text]]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

From: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>
Sent: 19 March 2024 13:27
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Ian Forgie; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: External - RE: External - RE: External - RE: External - RE: National press enquiry

Hi [Redacted],

We have had a couple of follow up enquiries this morning following the release of our comment. One from the Telegraph and one from STV. See below. We intend to release a guidance note (see below) Please let me know your thoughts on this as soon as possible.

Daily Telegraph

Good morning

Your statement does not answer the question I asked. As reported elsewhere, are you refusing permission to land to the Israeli Air Force or Israeli state aircraft? Have you told the Israelis that if they ask for a landing slot they will be refused one?

STV

Hi there,

I contacted you last night following reports that Prestwick Airport will no longer do business with the Israeli Air Force after hosting a military plane in November last year.

I was issued this statement; "Glasgow Prestwick Airport operates on a commercial basis and at arms-length from the Scottish Government. All operational decisions are taken by the Airport. We can confirm that the Israeli Air Force has not visited Prestwick Airport since November 2023. As with any handling request from a customer we carry out an operational review before any decision is taken. We do not expect any further requests from the Israeli Air Force at this time."

Can you please confirm if it is true that Prestwick Airport has taken the independent decision not to conduct further business with the Israeli Air Force at this time?

It is our intention to release the following as a guidance note only.

[Redacted]

Thanks

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:03 PM
To: [Redacted]@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted]
@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: Ian Forgie ^[Redacted]@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: External - RE: External - RE: External - RE: External - RE: National press enquiry

Thanks both

[Redacted] **Operations and Asset Management Unit | The
Scottish Government**
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 244 ^[Redacted] |
M: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@glasgowprestwick.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:47 PM
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Forgie <^[Redacted]@glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; ^[Redacted]
@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: External - RE: External - RE: External - RE: National press enquiry

Hi ^[Redacted],

^[Redacted] has confirmed the following have asked for comment:

STV, BBC, BBC Radio, The Telegraph and GB News

The National have another story – how they campaigned to stop IAF flights in to Prestwick.

[Re

[Redacted] [Duplicated text]

[Redacted] [Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 17 March 2024 11:00
To: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy; Kevin Pringle; Julie Grant; [Redacted]; First Minister
Cc: Permanent Secretary; [Redacted]
Director of Economic Development; [Redacted]
Communications
Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs; Emily Mackintosh;
Communications First Minister; [Redacted]
Subject: Re: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

[Redacted]

Apologies, I've been offline and have just picked up this thread.

I don't have a transcript but below is what The National put to the airport, which covers the main points.

Regards,
[Redacted]

I am looking for comment in response to FM Humza Yousaf saying he is looking at what the Scottish Government can do to prevent Israeli air craft landing at Prestwick Airport.

He told The National: "The Government would be given advanced notice, we own the airport and take an arms-length approach to it in terms of its operations, so we will always seek to [...] once we saw reports of this, we will always seek to have engagement with the airport around its operations and its activity but we do genuinely try to stay hands off, that's not the only company we do that with. With the other...Ferguson Marine which we own, for example, which we tend to be a bit hands off in that regard. I wasn't aware of that until it was reported in the press, therefore we ask some questions [...]"

"We're asking the questions about what we legally can and can't do and I better be careful because there are things that I can do and there are things that I'm not able to do as per our arrangement with Prestwick Airport. We're definitely asking the question because I can understand people's concern and people's upset."

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot> on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:45:57 AM

To: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

Thanks Kevin - Cab Sec said it would helpful to grab a word next week about it.

Take care

[Redacted]

From: Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 11:42 am

To: Julie Grant [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

There isn't a transcript although the whole interview will be online next week, Tuesday or Weds. I can discuss it with the cab sec if helpful.

From: Julie Grant [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 11:24:45 AM

To: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; R[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of

Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications First Minister
<CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

Adding Kevin, who sat in on the interview thanks j

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:03:25 AM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <[Redacted] @gov.scot>; Julie Grant [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

Thanks [Redacted]

I have copied in the First Minister's comms team who may have a recording of the interview that could provide a transcript.

Thanks [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 8:43 AM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>

[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications
Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh
<[Redacted] @gov.scot>; Julie Grant <[[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

Morning all,

Cab Sec has asked for a transcript of the FM's interview with the National please - is that available please
[Redacted]

Thanks v much

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot> on behalf of First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:49 pm
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Director of [Redacted]
Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications
Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; Julie Grant <J[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

Hi [Redacted]

FM is content.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted] First Minister
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 6:20:45 PM
To: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Director of

Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications

Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh
<[Redacted] @gov.scot>; Julie Grant [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

Will do Kevin. Duty colleagues will pick up.

From: Kevin Pringle [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 6:12 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Director of [Redacted]
Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications
Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; Julie Grant [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: MEDIA LINES FOR CLEARANCE - Israeli Air Force at Prestwick

Once cleared, can this go to Hamish Morrison at the National, who asked me about this issue a few weeks ago?

[Duplicated text]



[Duplicated text]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 3:12 PM
To: Kevin Pringle <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister [Redacted] @gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted] gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy
<CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkandenergy@gov.scot>
Subject: For SpAds view: Media query - Prestwick/Israeli Air Force - The National

Good afternoon.

Please see for review a draft response to a media query concerning Israeli Air Force use of Prestwick airport and Green Party and Alba reaction to the attached Fol.

Officials have reviewed.

Please let me know whether you are content.

Best wishes.

[Redacted]

[Duplicated text]

|

|

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]



[Redacted]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: 078[Redacted]





Hamish Morrison
hamish.morrison@thenational.scot

Our Reference: 202400399081

4 March 2024

Dear Hamish Morrison,

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

I refer to your correspondence of 14 February 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) requesting the following information:

Correspondence between the Scottish Government (ministers and officials) and the board of Prestwick Airport from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Transport (or her predecessor in the role), and/or her officials and Prestwick Airport from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680". Correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for Transport (or her predecessor in the role), and/or her officials and Transport Scotland from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs (and/or his officials) and Prestwick Airport from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs (and/or his officials) and Transport Scotland from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



Correspondence between either minister (and/or their officials) and the Civil Aviation Authority from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Correspondence between either minister (and/or their officials) and the Ministry of Defence from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide you information wherever we can, on this occasion we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested. I am issuing a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA stating the Scottish Government does not hold the information that falls within scope of your request.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Mr Colin Cook, Director for Economic Development, Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU or by email at DirectorDED@gov.scot.

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

Alan Lochhead
SCA : Operations and Asset Management Unit

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
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From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 5:44 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy <CabSecWENZE@gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; Communications Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and
Energy <CommunicationsWellbeingEconomyFairWorkandenergy@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle
<[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: For Clearance - Media query - Prestwick/Israeli Air Force - The National

[Redacted], PO

Please see for review a draft response to a media query concerning Israeli Air Force use of Prestwick airport and Green Party and Alba reaction to the attached Fol.

Officials and SpAds are content. Grateful for the Cab Sec's clearance, please. Deadline is asap this evening.

Draft response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"Glasgow Prestwick Airport operates on a commercial basis and at arm's length from the Scottish Government. Operational decisions regarding the day-to-day running of the airport are a matter for the management of Glasgow Prestwick Airport."

Media query

Thanks for taking my call.

I am looking for comment from the Scottish Government for a story I am writing based on an FOI response which shows the SG has not raised the case of an Israeli Air Force plane passing through Prestwick Airport with the CAA, the MoD, the airport itself or Transport Scotland.

Greens MSP Ross Greer said: "There are still big questions to be answered about why an Israeli military aircraft was allowed to land at Prestwick.
"We must ensure that no Scottish public assets are being used to enable Israel's brutal campaign of genocide against the people of Gaza.
"I urge the Scottish Government to speak to the management of Prestwick Airport and to use its position as the airport's owner to prevent this from happening again.
"The airport and the UK Ministry of Defence must urgently clarify what has happened here."

Alba Depute Leader Kenny MacAskill MP said: "Britain is becoming increasingly complicit in the Israeli genocide. There can be no excuse for the Scottish Government in not being explicit in its demands and actions that Scotland is not associated in any way. We require greater transparency and assurance."

I also attach the FOI response for you to have a look at. I will be approaching the MoD, the CAA, Prestwick Airport and Transport Scotland for comment as well.

Can you please send over a response before 5pm today.



Hamish Morrison
hamish.morrison@thenational.scot

Our Reference: 202400399081

4 March 2024

Dear Hamish Morrison,

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

I refer to your correspondence of 14 February 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) requesting the following information:

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Correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs (and/or his officials) and Prestwick Airport from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs (and/or his officials) and Transport Scotland from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

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Correspondence between either minister (and/or their officials) and the Civil Aviation Authority from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Correspondence between either minister (and/or their officials) and the Ministry of Defence from October 1, 2023 to today (Feb 14) relating to or mentioning "Israel" "Israeli Air Force" "Dover" and/or "IAF680"

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide you information wherever we can, on this occasion we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested. I am issuing a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA stating the Scottish Government does not hold the information that falls within scope of your request.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Mr Colin Cook, Director for Economic Development, Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU or by email at DirectorDED@gov.scot.

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

Alan Lochhead
SCA : Operations and Asset Management Unit

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 01 February 2024 16:13
To: [Redacted]
Subject: MiCase GPA clearout - continued
Attachments: RE: (Case Ref: SB3902); Draft Response-202400393978.pdf

Here's another one, a draft MR to Siobhan Brown MSP, who asked about GPA refusing access to certain flights.

Grateful for views and would be planning to share this with GPA before it goes up to PO.

Thanks,

[Redacted]



[Redacted]
Operations and Asset Management Unit
Economic Development Directorate

I now work a hybrid pattern between home and 5 Atlantic Quay. I can be reached on [Redacted]
, by email or via MS Teams



Siobhian Brown MSP
Siobhian.Brown.msp@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202400393978
Your Reference: SB3902

1 February 2024

Dear Siobhian Brown MSP ,

Thank you for your email dated 16 January 2024, to Fiona Hyslop MSP, Minister for Transport, regarding Israeli Air Force flights at Glasgow Prestwick Airport

As responsibility for Scottish Government Commercial Assets, including Glasgow Prestwick Airport, is within my portfolio, I am responding on the Minister for Transport's behalf.

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is first and foremost a commercial airfield. It operates on a commercial basis at arm's length from Ministers and Officials. It is for Glasgow Prestwick Airport's management team to consider all opportunities to grow the business and generate revenue.

Any aircraft operating in UK airspace is authorised to do so by the UK Civil Aviation Authority under powers reserved to the UK Government. It is a commercial decision for Prestwick Airport as to whether to accept any request for a technical stop, particularly if the presence of a particular aircraft or cargo is likely to result in heightened scrutiny or the potential for disruptive protest.

I am unable to disclose details of commercial matters concerning Glasgow Prestwick Airport's engagement with customers.

Yours sincerely

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Neil Gray

M: Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

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From: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>
Sent: 01 February 2024 16:07
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: External - Ministerial correspondence response - Israeli flights at GPA

[Redacted]

I think the response is fine.

I've copied [Redacted] given this is related to comms.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:48 PM
To: [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>; [Redacted] @glasgowprestwick.com>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot
Subject: External - Ministerial correspondence response - Israeli flights at GPA

[Redacted],

Please find attached an enquiry from member of the public and my draft response concerning an Israeli flight that landed at GPA late last year. Given the sensitivity of this matter, I'd be grateful if you could review my draft response and let me know whether this is reasonable from your point of view.

My response to this enquiry is now overdue, therefore feedback as soon as possible would be very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]



[Redacted]
Operations and Asset Management Unit
Economic Development Directorate

I now work a hybrid pattern between home and 5 Atlantic Quay. I can be reached on ^[Redacted]
, by email or via MS Teams

*

[Out of scope]

*

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 February 2024 12:25
To: [Redacted]; David Barnes; [Redacted]

Subject: European Relations; [Redacted] ; Deputy Director
; Richard Rollison
RE: Journalist question - Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport by
Israeli military aircraft

David

Yes I believe [Redacted] will lead. I would have assumed if Ministers did [Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:44 AM
To: David Barnes <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; s[Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>;
Deputy Director European Relations <DeputyDirectorEuropeanRelations@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Richard Rollison
[Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Journalist question - Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport by Israeli military aircraft

Good morning David.

Thank so for your response here. There's now an FOI in progress where the same journalist is [Redacted] of engagement with GPA and UKG over this whether this flight would be permitted to land [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

[Out of scope]



From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:39 AM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; David Barnes [Redacted]@gov.scot>; Ro [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: Journalist question - Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport by Israeli military aircraft

Thanks [Redacted].

[Redacted], the question seems to be about the use of Prestwick Airport by an Israeli military aircraft, and [Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

Best regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

EU Secretariat | External Affairs Directorate | Scottish Government
I am currently working from home. Mobile number: [Redacted]



From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:26 AM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email. We are thin on the ground this week in the unit but you are in luck my colleague [Redacted] (cc) in the negotiating strategy team is in. He may be better placed to help with your query.

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:00 AM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>
cc: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Trade Agreements - Use of Prestwick Airport

Good morning [Redacted].

An enquiry from a journalist regarding the SG's application of the UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU has found its way to me. I work within a team who have responsibility for SG's ownership of Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA) and the query was originally framed as specific to GPA, however on reflection I feel it's more wide-ranging than that.

[Out of scope]

The specific query is:

[Out of scope]

For background, we've been using a variation of the following when responding to questions concerning the operational, autonomy of Glasgow Prestwick Airport:

'To comply with the UK's Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU, the business is required to operate on a commercial basis and at arm's length from the Scottish Government.'

If you'd like any more background on GPA or lines issued to journalists recently on this matter, please let me know.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Duplicated text]

Senior Assistant to Director
[Out of scope]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

[Duplicated text]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 March 2024 12:20
To: John Primrose; [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Prestwick

Copying in [Redacted] and [Redacted]

Cheers
[Redacted]

From: John Primrose <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 12:18:46 PM
To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>
Subject: Prestwick

Hi [Redacted]
[Redacted] was asking to be connected up on the lines on Prestwick [Redacted], and what the line should be w/ ref to Israel, with news following weekend. Can you connect him up to who you are speaking to on transport side.

John Primrose (he/him) | Deputy Director International | Directorate for External Affairs | Scottish Government |
2H South, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | ✉ [Redacted] @gov.scot | 📞 and Whatsapp: [Redacted]
| twitter: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 March 2024 12:23
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Ross Greer meeting brief

Hi ^[Redacted],

For the meeting with Ross Greer next week, it may be worth touching base with ^[Redacted] or ^[Redacted] regarding Glasgow Prestwick Airport and Israel Airforce using it for refuelling. I spotted on twitter last night that this is an area of interest so he may bring it up if he gets the chance with Mr Lochhead.

Cheers
^[Redacted]