

**Digest of material for disclosure for FCO FOI reference 0025-17**

E-mail sent: 27 July 2016 17:54

From: Neil Crompton

To: Gareth Bayley

Cc: Tim Barrow; Christian Turner; Michael Howells; [FCO names redacted]

Subject: Ayman Asfari [Classification redacted]

Gareth

1. I spoke to Ayman Asfari yesterday. [Text Redacted - Section 41]
2. [Text Redacted - Section 41]
3. [Text Redacted - Section 41]
4. [Text Redacted - Section 41]. The Foreign Secretary said at his meeting this morning that he would like to meet Asfari. We are trying to get a date in the Foreign Secretary's diary for the second half of August.
5. I'll see Ayman next Thursday for an update.

E-mail sent: 4 August 2016 19:46

From: Neil Crompton

To: [FCO names redacted]

Cc: Tim Barrow; Gareth Bayley; Tom Pravda; [FCO names redacted]

Subject: Syrian Opposition - Vision Statement [Classification redacted]

[name redacted]

1. I saw Ayman Asfari yesterday evening to discuss the Vision Statement and launch in London on 31 August. I explained that on current plans we would aim to host the delegation at Lancaster House on the morning on 31 August, with Ministers from the Paris 10. The delegation would then have the afternoon to do the launch at Chatham House or whatever venue they decided. I made clear that it was for the opposition to organise this bit of the programme. [Text Redacted - Section 41]
2. Ayman was looking forward to seeing the new Foreign Secretary in late August but did not have a time yet. Would you please follow up with [name redacted].
3. [Text Redacted - Section 41]
4. [Text Redacted - Sections 27 and 41]
5. [Text Redacted - Section 27]
6. [Text Redacted - Section 27]

7. [Text Redacted - Section 41]

E-mail sent: 11 August 2016 11:42

From: FCO [names redacted]

To: Michael Howells; [FCO names redacted]

Cc: Neil Crompton; [FCO names redacted]]

Subject: FS meeting: Ayman Asfari

FCO [names redacted]

Ayman Asfari requested a meeting with the FS; advice on sequencing was that it would be good for them to meet ahead of the launch event. I have been in touch with Mr Asfari's office and agreed a meeting at 1500 on Monday 15 August at KCS.

Grateful if you could let me know whether you or Michael will attend. [Line Redacted – Out of scope]. Mr Asfari will be unaccompanied to this meeting; our attendance will be FS + 1. We will also need briefing for this meeting by 1200 tomorrow.

[FCO name redacted] will commission but this is a heads up as he is away from his desk dealing with something else. Templates for both briefing and a clutch card (aide memoire) are attached for ease of reference.

Kind regards

FCO [name redacted]

E-mail sent: 11 August 2016 13:46

From: Gareth Bayley

To: [FCO names redacted]

Cc: [FCO names redacted]

Subject: RE: FS meeting: Ayman Asfari [Classification redacted]

[FCO name redacted]

Issues to cover

- [Text Redacted - Section 27]
- We need to move quickly on the Think Tank Event. [Text Redacted - Section 27] Or does Asfari have a quick and certain substitute?
- The document is still not quite ready [Text Redacted - Section 27]. We will be sending in some final comments. Emphasis on the need to maintain positive tone [Text Redacted - Section 27].

- [Text Redacted - Section 27]
- You've got Neil's last readout from Asfari. The points there still stand. You can never say them enough.

Gareth

E-mail sent: 12 August 2016 12:03

From: [FCO names redacted]

To: SOSFA ACTION;

Cc: Neil Crompton; Gareth Bayley; [FCO names redacted]

Subject: Brief for SOSFA Meeting with Ayman Asfari 1500 on 15 August 2016

Dear PS / SOSFA

Please find attached briefing and clutch card, cleared by [FCO name redacted] - Head of Syria Unit, for the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Syrian businessman [Text Redacted - Section 40] Mr Ayman Asfari at 15.00 on Monday 15 August.

Kind Regards

FCO [names redacted]

E-mail sent: 12 August 2016 13:57

**From:** [FCO names redacted]

**To:** [FCO names redacted]

**Cc:** Neil Crompton; Gareth Bayley; [FCO names redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Brief for SOSFA Meeting with Ayman Asfari 1500 on 15 August 2016 - revision required

FCO [names redacted]

Many thanks for this.

Please find a revised version attached – [Text Redacted - Section 27]

Kind regards,

FCO [names redacted]

E-mail sent: 12 August 2016 15:22

From: FCO [names redacted]

To: [FCO names redacted]

Cc: [FCO names redacted]

Subject: FW: 160811 Brief for SOSFA Meeting with Ayman Asfari 1500 on 15 August

[FCO names redacted]

Please find revised briefing attached, [Text Redacted - Section 27]

Any further questions or concerns please let me know

Kind Regards

[FCO names redacted]

Briefing Date: 12 August 2016

MEETING WITH AYMAN ASFARI, SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN [Text Redacted – Section 41],  
MONDAY 15 AUGUST, 15.00

STEER

This is your first meeting with Ayman Asfari, Chief Executive of Petrofac [Text Redacted - Section 41]. You should seek an update from him on preparations for the event, sharing our own hopes: [Text Redacted - Section 27] and exchange notes on the situation on the ground and political process.

OBJECTIVES

- Thank Asfari for his [Text Redacted – Section 41] continued engagement with HMG.
- [Text Redacted - Section 27]
- Text Redacted - Section 41] plans for the HNC's visit to London later this month [Text Redacted - Section 41]
- [Text Redacted - Section 27]
- [Text Redacted - Section 27]

BACKGROUND

1. [Text Redacted - Section 41]
2. Asfari met the previous Foreign Secretary on 16 June. [Text Redacted - Section 27 & 41].
3. We have been working with the HNC on plans for a launch of this Vision in London on 31 August. The HNC remains the most representative umbrella body that has emerged during the conflict, representing a broad spectrum of moderate Syrians, including armed groups on the ground. HNC coordinator Riad Hijab (defected former Syrian Prime Minister) will bring a delegation of HNC members to London to launch the vision at a

meeting with you and other Foreign Ministers in Lancaster House, followed by a bigger event at a London think tank (we are currently working on options [Text Redacted - Section 41]).

4. Hijab and his team have been working on a Vision document that contains their key principles for the future. [Text Redacted - Section 27].
5. [Text Redacted - Section 27 & 41]
6. [Text Redacted - Section 27]

Drafted by: [FCO name redacted]; Cleared by: [FCO name redacted];

E-mail sent: 16 August 2016 13:46

From: [FCO names redacted]

To: Gareth Bayley

Cc: Martin Reynolds; Tim Barrow; Christian Turner; Neil Crompton; Michael Howells; [FCO names redacted]

Subject: Foreign Secretary meeting with Ayman Asfari, 15 August [Classification redacted]

Gareth

1. The Foreign Secretary had an introductory meeting with Ayman Asfari (London-based Syrian businessman [Text Redacted - Section 41]) on 15 August.
2. [Text Redacted – Section 41]
3. [Text Redacted – Section 41]
4. [Text Redacted – Sections 27&41]
5. Turning to the Higher Negotiations Committee (HNC) vision launch due to be held in London, [Text Redacted – Section 41]
6. [Text Redacted – Section 41] The Foreign Secretary strongly commended this and the work of the White Helmets.

[FCO names redacted]