

FOI REFERENCE 0877-14: DIGEST OF INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED

Extract from an e-mail from British Embassy Moscow to British Embassy Moscow cc'd to FCO

From: [British Embassy Moscow]

Sent: 21 January 2014 12:36

To: [British Embassy Moscow]

Cc: [Russia Team, FCO]

Subject: Russia economy: views of [redacted]

Considerable new infrastructure is required to deliver the FIFA World Cup which Russia will host in 2018.

Extract from a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram – sent 23 January 2014

RUSSIA: 2013 AND 2014: YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME

Sochi is our own overwhelming priority for the first quarter of 2014, with an Embassy team on the ground for 2 months to assist Team GB, Paralympics GB and other British nationals, manage Ministerial and VVIP visits and promote UK prosperity, including looking ahead to Russia's hosting of the FIFA World Cup in 2018.

Extract from a letter from HMA Moscow to Harriett Baldwin MP, sent 30 January 2014

Preparations for Russia hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2018 and [redacted] are key high value opportunities for UK businesses.

Extract from a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram – sent 3 February 2014

RUSSIA PROSPERITY: A RETROSPECTIVE AND FORWARD LOOK

Then Sports Minister Hugh Robertson and Lord Coe supported our pitch for a strong share of business from future sports events in Russia, including the FIFA World Cup 2018 at Sport Accord in May and this HVO continues to be a high priority, with Olympics experts from the Met Police, Transport for London and the Olympic Legacy Corporation here last month to share their expertise with their opposite numbers.

Extract from a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram – sent 5 February 2014

RUSSIA: OLYMPICS SCENESETTER

On prosperity, we want to build on UK companies' success [redacted] in winning over 50 contracts in Sochi in order to position them strongly in tender processes for future Russian sports business, including the FIFA World Cup 2018.

Extract from an e-mail from British Embassy Moscow to Treasury, cc'd to FCO

From: [British Embassy Moscow]

Sent: 18 February 2014 13:23

To: [Treasury]

Subject: St Petersburg International Economic Forum, 22-24 May - possible attendance of Lord Deighton?

In particular, we feel that Lord Deighton's background would make him an excellent candidate. His financial background would allow him to support our financial sector objectives in Russia, his work on the London Olympics would place him in a position to promote UK firms in the sports sector (Russia is hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2018, and contracts remain up for grabs).

Extract from a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram – sent 26 March 2014

RUSSIA: SOCHI: GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE LEADERS

Russia will not soon forget topping both medal tables at their home Games. There was also plenty of wistful nostalgia for the Summer Games in 1980 and confidence on what Sochi meant for delivering the 2018 World Cup.

Extract from an e-mail from British Embassy Moscow to Russia Team, FCO

From: [British Embassy Moscow]

Sent: 29 April 2014 18:12

To: [Russia Team, FCO]

Subject: EU HUMAN RIGHTS COUNSELLORS MEETING: DISABILITY RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[Redacted] praised the barrier free environment created at the Olympics, and said that it demonstrated what could be done when the will was there. He hoped that the 2018 World Cup would result in the host cities being made more accessible too.

Extract from an e-mail from DHM, British Embassy Moscow to Minister Counsellor, British Embassy Moscow, cc'd to FCO

From: Martin Harris, DHM BE Moscow

Sent: 10 June 2014 15:48

To: Barbara Habberjam, Minister Counsellor

Subject: My visit to Ekaterinburg

Not much buzz yet around the 2018 World Cup, though [redacted] will meet soon with the organising committee.

Extract from a document written by Minister Counsellor (Economic and Trade and Investment) for Lord Livingston, sent 2 July 2014

EU PARTNERS' APPROACH TO SUPPORT FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT WITH RUSSIA: NOTE BY BE MOSCOW

Business in the regions related to the FIFA World Cup 2018 – one of Russia's HVPs – is being pursued actively by our partners. (UKTI now has approval for a programme led at Head of UKTI level of visits to host cities).

French companies remain interested in securing contracts related to World Cup 2018 and the Embassy has been very active in supporting these companies, including via trade missions to some of the host cities.

Extract from a letter from Minister Counsellor (Economic and Trade and Investment) to Managing Director, Policy and Network Development, UKTI, sent 21 August 2014

BUSINESS – and UKTI – ACTIVITY IN RUSSIA

The World Cup 2018 presents major opportunities: activities over the coming months include taking UK companies to visit the host cities, supporting UK participants at Football Build Expo in St Petersburg and a presentation of business opportunities to UK participants at the Global Sports Conference in London.

Extract from an e-mail from to Minister Counsellor, British Embassy Moscow to Consul-General St Petersburg, cc'd to FCO

From: Barbara Habberjam, Minister Counsellor

Sent: 10 June 2014 15:48

To: [Consul General St Petersburg]

Subject:: St Petersburg - business feedback

Aecom are also interested in FIFA World Cup 2018 business and have been keen to participate in our regional visits.