

UNCLASSIFIED

Document	Date	Information
Correspondence between Office of Alex Salmond and FCO London	11/12/15	<p>As I mentioned in our conversation earlier, Mr Salmond will be part of a delegation of five heading to Tehran next week.</p> <p>We will arrive on Friday 18 December at 17:55 and will fly back on Tuesday 22 December at 21:10.</p> <p>We would be grateful if we could arrange a meeting over dinner on the Friday with - and other members of the embassy in Tehran. If this is not possible, we are happy to fit a meeting in at your convenience.</p> <p>Please feel free to pass on my contact details.</p>
Internal FCO correspondence	11/12/15	<p>Iran/Bilateral: Alex Salmond MP is leading a delegation from the Scottish Parliament to Tehran on Friday 18 January, at the invitation of the MFA. He will be accompanied by Tasmina Ahmedsheikh MP, Chief Whip (SNP) Bill Kid as well as a constituency assistant and his head of communications. Their programme and visas are being facilitated by the Iranian Embassy in London, and Iran Unit were informed of their planned visit today as part of a request to meet with BE Tehran. They have been told they will have meetings with FM Zarif, as well as the Minsiters for Oil, Energy and Agriculture. There is also a small chance they will meet with President Rouhani (who studied at Glasgow Caledonian University). They have requested the British Embassy host them for a working dinner whilst in Tehran – grateful for views.</p>
Correspondence from BE Tehran to FCO London	14/12/15	<p>Alex Salmond MP is planning to come to Iran on Friday and to stay until Tuesday night. He is coming with one other SNP MP, Tasmina Ahmed Sheikh, and an MSP, plus two assistants. They have been in touch with the Iranians, who have promised to arrange a programme. I have spoken to them and their main objective is to promote Scottish business (oil and gas, financial services, education).</p> <p>We have not been involved in arranging the programme, nor do we plan on attending any calls. But they have asked if I can host a briefing dinner on the day they arrive.</p> <p>If you could let me know by the end of the day that would be great because I will be travelling for most of the rest of the week.</p>
Internal BE Tehran correspondence	15/12/2015	<p>5. - raised the visit of Alex Salmond with a group of 4 (comment: possibly now 6, tbc). The MFA were organising the programme. Details were still to be confirmed but at the moment it was looking like calls on Dr Zarif, Dr Larijani, the ministers of oil and agriculture, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance and a visit to Qom.</p>
Correspondence between BE Tehran and Office of Alex Salmond	15/12/15	<p>Grateful if you could please provide me a list of names of the travelling delegation that will be making their way to the embassy on Friday.</p>
Correspondence from BE Tehran	15/12/15	<p>Just to follow up. programme: Zarif (Foreign Minister), Larijani (Speaker), Zanganeh (Oil Minister), Hojjati (Agriculture</p>

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

to FCO London		Minister), Jelalpour (Chamber President) etc and a trip to Qom.
Correspondence from FCO London to BE Tehran	15/12/15	Can I get exact confirmation on who we believe is attending? The update suggested a delegation from the Scottish Parliament, but Alex Salmond and Tasmina Ahmedsheikh are Westminster MPs
Correspondence from FCO London to BE Tehran	15/12/15	Apologies for any confusion caused. The delegation outlined in my update are the final delegation (confirmed by a member of the travelling party). This will be: Alex Salmond MP Tasmina Ahmedsheikh MP William (Bill) Kidd – SNP Chief Whip (Director of Communications for Alex Salmond’s office) (Alex Salmond’s constituency assistant).
Internal FCO correspondence	15/12/15	Do we know if the SNP are paying anything for this visit, or is the bill being footed by the Iranians? Grateful for any more info you can send (including on where they’re staying, confirmed meetings)?
Internal FCO correspondence	15/12/15	I have tried to get further information from Alex Salmond’s office, but they’re not being particularly forthright on detail. They are unclear on where they are staying at this point, but it will be being arranged for them by the MFA. The person I spoke to was unclear on whether this was a fully sponsored visit. However, typically with visits like this the MFA will “host”, paying for visas and accommodation, and sometime flights on the understanding they will get a reciprocal visit. They have had confirmation that their visas are ready, and can either be collected from Dublin or on arrival in Tehran met with the Acting Director, Western European Affairs at the MFA today, who confirmed they were organising the programme. Details were still to be confirmed but at the moment it was looking like calls on Dr Zarif, Dr Larijani, the Ministers of Oil and Agriculture, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance and a visit to Qom.
Internal FCO correspondence	15/12/15	- has asked me to check with you on 2 things: • Are the final delegation Westminster SNPs or Scottish parliament MPs? • - is he in Alex Salmond’s office in Westminster or in Scotland?
Internal FCO correspondence	15/12/15	- Alex Salmond is a member of both – MP for Gordon and MSP for Aberdeenshire East. - Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is Westminster MP for Ochil and South Perthshire. She is not Scottish Parliament. - They are being accompanied by Bill Kid, who is SNP Chief Whip for Scottish Parliament.

UNCLASSIFIED

		- is Alex Salmond's communication officer for both Westminster/Scotland
Internal BE Tehran correspondence	16/12/15	<p>At the moment all the news we have with regards the dinner on Friday is the names of our visitors below:</p> <p>Alex Salmond MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh MP William (Bill) Kidd MSP – SNP Chief Whip at Holyrood (Director of Communications for Alex Salmond's office) (Alex Salmond's constituency assistant).</p> <p>No ETA yet, no car details yet, but hopefully we should get both tomorrow either from the group or the MFA, or both.</p>
Correspondence between Office of Alex Salmond and FCO London	17/12/15	<p>We will be flying tonight at 20:55 from Glasgow. The time we will have access to our emails is on Friday afternoon in Dubai. We are staying at the Espinas Hotel in Tehran. If you can please let me know the arrangement for Friday at the Embassy as soon as you know. If you need to contact us after Dubai, could I suggest you leave a message with the Espinas. I will send you our Iranian numbers as soon as I have them set up.</p>
Internal FCO correspondence	17/12/15	<p>I've spoken to the PUS's office, who I understand put advice to Private Office and - yesterday. They confirmed that this is ultimately at the discretion of Post, but had no objections to the actions we've suggested.</p> <p>I've discussed with - and we plan to proceed with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post will host the delegation as requested for briefing over dinner. There will be no external guests attending and this will informal - 2nd Sec Pol will attend some of the meetings (as offered by the MFA) in a liaison capacity. <p>Can you please let me know asap if there is any issue with this. The delegation depart at 2100 tonight (UK time) and our last opportunity to confirm arrangements is Friday morning.</p>
Correspondence from BE Tehran to FCO London	17/12/15	Can you call me immediately about this? I do not understand the instruction.
Correspondence from FCO London	17/12/15	Just tried calling. They are content for us to provide a briefing/meeting, not dinner.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

to BE Tehran		
Correspondence from BE Tehran to FCO London	17/12/15	OK, have agreed that we will see them in their hotel
Correspondence from BE Tehran to FCO London	21/12/15	Just to update you, - has joined the SNP delegation for their meeting with Dr Zarif since 16.30 local time. It is 18.10 now so we should expect him back fairly soon. Will let him know you are after an update as soon as I see him.
Correspondence from BE Tehran to FCO London	26/12/15	<p>You asked about Alex Salmond's visit to Tehran on 18-22 December.</p> <p>Salmond had a full programme, seeing Zarif (Foreign Minister), Larijani (Speaker), Boroujerdi (FAC Chair), Hojati (Agriculture Minister), Zanganeh (Oil Minister), Khazaiee (Deputy Finance Minister), Jelalpour (President of the Chamber), a Vice Governor of the Central Bank, plus sundry others such as Motaqi, who was Foreign Minister under Ahmadinejad. But not the President. The group also went to Qom for a day, visiting a university there and meeting a number of clerics. On the last day, they did media interviews. The media coverage was fairly modest – they were eclipsed by the French Senate Speaker, who was also in town – and focused on trade.</p> <p>and I had dinner with them on the first night. We gave them a general brief on Iranian politics and the business environment. They asked to accompany to the Majles but the Majles failed to let her in; they also asked me to go along to Zarif, which I did.</p>

UNCLASSIFIED