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From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 November 2014 16:11
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: PRESS RELEASE

Dear [REDACTED]
Please confirm receipt.

SASHA WASS QC – St Helena Inquiry

I have been asked by the Foreign Secretary, and have agreed, to lead an inquiry into the very serious allegations outlined in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's press release today.

The inquiry will be funded, supported and provided with administrative assistance by the FCO, as required, but will otherwise be totally independent. The inquiry will look into the claims relating to child abuse in the Territory, police corruption and incompetence, and the suggestion that there was a conspiracy by the St Helena Government (SHG), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID) to cover these up. The FCO have agreed to allow access to all relevant papers from the FCO, DFID and SHG and its authorities. The inquiry will also request the opportunity to interview current and former officials, and other relevant persons, and to take oral and written submissions as evidence.

The inquiry will visit St Helena for three weeks in March 2015.

In the late summer of 2015 the Panel will produce a public report of its findings. In the event of recommendations for further criminal investigation, these will be contained in a confidential annex for the St Helena authorities and HMG.

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[Redacted]

From: Sasha Wass
Sent: 22 February 2015 21:08
To: Paul McGinnety
Cc: Colin Welsh [Redacted]
Subject: Proposed timetable for St Helena
Attachments: Proposed Timetable for St Helena.docx

Dear Paul,

I have now prepared a document outlining who I would like to see during the visit. During the time when I am conducting interviews, I would hope that panel members are given unfettered access to police and social service files. I would ask that this is done from Day 2 so that we can tailor our subsequent interviews according to what emerges.

Let me know if the attached document makes sense to you?

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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Proposed Timetable for St Helena

I have prepared days in what I consider to be logical themes.

DAY 1: 17th March: MEET AND GREET [AS SUGGESTED]

On days 2, 3 and 4, I hope to send designated members of the panel to attend the police station and officers to inspect files. It is not known whether this will conclude in this time or whether more time would be required during the following week.

DAY 2: 18th March: COUNCILLORS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS



DAY 3: 19th March: LEGAL



Other JP's

DAY 4: 20th March: PRISON and CARE HOMES INCLUDING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR UNIT AND BARN VIEW



Visits to all three institutions. Could prisoners be informed that they are free to talk to us confidentially? This will need the Governor's consent.

DAY 5: 21ST March

DAY 6: 22nd March

Weekend. Drop in visits to the offices will be available during Saturday. Could we meet Church leaders during Sunday after the conclusion of services?

DAY 7: 23rd March: EDUCATION



[REDACTED]
Heads of School.

All meetings to be conducted at the schools.

DAY 8: 24th March: SOCIAL WELFARE

[REDACTED]

DAY 9: 25th March: SOCIAL WELFARE [continued]

[REDACTED]

DAY 10: 26th March: HEALTH

Visit to GPs and hospitals. Could we have a list of all medically qualified persons on Island?

DAY 11: 27th March: POLICE

[REDACTED]

I have still not received the list of all serving officers since 2012. May need to add to the list for Day 11.

DAY 12: 28th March

Available to see drop in visits at offices.

DAY 13: 29th March: PANEL MEETING AT SANDY BAY

DAY 14: 30th March: ST HELENA GOVERNMENT

Mark Capes

Sean Burns

[REDACTED]

DAY 15: 31st March: ST HELENA GOVERNMENT [continued]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2015 12:43
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Additional police officer

(54)

Hi Sasha

We have managed to get a quick answer back from the HO. They think the force would continue paying the officer and then reclaim the cost from FCO. The FCO would pay for additional costs like travel and accommodation. Meals etc would be covered.

Overtime would be paid at the same rate he gets now. We expect there to be overtime on St Helena, but not on return.

We need to know from his superiors what those costs are.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Head of child safeguarding
OAB 2/133, SW1A 2AH
T: 020 7008 2759 M: 07825 060 760

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: Sasha Wass
Sent: 12 February 2015 12:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Additional police officer

(55)

Dear

I did see your text. Let me know how that develops. In the meantime, I need to give an answer to the Kent Police. What is the exact situation re payment of a serving officer? Expenses paid? Overtime? He needs the numbers before deciding.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 12:19 PM
To: Sasha Wass; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Additional police officer

(56)

Hi Sasha

This is good news. Did you see my text yesterday? I'm still working on [REDACTED]
We need to check contract costs with the Home Office. They are concerned about propriety so we need to make sure we don't pay too much – Gvt depts. are not allowed to make a 'profit' off each other and if it's a serving officer we have to pay expenses plus the normal salary (and a reimbursement to the force if they have to hire someone else). Please hold off agreeing anything with him right now, but we are trying to get an answer. If he is a serving police officer then he can't be employed as a private individual.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Head of child safeguarding
OAB 2/133, SW1A 2AH
[REDACTED]

From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2015 09:12
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Additional police officer

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Dear Both,

I have now identified a serving police officer from another force with a view to taking him to St Helena. I have contacted his superior officer who has asked about funding. I want to be able to say that he will sign the same contract on the same rate as the other two panel members I have appointed. Can you confirm asap that this is correct?

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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[REDACTED]
From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
04 September 2014 07:11
[REDACTED]
RE: Admin for your inquiry

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e mail.

I fully appreciate potential concerns may be raised by using a secretary for the enquiry based in the Foreign Office. However, I feel that the advantages of having such a person who understands the administrative system within DFID and the FCO, with unfettered access to the relevant files, outweighs such disadvantages.

When the inquiry moves on to looking into the role of the FCO and DFID, if I consider that there may be a conflict arising, I will, of course, resort to outside expertise and assistance as and when required.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 12:56 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Admin for your inquiry

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Hi Sasha

We have thought about the admin person for your inquiry. We are just aware that the optics of the FCO employing someone to do this job could look unsatisfactory to the public. We think we can manage this risk, but I just wanted to make sure that you are content with this?

Thanks

Deputy Head of the Falklands and Southern Oceans Dept

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From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 September 2014 18:57
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Cabins - QC

Sunday, September 07, 2014 12:57 PM

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail regarding bookings.

Before we can make any announcements and subsequent arrangements for visits to St Helena there are several matters that need to be dealt with.

1. We need to have agreed and finalised the outstanding practical details regarding management and administration. I await our meeting and a your response to my earlier questions:
2. Secondly, until I have read the material, I cannot assess which areas I would like to focus on, nor decide the make up of the panel. Indeed it may even be that, after considering the documentation it may be more efficacious to turn to individual investigators to look into specific areas rather than to resort to the more cumbersome use of a panel. For example, when looking into the FCO, and Governor's offices' responses to the accusations the presence of social welfare specialist or a police expert will not necessarily advance the inquiry:
3. I agree with the suggestion that [REDACTED] made, when we met, that it would be advantageous to make a pathfinder visit to the island. Regrettably this would now have to be in March. Tentatively I am thinking of taking an experienced detective and as well as an officer experienced in child welfare work on this first visit. This first visit would enable me to see exactly which areas we need to spend time on, who we will need to interview as a panel, and indeed, to determine the make up of the panel.
4. Having read the material and visited the island I would then hope to produce a progress report for the minister and possibly empanel a small group to return to the island [possibly in July] in order to have more formal and focussed question and answer sessions in mid-year. Some panel members, if that is the way forward, may wish to have specific areas looked into and this will have to be pre-arranged before the panel go to St Helena.

I look forward to discussing and agreeing these matters with you.

Returning to the sailings and the need for early bookings, I still favour the pathfinder approach in March for which I would require two single births for the police, perhaps one for the secretary and a double birth for myself and [REDACTED]. Your option 2 below, would be suitable. However, I would need to know the arrangements and flight times to Ascension.

Let me know if you would find it easier to discuss all of this on the telephone.

kindest regards,

Sasha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 06, 2014 10:35 AM
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Cabins - QC

(61)

Hi Sasha

We are holding cabins on the boat for March. Please see the two options for travel below. I am holding five cabins as we don't know yet who will be joining you. Which dates below would you prefer?

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Chief Press Officer

[REDACTED]
From: St Helena UK Government Office |
Sent: 04 September 2014 13:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Governor St Helena (External)
Subject: Cabins - QC

Hi [REDACTED]

I am not sure if I sent you this:

I am holding 5 T1 cabins as follows, please let me know what option you prefer.

Option 1 – St Helena arrive 10 March, depart 18 March

CPT-STH 5TH MARCH

2X T1

3X T1S

STH-CPT 18TH MARCH

2X T1

3X T1S

Option 2 – St Helena arrive 17 March, depart 1 April

ASC-STH 14TH MARCH

5X T1

STH-ASC 1ST APRIL

5X T1

Regards

St Helena Government UK Representative

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2015 13:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Deployment to St.Helena OFFICIAL

Hi

Thanks for trying, we really appreciate it.
Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Child Safeguarding Unit, Overseas Territories Directorate

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 11:11 AM
To: [REDACTED] sasha.wass [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Deployment to St.Helena OFFICIAL

64C

CLASSIFICATION:OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Was there any more info on this? I think my inbox got full yesterday so sorry if I missed something.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Head of Child Safeguarding, OTD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]