

Correspondence between the Duke of Rothesay and the former First Minister

Letter from the former First Minister of 5 June 2007

HRH The Prince of Wales
 Clarence House
 London
 SW1A 1BA

5 June 2007

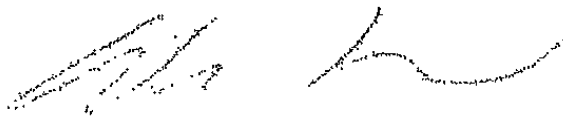
Yr. R. H. H. H.

It was a great pleasure to meet you again at Holyroodhouse last week. I enjoyed our discussion, as ever, and was pleased to hear that my officials had been constructive in their meeting with you to discuss The Prince's Trust and your other charities. I think that it would be extremely valuable for my Ministerial colleagues to learn more about the work of your different charities and with that in mind I will, as I suggested, arrange for representatives of whichever organisations you choose to make a presentation to my colleagues before one of our Cabinet meetings. I hope that it will prove possible to arrange this later this month.

I was very pleased to hear about your recent climate change summit and the potential for a similar event in Scotland. We would be very keen to co-operate in any way we can with such an important initiative.

[text redacted]

Yours for Scotland,



ALEX SALMOND

Reply of 2 October 2007 to the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay

TRH The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay
Clarence House
London
SW1A 1BA

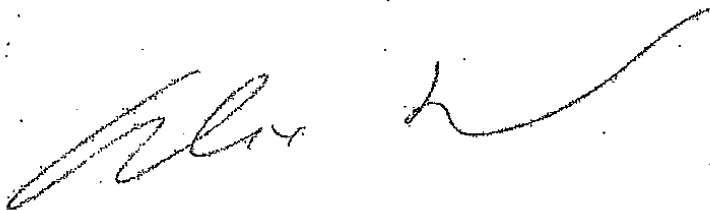
02 October 2007

Yr Royal Highnesses

[text redacted]

I have actioned a number of the points we discussed. Mark Leishman will be sent copies of the memos taking these forward. I can confirm I will be very happy to arrange a meeting with the young man you described. Our offices will be in touch to make progress on that.

With best wishes,



ALEX SALMOND

Letter of 14 July 2009 from the Senior Deputy Private Secretary to the Duke of
Rothesay to the former First Minister's office

14 JUL 2009

FM OFFICE

for Ms Hat,

I have pleasure in confirming that The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay will be delighted to receive the First Minister and Mrs Moira Salmond at The Palace of Holyroodhouse on Saturday, 25th July 0950 - 1015, before attending The Gathering festival in Holyrood Park.

I would be grateful if you could contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or e-mail her at [REDACTED] to confirm the details of how the First Minister will be arriving.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or the First Minister have any queries.

Letter of 25 July 2009 from the former First Minister

HRH the Duke of Rothesay
Clarence House
London
SW1A 1BA



25 July 2009

Your Royal Highness,

I've written to Mark Leishman on proposals to take forward the waste to energy proposal at Dumfries House. The more I think about this, the more I think it is do-able in a quick timescale, involving Scottish Power and Scottish Water.

I hope you are able to drop a private note to the senior management at Diageo, pointing out that all your efforts at Dumfries House, supported by the Scottish Government, will be undone in a single stroke if they pursue their plan to close the Kilmarnock facility.

[text redacted]

Yr. fi. Scotland
Alex Salmond

ALEX SALMOND

Further letter of 25 July 2009 from the former First Minister

Mark Leishman Esq
The Senior Deputy Private Secretary to TRH the Duke of Rothesay
Clarence House
SW1A 1BA



25 July 2009

Dear Mark,

Further to my conversation with His Royal Highness at today's Gathering, Paul Walsh (Diageo Chief Executive Officer) and David Gosnall (Diageo Managing Director, Global Supply & Global Procurement) are the key contacts at Diageo. It would be extremely helpful if His Royal Highness could drop a note of concern, particularly focusing on his efforts, through Dumfries House, to tackle the endemic unemployment in East Ayrshire, which has been spectacularly undone in a single stroke by Diageo's proposals in Kilmarnock.

The more I think about it, the more confident I am that Scottish Power / IBERDROLA would be interested in a waste to energy proposal at Dumfries House. I suggest a plan as follows: if His Royal Highness writes to Ignacio Galan as discussed, inviting him to whatever events you have planned, I will enlist Samantha Barbour's support about the waste to energy proposal. Meanwhile, I will have Mike Russell pursue the Scottish Water connection as discussed too.

Didn't the Gathering go well?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Salmond', with a checkmark below the name.

ALEX SALMOND

Letter of 29 July 2009 from the Duke of Rothesay's Senior Deputy Private Secretary to the former First Minister

29th July, 2009

Following your discussion with The Duke of Rothesay, I have been in touch with Jane Wood, Chief Executive of Scottish Business in the Community. She has made herself available to talk to you or the appropriate person, to offer any help or advice on the Diageo situation.

While His Royal Highness will always take a close interest in such developments, I'm afraid it is not possible for him to make a direct intervention but, as His Royal Highness suggested, these might well be appropriate circumstances for SBC to offer their services. Jane, whom has been involved in similar scenarios through her past employment at Boots plc, is contactable on the following number: [REDACTED] I do hope that this is of some help and am sorry not to be able to be more positive.

I also wanted to let you know that I have written to Snr. Galan, and I have been in touch with Samantha Barber. The Duke of Rothesay very much hopes that he will be able to attend a dinner at Dumfries House on 22nd October, and I will of course keep your office updated. Thank you very much indeed for your continuing help in looking at the potential for a waste energy proposal.

[text redacted]

Letter of 14 October 2009 from the former First Minister

Duke of Rothesay
Highgrove House
Doughton
Tetbury
Gloucestershire
GL8 8TN



Our ref: 2009/0025148
14 October 2009

Your Royal Highness

Thank you for your letter of 3 August. May I thank you again for your interest in our efforts to retain the Diageo jobs and I thought it would be useful to update you on the progress around supporting the vulnerable communities in the west of Scotland. As developments have been fast moving, please accept my apologies for the time it has taken to respond.

A taskforce consisting of representatives from the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, East Ayrshire Council, Glasgow City Council, the unions and local MPs and MSPs prepared an alternative proposal to Diageo's plans that involved continuing production activity at Port Dundas in Glasgow and the development of a new bottling plant in Kilmarnock on a greenfield site. In developing an alternative proposal, it was the taskforce's clear wish to work with Diageo to develop a solution which was in everyone's collective best interests. These substantive proposals were considered by Diageo but unfortunately they were declined. Mr Swinney and I were deeply disappointed that Diageo were unwilling to take these proposals further.

The Scottish Government will now work unstintingly with our partners to mitigate the impacts and assist the people and communities affected by this. East Ayrshire and Glasgow City Councils will be leading local responses with the active support of the Government and our enterprise agencies. The taskforce will continue to meet to draw together issues of common interest and support the development of local regeneration strategies.

In terms of wider work to promote the interests of Ayrshire, Mike Russell, the Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution recently met Sir Michael Peat at Dumfries House on 22 September to discuss developing a 'food academy' and a building and craft skills centre at Dumfries House. A business case is being developed and I am sure that the initiative will help contribute to the wider regeneration work which East Ayrshire Council is leading and your continued support around this initiative is very much recognised.

It was a pleasure for Moira and I to meet with you and the Duchess of Rothesay recently and we look forward to seeing you both again soon.

*Yours for Scotland
Alex Salmond*

ALEX SALMOND

Letter of 21 July 2010 from the former First Minister

HRH The Duke of Rothesay
Clarence House
London
SW1A 1BA

21 July 2010

Your Royal Highness

I wanted to express my thanks for hosting the ceilidh in support of the Scottish Traditional Skills Training Centre at the Palace of Holyrood House.

Moira and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the musicianship which Marc Ellington brought together was first class.

I remain very supportive of traditional skills training in Scotland. Historic Scotland have re-focused their efforts both in this area and that of traditional materials. You will be aware of this from Historic Scotland's work at Dumfries House. They will be speaking to the Trust at Fyvie to ensure their interests are represented as part of our emerging traditional building skills strategy in the coming months.

In the current climate we need to be increasingly innovative in how we raise standards in the construction sector in particular, and we are aware that the traditional building sector is not a niche industry in Scotland, but really sits at its core. Our challenge is to ensure that such skills are retained and enhanced to the benefit of Scotland's traditionally built environment.

I have enclosed a copy of our recent publication 'Building Scotland' which celebrates our traditional building materials and how they have shaped our built environment – I trust you will find it interesting.

J. f. Scotland
Alex

ALEX SALMOND

Letter of 19 June 2011 from the former First Minister

Duke of Rothesay
Clarence House
London
SW1 1AA

19th June 2011

Your Royal Highness

[text redacted]

To conclude on a completely different note - I recently had the privilege of visiting Dumfries House for an engagement and was very impressed at the progress you have achieved since I last saw it. It was a delight and you are to be commended for your steadfast pursuit of its restoration and refurbishment. It is a hugely impressive undertaking.

Alex Salmond
Alex Salmond

ALEX SALMOND