



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

15 April 2009

Subject: Alex Salmond MP meeting with the United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, 23 February 2009.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office received a Freedom of Information request in which the applicant asked for;

“Information relating to The First Minister for Scotland, Alex Salmond MP meeting with the United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during his visit to the USA in February 2009.”

The following response was provided.

Question 1:

Who originally requested the meeting between the American Secretary of State (or a State Department official) and the First Minister of Scotland take place? Was it the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, The Scottish Executive, the Scotland Office or the United States Department of State?

Answer: The Scottish Government Counsellor at the British Embassy in Washington.

Question 2:

Was the Scotland Office consulted or informed the meeting would be taking place?

Answer: They were informed through the FCO in London.

Question 3:

Was the Foreign and Commonwealth Office / British Embassy responsible for arranging the meeting between the First Minister and U.S Secretary of State?

Answer: Arrangements were made by the Scottish Government Counsellor at the British Embassy in Washington.



Question 4:

Was someone from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office / British Embassy present at all times in the meeting between the First Minister and U.S Secretary of State?

Answer: The Scottish Government Counsellor at the British Embassy in Washington attended the meeting.

Question 5:

Finally, was the issue of Scottish independence mentioned at any time in the meeting between the two?

Answer: No.

quote the reference number above in any future communications.