

From: [REDACTED] (CPG)
Sent: 25 October 2014 22:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Strathclyde police lib dem conference
Attachments: Strathclyde police lib dem conference.pdf

Security Label: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Letter relating to the party conference FoI

[REDACTED]
Police Resources Policy Team | Efficiency and Resources Unit | Crime and Policing Group 6th floor Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF | tel: 020 7035 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 November 2012 10:40
To: [REDACTED] (ASU)
Cc: [REDACTED] (OSCT Net)
Subject: FW: Strathclyde police lib dem conference

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
[REDACTED]

Please see the attached letter that has been sent to [REDACTED] regarding the Lib Dem conference in Glasgow next year.

[REDACTED] is meeting with Strathclyde Police today and it would be helpful to have your observations on the letter particularly where they state that 'UK party conferences are financed from London, no matter the location'.

Happy to discuss.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Protective Security Section
Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism - Protect and Prepare Unit Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

Tel: +44 (0)20 7035 [REDACTED]

Web: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

E-mail: [REDACTED]@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

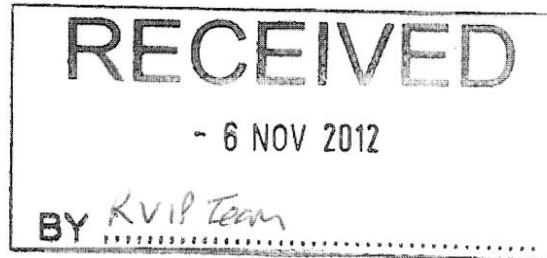
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STRATHCLYDE
POLICE

CHIEF CONSTABLE
Campbell Corrigan



2 November 2012

Your Ref:

Our Ref: CC/CD

[REDACTED]
Police Liaison Officer
OSCT Protect
The Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Police Headquarters
173 Pitt Street
GLASGOW
G2 4JS

Tel: 0141 532 2969

Dear [REDACTED]

UNITED KINGDOM ANNUAL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT CONFERENCE 2013

I refer to the above Liberal Democrat conference scheduled to take place in Glasgow from 14 to 18 September 2013 and would like to take this opportunity to seek clarification relative to the overall funding of this event.

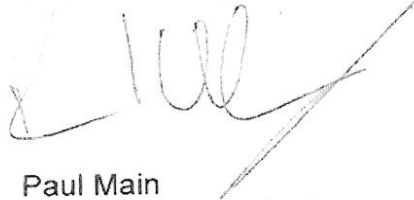
I am aware that you have been contacted by [REDACTED] regarding this matter and indeed would like to thank you for taking the time to come to Edinburgh on 6 November 2012 to meet and discuss the arrangements for the conference with [REDACTED]

As you know, the cost of policing such an event can be significant and to that end it is imperative that all steps are taken to recover this money to allow it to be spent on the wider community of Scotland. I understand from Inspector Pennington that there is a suggestion that funding from the Home Office may only extend to England and Wales and that any recovery might need to be sought from the Scottish Government. Having discussed the matter with our Director of Finance however, it is my understanding that while the cost for Scottish Party Conferences is paid for from Scottish budgets, subject to participation in risk assessment and the production of a security plan, United Kingdom Party Conferences are financed from London, no matter the location.

Clearly which costs can and cannot be recovered will be complex and as alluded to above, will be informed from the detailed planning and risk assessments required to facilitate the event. That said, I would be grateful if you could provide me with a detailed account of the likely areas which require to be covered and what recovery can reasonably be expected.

I am grateful for your assistance on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Main', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Main
Chief Superintendent
Operational Support



Home Office

CRIME & POLICING GROUP
Finance and Strategy Directorate
2 Marsham Street, Fry Building, 6th Floor, London SW1P 4DF

Chief Superintendent Paul Main
Operational Support
Strathclyde Police
Police Headquarters
173 Pitt Street
Glasgow
G3 4JS

Date 13 December 2012

Dear Paul,

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY CONFERENCE 2013

Thank you for your letter of 2 November 2012 to [REDACTED] in the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism. I am replying as the policy lead for the Special Grant funding process. I apologise for the delay in responding to you, but I had sought the view of the Home Secretary in this matter, and therefore had to allow enough time for her to consider the matter.

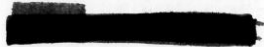
Your letter seeks clarification in relation to the funding position for the policing costs which will arise from the party conference taking place in Glasgow next year. As policing in Scotland is a devolved matter, the Special Grant process is not available as it is only applicable to England and Wales. Therefore, there will be no funding provided to the Strathclyde Police from the Home Office.

I note your comment that United Kingdom party conferences are funded from London, but this is not in fact, the case. Party Conferences do not attract funding automatically. A police force in England and Wales which is hosting a party conference makes an application for a Special Grant based on the additional expenditure that they will incur as a result of policing this event. The application is considered and Ministers take a decision as to whether funding will be provided to the force. It is important to note that a Special Grant is not guaranteed, and is dependent upon the additional costs to the force being significant as well as the amount of budget available to fund the request. The Special Grant process is not specifically for party conferences and is also used for forces in England and Wales facing other significant expenses such as long running investigations, or an event which results in large scale public order problems.

I am aware that the conference will result in some additional costs for the Strathclyde Police. In our view, financial assistance should be sought from the Scottish Executive, and thereafter the Treasury, should the force require it.

I am sorry not to be able to give a more favourable response, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely



Police Funding Policy Team

Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Kenny MacAskill MSP

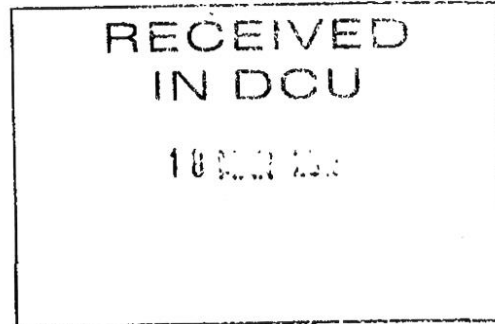
T: 0845 774 1741
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



REFERRED TO PRIVATE OFFICE

The Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP
Secretary for State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

DELIVERING
A GAMES LEGACY FOR SCOTLAND



11th March 2013

Dear Theresa

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY CONFERENCE 2013

I have been contacted by Strathclyde Police concerning arrangements for security and policing for the Liberal Democrat Party Conference which is to be held in Glasgow in September 2013. I understand that Assistant Chief Constable Bernie Higgins has been in contact with your officials regarding arrangements for funding.

It is my understanding that the conferences of any party forming the UK Government, along with the official opposition party, are considered to require additional security arrangements which are organised jointly by the Home Office, the relevant local police force and the Political Party. Providing security for these events when they take place in England and Wales is considered to be additional to the general expectations on the relevant local forces and the planning for, and risk associated with these events, is shared jointly by the three main stakeholders.

The costs associated with undertaking this additional burden are significant. I understand that the Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton in 2012 cost an additional £2.1m. Strathclyde Police are in the process of considering what the equivalent costs will be in Glasgow but based on current threat and risk assessments these are estimated to be in the region of £1.25m. Given the additional burden created by hosting a party conference, I understand that the Home Office generally pays 85% of the police costs involved.

Your officials have indicated that funding is received by application to the Home Office and that the grant to assist with additional financial pressures is only available to forces in England and Wales. This arrangement strikes me as too restrictive as, although policing is devolved, the responsibility for National Security is reserved, and the Home Office does not expect English and Welsh forces to pick up the full burden of ensuring security at these high-profile events.

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk



You will be aware that the Police Service of Scotland will come into being in April 2013 and, in common with other public sector organisations, is being asked to find £1.7b in savings over the next 15 years in order to meet budget cuts. Added to the decision by the UK Government that the Police Service of Scotland will not be able to recover VAT, unlike any other force in the United Kingdom, you will understand that any further additional financial burden placed upon the service, which would not be the case in the rest of the United Kingdom, would be particularly unwelcome.

Had the Liberal Democrat Party opted to have their Party Conference in Brighton, as they did last year, the Home Office would have provided additional funding to address the burden imposed on the local force. I do not see why this arrangement should not continue when a UK Political Party and one of the parties forming the Coalition Government holds its conference in Scotland, nor do I see why the Scottish Government should be asked to pick up this additional burden, while the Home Office benefits from a windfall.

I would be grateful if you would consider the case for greater flexibility in the allocation of Home Office resources to police forces for exceptional circumstances such as party conferences. If the specific mechanism that is used does not allow for payments to forces outside England and Wales then I am sure that our officials will be able to identify a route by which the usual percentage of policing costs met by the Home Office can be transferred to the Scottish Government for onward transfer to the Police Service of Scotland.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you and look forward to hearing from you in the future.

I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland and to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.



KENNY MACASKILL

RESTRICTED

From: [REDACTED]
Police Funding Policy
Crime and Policing Group

Tel: 020 7035 [REDACTED]

Date: 18 April 2013

CC: See end of submission

Home Secretary

Timing:	Routine
Purpose:	For decision
Cleared by:	Ziggy MacDonald, Acting Director, Finance and Strategy

POLICE FUNDING: PARTY CONFERENCE FUNDING

Summary

1. The Liberal Democrat Party is holding its 2013 annual party conference in Glasgow. Further to [REDACTED] submission of 22 November 2012, we have received a letter from Kenny MacAskill (the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Justice) requesting funding to cover the policing costs of this event. This submission recommends you maintain your position not to provide funding and provides a draft response to the MacAskill letter.

Recommendation

2. That you:
 - maintain your position not to provide funding to Police Scotland for the policing of this event as policing in Scotland is devolved;
 - agree to provide £15k to Greater Manchester Police to cover the accreditation costs associated with this event; and
 - agree the draft letter at Annex A.

Consideration

3. Strathclyde Police wrote to officials last year to request Special Grant funding of £1.25m to cover the policing costs of the 2013 Liberal Democrat conference which is taking place in Glasgow. Following [REDACTED] 22 November advice, you took the decision not to provide funding as policing is a devolved matter in Scotland, and HMT only provide money to the Home Office for policing in England and Wales. Officials wrote to Strathclyde Police to inform them of this decision.

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4. Kenny MacAskill has written to you asking you to reconsider. We strongly recommend that you maintain your position that any costs which Police Scotland cannot meet should fall to the Scottish Government not the Home Office.
5. In his letter, Mr MacAskill suggests that party conferences in England and Wales automatically require policing measures to be put in place and that this automatically attracts Home Office funding. This is not the case. Rather, in England and Wales consideration of what measures are necessary is determined by a Risk Assessment Group (RAG). The Home Office currently provides Special Grant funding to cover 85% of these policing costs. However, the Special Grant pot is limited and whether or not any funding is provided will depend on the availability of funding.
6. As Mr MacAskill highlights, counter-terrorism is a reserved matter. It is because of this that OSCT will be reimbursing the Liberal Democrat party for the cost of any CT measures being put in place. The draft letter an Annex A makes this clear.
7. Mr MacAskill also raises the issue of VAT. The new Police Scotland body is under the control of the Scottish Government (i.e. central Government) as opposed to the previous arrangement, where the eight Scottish forces were local Government bodies. This means that Police Scotland cannot recover VAT, which in theory increases their non-workforce costs. This decision was made between the Scottish Executive and the HM Treasury and, although relevant to the overall financial position of Police Scotland, is not a matter for the Home Office to comment on. This is reflected in the draft response at Annex A.
8. While we recommend that you do not provide Police Scotland with any funding to cover the cost of policing the Glasgow conference, there is one cost that we believe should be covered by Home Office Special Grant. This is the costs of the National Accreditation Team managed by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) which provides accreditation for all political party conferences in the UK.
9. At present Police Scotland is planning to use the GMP team but there is a concern that if they have to bear these costs, they will use their own in-house service and potentially increase the level of accreditation. Accreditation is a thorny issue for the Liberal Democrat party and any proposals to increase the level of accreditation will cause difficulties to the party and potentially lead to questions being raised in the House.
10. The funding for this resource at all other party conferences comes from Special Grant. For consistency and to avoid potential difficulties if the GMP team is not used, we recommend that the costs associated with accreditation in Glasgow (around £15k based on current estimates) should be covered by Special Grant. This funding would be provided directly to GMP.

Affordability

11. The £15k associated with accreditation for the Liberal Democrat Party conference is affordable from the Special Grant 2013/14 budget.

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Handling

12. The fact that the Home Office will not be providing funding to cover the policing costs in Glasgow is now in the public domain. It was leaked to the press (by the SNP) and was published in the 'Scotland on Sunday' on 30 March 2013. As the issue is linked to the Scottish Independence debate, it needs to be handled with extra sensitivity.
13. Given that this issue was previously leaked to the press it is almost inevitable that the Home Office response to the police request will be also. Although the Scotland on Sunday article highlighted the financial benefits of hosting a party conference, it sought no response from the Home Office to criticism from SNP politicians and claims that it would pay a share of policing costs if the conference was held south of the border. Press Office proposes the following reactive line.

A Home Office spokesperson said: "Policing is a devolved matter, so Police Scotland should apply to the Scottish Government for funding to cover conference policing costs.

"The Home Office would consider an application for Special Grant to cover the costs of providing accreditation for the conference."

PCC implications

14. None related to this recommendation.

Agreed by/dissenting views:

15. This submission has been agreed by OSCT and Ziggy MacDonald, Acting Director Finance and Strategy.

Copied to:

Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice
Minister of State for Crime Prevention
PUSS for Crime and Security
PUSS for Equalities and Criminal Information
Permanent Secretary
Stephen Rimmer
Simon King
Helen Kilpatrick
CPG Directors
Ziggy MacDonald

[REDACTED]

Police Funding Policy Team

[REDACTED]

Special Advisors

RESTRICTED

Annex A – draft letter to Kenny MacAskill

Thank you for your letter of 11 March about the security and policing costs of the Liberal Democrat party conference which is due to be held in Glasgow in September 2013.

Your letter seeks clarification in relation to the funding position. As you are aware, policing in Scotland is a devolved matter and as such, the policing and security arrangements for this event are a matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Government.

It is not the case that party conferences automatically require policing or security measures to be put in place. In recent years the position in England and Wales is that consideration of what measures are necessary is determined by a Risk Assessment Group (RAG). This group comprises the host police force, the relevant political party and the Home Office and HMIC. The RAG recommends the level of policing and security measures required to an independently chaired Executive Conference Security Group. The reasoning behind this is to ensure consistency as far as possible in the way that threat and risks are assessed and mitigated.

Additionally, policing of party conferences does not attract funding automatically. A police force in England and Wales which is hosting a party conference makes an application for Special Grant based on the additional expenditure that they will incur as a result of policing this event. The application is considered and independent advice received from HMIC before Ministers determine whether funding will be provided. It is important to note that Special Grant funding is not guaranteed. Payment of Special Grant requires the additional costs to the force to be significant and sufficient budget to be available.

Special Grant is not used exclusively for party conferences. It is also used to help forces in England and Wales facing other significant expenses such as long running investigations or an event which results in large scale public order problems such as an English Defence League rally.

As your letter recognises, national security is a reserved matter. That is why my officials from the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism have been in discussions with Police Scotland and the Liberal Democrat party about the security measures required. Any costs falling to the Liberal Democrat Party as a result of these security measures will be reimbursed by the Home Office as we do for all other political parties. This includes the cost of closing the conference venue and hotel to enable a police search to be carried out; for private security contractors to carry out searches of anyone entering the conference Island site and the issuing of conference security passes.

RESTRICTED

It is my firm view that if Police Scotland requires any financial assistance to help with the costs of policing this event then this should be provided by the Scottish Government, not the Home Office.

I note your comment about the Police Service of Scotland's inability to recover VAT. This is a matter for the Scottish Government and HM Treasury and therefore not something I am in a position to comment on.

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (CPG)
Sent: 25 October 2014 22:40
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Submission - Liberal Democrat Party conference funding (Scotland)

HS response

[REDACTED]
Police Resources Policy Team | Efficiency and Resources Unit | Crime and Policing Group
6th floor Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF | tel: 020 7035 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2013 10:19
To: [REDACTED] (CRD)
Cc: [REDACTED] (ASU); [REDACTED] (OSCT Net)
Subject: RE: Submission - Liberal Democrat Party conference funding (Scotland)

Thanks [REDACTED]

I can confirm the HS is content with that recommendation too.

[REDACTED]
Private Secretary to the Home Secretary | 3rd Floor Peel Building | 2 Marsham Street | SW1P 4DF | ☎ 0207 035 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (CRD)
Sent: 01 May 2013 11:54
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (ASU); [REDACTED] (OSCT Net)
Subject: FW: Submission - Liberal Democrat Party conference funding (Scotland)

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for forwarding the PDF – signed letter from HS to Kenny MacAskill.

One of the recommendations of this sub, is for the HS to agree to provide £15k to GMP to cover the accreditation costs associated with the conference.

Do you know if she is content with this recommendation too?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (CRD)
Sent: 18 April 2013 13:17
To: Home Secretary (Submissions); [REDACTED]
Cc: Damian Green (Submissions); James Brokenshire (Submissions); Jeremy Browne (Submissions); Lord Taylor

(Submissions); Permanent Secretary (Submissions); Rimmer Stephen; Special Advisers (Submissions); King Simon (Submissions); CPG Directors; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Police Funding Policy Team; King Simon; MacDonald Ziggy; [REDACTED] (OSCT); [REDACTED] (OSCT Net); Kilpatrick Helen
Subject: Submission - Liberal Democrat Party conference funding (Scotland)

[REDACTED]

Please find attached the submission on the Liberal Democrat Party conference funding, for the Home Secretary's decision.

I have also attached the original letter from Mr Kenny MacAskill for the Home Secretary's reference.

Thank you.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
**Police Funding Policy
Home Office
6th Floor Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF**

020 7035 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



Home Office

Kenny MacAskill MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

1 May 2013

Dear Kenny,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March about the security and policing costs of the Liberal Democrat party conference which is due to be held in Glasgow in September 2013.

Your letter seeks clarification in relation to the funding position. As you are aware, policing in Scotland is a devolved matter and as such, the policing and security arrangements for this event are a matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Government.

It is not the case that party conferences automatically require policing or security measures to be put in place. In recent years the position in England and Wales is that consideration of what measures are necessary is determined by a Risk Assessment Group (RAG). This group comprises the host police force, the relevant political party and the Home Office and HMIC. The RAG recommends the level of policing and security measures required to an independently chaired Executive Conference Security Group. The reasoning behind this is to ensure consistency as far as possible in the way that threat and risks are assessed and mitigated.

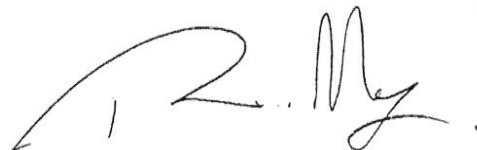
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Special Grant is not used exclusively for party conferences. It is also used to help forces in England and Wales facing other significant expenses such as long running investigations or an event which results in large scale public order problems.

As your letter recognises, national security is a reserved matter. That is why my officials from the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism have been in discussions with Police Scotland and the Liberal Democrat party about the security measures required. Any costs falling to the Liberal Democrats as a result of these security measures will be reimbursed by the Home Office as we do for all other political parties. This includes the cost of closing the conference venue and hotel to enable a police search to be carried out; for private security contractors to carry out searches of anyone entering the conference Island site and the issuing of conference security passes.

It is my firm view that if Police Scotland requires any financial assistance to help with the costs of policing this event then this should be provided by the Scottish Government, not the Home Office.

I note your comment about the Police Service of Scotland's inability to recover VAT. This is a matter for the Scottish Government and HM Treasury and therefore not something I am in a position to comment on.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. May', with a large, sweeping initial 'T' and a stylized 'M'.

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP