
Our records show that there were three telephone calls made between the First Minister and any other person, organisation or body (outwith the Scottish Government) in connection with The Gathering. These are detailed below.

Circumstances and Ministerial preferences in these matters vary widely. Officials would listen to Government to Government calls, but there is no fixed practice in the Scottish Government on Ministerial telephone calls in general. I can confirm that no official listened to the conversations listed below.

Yours sincerely

PETER HOUSDEN

**Record of telephone calls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 October 2009</td>
<td>Telephone call between the First Minister and the Chief Executive of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 October 2009</td>
<td>Telephone call between the First Minister and Councillor Steve Cardownie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 October 2009</td>
<td>Telephone call between the First Minister and Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further to my letter of 8 October, the Public Audit Committee took evidence from Councillor Dawe, Councillor Cardownie, the Chief executive and Mr Inch of the City of Edinburgh Council on the AGS report entitled “The Gathering 2009” at its meeting on 3 November. A copy of the Official Report of that meeting can be found on the Committee’s webpage at:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/publicAudit/or-10/pau10-1801.htm

Having considered the evidence received, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful if you could confirm whether, in relation to the telephone calls made by the First Minister in connection with the Gathering 2009, the usual practices of the Civil Service were observed with an official also listening to any such telephone calls.

It would also be helpful if you could provide a record of all telephone calls made between the First Minister and any other person, organisation or body (outwith the Scottish Government) in relation to The Gathering 2009.

I would be grateful for your response by Tuesday 30 November. Please do let the Clerk know if this time frame presents you with any difficulties. Further information on the publication of written submissions is contained in the enclosed policy on the treatment of written evidence by committees.
Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk, Jane Williams on 0131 348 5236 or by email at pa.committee@scottish.parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Henry MSP
Convener