

Note of meeting with the Libyan Government: Monday 10 August 2009

Attendees:

Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr Kenny MacAskill MSP
Robert Gordon, DG Justice and Communities
George Burgess, Deputy Director, Criminal Law and Licensing
Linda Miller, Criminal Law and Licensing
Linda Hamilton, PS / Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Mr Abdulati Alobidi, Minister for Europe
Mr Omar Jelban, Chargé d'Affaires, London
Mr Azzam Eddeeb, Judge
Mr Ismail, the Qaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation
Mr Abdurahman Swessi, Libyan Consul General in Glasgow
Mr Zlitni, Interpreter

1. Mr MacAskill welcomed Mr Alobidi and his delegation. He explained the stage of the process that he was now at in considering the application for prisoner transfer. He explained that he had now concluded taking representations and had met Mr Al-Megrahi last week.
2. He confirmed he was now also considering Mr Al-Megrahi's application for compassionate release and would aim to deal with both applications at the same time.
3. Mr Alobidi thanked Mr MacAskill for the meeting. He spoke of the confidence and trust they have in the Scottish Government and in the Scottish Judicial process, which their Leader spoke of in 1999. He stated that the Libyan Government has always tried to follow the law and judicial processes. Mr Alobidi noted the appreciation of the Libyan Government that Mr MacAskill met with Mr Al-Megrahi.
4. Mr Alobidi stated that since the last meeting he had with Mr MacAskill, Mr Al-Megrahi had now submitted an application for compassionate release. Mr Alobidi said the Libyan Government hoped that Mr MacAskill would make his decisions soon, particularly as Mr Al-Megrahi's health continues to deteriorate. Mr Alobidi confirmed that they would answer any further questions that Mr MacAskill had as soon as possible.
5. Mr Alobidi said he would like to take this opportunity to assure the Scottish Government that if Mr Al-Megrahi were to be transferred to Libya that it would be done quietly and peacefully and away from the glare of the media. He noted that he understood such a transfer would need to be treated sensitively.

Close.

A meeting between officials to discuss details of contingency planning followed this meeting.