

Alex Salmond's body to be flown back to Scotland

A private individual has stepped in to pay the cost of bringing Alex Salmond's body back to Scotland from North Macedonia.

The Scottish Government said on Wednesday that the late former First Minister's family has now made arrangements for the repatriation. Mr Salmond died suddenly on Saturday after speaking at a conference.

A government spokesperson said: "The loss of a loved one is a difficult time for any family, made more complex when they have passed away overseas.

"Over the last few days the Scottish Government and UK Government have been engaging with Alex Salmond's family and working closely together in accordance with their wishes, to ensure the swift and dignified repatriation of the former First Minister to Scotland.

"Having explored a number of options, the family have now made arrangements for this to take place with the support of a private citizen.

"The Scottish Government continues to engage with Mr Salmond's family, and we stand ready to offer further advice and support, should it be required."

The government had been in contact with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to ensure consular support for Mr Salmond's family.

At The Scottish Parliament a Book of Condolence has been placed in the main hall for any members of the public to sign. The First Minister, John Swinney, has now signed his own tribute to his former colleague.

