## Scottish Government working with Foreign Office to repatriate Alex Salmond to Scotland

The Scottish Government has confirmed it has been working with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) since Saturday to have the body of Alex Salmond repatriated to Scotland.

The government in Edinburgh has also been in regular dialogue with the FCDO to ensure support for the late Mr Salmond's family.

The former First Minister died suddenly on Saturday, aged 69. His friend, the Conservative MP Sir David Davis, has already called for the RAF to be involved in the repatriation, and that it should be carried out with "both dignity and expedition".

First Minister, John Swinney, has also lodged a Motion of Condolence at Holyrood where a Book of Condolence has been opened for members of the public to sign.

The motion reads: "That the Parliament expresses its shock and sadness at the untimely death of Alex Salmond; offers its deep sympathy and condolences to his family and friends; appreciates the many years of public service that he gave as an MP, MSP, and First Minister of Scotland, and recognises the substantial and significant contribution that he made over many decades to public life, Scottish and UK politics and the cause of Scottish independence."

Flags remain lowered today and will be lowered again when the Motion is read in parliament and also on the day of Mr Salmond's funeral.



Alba Party launch with Lothians candidates Calton Hill PHOTO  $\ensuremath{\texttt{©2021}}$  The Edinburgh Reporter