

**From:** Hyland Sonja HQ-POLITICAL <[Sonja.Hyland@dfa.ie](mailto:Sonja.Hyland@dfa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 21 July 2021 15:31  
**To:** Burgess Niall HQ-SEC GEN <[Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie](mailto:Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie)>  
**Subject:** Re: Special Envoy - Freedom of Expression

Thanks Niall - visit good so far, (redacted under s.33(1)(d)).

On the Katherine Zappine role, the idea of joint responsibility between HRU, Comms/Global Ireland, Irish Abroad and CSD is a good one and I think we can make it work. Just to be aware, I'm in touch separately with John Conlon on some fairly serious staffing shortages arising from the transfer of 3rd Secs to the PPO, the postings list from yesterday and some temporary blips in the intern programme that are particularly affecting HRU as they come into the busiest month of the year (HRC, 3rd Ctte and UNSC Presidency all in September). It will probably temporarily affect also their ability to engage in detail on supporting the Envoy role but hopefully for a short period.

Sonja

On 21 Jul 2021, at 09:37, Burgess Niall HQ-SEC GEN <[Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie](mailto:Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie)> wrote:

Sonja,

I hope the trip's off to a good start. This is a slightly slimmed down version of the tasking which I'll discuss with Katherine Zappone later today. We hope to get it to Government (along with everything else) next week. It will continue to evolve so any further thoughts appreciated when you get back.

Rgds, n  
<Special Envoy Concept Note.docx>