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Dear Ephraim

I'm delighted to send once again a Rosh Hashanah message to Scotland's Jewish communities, and grateful to you for disseminating my message:

Across Scotland our Jewish communities are preparing for Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year, also known as the Feast of the Trumpets. It's my pleasure, on behalf of the Scottish Government and the people of Scotland, to wish you all "*Shanah tovah umetukah*", a good and sweet year.

Rosh Hashanah is a solemn occasion, a time of introspection and reflecting both personally and communally on the achievements of the past year and on the challenges of the year to come. It is also the perfect occasion for all Scots to reflect on the rich contribution Scotland's Jewish communities have made to our nation.

As you come together at Rosh Hashanah, summoned by the call of the Shofar – the ram's horn used as a trumpet – I hope that all your prayers for a peaceful, prosperous, successful and sweet year are heard and answered: "*Ketiva ve-chatima tovah*" (may you be written in the Book of Life for a good year).

I will also ensure the message is published on the Scottish Government website.

Y- f- Scotland,
Alex Salmond

ALEX SALMOND