

440 - 05-03-2025 - WhatsApps between Peter Mandelson and Pat McFadden  
(former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations)

[05/03/2025, 06:33:52] Pat McFadden: Does this work for new Washington number? Pat

[05/03/2025, 12:18:14] Peter Mandelson: Yes

[07/03/2025, 13:12:06] Pat McFadden: How did John H get on? Reports seem positive.

[07/03/2025, 13:13:06] Peter Mandelson: I have to say he was brilliant. Calm, measured, prepared, engaged Hesgeth very well. \*\*\*

[02/04/2025, 08:49:44] Pat McFadden: What do you think will happen after today?

[02/04/2025, 11:34:54] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\*

I will send you email from last night sent after a reception we had here at Residence. What is your best official email ?

[02/04/2025, 13:45:12] Pat McFadden: Official email is Personal

[02/04/2025, 13:46:24] Pat McFadden: There is acceptance and agreement with Keir's grown up approach to it all. But obv that could fray if it goes on for weeks after today.

[02/04/2025, 14:16:31] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\*

[02/04/2025, 15:02:36] Peter Mandelson: PMQs good ?

[02/04/2025, 15:54:28] Pat McFadden: Fine on this. Keir in holding position. Tories don't disagree. Lib Dems more turn to Europe.

[02/04/2025, 15:56:40] Peter Mandelson: I talked to Priti yesterday and briefed her (slightly). Varun is good \*\*\*

[02/04/2025, 15:57:38] Peter Mandelson: I am very worried about the economy. Confidence is being lost.

[02/04/2025, 15:58:07] Pat McFadden: A convo for the phone. There is a pattern we must get out of.

[02/04/2025, 22:28:48] Pat McFadden: What do you make of that?

[02/04/2025, 22:31:43] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\*

[02/04/2025, 22:39:57] Pat McFadden: \*\*\*

[02/04/2025, 22:40:16] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\*

[14/04/2025, 20:18:06] Peter Mandelson: You away/around ?

[14/04/2025, 20:24:57] Pat McFadden: At home. Reading.

[14/04/2025, 20:25:19] Peter Mandelson: Call you in a while ?

[14/04/2025, 20:27:42] Pat McFadden: Yes.

[14/04/2025, 20:28:13] Peter Mandelson: 20 mins

[14/04/2025, 20:28:31] Pat McFadden: [thumbs up emoticon]

[14/04/2025, 20:46:14] Peter Mandelson: Missed voice call, Tap to call back

[14/04/2025, 20:46:25] Pat McFadden: Voice call, 16 sec

[14/04/2025, 20:46:54] Peter Mandelson: Call you 3 mins

[14/04/2025, 20:49:04] Peter Mandelson: Voice call, 47 min

[14/04/2025, 21:57:26] Pat McFadden: If you want to email anything it's Personal

[14/04/2025, 22:05:52] Peter Mandelson: Sent

[14/04/2025, 22:15:05] Pat McFadden: Received and read. Thank you.

[15/04/2025, 06:33:31] Pat McFadden: There will be much more interest from select committees in this now. Labour backed Chinese investment in critical UK infrastructure <https://www.thetimes.com/article/8459d8c5-42d3-4bdc-bd2836c0e73ab2b5?shareToken=9be7ad8d90c93908926e11615e3393ab>

[26/04/2025, 10:16:31] Pat McFadden: I've got the Sunday round tomorrow. If you have can we speak about body language on US trade? How did Rachel's visit go etc? I'll be out and about in constituency until about 1pm then driving back to

London. Can talk while driving. time

[26/04/2025, 13:06:23] Peter Mandelson: Rachel visit went well. \*\*\*

Call me when good.

[28/04/2025, 22:26:34] Pat McFadden: JLR unions contacted me this evening. \*\*\*

I'll try to speak to them tomorrow.

[28/04/2025, 22:28:39] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\* JLR. Talk to  
Varun. \*\*\*

[28/04/2025, 22:29:50] Pat McFadden: Will do.

[29/04/2025, 07:01:34] Pat McFadden: I took a private call late this afternoon with  
the Third Party \*\*\*

[29/04/2025, 07:01:51] Pat McFadden: From union convenor at Third Party

[29/04/2025, 11:58:13] Peter Mandelson: Did you speak to Varun ?

[29/04/2025, 13:10:48] Pat McFadden: Yes, by text. And Jonny. I sent Varun the  
above last night.

[30/04/2025, 00:53:10] Peter Mandelson: Are you getting feedback on JLR ?

[30/04/2025, 04:42:56] Pat McFadden: No. Though I raised with Rachel and Jonny  
too yesterday.

[30/04/2025, 12:03:51] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\*

[01/05/2025, 08:21:06] Pat McFadden: JLR \*\*\*

[01/05/2025, 08:21:25] Pat McFadden: This has probably reached you. JLR note to govt

[01/05/2025, 11:29:00] Peter Mandelson: It hasn't actually

[01/05/2025, 11:29:05] Peter Mandelson: So thanks

[01/05/2025, 11:34:47] Peter Mandelson: JLR govt relations person in US Third Party

[01/05/2025, 11:42:34] Pat McFadden: Third Party sent me the note. Do they have a different US person? I'm on the doorstep in Bristol for mayoral election. Tough going.

[01/05/2025, 11:59:46] Peter Mandelson: Yes different

[01/05/2025, 11:59:57] Peter Mandelson: They have made no contact with us

[01/05/2025, 12:33:45] Peter Mandelson : Ed M couldn't resist yesterday. So personal and stupid. If he had played differently it would have had fraction of attention.

[01/05/2025, 14:55:23] Pat McFadden: Tb content bang on but his office got their timing wrong. Better to have been next week.

[01/05/2025, 15:00:37] Peter Mandelson: Of course. Odd mistake.

I don't think the government has clocked just how central energy supply and costs are to our economic future. Future AI and advanced manufacturing success will be driven by the abundance and cost of power. Every tech meeting I have here comes to that issue by end of the discussion.

[01/05/2025, 15:01:45] Pat McFadden: The timing of tb thing matters because it should have been an argument about substance rather than "wasn't that unhelpful just before polling day".

[01/05/2025, 15:02:19] Peter Mandelson : Yup. Ed seized the opportunity to deflect from substance.

[02/05/2025, 09:41:53] Pat McFadden: What are the basic message choices after local election losses? 1) Delivering, must go further and faster, people not feeling it yet. le stay the course. Downside = tone deaf, bit robotic etc 2) we hear the voters. They're not happy. We'll have to respond etc. downside - weak and lots of qs about how to respond, more taxes if changing course etc. Is there a third?

If this is the basic choice, number one looks least worst, for all its downsides. Do you think that's right?

[02/05/2025, 12:54:20] Peter Mandelson : I think it is right, yes. There must be a 'doing' action not just a 'we've heard'. The problem is that when you say 'stay the course' people are not clear what the course is. The mantra is Plan for Change. But what is the Plan ? They key to turn is an economic one but I felt when Rachel was here that she was on a growth mission but without an argument about where the growth will come from or how.

[02/05/2025, 14:12:08] Pat McFadden: I won't say stay the course. But these are the basic - and unpalatable -positioning choices. The real choice is different. What do we actually do?

[02/05/2025, 22:27:04] Peter Mandelson : It stems from the top and Keir lacks verve as does the Cabinet as a whole. People's heads are broadly in the right place but you need more people who can execute. The government needs visibly and tangibly to embrace Knowledge and Risk on everything that will help grow the economy. There is a large appetite for UK investment in the US - I have met the CEOs of Blackstone and Bridgewater \*\*\* There is a lot of goodwill but UK government engagement has become routinised and distant. \*\*\*

You should sit down with every industry and ask what's holding their business back. There needs more dynamism and can do optimism from the government. More panache.

[03/05/2025, 05:15:55] Pat McFadden: But how do we fight Reform?

[03/05/2025, 06:05:48] Pat McFadden: And what do we give people to rally round?

[03/05/2025, 08:17:08] Peter Mandelson : Fight Reform by being Successful Labour not Blue Labour ie through policy delivery notably in turning economy round. You rally people round winning for Britain.

[03/05/2025, 08:21:10] Pat McFadden: Awful feeling today. What a shellacking. I hope this hurts and worries others as much as it does me.

[03/05/2025, 08:45:36] Peter Mandelson : I feel it too in the middle of the night here. Morgan was so confident on Thursday night of having won Runcorn. The problem is the government doesn't give a sense of crusading to turn round and change Britain. That's what I mean by panache, verve. It does start right from the top, I am afraid, but you must all contribute more to it by breaking out of the

Whitehall system and mould and appearing less like business as usual conventional ministers and, dare I say it, behaving in a more Trumpian risk taking and dare devil way. At the moment ministers seem to be looking more to the Whitehall machine and the party base than to the public who are crying out for leadership.

[03/05/2025, 08:50:32] Pat McFadden: Are you in Britain? Isn't it 4am in DC? Though I wake at 4 quite a lot...

[03/05/2025, 08:52:11] Peter Mandelson : It is middle of the night here. I tend to wake when London wakes and then I eventually go back to sleep and then work all day like I haven't done for fifteen years.

[03/05/2025, 08:54:52] Peter Mandelson: It is so fast and furious all day here.  
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[03/05/2025, 08:58:48] Peter Mandelson: By way, we should have a UK US trade deal next week. I would like it on Tuesday as this would be good for Keir if we can persuade DBT to work on bank holiday.

[03/05/2025, 10:30:46] Pat McFadden: That would be good - as long as \*\*\*  
What about JLR?

[03/05/2025, 11:03:55] Pat McFadden: [person-facepalming emoticon] ♀  
<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/the-mostinfluentialman-in-the-labour-party-youve-never-heard-of-3670317>

[03/05/2025, 14:21:44] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\*

[03/05/2025, 14:43:10] Peter Mandelson: Finally coming out of the woodwork. PX an interesting home. What strikes me about the article - anti liberal, anti woke, pro white men - is the MAGA overlap but without saying anything about economy and UK position in the global economy or about foreign policy. Anti trade, anti globalist ? Anti intervention, anti foreign policy 'adventurism' ? Glasman is a presence here in MAGAland. Attacked my appointment here publicly with Steve Bannon as a New Labour throwback - pro trade, pro Europe - ie out of tune with the Trumpian times. What really is the Rutherford philosophy? And how tied to it is Morgan ?

[03/05/2025, 14:57:18] Pat McFadden: I'm not sure on last point. I spoke to him about this a couple of months ago.

[03/05/2025, 15:01:31] Peter Mandelson: The article reveals nothing about economics apart from being anti Treasury. \*\*\*

[06/05/2025, 16:07:33] Pat McFadden: \*\*\*

[06/05/2025, 16:08:16] Peter Mandelson: Understood

[06/05/2025, 17:15:50] Peter Mandelson: This it's sorted

[08/05/2025, 22:03:21] Peter Mandelson:  
[https://x.com/rapidresponse47/status/1920497881217191989?s=48&t=g3yGyGJ2bgbf\\_qunutYk2A](https://x.com/rapidresponse47/status/1920497881217191989?s=48&t=g3yGyGJ2bgbf_qunutYk2A)

[08/05/2025, 22:31:05] Pat McFadden: I watched it. Masterful.

[08/05/2025, 22:32:02] Peter Mandelson: The No10 press office will really love it....

[10/05/2025, 07:19:41] Pat McFadden: UK ambassador rides crest of a trade deal  
[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/09/mandelson-uk-ambassador-rides-crest-of-a-trade-deal?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/09/mandelson-uk-ambassador-rides-crest-of-a-trade-deal?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

[11/05/2025, 21:35:51] Peter Mandelson :  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/british-ambassador-sayshe-has-absolute-confidence-in-the-u-s-u-k-trade-deal/>

[20/05/2025, 19:49:33] Pat McFadden: Are you able to take part in the council of nations and regions on Friday? I'm keen they have a little stardust...

[20/05/2025, 20:10:50] Peter Mandelson : Yes. Scheduling with your office although am also with John Healey in town on Friday

[20/05/2025, 20:15:10] Pat McFadden: It would be great if you could join.

[20/05/2025, 21:41:39] Peter Mandelson : Did you see my \*\*\* letter ?

[20/05/2025, 21:44:34] Pat McFadden: No. Though it might be in tonight's box. I'm chairing a meeting on this tomorrow.

[20/05/2025, 21:50:40] Peter Mandelson: You might find it unhelpful if so sorry

[21/05/2025, 06:06:47] Pat McFadden: Wasn't in box. Am guessing it's one they only

let you read in the office.

[21/05/2025, 12:36:24] Peter Mandelson: Yes \*\*\* .

[21/05/2025, 13:13:42] Pat McFadden: Have read. Can speak after meeting. I'm not expecting decision today.

[21/05/2025, 13:23:22] Peter Mandelson : Ok

[21/05/2025, 13:24:02] Peter Mandelson: FCDO submission to David pretty poor.

[21/05/2025, 18:31:36] Pat McFadden: No decision but can talk to you about it if helpful.

[21/05/2025, 18:58:56] Peter Mandelson : You free in a while ?

[21/05/2025, 20:03:48] Pat McFadden: Free now

[21/05/2025, 20:46:52] Peter Mandelson : Missed voice call, Tap to call back

[23/05/2025, 15:44:41] Pat McFadden: Thank you for that. A little bit of stardust...

[23/05/2025, 16:13:37] Peter Mandelson : My pleasure

[23/05/2025, 17:55:00] Pat McFadden: I thought Jpo comment about the mouse and the elephants a bit too quotable.

[23/05/2025, 21:03:23] Peter Mandelson : Yes I was nervous about quotability

[23/05/2025, 17:55:00] Pat McFadden: Lot of manoeuvring here this week. Angela, Gordon. Doesn't feel good for Keir.

[24/05/2025, 11:44:14] Peter Mandelson : I have spoken to Morgan a lot this week and last night I was direct with him - Keir is not leading from the front and Morgan is not organising the centre as it needs to be Gordon has it in for Keir (and Rachel) big time. He doesn't seriously believe that Angela is an alternative but she is an instrument of destabilization. I doubt he thinks Ed is fit for purpose but he is doing to Keir what he has always done to successive Scottish leaders.

[24/05/2025, 11:58:54] Pat McFadden: I don't know what Keir thinks of all this. He has not spoken to me about any of it.

[24/05/2025, 12:00:03] Peter Mandelson : Does he even realise ? The PLP j gather is in mutinous state

[24/05/2025, 12:00:56] Pat McFadden: Yes. Every meeting I have is "who can we tax in order to pay benefits to others". They're asking the wrong questions

[24/05/2025, 12:00:56] Peter Mandelson : He has asked Louise Casey (as usual) to look at No10.

[24/05/2025, 12:01:35] Pat McFadden: Personnel matter. But the qs of direction and purpose are more important.

[24/05/2025, 12:02:39] Peter Mandelson : They are/were looking at a huge bank levy to pay for winter fuel/two child. It would be tantamount to abandoning long term growth for short term PLP management.

[24/05/2025, 12:03:19] Pat McFadden: [The\\_Tech\\_Industry\\_Is\\_Huge—and\\_Europe’s\\_Share\\_of\\_It\\_Is\\_Very\\_Small\\_-\\_WSJ.pdf](#) • 8 pages

[24/05/2025, 12:03:25] Pat McFadden: Meanwhile...

[24/05/2025, 12:03:27] Peter Mandelson : They have highly sub optimal personnel in No10, spads and civil servants.

[24/05/2025, 12:05:16] Peter Mandelson: Quite. \*\*\*

[07/06/2025, 11:47:09] Pat McFadden: How are you? Volatile times there. Is our trade deal locked down? \*\*\*

[07/06/2025, 12:45:55] Peter Mandelson: It will be locked down once DBT knuckle down and \*\*\* I am well but getting pretty exhausted. It is unrelenting. Now up early again to travel to NY for events. \*\*\*  
How do you read things at home ?

[07/06/2025, 13:37:27] Pat McFadden: Hamilton a great relief. Very important win. Punctures narrative that we are dead in Scotland. Lots of last minute SR panic and pleading. Third Party and I in Liverpool to see Bruce Springsteen this evening. Going to try to focus on that tonight.

[07/06/2025, 13:38:39] Peter Mandelson : Right priority

[10/06/2025, 06:06:43] Pat McFadden: Are you attending our \*\*\*

[10/06/2025, 12:04:31] Peter Mandelson: Minister Counsellor due to participate. I assume happened ?

[10/06/2025, 12:50:52] Pat McFadden: Yes. Your letter v useful. This is a delicate situation.

[10/06/2025, 12:55:16] Peter Mandelson: I expect to go into DOD this week to discuss and I am meeting MoD seniors in London during next fortnight when I am there

[10/06/2025, 13:19:28] Pat McFadden: \*\*\*

[10/06/2025, 14:01:04] Peter Mandelson: \*\*\*

[10/06/2025, 18:19:33] Pat McFadden: Yes. That pillar 2 could do with a bit of filling in as well.

[10/06/2025, 18:20:53] Peter Mandelson: Boggled down in endless working groups and task forces

[10/06/2025, 18:23:08] Pat McFadden: We are good at that.

[11/06/2025, 18:25:07] Peter Mandelson: You are not at NSc tomorrow? \*\*\*

[11/06/2025, 18:43:20] Pat McFadden: I am in Northern Ireland chairing east west council. I spoke up about this a couple of weeks ago in meeting with fs and pm.

[11/06/2025, 18:49:28] Peter Mandelson: Are you by chance around on Sunday if I came and had a cup of tea with you at home? I am flying in that morning.

[11/06/2025, 18:50:01] Pat McFadden: Yes. We are home.

[11/06/2025, 18:51:50] Peter Mandelson : Free for quiet chat ? I have to see Morgan days following to discuss poss changes.

[11/06/2025, 18:52:18] Peter Mandelson : Late morning ?

[11/06/2025, 18:52:24] Peter Mandelson : Mid morning ?

[11/06/2025, 19:10:54] Pat McFadden: With Third Party . Can call later.

[11/06/2025, 20:48:08] Pat McFadden: Voice call, No answer

[11/06/2025, 20:49:19] Pat McFadden: I have early start to go to Belfast but up until about 10pm uk time. Otherwise speak tomorrow or see you Sunday. Mid morning is fine.

[11/06/2025, 20:49:24] Pat McFadden: On Sunday.

[11/06/2025, 21:09:03] Peter Mandelson : Missed voice call, Tap to call back

[11/06/2025, 21:09:58] Peter Mandelson : I land at 8am so will come into town and then to you.

[11/06/2025, 21:15:48] Peter Mandelson : Or straight to you

[11/06/2025, 21:35:59] Pat McFadden: Either fine. We get up pretty early. We are at [PPS note - this message contained the Secretary of State's address which I have removed]

[11/06/2025, 21:49:15] Peter Mandelson: Look forward. I hope the NSC doesn't take  
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[13/06/2025, 14:11:02] Peter Mandelson: Missed voice call, Tap to call back

[13/06/2025, 15:22:59] Pat McFadden: I am leaving loughside in Belfast. Had to hand phones in. Not much for me to say on that but you posed the crucial q

[13/06/2025, 15:23:42] Pat McFadden: Voice call, No answer

[13/06/2025, 15:24:21] Pat McFadden: In car and free for next half hour.

[13/06/2025, 15:24:38] Peter Mandelson: Voice call, 18 min

[13/06/2025, 15:46:08] Peter Mandelson : Voice call, 14 sec

[13/06/2025, 17:59:03] Pat McFadden: \*\*\*

[13/06/2025, 18:05:30] Peter Mandelson :

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[14/06/2025, 14:53:40] Pat McFadden: Have you confirmed you are staying in US this weekend?

[14/06/2025, 15:03:32] Peter Mandelson : Yes I am staying here until Sunday evening and flying overnight and then to Barrow. It would be good to get some time with you in next couple of weeks

[14/06/2025, 15:10:17] Pat McFadden: How long are you here for?

[14/06/2025, 15:12:56] Peter Mandelson : July 1

[14/06/2025, 15:25:15] Pat McFadden: Then let's make sure we meet properly or have dinner one night.

[15/06/2025, 16:09:26] Pat McFadden: Did you see <sup>Third Party</sup> when <sup>Third Pa</sup> was in town? I'm due to see <sup>Third Party</sup> tomorrow. \*\*\*

[15/06/2025, 16:10:04] Peter Mandelson : I always see <sup>Third Party</sup>. He is very wise.

[15/06/2025, 16:10:40] Peter Mandelson : I would like him to be TB biographer but <sup>Third Pa</sup> prob won't

[19/06/2025, 08:00:56] Pat McFadden: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2025/06/18/britainmilitary-support-us-donald-trump-israel-iran/>

[19/06/2025, 12:47:10] Peter Mandelson :

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[19/06/2025, 13:13:38] Pat McFadden: Tim Shipman has the original article in today's Spectator.

[19/06/2025, 13:18:48] Peter Mandelson : Predictable. \*\*\*

[19/06/2025, 13:22:54] Pat McFadden: The PM has to be presented with the fullest info about \*\*\*

[19/06/2025, 13:32:21] Peter Mandelson : I think I was fairly direct wasn't I at Cobr ?

[19/06/2025, 13:32:45] Peter Mandelson : But I can do another letter of the sort I sent to him for \*\*\*

[19/06/2025, 13:33:23] Peter Mandelson : There is a huge problem in what he sees and is told.

[19/06/2025, 13:36:37] Pat McFadden: It's all focussed on the decision. I think it might help him to also focus on what comes after each option.

[19/06/2025, 13:49:55] Peter Mandelson : Missed video call, Tap to call back

[19/06/2025, 13:50:08] Peter Mandelson : Pocket

[20/06/2025, 19:02:54] Peter Mandelson : I am having to come back next week. Shall we talk at weekend ?

[20/06/2025, 19:23:35] Pat McFadden: Yes. Around most of weekend.

[20/06/2025, 19:39:18] Peter Mandelson : I will call. I may have an hour between 12 and 1 on Monday if you are in the office.

[22/06/2025, 20:09:24] Peter Mandelson : You free to talk ?

[22/06/2025, 20:12:45] Peter Mandelson : Missed voice call, Tap to call back

[22/06/2025, 20:40:31] Pat McFadden: Yes I'll call shortly.

[22/06/2025, 20:40:50] Peter Mandelson :

[22/06/2025, 20:44:19] Pat McFadden: Voice call, 19 min

[22/06/2025, 21:33:18] Peter Mandelson : Voice call, 9 min

[22/06/2025, 21:43:38] Pat McFadden: You should also talk to Vidhya. She is a proper grown up and will I think have good views on what's going on.

[22/06/2025, 21:48:26] Peter Mandelson : I agree. I like her. But will she share our judgements ? Let me give you an example. The comms leadership is shit, by common agreement. So they propose to appoint a new boss l/c of government comms in the Cabinet Office. But leave the existing No10 people in charge of strategy and day to day. They think they have found someone from <sup>Third Party</sup> to do Cab office job. <sup>Third Party</sup> What do I say ? Frankly I would rather <sup>Third Party</sup> but he's another 'Blairite'.

[22/06/2025, 21:54:32] Pat McFadden: I'd rather <sup>Third Party</sup> too. There is no reason why you can't say that to her. She's the main one I'm reassured by.

[22/06/2025, 22:07:38] Peter Mandelson : Shall I push <sup>Third Party</sup>

[22/06/2025, 22:18:30] Pat McFadden: Yes

[23/06/2025, 09:27:33] Pat McFadden: I've asked my office to fix to see you this week. I have some time today or maybe tomorrow after National Security Statement

[23/06/2025, 09:31:43] Peter Mandelson : I am around 11 30-1 today

[23/06/2025, 09:42:39] Pat McFadden: 1145 or 12 good.

[23/06/2025, 09:46:41] Peter Mandelson : See you then. In Cab Off. I am seeing CDS before and Patrick Vallance after.

[23/06/2025, 09:47:31] Pat McFadden: That's fine. I have my weekly meeting with Directors General across the CO at 11. It lasts around 45 minutes. Come by my office after that.

[23/06/2025, 09:47:54] Peter Mandelson : How many are there ?

[23/06/2025, 09:50:52] Pat McFadden: They are saying 12 o'clock. Is that ok?

[23/06/2025, 09:51:04] Pat McFadden: There are about 8 DGs.

[23/06/2025, 09:51:46] Peter Mandelson : Fine

[23/06/2025, 19:18:23] Pat McFadden: I have the media round in the morning. What do you think is best way of answering the simple q: "do you support what the US did or not?" Our folk were chased around the studios on this q this morning.

[23/06/2025, 19:18:42] Pat McFadden: And how did it go with Morgan?

[23/06/2025, 19:50:42] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*

[23/06/2025, 19:50:59] Peter Mandelson : Morgan intensive

[23/06/2025, 20:21:27] Peter Mandelson : FYI. \*\*\*

[23/06/2025, 20:30:02] Pat McFadden: Thank you. I'll catch up properly re your convo with Morgan.

[23/06/2025, 20:30:17] Peter Mandelson : Have you seen welfare amendment ?

[23/06/2025, 20:33:21] Pat McFadden: Not text. Have heard about it. Morgan told me we currently don't have the numbers. I'm not sure if you were still in the room at that point. I think you'd left.

[23/06/2025, 20:35:59] Peter Mandelson : The bill is lost

[23/06/2025, 20:43:25] Pat McFadden: I've read it now...

[23/06/2025, 20:44:30] Peter Mandelson : Ummm

[23/06/2025, 20:46:47] Pat McFadden: Obv torpedoed bill. Maybe my morning round isn't about Iran and the 5% defence commitment.

[23/06/2025, 20:49:22] Pat McFadden: Spoke briefly to Morgan. Think things moving fast ie tonight.

[23/06/2025, 21:15:56] Peter Mandelson : Trump just issued statement on US base/ Qatar attacks. \*\*\*

[23/06/2025, 21:20:26] Pat McFadden: Yes. Back to table is the line. But welfare taking over tonight.

[23/06/2025, 21:42:58] Peter Mandelson : Indeed

[24/06/2025, 21:46:45] Pat McFadden: This welfare thing is very bad.

[24/06/2025, 22:21:08] Peter Mandelson : You did well today but I am afraid there is a strong anti Keir tide.

[24/06/2025, 22:26:07] Pat McFadden: I went through list of meetings with MPs given to me (and every other cabinet member). It was bad. They're not moving.

24/06/2025, 23:00:09] Peter Mandelson : I talked to Morgan. He is thinking of amending the Bill to get it through but I wonder if that's enough to stop it being defeated. If it presses to a vote and is lost I am not sure that Keir survives that.

[25/06/2025, 06:01:20] Pat McFadden: He is meeting the ringleaders today. I think it's very bad. Defeat, pull bill or gut it all destroy his authority.

[25/06/2025, 06:01:35] Pat McFadden: Keir's authority

[25/06/2025, 07:16:35] Peter Mandelson : Yes I am afraid so

[02/07/2025, 12:56:15] Peter Mandelson : <https://x.com/timesradio/status/1940374319831331295?s=48>

[02/07/2025, 12:56:15] Peter Mandelson : Just been sent this

[04/07/2025, 19:26:09] Peter Mandelson : Voice call, 3 min

[04/07/2025, 19:39:57] Peter Mandelson : Missed voice call, Tap to call back

[04/07/2025, 19:41:02] Peter Mandelson : Called you back. Tell me when free.  
\*\*\* asked about Rachel.

[04/07/2025, 20:04:08] Pat McFadden: Voice call, 38 min

[07/07/2025, 18:29:44] Peter Mandelson : I have not forgotten briefing for Wednesday, following later.

[07/07/2025, 20:00:43] Pat McFadden: Mungo!

[07/07/2025, 20:01:58] Peter Mandelson : He's great.

[08/07/2025, 03:20:16] Peter Mandelson : Sent to Cab Off email

[08/07/2025, 05:54:15] Pat McFadden: Received. Thank you. And Mungo!

[08/07/2025, 14:15:40] Peter Mandelson : MEGA\_paper\_v4.docx • 25 pages

[08/07/2025, 14:15:40] Peter Mandelson : Worth looking at. Being published this week by PX

[08/07/2025, 14:19:03] Pat McFadden: That looks very useful.

[08/07/2025, 14:47:55] Peter Mandelson : It's max alignment with US therefore uncompromising \*\*\* and concessionary in other areas. \*\*\*

[09/07/2025, 16:15:38] Pat McFadden: Appearance fine. Thank you and please thank Mungo for me. \*\*\*

[09/07/2025, 16:21:20] Peter Mandelson : Great thanks. \*\*\*

[10/07/2025, 10:54:09] Pat McFadden: Strong praise of you in the chamber this morning. "An asset to the govt and the country"

[10/07/2025, 11:45:56] Peter Mandelson : Blimey. What brought that on ? Do you have meeting with <sup>Third Party</sup> ? I had a long slightly disturbing (protect) phone call with Morgan last night. Ss discuss.

[10/07/2025, 12:06:37] Pat McFadden: Something about a LO fundraiser. Anyway, I gave them short shrift. Yes re <sup>Third Party</sup>. I can't make head nor tail of latest Morgan note.

[10/07/2025, 12:16:59] Pat McFadden: Have you read the thing about the seven interlocking problems?

[10/07/2025, 12:20:17] Peter Mandelson : Is that what Morgan sent me ? I didn't get passed first paragraph. He seemed to be saying to me last night that he has no faith in Keir's ability to change No10 and that he needs to prioritize winning majority support in PLP instead....

[10/07/2025, 12:21:32] Pat McFadden: Yes that thing. "A strategy is lived every day etc". I think <sup>Third Party</sup> will look at it and walk away.

[10/07/2025, 12:23:30] Peter Mandelson : I am slightly losing faith in all this.

[10/07/2025, 12:41:24] Pat McFadden: <sup>Third Party</sup> thinks <sup>Third Party</sup> wrote the note. At least in part. Vidhya also told me there was a lot of contact with him.

[10/07/2025, 12:42:44] Peter Mandelson : Yes Morgan mentioned him before. He is neither blinding intellect nor strategist.

[10/07/2025, 12:43:50] Peter Mandelson : Morgan concluding that <sup>Third Party</sup> paper by far best but not possible for Keir to do

[11/07/2025, 21:38:43] Peter Mandelson : How was away day today ?

[11/07/2025, 21:50:31] Pat McFadden: Better than it might have been. Keir told a very personal story about his family and why he was in politics. It took the pressure off the day a bit. That and disc took most of day. People want him to succeed. Angela notably silent.

[11/07/2025, 21:51:51] Peter Mandelson : I think they do want him to succeed, I agree. But he has to reprove capacity to do so. Angela I assume playing waiting game.

[15/07/2025, 07:04:08] Pat McFadden: I'm sitting beside <sup>\*\*\*</sup> at a dinner tonight <sup>\*\*\*</sup> Any particular tips or suggestions?

[15/07/2025, 12:11:16] Peter Mandelson : What can I say ? Be charming, respectful and enquiring and ask her whether she's met the charming new UK ambassador (she hasn't). <sup>\*\*\*</sup>

[18/07/2025, 21:44:32] Pat McFadden: I have been asked by my friend <sup>Third Party</sup>  
if you would like to attend the US Open tennis  
tournament. He'd like to invite you. I didn't want to pass on this number without  
checking with you. Is there an email or alt number you'd like me to give him?

[18/07/2025, 21:45:41] Peter Mandelson : I think best is  
Personal

How is No10 now in your view ?

[18/07/2025, 21:47:27] Pat McFadden: Not good. Louise, Morgan and Vidhya came  
to see me the other day. I don't think they know what they want. And if they pull me in  
I'm not sure what to ask for to make it work.

[18/07/2025, 22:01:03] Peter Mandelson : If they don't explain what they want very  
clearly what is Keir supposed to do ? Rubbish in, rubbish out. You need the sort of  
status and remit that I had with GB.

[18/07/2025, 22:15:47] Pat McFadden: But if we move forward with <sup>Third</sup>  
speaking to me and <sup>Third party</sup> speaking to Morgan that won't work.

[18/07/2025, 22:47:40] Peter Mandelson : Precisely. <sup>Third</sup> is currently staying with  
me.

[18/07/2025, 22:48:32] Peter Mandelson : Morgan likes to think he knows what  
excellent looks like then takes this stuff from <sup>Third party</sup> .

[18/07/2025, 22:49:44] Peter Mandelson : I have given two excellent economics  
names to Vidhya. No follow up. Rubbish in.....

[19/07/2025, 05:59:54] Pat McFadden: Vidhya will be worried about the shape of  
things. She's a proper professional person.

[24/07/2025, 08:51:40] Pat McFadden: The humanitarian situation in Gaza is <sup>\*\*\*</sup>

Keir not attracted to gestures but he  
might have no alternative.

[24/07/2025, 09:30:31] Peter Mandelson : <sup>\*\*\*</sup>

[24/07/2025, 09:46:47] Peter Mandelson : <sup>\*\*\*</sup>

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[24/07/2025, 10:50:00] Pat McFadden: Where is the plan though? Jpo was in town yesterday I believe. I'm seeing him at 4pm. Did he get anywhere on longer term plan and US involvement?

[24/07/2025, 10:54:05] Pat McFadden: Big hole is what first message should have said.

[24/07/2025, 11:20:08] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*

[24/07/2025, 11:37:17] Peter Mandelson : Have you talked to TB on this ?

[24/07/2025, 12:47:41] Pat McFadden: I have. I spoke to him the other day. He is focussed on long term future - Arab countries, reform of PA, \*\*\*

[24/07/2025, 13:40:40] Peter Mandelson : If we are not careful we won't get anywhere near that future.

I first wrote an article about 2 SS in 1975 after returning from six week visit of Israel and Arab countries. Carter advanced it but sabotaged by Begin. Bush 1 advanced through Madrid talks and threatened to end loan guarantees to Israel. PLO rescued Israel from the agreement and did so again when Clinton got agreement with Rabin. \*\*\*

[24/07/2025, 15:06:05] Pat McFadden: I think some of this is "that's all pie in the sky so we have to do something else".

[24/07/2025, 15:14:19] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*

[24/07/2025, 16:02:19] Pat McFadden: Have you spoken to Morgan about this?  
I think he thinks ground shifting because of mood in PLP.

[24/07/2025, 16:05:37] Peter Mandelson : I think we have touched on it. \*\*\*

Like welfare. We don't make in principle case for our policy and then get cornered by revolt.

[24/07/2025, 20:03:24] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*

[25/07/2025, 07:40:05] Pat McFadden: \*\*\*

[25/07/2025, 09:30:11] Peter Mandelson : I was going but my office advised me other day not to bother. Keir taking his family. No opportunity for me to see and brief him beforehand. He is being shown round etc then meeting/lunch will not have huge policy content. This may be wrong call but Jonathan going.

[25/07/2025, 10:04:34] Peter Mandelson : By way, I received a wild long hysterical message from Wes about Israel. I pushed back. I can forward but reflects pretty badly on his maturity in my view.

[25/07/2025, 10:28:28] Pat McFadden: He is very active on the MPs WhatsApp groups on this subject

[25/07/2025, 18:37:50] Peter Mandelson : Emailed you Cab Off

[25/07/2025, 18:45:06] Pat McFadden: [thumbs up emoticon]

[25/07/2025, 22:31:02] Pat McFadden: I read the email and the longer note underneath. Very interesting. Happy to discuss. 10 o'clock news all on this for first 10 minutes.

[25/07/2025, 22:33:12] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*

[25/07/2025, 22:36:07] Pat McFadden: What do you think? \*\*\*

[25/07/2025, 22:36:19] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*

\*\*\*

[25/07/2025, 22:36:59] Peter Mandelson : So predictable

[25/07/2025, 22:39:09] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*

[25/07/2025, 22:40:20] Peter Mandelson : \*\*\*  
Great place to end up in.

[26/07/2025, 13:41:54] Peter Mandelson : Missed voice call, Tap to call back

[26/07/2025, 13:42:05] Peter Mandelson : Talk ?

[26/07/2025, 15:37:49] Pat McFadden: Been driving to the for the <sup>Third Party</sup> party.  
Just checking in. Will call shortly.

[26/07/2025, 15:38:26] Peter Mandelson : Ok

[26/07/2025, 16:26:04] Pat McFadden: Voice call, 15 min

[28/07/2025, 10:29:55] Peter Mandelson : I am in London on Wednesday morning.  
Are you free to meet at all ?

[28/07/2025, 10:30:27] Pat McFadden: I'm in the office all day Wednesday. Let  
me check. Maybe early?

[28/07/2025, 10:31:02] Pat McFadden: \*\*\*

[28/07/2025, 10:32:28] Pat McFadden: Could you do 8am?

[28/07/2025, 10:33:20] Peter Mandelson : Of course. Are you surprised ?!

[28/07/2025, 10:33:39] Peter Mandelson : 8 ok

[28/07/2025, 10:38:37] Pat McFadden: I'll let office know. Do you want a bacon roll  
and a cup of coffee ?

[28/07/2025, 11:07:32] Peter Mandelson : Certainly

[29/07/2025, 03:10:37] Peter Mandelson :  
[https://x.com/statedept\\_nea/status/1949892643476942960?s=48](https://x.com/statedept_nea/status/1949892643476942960?s=48)

[29/07/2025, 11:23:02] Pat McFadden: Wes has circulated a series of videos and a  
note \*\*\* to the whole cabinet in advance of the meeting.

[29/07/2025, 11:30:21] Peter Mandelson : It is pathetic \*\*\*

[29/07/2025, 11:31:09] Peter Mandelson : I think Wes is experiencing an early mid life crisis.

[30/07/2025, 07:24:23] Peter Mandelson : I may be few minutes after 8 as seeing John Healey before at 7 30

[30/07/2025, 07:28:06] Pat McFadden: John was good at cabinet yesterday.

[30/07/2025, 08:09:25] Peter Mandelson : Coming in now

[30/07/2025, 08:12:00] Pat McFadden: Do you need picking up?

[30/07/2025, 16:45:45] Peter Mandelson : Been reflecting. Careful what you agree to. You are in a strong position so be very careful about the terms. I don't understand J Smith role. What is she in charge of ? What machinery will you have ? What authority ? To do what exactly ?

[30/07/2025, 16:55:12] Pat McFadden: Meeting postponed until tomorrow. I think the JS idea is Louise trying to protect me from drowning. No answers to the other qs.

[30/07/2025, 16:57:22] Peter Mandelson : I don't see how she protects you. From workload or exposure ? I went in to No10 after I saw you. It is beleaguered and bereft. It requires complete revamp and infusion of purpose and confidence to get anywhere.

[30/07/2025, 17:00:00] Pat McFadden: Workload I think. Not exposure.

[30/07/2025, 17:07:22] Peter Mandelson : When I did what I did at No10 for GB (or indeed as MWP) there were good staff in No10 who used me as a political sounding board and then later as an influencer of the Cabinet. Who would you have in No10 as team to do this for you ? Who is the crack, core team there ?

[30/07/2025, 17:10:16] Pat McFadden: The best we have are Jpo, Vidhya, Varun, Liz L.

[30/07/2025, 17:13:01] Peter Mandelson : I agree but they don't work as a team, they are not led and none of them really know what Keir thinks or wants. In fact most of them don't think Keir knows what he wants.

[30/07/2025, 17:13:37] Peter Mandelson : The question for you is can you provide a solution ?

[30/07/2025, 17:16:44] Pat McFadden: I can't if they are buying person with direction A and then he chooses direction B (yesterday).

[30/07/2025, 17:44:29] Peter Mandelson : I have a feeling that Keir is now consistently going for direction B. His recanting on his immigration speech, on welfare, now Gaza. There is definitely a "let Keir be Keir" trend. This is what Morgan senses and so it is particularly acute for him. His view from when Keir first stood is that the cycle has been the same, advance/buckle/advance/buckle.

[31/07/2025, 19:50:53] Peter Mandelson : How did your meeting go ?

[31/07/2025, 20:00:31] Pat McFadden: Didn't happen. Louise saw him. She's very fixed on this Jacqui s thing. I haven't spoken to him.

[31/07/2025, 20:06:44] Peter Mandelson : Jacqui to do what ?

[31/07/2025, 20:11:08] Pat McFadden: Be the min of state in no 10.

[31/07/2025, 20:12:05] Peter Mandelson : And to do what....

[31/07/2025, 20:55:05] Pat McFadden: Give them guidance, take decisions, knock heads together

[31/07/2025, 20:56:35] Peter Mandelson : So you dodge the bullet.

[31/07/2025, 21:14:40] Pat McFadden: Prob not. Just more voices.

[31/07/2025, 21:16:59] Peter Mandelson : I like Jacqui but she won't have the authority to impose anything on the mob

[15/08/2025, 07:37:48] Pat McFadden: We've got some new words. And no 10 has hired <sup>Third Party</sup> to give them direction. Where did that come from? Shared with you by a Times subscriber. Enjoy this article for free. Labour bets big on three new words this autumn <https://www.thetimes.com/article/b1ac6fcb-511d-4ad3-8b8780fe8bf3ea3c?shareToken=793185da33f7062a1a9f856893d65e07>

[15/08/2025, 12:44:18] Peter Mandelson : I didn't know about <sup>Third Party</sup> although Morgan did mention him once to me in context of Keir's lurches. Do you know him ? I don't think I have met him.

[15/08/2025, 12:57:50] Pat McFadden: He was a big fan of John mcD's policies. Led the IPPR down that rabbit hole.

[15/08/2025, 12:58:37] Peter Mandelson : Have you ever met him ?

[15/08/2025, 13:00:25] Pat McFadden: No

[15/08/2025, 13:00:35] Pat McFadden: Don't believe so

[16/08/2025, 23:05:04] Peter Mandelson : When are you back from <sup>Personal</sup>

[16/08/2025, 23:42:47] Pat McFadden: Just landed at Gatwick. Home around <sup>Pers onal</sup> uk time so realistically, tomorrow.

[16/08/2025, 23:44:03] Peter Mandelson : I am going mad with the things Morgan is sending me. I am trying to be constructive but I just don't know what to say anymore.

[16/08/2025, 23:45:41] Pat McFadden: He hasn't sent me anything. Speak tomorrow?

[16/08/2025, 23:54:29] Peter Mandelson : It's about a whole new (additional) political strategy team in No10 and the equivalent of the Rand corporation outside it to reverse national decline. I am flying back from Chicago to DC in the morning.

[17/08/2025, 15:53:30] Peter Mandelson : Can you connect with Morgan today and see how he is ? I am on delayed flight from Chicago. Have the whole team arriving tomorrow including Morgan.

[17/08/2025, 16:03:48] Pat McFadden: Yes of course. I see Keir will now be at WH meeting with Z.

[17/08/2025, 16:06:16] Peter Mandelson : Yes. Morgan is coming with him. The media prep is interesting. Completely reductionist for Keir. Want to avoid any encounter with journos that might involve him answering a question. No sense of opportunity for personal projection. Just avoid all risk. Always the same.

[17/08/2025, 16:06:49] Peter Mandelson : They/he have no confidence

[17/08/2025, 17:35:25] Pat McFadden: I spoke to him. It's a bit of a whirlwind. This external strategy unit idea has come from a lack of belief that good people will come in to number 10 and it's hard to get the bad ones to leave.

[17/08/2025, 17:35:41] Pat McFadden: I'm going to see him when he comes back.

[17/08/2025, 17:40:26] Peter Mandelson : I told him he needs an instrument/entity to recruit top people but I fear he is using excuse to keep people because he knows Keir won't fire them.

[18/08/2025, 13:07:11] Pat McFadden: Let me know how it goes?

[18/08/2025, 14:12:09] Peter Mandelson : We have a whole lot of No10 keystone cops coming, including Morgan, falling over themselves and complaining they won't all be in the Oval (none of us will be).

[18/08/2025, 15:29:52] Pat McFadden: What time is the meeting? Or is it a series of meetings?

[18/08/2025, 17:05:27] Peter Mandelson : Starts your time 5 for three hours +, rolling cast \*\*\*

[18/08/2025, 17:08:31] Pat McFadden: I'm watching live on BBC

[18/08/2025, 18:37:31] Pat McFadden: I see now.... \*\*\*

[18/08/2025, 18:48:26] Peter Mandelson : Taken you a long time

[19/08/2025, 16:34:24] Peter Mandelson : <attached: 00000352-VIDEO-2025-08-19-16-34-24.mp4>

[19/08/2025, 16:47:09] Pat McFadden: Tough interview...what channel was that? \*\*\*

[19/08/2025, 17:29:46] Peter Mandelson : Yes they will . CDS et al in town already today.

[10/09/2025, 18:27:52] Peter Mandelson : <attached: 00000355-AUDIO-2025-09-10-18-27-52.m4a>

[10/09/2025, 18:33:12] Pat McFadden: Received