# Three Scots drown on holiday

DUNCAN BLACK

A DIRECTOR of the Glasgow coach firm of Haldanes of Cathcart was drowned along with his wife and a friend in rough seas off a Cyprus beach yesterday.

Onlookers at Paphos said the husband of the second woman almost drowned but was saved by passers-by.  Police said the two couples had gone for an afternoon swim near their hotel, ignoring signs warning of rough waters.

The Foreign Office confirmed their identities as Mr David Haldane, 58, and his wife Moira, 54, of Earlspark Avenue, Langside, and Mrs Margot Bryson, 55, of Kingscourt Avenue, King&apos;s Park.

Haldanes of Cathcart was formed by Mr Haldane&apos;s father, Ian, in 1927, and operates coaches on trips throughout Scotland and to a number of European centres. It diversified into motor repairs in the 1960s and added a car salesroom in 1982.

The four were staying at the Helios Hotel, Paphos. They arrived on an Olympic Holidays break last Wednesday. One witness said: "They went in for a swim and when one of the men shouted for help the others tried to assist but all three drowned. Passers-by managed to save only one, a man."

State coroner Marios Matsakis was last night on his way to Paphos to examine the victims.

Mr Bryson was recovering in hospital last night unaware that his wife and friends were dead. There was some confusion about his condition. A Foreign Office spokesman said he was seriously injured, but medical staff at the hospital said his condition was not serious. Arrangements were being made last night to fly relatives to Cyprus.

One Scottish tourist who visited Paphos this summer last night told The Herald that the beach where the three people died had claimed around 15 lives already this year.

The man, who asked not to be named, confirmed that warning notices were posted on the sand, which read: "Professional swimmers only – not for amateurs."

He said: "Despite that, people go out into the water and find they cannot get back because of the undertow. It is really treacherous."