



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jackson Carlaw MSP
Member for Eastwood

Kirsten Oswald MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12th October 2020

Dear Kirsten,

In your capacity as Business Convenor of the Scottish National Party you will be mindful of the important separation of party business from that of government business. As you will be aware The Scottish Parliamentary Committee on the handling of complaints by the Scottish Government is currently requesting and considering evidence from several members of your party, including the First Minister, former First Minister and Chief Executive.

The committee has expressed its concern at the lack of evidence from your party, with the Convenor, Linda Fabiani MSP stating on 29th September 2020 that “The Committee is completely frustrated with the lack of evidence.” You will be aware of media reports of WhatsApp messages from your Chief Executive calling for pressure to be exerted on Police Scotland with regard to its investigation into the former First Minister, Mr Salmond.

In the interests of transparency, as Business Convenor for your party, I now write to ask you when were you made aware of these text messages, what action you have subsequently taken and to ask what discussions you have now had regarding the controversial content of these messages with both the First Minister, the Leader of your party and the Chief Executive?

In response to questions from me on 17th January 2019, the First Minister stated that:

“now that I, my Government and my party have agreed to support the establishment of those inquiries and co-operate fully with them—it is incumbent on all of us to respect those processes. That is what I will do.”

In order that this statement to The Scottish Parliament remains true, your party must be fully transparent and co-operate fully with the Parliamentary Inquiry, as the First Minister promised. Ruth Davidson MSP wrote to your Chief Executive last week calling on him to answer key questions, a copy of this letter is attached.

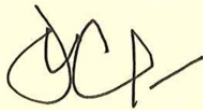
As Business Convenor and de-facto Chair of your party can you confirm the following:

- That your Chief Executive will provide full answers to the Parliamentary Inquiry, including appearing as an oral witness if requested?
- Were you in a WhatsApp group or receive messages from your parties Chief Executive about the investigation into Alex Salmond?
- When were you made aware of text messages sent by your Chief Executive that stated it would be “good” to be “pressuring” Police Scotland?
- Whether you have established to whom these messages were sent and can now confirm this?
- Do you condemn this action from your Chief Executive which seeking to interfere with a police inquiry?
- What action you took when you were made aware of the above to protect the public reputation of your party and who did you discuss this with?
- Did you make the First Minister or other party officials aware?

I would hope and expect your work as Business Convenor to be fulfilled diligently and that you would not want to be seen to be adding to the obstructing of the work of a committee of The Scottish Parliament carrying out its inquiries. I am sure that you will agree that our shared constituents in Eastwood also deserve answers as to why the Scottish Government squandered over half a million pounds of taxpayer's money on the handling of this fiasco.

I look forward to hearing from you in early course.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JCP' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jackson Carlaw CBE MSP

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