

## Annex A

**From:** Lloyd E (Elizabeth)  
**Sent:** 04 November 2017 18:12  
**To:** DL SPADS  
**Subject:** Ministerial resignation

Dear all

Below is a statement issuing this evening from Mark McDonald

I also attach the SG lines and the lines we will give as a spokesperson for FM if we need to. No further details will be provided to the press.

I appreciate this will be a surprise to some of you. Any questions let me know.

Liz

Statement from Mark McDonald MSP

“It has been brought to my attention that some of my previous actions have been considered to be inappropriate – where I have believed myself to have been merely humorous or attempting to be friendly, my behaviour might have made others uncomfortable or led them to question my intentions.

“My behaviour is entirely my responsibility and I apologise unreservedly to anyone I have upset or who might have found my behaviour inappropriate.

“In light of my position in government, I believe it would not be appropriate for me to continue to serve in my role in the Scottish Government at this time and I have tendered my resignation as a minister.

“I hope that in taking this step neither any particular woman or my family will be the focus of undue and unwarranted scrutiny.

“It has been an honour to serve in the Scottish Government and I will continue to serve my constituents in Aberdeen Donside to the best of my ability.”

Note:

As set out earlier in the week, the SNP has received information regarding two complaints relating to inappropriate behaviour. The second complaint does not relate to a parliamentarian.

No further details will be provided to ensure the privacy of individuals is respected and people can have confidence in the confidentiality of the complaints process.

### Scottish Government lines

Mark McDonald MSP has left the Scottish Government.

Mr McDonald tendered his resignation to the First Minister on Saturday. The Education Secretary is responsible for all aspects of the education portfolio including those led by the Minister for Children and Early Years. The First Minister will appoint a new minister in due course.

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## **FM spokesperson (if required)**

“Mark has taken the right action in apologising and recognising that in his current role it would be inappropriate for him to remain in government. He will continue to make a valuable contribution to parliament as the MSP for Aberdeen Donside. As the Deputy First Minister told parliament earlier in the week it is right that men take responsibility for their behaviour and it is to Mark’s credit that he has done so.”

### **Elizabeth Lloyd**

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