

-----Original Message-----

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot> On Behalf Of zzzFirst Minister 2021 to 2023

Sent: 05 April 2023 09:57

To: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>

Cc: Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

Julie,

I anticipate we will be asked when the FM knew about the arrest.

For your information, the email from Perm Sec details this first update hope this is helpful for a media line.

Chris

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[REDACTED]

From: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 April 2023 09:42

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

Thank you in terms of SG media response, important of course that we (SG) do not comment on Police investigations. I see this is now in the public domain from PS, so

do liaise with Comms Chris as you judge necessary so they handle with care please.
JP

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot> On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 05 April 2023 09:39
To: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

I am copying Colin McAllister for his information.

We will also ensure he is copied to any official FM response.

Thanks

Chris

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

From: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 April 2023 09:20
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

FM,

As is routine for all high-profile Police Scotland (PS) action, the Chief Constable (CC) contacted me at 8AM this morning to update on Operation Branchform.

Following agreement with the Crown Office, PS have arrested a suspect and taken him into custody to be interviewed under caution.

I informed you after the event and after this PS action had occurred; as is routine, with the explicit permission of the CC.

In terms of any and all liaison from SG Ministers or senior SG officials on Operation Branchform, I have agreed with the CC this should be via me only without exception.

Best wishes,

JP

John-Paul Marks (he/him)

Permanent Secretary

1N-07, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** zzzCabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care 2021 to 2023
Sent: 05 April 2023 10:21
To: zzzFirst Minister 2021 to 2023 <zzzfirstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

From: Humza Yousaf <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 April 2023 09:45
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

Noted. JP and I have spoken this morning and he has relayed the information to me as per the email below, after the event and with the explicit consent of the Chief Constable.

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 05 April 2023 09:28
To: Humza Yousaf <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

For awareness.

P

[REDACTED]
Private Secretary
Office of the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information.

From: John-Paul Marks <John-Paul.Marks@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 April 2023 09:20
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: PRIVATE OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Operation Branchform

FM,

As is routine for all high-profile Police Scotland (PS) action, the Chief Constable (CC) contacted me at 8AM this morning to update on Operation Branchform.

Following agreement with the Crown Office, PS have arrested a suspect and taken him into custody to be interviewed under caution.

I informed you after the event and after this PS action had occurred; as is routine, with the explicit permission of the CC.

In terms of any and all liaison from SG Ministers or senior SG officials on Operation Branchform, I have agreed with the CC this should be via me only without exception.

Best wishes,

JP

John-Paul Marks (he/him)

Permanent Secretary

1N-07, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016.

See www.lobbying.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

**In the service
of Scotland**



Integrity



Inclusion



Collaboration



Innovation



Kindness

-----Original Message-----

From: Christopher Mackie <Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 April 2023 10:23

To: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary

<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce

<Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Lisa Mcguinness <Lisa.Mcguinness@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Arrest

Julie - I am happy that this is a true reflection of the process.

[REDACTED]

Hope this is helpful please let me know.

Thanks

Chris

Chris Mackie

Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[REDACTED]

From: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 April 2023 10:01

To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot >; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Lisa

Mcguinness <Lisa.Mcguinness@gov.scot>

Cc: : [REDACTED]@gov.scot>>; : Christopher Mackie

<Christopher.Mackie@gov.scot> Subject: RE: Arrest

Tweaked to reflect language shared by Chris from a separate copy list.

Thanks

J

From: Julie Grant Julie.Grant@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 April 2023 09:59
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; >;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>;; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Lisa
McGuinness <Lisa.Mcguinness@gov.scot>
Cc: : [REDACTED]@gov.scot>>
Subject: Arrest

While the Police Scotland investigation in to SNP finances and the arrest today are a matter for the party, we may be asked whether/when the First Minister was informed in advance.

Suggest something along the lines of:

As is routine with high profile Police Scotland action, the First Minister was informed through official channels after the arrest was made and shortly before it was confirmed publicly.

Grateful for views and happy to chat through if easier.

Julie



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Daniel Johnson MSP

05 April 2023

Mr John-Paul Marks
Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear John-Paul,

I write regarding the arrest of Peter Murrell in connection with the funding and finances of the Scottish National Party.

As you will be aware, there is significant public interest in this case which is why transparency is extremely important. To that end I would appreciate if you can clarify whether the former First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon advised you of Police Scotland's interest in either her or her husband, Peter Murrell.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Johnson
MSP for Edinburgh Southern

Daniel Johnson MSP

MSP for Edinburgh Southern
134 Comiston Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5QN
0131 541 2145 | daniel.johnson.msp@parliament.scot