
From: Ashleigh Gray <Ashleigh.Gray@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 2:50 PM

To: [REDACTED]@aol.com

Subject: Personal

Dear Leslie,

Apologies for the direct contact, Michael is currently on leave (back on Monday) but I didn't want to delay providing you with an update.

You may have seen that Sir David Davis MP secured an adjournment debate last night in the House of Commons on "the adequacy of the Scotland Act" (Hansard transcript here: [Adequacy of the Scotland Act 1998 - Hansard - UK Parliament](#))

Mr Davis reiterated much of what he has previously said on this matter in Parliament (including in 2021 – transcript here: [16 March 2021](#)). He also made several new allegations, including that the then crown agent discussed the case with your then PS:

- Mr Davis alleges that Liz Lloyd leaked the decision report to the Daily Record (this allegation was the subject of the Police investigation Operation Newbiggin, that has now concluded);
- Mr Davis says that he has heard evidence that SPADs were involved in the redaction of the Hamilton report. He said he had raised this with the current permanent secretary and has not received a satisfactory or clear reply;
- Mr Davis alleges that David Harvie, the then Crown Agent, discussed the case with Leslie Evans' PS, despite telling the Parliamentary inquiry that he had not discussed it with Leslie Evans; and
- Mr Davis also called for investigation into his allegations of perjury by the former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and by Liz Lloyd.

He also used his speech to call for greater powers for the Scottish Parliament. Responding for the Government the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Scotland Office Kirsty McNeill noted that these matters were the subject of ongoing legal proceedings.

SG has not been approached for a response. If were to be approached, our existing media line would apply: "The Scottish Government has received the Summons. It would not be appropriate to comment on live litigation."

Media monitoring reports that 9 papers covered the story with 3 (The National, Scottish Sun and The Times) including claims about the alleged leak. No broadcast covered the story.

In addition to reporting on the speech from Mr Davis, others quoted are:

- Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Kirsty McNeill who in response to Mr Davis at the debate said: "Scrutiny of the Scottish Government is a matter for the Scottish Parliament." She added that the legal proceedings between Mr Salmond and the Scottish Government are ongoing.
- Former first minister Nicola Sturgeon has previously said that she did not intervene in the investigation and described Mr Salmond's claims of a plot against him as "absurd".

David Clegg the former political editor of the Daily Record who broke the story (covered in The Times only): "I have never and would never reveal the identity of a confidential source."

Media coverage summary

The National, 6, Salmond probe concerns raised by Tory MP

The Scotsman, 6, Ex-Tory minister slams Scottish Government over its probe into Salmond allegations

The Herald, 7, Conservative ex-minister criticises Scottish Government's Salmond probe

Daily Telegraph, 6, David presses MPs over unlawful Salmond investigation

The Press & Journal (main), 8, MP Davis calls for tougher Holyrood powers

The Press & Journal (Inverness, Highlands and Islands), 9, Call for tougher rights to probe Salmond case

The Scotsman, 6, Ex-tory minister slams Scottish Government over its probe into Salmond allegations

Scottish Sun, 2, Eck probe powers call

The Times, 13, Sturgeon aide 'was Salmond leak source'

I appreciate that this will be unwelcome news. If I can provide any assistance please let me know.

Kind regards,

Ashleigh

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Please note that I have recently changed my working pattern and no longer work Fridays
