Document 1

From: Julie Grant
Sent: 19 January 2026 17:29
To: First Minister; [REDACTED]
Cc: Permanent Secretary; Andrew Bruce; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Colin McAllister; Ross Ingebrigtsen
Subject: RE: Peter Murrell case - Media reporting

Thanks, adding Colin and Ross for awareness. Thanks J

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 19 January 2026 17:28
To: [REDACTED]; First Minister
Cc: Permanent Secretary ; Andrew Bruce ; Julie Grant ; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Peter Murrell case - Media reporting

Hi [REDACTED]

We received a minute from the Lord Advocate FAO the First Minister at 15:35 today – let me know if you need to see it. The FM has been made aware.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 19 January 2026 17:18
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Andrew Bruce <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]>

Subject: Peter Murrell case - Media reporting

FMPO

Cc Permanent Secretary for awareness

To see the following media report:

Ex-SNP chief Peter Murrell due back in court for preliminary hearing - Daily Record

If the Scottish Government New team is approached for comment by media, we propose to issue the following line -

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:
“It would not be appropriate for the Scottish Government to comment on live criminal proceedings.”

At earlier stages in this case, SG has been asked if and at what point the First Minister has been made aware of developments.

To aid preparation of lines in anticipation of such questions, please could you advise if your office received an update on today's news in advance of media reporting?

Thanks

[REDACTED]
(Covering News – Corporate in [REDACTED] absence today)

[REDACTED]| Communications Team Leader
Finance & Local Government | Scottish Government
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Document 2

From: PS/Lord Advocate <PSLordAdvocate@copfs.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 January 2026 15:35
To: First Minister
Cc: PS/Lord Advocate; PS/Solicitor General
Subject: Minute to the First Minister - Operation Branchform
Attachments: Minute to the First Minister - Operation Branchform.pdf

Afternoon FM/PO

Please see attached minute for the attention of the First Minister relating to Operation
Branchform.

Grateful for confirmation of receipt.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Deputy Private Secretary – Law Officers Private Office

Crown Office, 25 Chambers Street
Edinburgh, EH1 1LA
Email: PSSolicitorGeneral@copfs.gov.uk / PSLordAdvocate@copfs.gov.uk
Phone: 0300 020 0326/ [REDACTED]

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Document 3

From: Lord Advocate

19 January 2026

First Minister

OPERATION BRANCHFORM

Priority and Purpose

1. IMMEDIATE: This minute provides an update on Operation Branchform. Peter Murrell has been indicted to the High Court for embezzlement today.

Recommendation

2. Recommends that you note the update and that the case is “live” for the purposes of Contempt of Court.

Operation Branchform

3. Peter Murrell has been indicted today for embezzlement. The case will call for a Preliminary Hearing at the High Court in Glasgow on 20 February 2026. The case will call for a Preliminary Hearing at the High Court in Glasgow on 20 February 2026. The charge is that Peter Murrell embezzled £459,046.49 from the Scottish National Party. There is a longstanding tradition that Law Officers are not involved in the decision making in relation to cases involving politicians such as this case. These cases are investigated by professional prosecutors from Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and reported for decision by Crown Counsel.

4. The case remains “live” for the purposes of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. Any public comment on the matter may form the basis of a legal challenge to the fairness of the proceedings.

5. Now that the case has been indicted, further procedure and the timetable for the case will be determined by the Court. [REDACTED]

Lord Advocate
19 January 2026

Document 4

From: [REDACTED]on behalf of First Minister
Sent: 19 January 2026 16:06
To: John Webster; Colin McAllister
Subject: FW: Minute to the First Minister - Operation Branchform
Attachments: Minute to the First Minister - Operation Branchform.pdf

Have sent this to the FM.