

Permanent Secretary
Leslie Evans



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Linda Fabiani MSP
Convener, Committee on the Scottish Government
Handling of Harassment Complaints
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

4 September 2019

by email: SGHHC@parliament.scot

Dear Ms Fabiani

Thank you for your letter of 2 September in relation to media reports about the settlement of judicial review expenses.

I would like to make clear at the outset that the media reports to which you refer were not prompted by the release of any information by the Scottish Government at this stage.

In the normal course of events, and in line with our proactive publication of all Scottish Government expenditure over £25,000, we publish the level of expenditure on the Scottish Government website in due course. However, on 13 August 2019 the Scottish Government was asked by the media to confirm that a sum of around £500,000 had been paid to the former First Minister, Alex Salmond, in respect of legal fees incurred during the recent judicial review process. In response, the Scottish Government confirmed that final settlement of £512,250 had been made to Mr Salmond for legal costs arising from his petition for judicial review.

The Court in this case awarded expenses to Mr Salmond. The Court specified the basis on which the expenses should be calculated ('agent and client' basis) and established procedures were then followed to agree the final sum to be paid in respect of those expenses. The Scottish Government legal team represented the Scottish Government in this process and, in line with normal practice, they also engaged external law accountants to provide additional expert advice.

I would like to take this opportunity, once again, to provide assurance that the Scottish Government is committed to cooperating fully with the Committee.

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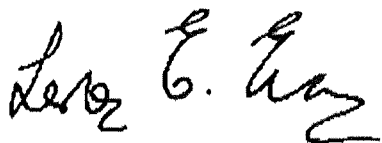


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Yours sincerely



Leslie Evans

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