

Linda Fabiani MSP  
Convener – Committee on the Scottish  
Government Handling of Harassment Complaints  
c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T1.03  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

14 September 2020

Dear Convener

### **Committee on Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints**

I am writing to raise a particular issue arising from comments made by a Committee member about my evidence to the Committee on 25 August 2020.

At that session, Mr Cole-Hamilton asked me whether I had heard any “scuttlebutt”, “rumour mill” or “mutterings” about the conduct of Alex Salmond. In responding to those and other questions I said that I had heard things about Mr Salmond’s behaviour but that I was in no position to say whether that hearsay and rumour was true or not. I also said that those unsubstantiated rumours did not relate to matters within the scope of the Harassment Procedure, which includes matters of sexual harassment. In other words, my intention was to make clear to the Committee that I did not at any time hear rumours regarding allegations of inappropriate sexual conduct relating to Mr Salmond.

In the Committee session with the Permanent Secretary on 8 September, Mr Cole-Hamilton inaccurately said in relation to my evidence of 25 August that:

*“things were said to him as part of an informal hum of rumours about bullying and sexually inappropriate behaviour by Alex Salmond and other ministers.”*

As I have noted above, I wish to be clear that I was not aware of any rumours about “sexually inappropriate behaviour” on the part of Mr Salmond or other Ministers.

I should be grateful if this important point could be drawn the Committee’s attention and placed on the record.

Yours sincerely

**JAMES HYND**

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