

**McDougall L (Lynne)**

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**From:** SDI Group Services  
**Sent:** 17 May 2006 16:45  
**To:** First Minister  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister & Minister for Enterprise; Deputy Minister for Enterprise and Life Long Learning; McEwen R (Rachel); Greatrex L (Laura); Communications First Minister; Communications Deputy First Minister & Minister for ELL; PS/ETLLD; Graham M (Martin); 'david.cannon@scotent.co.uk'  
**Subject:** RE: Briefing for First Minister's Questions: 18 May  
**Categories:** Martin



FMQ Template.doc  
(29 KB)

Please find attached briefing on the information released under FOI on the First Minister's meetings with Donald Trump. Further to Rachel Sunderland's request we will fax to the First Minister's office relevant pages of the correspondence sent to Jeremy Watson at Scotland on Sunday.

Regards,

Janine

**Janine Kellett**  
Group Services  
Scottish Development International  
Tel: 0141 228 7417

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

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**FIRST MINISTER ACCUSED OF BREACHING THE MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOLLOWING MEETING WITH DONALD TRUMP**

**BACKGROUND**

The First Minister met Donald Trump in October 2005 to discuss Trump's interest in and connection with Scotland. Mr McConnell met Trump again during Tartan Week 2006.

Further to a freedom of information request on 3 May 2006 from Jeremy Watson at Scotland on Sunday to Scottish Enterprise, an article appeared in Scotland on Sunday on 14 May alleging that there was 'hard evidence of a clear conflict of interest' and that Mr McConnell breached the ministerial code of conduct by discussing with Donald Trump his proposals to build a new multi-million pound golf resort in Aberdeenshire.

The Scottish Green Party had earlier raised concerns over Trump's proposed development and the First Minister's involvement.

Jeremy Watson's request was for 'all documentation, including emails, relating to Scottish Development International and the Trump Organization relating to plans for a new golf development on the Menie Estate, Aberdeenshire.' All information held by Scottish Enterprise that was considered to fall within the scope of the enquiry was forwarded to Mr Watson.

**LINES TO TAKE**

- When I met with Mr Trump, I welcomed the interest of a global business organisation in recognising Scotland's potential to provide a world class facility.
- I recognise that planning permission must be obtained before any development can proceed. The responsibility for considering the planning

application rests with Aberdeenshire Council in the first instance.

- Because there is a possibility that Scottish ministers may be involved in the planning process at some future stage, it would be inappropriate to comment on the specific merits of the proposal. Consequently, our discussions were of a general nature.
- As First Minister, I meet with senior business leaders on a regular basis and I have met Donald Trump on several occasions.

[If pressed]

- Reference to the meeting objective [in the programme for my visit to the US in October 2005] was prepared in advance by an official. It does not constitute a record of what was actually discussed at the meeting.

Martin Graham  
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17 May 2006