



## Rhoda Grant

Scottish Labour MSP for the Highlands and Islands

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### Aviemore Highland resort

Commenting on the AHR, Rhoda Grant Highlands and Islands said,

"A Parliamentary Committee concluded that five SNP Ministers did intervene in the Aviemore application, favouring one application over another, before any request from political colleagues.

"The fact that the SNP should object to legitimate Parliamentary scrutiny over this is breathtaking arrogance.

"Any implication of favouritism for a developer who is also a donor to the Government's political party should be examined," said Mrs Grant.

The Parliamentary Committee making the findings was tasked with examining SNP ministers' roles in the Trump case.

One of its conclusions was as follows....

"The Committee is concerned at the implications of ministerial intervention in the Aviemore case.

"Freedom of Information evidence reveals that intervention by five Scottish ministers pre-dates any request for action by a cross party group of MSPs.

"Critically, the case reveals ministerial intervention which favoured one planning proposal over another with which it was in competition."

Mrs Grant continued: "The SNP's dates have never added up over this issue - and Dave Thompson knows it.

"SEPA has indicated in the correspondence released that "the urgency for a response to the planning authority was first drawn to the attention of local SEPA management late on the evening of November 29 and again during the following day when senior management was also alerted."

"It reveals that the approach it took was "contrary" to the approach previously taken by SEPA and that it "may attract future challenge but reflected the seriousness of the position which prevailed."

In December, at Fergus Ewing's invite Mrs Grant was happy to support a cross-party call to avoid a potential delay to the consideration of the application as a result of what was described as a hold up with documentation for the process.

When it was revealed that Ministers had intervened in the application process prior to this date she was concerned she had been used as a smokescreen for their activities.

"SNP ministers had been involved with the situation long before I and other Highlands politicians contacted them. I requested the Government should take urgent action to ensure there was no delay to the process - this is something I would have done for any organisation which believed there was a hold up as a result of incompetence.

"It is fully appropriate that there should be a process to allow transparency in local planning, this is in the interests of constituents and indeed other developers in the area who believed there may have been unfair advantage to the AHR development," said Mrs Grant.

The Parliamentary Report referred to in the release can be downloaded at :

<http://www.handilabour.org.uk/meniereport.pdf>

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Rhoda Grant's website : [www.rhodagrants.org.uk](http://www.rhodagrants.org.uk)

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