# SNP councillor Lloyd Melville faces allegations over treatment of women



Lloyd Melville, a Scottish National Party (SNP) councillor in Angus, has come under scrutiny following allegations related to his treatment of women during his presidency of the Stirling University Scottish Nationalist Association (SUSNA) in 2019. Complaints were made by former members of this student group, leading to Melville being offered equalities training due to the concerns raised.

Several individuals who were part of SUSNA at the time reported that Melville's behaviour towards female members was troubling. Allegations included derogatory remarks where he reportedly referred to women who did not attend meetings as "lazy cows" and made jokes about the group meeting its gender quota when they were present. One woman who worked with Melville stated, “He made comments that weren’t appropriate. When we came to events or meetings, he would say that he’d met the ‘gender quota’ and things as if it was a joke.” This sentiment was echoed by another former member who claimed Melville repeatedly singled out women in meetings, alluding to a “feminist quota” while simultaneously belittling those who were absent.

Concerns arose that Melville highlighted female members only for the purpose of photo opportunities, with accusations that he would physically arrange women in front of male members during these events. The former SUSNA members indicated that he rarely provided meaningful opportunities for women, prompting two women to meet with him to address the issue directly.

In 2022, Melville was elected as a councillor and has since been employed as a caseworker for Graeme Dey, the current Angus South MSP. Prior to this, he worked for SNP MP Dave Doogan until December 2023. Melville is now aspiring to become an MSP himself in the upcoming Holyrood elections, seeking to replace Dey, who is stepping down amidst a wave of departures within the party.

Amid the unfolding situation, a source close to Melville characterised the claims as “vexatious” and politically motivated. In response to the allegations, he stated, “I attended a meeting to discuss the complaint where it was decided unanimously there was no action to be taken. As anyone who knows me will attest to, I am a strong supporter of gender equality in politics and all walks of life.”

The backdrop for these allegations comes at a significant moment for the SNP, as a notable number of serving MSPs, including former first minister Humza Yousaf and senior party figures such as finance secretary Shona Robison and transport secretary Fiona Hyslop, have announced their departures from Holyrood. This exodus has raised concerns among party insiders regarding the potential lack of experience in the next parliament, particularly in light of the upcoming elections.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/618823/former-dundee-councillor-craig-melville-found-guilty-of-sending-racist-text-messages/> - This article, while not directly about Lloyd Melville, provides context on past issues within the SNP concerning inappropriate behavior by members, which may indirectly relate to the scrutiny Lloyd Melville faces regarding his actions.
2. <https://www.anguscountyworld.co.uk/news/politics/councillor-announces-bid-to-win-snp-candidacy-for-angus-south-5032986> - This article confirms Lloyd Melville's candidacy announcement for the Angus South constituency and provides background information on his political aspirations.
3. <https://graemedey.info/local-snp-politicians-seek-to-remove-banking-hub-obstacles/> - This link highlights Lloyd Melville's involvement in local SNP initiatives, showing his engagement with community issues but does not directly address the allegations.
4. <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - Although unrelated to the specific claims about Lloyd Melville, this document illustrates legal procedures that could be relevant in addressing or investigating similar complaints within legal contexts.
5. <https://www.mass.gov/guide-to-evidence/article-xi-miscellaneous> - This source is more about legal evidence procedures and does not directly address Lloyd Melville or the SNP, but it might provide context on how allegations can be handled in formal settings.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is related to the news wire service that originally reported on Lloyd Melville's situation but does not directly link to a specific article or corroborating information about the allegations.
7. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/msp-hopeful-called-women-indy-35045688> - Please view link - unable to able to access data