# Police Submit SNP Finances Report to Prosecutors



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Detectives from Police Scotland have submitted a report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) regarding Peter Murrell, the former SNP chief executive. This follows his charge in April 2024 for allegedly embezzling party funds. Murrell is 59 years old and the husband of Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's former first minister.

The investigation, known as Operation Branchform, commenced over two years ago. It focuses on the handling of over £600,000 in donations meant for an independence referendum. Murrell was initially arrested on April 5, 2023, and released without charges. He was taken into custody again and charged with embezzlement on April 18, 2024.

SNP treasurer Colin Beattie and Nicola Sturgeon were also arrested in connection with the investigation but were released pending further inquiries. Beattie subsequently stepped down from his position as treasurer. Police conducted searches at Murrell and Sturgeon's home in Glasgow and SNP headquarters in Edinburgh, even seizing a luxury motorhome.

The Crown Office will now review the evidence to decide on any subsequent actions, which will consider if a prosecution is warranted and in the public interest. Investigations into both Beattie and Sturgeon are ongoing. The decision-making process will be independent and devoid of political influence.