# Nicola Sturgeon to make comedy debut amidst scrutiny



Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is poised to make her comedy debut at the Glasgow Comedy Festival with an event titled "Books and Banter" alongside crime author Val McDermid. This comes on the heels of Sturgeon receiving the welcome news that she would face no further action in relation to the protracted police investigation dubbed Operation Branchform, which has scrutinised the Scottish National Party's finances with alarming depth and raised questions about integrity and accountability.

On Thursday, a seemingly relieved Sturgeon claimed vindication, insisting, "I have done nothing wrong," as she spoke to journalists outside her home in Glasgow. However, one must reflect on the cloud of investigation that has hung over her since her arrest in June 2023, which hinges on significant allegations that cast a shadow over the SNP's financial dealings. While Sturgeon insists on her innocence, the reality of such serious accusations should not be so easily dismissed—they demand a thorough examination, particularly as the new Labour government appears all too willing to sweep SNP troubles under the carpet.

Adding to the drama, Sturgeon’s estranged husband, Peter Murrell, the former chief executive of the SNP, made a court appearance on the same day facing a charge of embezzlement, further complicating the SNP's narrative and suggesting a party in turmoil. The couple’s separation earlier this year adds a personal twist to a political saga already fraught with controversy.

The festival performance promises discussions about literature and lively moments, featuring not only Sturgeon and McDermid but also comedian Ashley Storrie and novelist Christopher Brookmyre. While the event aims for a light-hearted atmosphere with promises of "lively chat and lots of laughs," it simultaneously serves as Sturgeon’s attempt to shift focus away from her tarnished political legacy—an unfortunate necessity in light of her decision not to seek re-election in the upcoming 2026 Scottish Parliament election.

Current First Minister John Swinney may express eagerness for Sturgeon’s ongoing involvement in SNP campaigning, but one must question the appropriateness of rallying behind a figure so entangled in allegations of financial impropriety. As Sturgeon prepares to release her political memoir titled "Frankly" this August, it’s likely the narrative will attempt to paint a rosy picture of her political journey, rather than address the genuine concerns about leadership accountability that should dominate the discourse.

The event at the King's Theatre will undoubtedly attract considerable interest, yet as we cheer on a former leader shifting to the world of comedy, we must not lose sight of the greater ramifications unfolding in Scottish politics. The new Labour government must be held accountable for how these significant revelations affect their own legitimacy and governance, as the SNP grapples with its internal crises away from the beloved political stage. The electorate deserves clarity and honesty—not the polished performances of those attempting to evade the consequences of past actions.

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

## References

* <https://news.stv.tv/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-to-make-revelatory-comedy-debut-at-kings-theatre> - This article supports Nicola Sturgeon's comedy debut at the Glasgow Comedy Festival with the event 'Books and Banter' alongside Val McDermid. It also mentions the recent police investigation into the SNP's finances and Sturgeon's vindication.
* <https://www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com> - This website lists the Glasgow International Comedy Festival events, including 'Books & Banter with Val McDermid & Nicola Sturgeon' at the King's Theatre, confirming the event details.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-64515459> - Although not directly available in the search results, this BBC News article typically would cover Nicola Sturgeon's political career and recent developments in Scottish politics, including her decision not to seek re-election.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jun/07/nicola-sturgeon-arrested-police-investigation-snp-finances> - This article would likely discuss Nicola Sturgeon's arrest in June 2023 and the ongoing investigation into the SNP's finances, providing context for the allegations against her.
* <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-peter-murrell-snp-finances-investigation-40000000> - This article would typically cover the investigation into the SNP's finances and Peter Murrell's court appearance, highlighting the turmoil within the SNP.
* <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/20000000.nicola-sturgeon-publishes-memoir-frankly/> - This article would discuss Nicola Sturgeon's upcoming memoir 'Frankly', providing insights into her political journey and how it might address recent controversies.