# Police Scotland spends nearly £2,500 on flights during SNP fraud investigation



Police Scotland has revealed that nearly £2,500 has been squandered on overseas flights amid their farcical investigation into fraud allegations concerning the Scottish National Party (SNP). This information, unearthed through a freedom of information request, highlights the shocking financial mismanagement associated with Operation Branchform, initiated in 2021 due to complaints over the misuse of more than £600,000 in donations meant for a campaign on Scottish independence.

In a perplexing display of transparency, the police department declined to comment on the ongoing inquiry, claiming it “would not be appropriate” to discuss costs while proceedings continue. However, they did confirm an excessive total of £6,655 spent on domestic flights and a further ridiculous £2,417 on international travel, leaving the public to wonder what could possibly justify such expenses during an active investigation.

As of early February, the Investigation Team comprised an overstaffed lineup including one detective chief inspector, one detective inspector, one detective sergeant, and a whopping seven detective constables. Alarmingly, costs related to police overtime have reportedly ballooned to £96,835, with total salary expenses for the officers involved surpassing £2 million. All this, while vital public services continue to suffer under a Labour government that is failing to prioritize taxpayer money.

The inquiry, rife with drama, has seen crucial figures like former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and former SNP treasurer Colin Beattie arrested earlier this year. Both were released without charge and, in a woeful display of self-victimization, Sturgeon lamented the burden of the investigation, stating, "For almost two years, I have had this cloud of investigation hanging over me... I have done nothing wrong." Such remarks only serve to illustrate the disconnect between SNP leadership and reality, as voters demand accountability rather than sympathy.

Beattie shared similar grievances about the two-year wait for clearance, dubbing it lengthy and challenging. Meanwhile, First Minister John Swinney’s comments about hoping for a smooth transition for Sturgeon and Beattie highlight not just a lack of accountability, but a troubling embrace of victimhood from those who were entrusted with the public’s hard-earned money.

Peter Murrell, the SNP's chief executive during this chaotic chapter, faces serious charges related to embezzlement and appeared in court last month without making a plea. As legal matters continue to unfold, it becomes ever clearer that the SNP's financial practices are not only under scrutiny but showcase an alarming trend of mismanagement and entitlement that will not be brushed aside. Under the new Labour government's watch, these issues are emblematic of a broader failure to uphold the integrity expected from those in power.

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