# SNP MSP Evelyn Tweed's remote Cayman Islands vote sparks questions over party's voter connection



In a recent parliamentary vote, Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed played a controversial role that underscores the growing distance between Scotland's governing party and the electorate's concerns. Tweed, an SNP member of the equalities committee, participated remotely from the Cayman Islands, casting her vote at 4 am local time, a choice that raises serious questions about her commitment to her constituents. This remote voting decision came at a critical time — one that saw Green MSP Maggie Chapman fend off a Conservative attempt to remove her from the committee over her inflammatory remarks about the UK Supreme Court, which she accused of “bigotry.”

Tweed's “no” vote, aligning with her party and others, narrowly defeated the Conservative proposal, thus preserving Chapman’s controversial position. However, the optics of an MSP voting from a holiday destination could not be worse for an electorate already grappling with the SNP's fading relevance and perceived disconnection from everyday issues. Conservative MSP Tess White aptly highlighted this disconnect, stating, “This astonishing revelation sums up how disconnected SNP MSPs in the Scottish Parliament are from the real world," reflecting the frustration of many voters who deserve representatives present and engaged in their communities.

While this vote encapsulates the broader debate on transgender rights and women’s equality—an issue that continues to fracture Scottish politics—the context of Tweed's participation evokes further scrutiny. Critics argue that such absenteeism undermines the accountability and dedication that the public rightfully expects from their elected officials.

Ms Chapman, seemingly defending her earlier comments on the Supreme Court, reiterated her right to disagree with judicial decisions. However, her eagerness to maintain her position at all costs only serves to alienate voters who crave genuine representation and a clear, principled approach to equality issues.

With First Minister John Swinney allowing individual discretion in committee votes, the situation clearly represents how far the SNP has drifted from the needs and expectations of voters. As they continue to falter under the new Labour government, parties on the right must capitalize on instances like these to press for accountability and integrity within Scotland’s political landscape. The time has come to question who truly speaks for the people and hold our leaders to a higher standard of engagement.

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

## References

* <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/green-msp-criticised-for-accusing-supreme-court-of-bigotry-prejudice-and-hatred-over-gender-ruling-5092355> - This article reports on Green MSP Maggie Chapman's criticism of the UK Supreme Court, accusing it of 'bigotry, prejudice and hatred' over a gender ruling, which aligns with the claim about Chapman's controversial remarks.
* <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/for-women-scotland-snub-key-scottish-parliament-committee-over-green-msp-bigotry-comments-5093537> - This piece discusses For Women Scotland's decision to avoid a key Scottish Parliament committee until Maggie Chapman is removed, corroborating the claim about the committee's response to Chapman's comments.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maggie_Chapman> - The Wikipedia page on Maggie Chapman provides background information on her career and controversies, including the incident involving her comments on the Supreme Court ruling.
* <https://www.caymancompass.com/updates/eversion/2024/0119/> - This article discusses the allocation of funds for MPs in the Cayman Islands, including expenses for rent, utilities, and maintenance, which is relevant to the claim about MPs' expenses and office arrangements.
* <https://www.caymancompass.com/updates/eversion/2024/0607/index_20.html> - This report covers the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's assessment of the Cayman Islands Parliament, highlighting areas that do not meet international standards for good governance, supporting the claim about parliamentary standards and practices.
* <https://www.caymannewsservice.com/2023/11/jocc-parliament-was-under-external-remote-control/> - This article reports on Premier Juliana O’Connor-Connolly's statement that the Cayman Islands Parliament was under external 'remote control,' which relates to the claim about external influences on parliamentary decisions.
* <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/5234609/stirling-msp-maggie-chapman-cayman-islands/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data