

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

Crown Office, 25 Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LA



Mr Craig Murray

By email: craigmurray@mail.ru

Tel: 0300 020 3000
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DX: 540310 Edinburgh 38

Your ref:
Our ref: LRM/CM/DCA

21 January 2020

Dear Mr Murray

**HER MAJESTY'S ADVOCATE v. ALEXANDER SALMOND
WWW.CRAIGMURRAY.ORG.UK
WEBSITE POST DATED 18 JANUARY 2020**

I write with reference to the above High Court case and to an article published on the website www.craigmurray.org.uk.

It has been brought to the attention of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) that an article was published on the aforementioned website dated 18 January 2020 with the headline "Yes Minister Fan Fiction." At the time of writing, the article can still be accessed online at the following web address:

<https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2020/01/yes-minister-fan-fiction/>

As I am certain you are aware, the former First Minister Alex Salmond has been indicted to the High Court of Justiciary in respect of serious sexual offences. This case is considered live for the purposes of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

You may be familiar with the provisions of the said 1981 Act and, in particular, of the strict liability rule whereby conduct may be treated as a contempt of court as tending to interfere with the course of justice in particular legal proceedings, regardless of intent to do so. The rule applies in relation to publications which create a substantial risk that the course of justice will be seriously impeded or prejudiced.

Crown Counsel holds the view that the article published on your website gives rise to a potential contempt of court. You will be in no doubt as to the most serious nature of the above criminal case. COPFS consider the publication of this material by you to be a matter of considerable gravity. We are very concerned that material has been published which may prejudice any reader and therefore, potentially prejudice proceedings against the accused. I write remind you that you are obliged to have regard to the provisions of the 1981 Act which are designed to ensure a fair trial and to advise you that consideration is being given to raising proceedings for contempt of court in respect of this matter.

Meantime, I request that you take immediate action to remove the article from your website. I also ask that you refrain from publishing any future material on any platform (including social media) which may be prejudicial to this case until such time as the related criminal proceedings are at an end.

Yours sincerely



LINDSEY MILLER
Deputy Crown Agent Serious Casework