Appendix 7

Dyer JAT (Jim)

From: W Alexander
Sent: 04 June 2008 12:51
To: Dyer JAT (Jim)
Subject: Harlick complaint

Dr Dyer
As promised here is my further submission on the Harlick complaint. Please come back to me if anything further is required.
The submission simply notes the extensive press coverage of the central issue of a possible referral of the donations issue to the PF/police. For reference there are 272 press articles in the Dec/Jan period listed on Lexus/Nexus newspaper cuttings service on this matter, and this takes no account of the broadcast media coverage. For reasons of brevity the attached Annex summarises only the coverage of the Standards probe, not the broader issue of possible police/PF involvement in the donations row.

Best wishes

Wendy
Annex – Selected press coverage of Standards Probe

The News of the World (England)

December 16, 2007 Sunday

Welcome to our nation, Mr Trump, now bugger off!

BYLINE: Euan McColm

SECTION: OPINION

LENGTH: 554 words

I’m appalled by the sleaze row over First Minister Alex Salmond and his role in trying to revive Donald Trump’s £1 billion golf resort in Aberdeenshire, aren’t you?

Opposition parties - well, the Tories and the Lib Dems - have decided Eck was involved in all sorts of bedlam to get the plans back on track after the local council scuppered them.

It really is an unholy row which threatens the FM’s reputation.

And you know what? It’s a load of hooey.

How pathetic must Scotland look in the eyes of the international business community?

What kind of advert for inward investment have we seen over the last few days? And all for a few cheap political points.

What we know is that Salmond met members of Trump’s organisation days after the plans were rejected by Aberdeenshire Council’s planning committee.

We also know that the Government subsequently ‘called in’ the decision, allowing Finance Secretary John Swinney to re-examine it. So, are Lib Dem Chief Nicol Stephen and Tory boss Annabel Goldie delighted by this dynamic action? Are they heck.

Nicol’s in a funk about whether Trump representatives were or weren’t in the room while a Government planner spoke to the council’s chief executive.

Furious

Annabelle’s fair distressed at the notion of Alex trundling in a Government car to meet Trump’s folk.

Oh give me a break. As First Minister, Salmond has a DUTY to do what’s best for Scotland.

And since the Trump resort would mean thousands of jobs in construction and tourism, as well as hundreds of quality new homes, I’d have been furious if he HADN’T stepped in.

Leading politicians should be urged to do whatever they can to secure investment for Scotland. That means dealing with business people from all over the world.

And if those dealings are a success, other investors may just see Scotland as an option.

Nic and Annabelle’s attacks are purely political (fair enough, that’s their job).

But in trying to make Alex look shady, they simply make Scotland look petty.
Welcome to our nation, Mr Trump, now bugger off! The News of the World (England) December 16, 2007

Sunday

Let's go the whole hog and use a new national slogan: "Welcome to Scotland. Now, bugger off."

Salmond hasn't broken any rules with his conduct. Of course, faced with that fact, the opposition decided that the problem is his "handling" of the situation. That means his handling of their cooked-up charges, but... hey ho.

Salmond's predecessor, Labour's Jack McConnell, went out of his way to woo Trump, spending time with the tycoon and encouraging him to invest in our country.

Eck has continued with that perfectly sensible course of action.

Opposition leaders see a short-term opportunity here; to bring cocky Eck down a peg or two.

But hell mend them if their sniping means the next businessman to consider investing in Scotland decides it's just too much hassle.

Would YOU do business here?

WENDY Alexander - still awaiting the outcome of a probe into illegal donations - did not raise the Trump issue at FM's Question Time, choosing instead to talk about the needs of carers.

So why didn't she make life difficult for Alex, as surely her troops would have liked?

Well, the Labour leader is not in the place to make accusations about the propriety of others.

Until the Electoral Commission, Parliamentary Standards Commissioner and police report back, Wendy lives in a glass house. Stone-throwing is not an option.

What a pitiful position for the main opposition party to be in.

LOAD-DATE: December 24, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Aberdeen Press and Journal
December 10, 2007 Monday

Big labour donor cuts off cash as row grows

SECTION: Pg. 9

LENGTH: 354 words

One of Labour's biggest donors in Scotland said yesterday he would not give the party any more money until the row over funding is cleared up.
Big labour donor cuts off cash as row grows Aberdeen Press and Journal December 10, 2007 Monday

It has also emerged that Holyrood's standards watchdog has been asked to look into the row surrounding donations to Wendy Alexander's party leadership campaign.

Glasgow businessman Willie Haughey has donated an estimated £1 million to the party since 2003, including more than £150,000 to the party in Scotland.

His name emerged last week on a leaked list of donors to Ms Alexander's campaign for the leadership.

But Mr Haughey told a Sunday newspaper: "I'm calling on the prime minister (to ensure) that every single penny given to any party is transparent. I will not be giving any more money if that is not the case."

Ms Alexander's team has admitted that an illegal donation of £150 was accepted from Jersey-based tycoon Paul Green to back her leadership campaign. This was illegal because he is not a registered UK elector.

The money was solicited by Glasgow Cathcart MSP Charlie Gordon, who said he believed it had been a donation from the developer's UK-based firms and as such complied with electoral rules.

But Mr Green himself has made it clear that money was donated on a personal basis.

Both Ms Alexander and Mr Gordon have said they will stay on as MSPs while an Electoral Commission inquiry is carried out.

Mr Gordon did stand down as Labour's transport spokesman in Scotland.

It also emerged yesterday that Ms Alexander could be facing a second inquiry by parliament's standards commissioner Jim Dyer.

The move follows a complaint from the SNP that the donations made to Ms Alexander were not declared on the register of members' interests.

A Holyrood spokesman said he could not comment on whether any investigation would be launched or a complaint had been received.

A spokesman for Ms Alexander said: "Internal elections within political parties are regulated by the Electoral Commission."

"The Scottish Parliament standards clerk advised that they were satisfied no register of members' interests reporting requirements arose as no donations were made to Ms Alexander personally."

LOAD-DATE: December 11, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Dailly Mail (London)

December 10, 2007 Monday

More woe for Wendy after major Labour donor pulls cash plug

BYLINE: Stuart Nicolson

SECTION: SG1, Pg. 4

LENGTH: 551 words

WENDY Alexander was last night facing a new illegal donations scandal probe as one of Scotland's biggest backers threatened to stop giving money to the party.

Miss Alexander's leadership has already been jeopardised by the fiasco, which has seen the election watchdog launch an inquiry as police stand by to mount their own investigation.

Now Holyrood's standards commissioner has been called in to look at the circumstances surrounding the illegal donation from a millionaire tax exile.

The £350 given to Miss Alexander's leadership campaign by Jersey-based Paul Green broke the law because he is not a UK resident.

Now it has emerged that the secret list of donors to the fund was circulated using her parliamentary email, which is banned under strict rules preventing the use of Holyrood facilities for party fundraising.

A complaint has also been made to the parliament's standards watchdog, Dr Jim Dyer, that the donations broke the rules because they were not declared in Miss Alexander's register of interests.

And yesterday, one of Labour's biggest Scottish supporters said he would not be giving any more money to the party unless the funding row was cleared up.

Glasgow businessman Willie Haughey has donated around £1 million to Labour since 2003, including more than £150,000 to the party in Scotland.

His name emerged last week on a leaked list of donors to Miss Alexander's leadership campaign.

But Mr Haughey said yesterday he wanted Gordon Brown to clean up the rules on party funding.

He added: 'I'm calling on the Prime Minister to ensure that every single penny given to any party is transparent. I will not be giving any more money if that is not the case.' Mr Haughey himself faces a possible police probe over his donations to Labour.

Scottish Tory deputy leader Murdo Fraser contacted police over claims Mr Haughey's companies received inflated public compensation payments worth millions of pounds after he had given funds to Labour.

The SNP said yesterday that Miss Alexander's attempts to distance herself from the illegal donation were becoming harder to believe with each passing day.

Nationalist MSP Roseanna Cunningham said: 'This latest revelation is a further blow, making it even harder to believe Wendy Alexander's explanations and statements, with her credibility diminishing day by day.'

'What is clear is that the tangled web Team Wendy is caught in is 'Caught in a web of their own making,' Bosies pick entirely of their own making.'

Previous attempts to distance the Scottish Labour leader from the dodgy donation saga seem to be falling apart as this latest report traces the donor list straight to her own office.

'It seems that Wendygate is not only Donorgate but Officegate as well. Miss Alexander has a straight choice, to own up or stand aside.'

'Wendy should either make a full and frank statement in an attempt to reconcile past explanations or stand aside until the full range of inquiries is completed.'

But a Labour Party spokesman said: 'The Scottish parliament standards clerk advised they were satisfied no register of members' interests reporting requirements arose as no donations were made to Miss

Monday

Alexander personally: 'A Holyrood spokesman said he could not comment on whether any investigation would be launched by the standards commissioner.

s.nicolson@dailymail.co.uk

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: (1) Financial threat: Willie Haughey (2) Cash complaint: Scottish Labour leader Wendy Alexander

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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The Express
December 10, 2007 Monday
Scottish Edition

Party donor Haughey is furious over cash row

SECTION: NEWS TYPE=ARTICLE LINK=1; 4

LENGTH: 175 words

ONE of Labour's biggest cash donors has said he will not give the party any more money until the row over funding is cleared up.

It has also emerged that Holyrood's standards watchdog has been asked to look into the row surrounding donations to Wendy Alexander's campaign.

Glasgow businessman Willie Haughey has donated GBP 1million since 2003, including more than GBP 180,000 to the party in Scotland.

His name emerged last week on a leaked list of donors to Ms Alexander's campaign.

Mr Haughey said: "I'm calling on the Prime Minister to ensure every penny given to any party is transparent. I will not be giving any more money if that is not the case."

Ms Alexander's team have admitted that an illegal donation of GBP 950 was accepted from Jersey-based tycoon Paul Green. The money was solicited by Glasgow Cathcart MSP Charlie Gordon.

Ms Alexander could also face a second probe by standards commissioner Dr Jim Dyer over the funding of her campaign.

It comes after an SNP complaint that donations were not declared on the register of members' interests.

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 2008
Alexander faces third investigation over donations to her leadership campaign

BYLINE: ROBBIE DINWOODIE

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 8

LENGTH: 329 words

WENDY Alexander has been reported to a third investigative authority over donations to her Labour leadership campaign.

Following on from complaints made to the Electoral Commission and the police, she could now face an inquiry by Holyrood's own standards commissioner, Dr Jim Dyer, over whether funds should have been declared in her register of interests.

It is also claimed e-mails regarding campaign fundraising emanated from Holyrood e-mail accounts, which would break the rule about the use of parliamentary facilities for strictly party business. An SNP spokeswoman confirmed a party member had made a complaint to Dr Dyer.

A parliament spokesman said he could not comment on the matter.

A spokesman for Ms Alexander said: "The Scottish Parliament standards clerk advised they were satisfied no register of members' interests reporting requirements arose as no donations were made to Ms Alexander personally."

But opponents point out Ms Alexander has already admitted to the Electoral Commission that she was the legal recipient of the donations, which included several of just less than the 1000 limit that preserves anonymity and one from Paul Green, the Jersey businessman who was legally barred from donating.

The SNP's Roseanna Cunningham said: "This latest revelation is a further blow making it even harder to believe Wendy Alexander's explanations and statements. One of Labour's biggest donors in Scotland said he would not be giving the party any more money until the row over funding is cleared up by scrapping the
Alexander faces third investigation over donations to her leadership campaign The Herald (Glasgow)
December 10, 2007 Monday

rules permitting any donations to be made anonymously. Glasgow businessman Willie Haughey has donated an estimated £1m to the party since 2003.

His name emerged last week on a leaked list of donors to Ms Alexander's campaign for the leadership. But Mr Haughey told a Sunday newspaper: "I'm calling on the Prime Minister (to ensure) that every single penny given to any party is transparent. I will not be giving anymore money if that is not the case."

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: WENDY ALEXANDER: "No donations personally."

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: OH

Labour donor adds to funds row

BYLINE: Charlene Sweeney

SECTION: HOME NEWS; Scotland; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 413 words

One of Labour's biggest donors in Scotland has threatened to stop giving any more money to the party unless the political funding system is reformed to make it more open and accountable.

It has also emerged that Holyrood's standards watchdog has been asked to look into the controversy surrounding donations to Wendy Alexander's party leadership campaign.

Willie Haughey, a Glasgow businessman, has donated an estimated £1 million to the party since 2003, including more than £150,000 to the party in Scotland. His name emerged last week on a leaked list of donors to Ms Alexander's campaign for the leadership.

The millionaire boss of City Refrigeration, based in Glasgow, told Scotland on Sunday: "I wouldn't be happy giving any more money to the party if we don't get total transparency." He also demanded that the rules on party funding be changed so that all donations, regardless of the amount given, are made public. At present donors can seek anonymity if they give under £1,000. He later told BBC Scotland's Politics Show: "This is not a snub to the Labour Party, this is a snub to the system."

Ms Alexander's team has admitted that an illegal donation of £950 was accepted from the Jersey-based tycoon Paul Green to back her leadership campaign.
Labour donor adds to funds row The Times (London) December 10, 2007, Monday

The cash gift breached the law because Mr Green is not a registered UK elector.

The money was solicited by Charlie Gordon, the MSP for Glasgow Cathcart, who said that he believed that it had been a donation from the developer's UK-based firm and as such complied with electoral rules. Mr Green himself has made it clear that money was donated on a personal basis.

Mr Gordon resigned from his post as Labour's transport spokesman following the disclosure but both he and Ms Alexander have said they will stay on as MSPs while an Electoral Commission inquiry is carried out.

It also emerged yesterday that Ms Alexander could be facing a second probe by Dr Jim Dyer, the Scottish Parliament’s standards commissioner. The SNP has complained that donations made to Ms Alexander’s leadership campaign were not declared on the register of members’ interests.

It has also been claimed that a list of donors circulated among Ms Alexander’s campaign was sent directly from her office, potentially breaching an MSP code which prohibits parliamentary equipment being used for party purposes. A Scottish Parliament spokesman said yesterday that more information was needed to determine if the rule had been broken.

Annabel Goldie, pages 8-9

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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The News of the World (England)
December 9, 2007 Sunday

Wendy may face police probe No2

BYLINE: Euan McColm

LENGTH: 555 words

Sleaze watchdog in cash check

EMBATTLED Labour chief Wendy Alexander faces a SECOND police investigation into the financing of her leadership campaign.

Alexander is already under scrutiny after admitting her team broke electoral law by accepting cash from tax exile Paul Green.

And last night pressure mounted on Alexander when it emerged the parliament’s sleaze watchdog Jim Dyer has been asked to carry out a separate probe.

That means Alexander faces TWO possible police investigations:

ONE kickstarted by the Electoral Commission inquiry into the receipt of an illegal donation, and
ANYTHING leading from a investigation by the Parly's own sleaze watchdog.

Rules

Dr. Dyer is empowered to refer the proceedings to the procurator fiscal if he believes Alexander broke the rules.

An SNP researcher this weekend wrote to Dr. Dyer (below) asking him to see whether Alexander broke the MSP code of conduct by failing to declare donations to her campaign.

Sources close to Alexander insist she did not have to reveal pledges on her register of interests because the money was received by the "WA Campaign" rather than by her personally.

But the complainer believes that, as she benefited from the cash, Alexander should have owned up. And last night even a LABOUR MSP agreed she had a case to answer, saying: "It doesn't matter who the cheque is made payable to.

"What's important is whether an individual MSP benefited from the money. Clearly, Wendy did."

Laws governing the conduct of MSPs state that any gifts of more than one per cent of their salary - £520 should be published in their register of interests within 30 days of receipt.

Alexander's leadership campaign accepted ten donations of £995 and one - from Paul Green - of £950.

Yet NONE have been declared almost three months after Alexander succeeded Jack McConnell as Labour boss.

The SNP researcher who complained said: "Regardless of whether the cheques were made out to Wendy Alexander or the WA campaign, only one person could be said to have benefited from them.

"It is in the interests of maintaining high standards for Dr. Dyer to rule on whether Ms Alexander's actions follow the letter of the law."

News of the complaint comes on an earlier investigation - by the Electoral Commission - rumble on.

Under their rules, sums of less than £1,000 need not be declared to them.

But they stepped in after it emerged that the £950 donation came from Green because cash can't be accepted from tax exiles. Their investigation is expected to lead to police involvement.

Money

The row has already cost Labour MSP Charlie Gordon his front bench post of shadow transport minister.

Gordon solicited the payment from Green while working on Alexander's campaign but insisted he believed that the money was from a UK-based company owned by the property developer.

But that assumption proved incorrect and Gordon quit his job in Alexander's team although he has insisted he will not resign as an MSP.

Last night a spokesperson for Alexander said: "Internal elections within political parties are regulated by the Electoral Commission."

"The Scottish Parliament standards clerk advised that they were satisfied no Register Of Members' Interests reporting requirement arose as no donations were made to Ms Alexander personally."

An SNP source said: "Ms Alexander benefited personally."

euan.mccollin@tnl.co.uk

LOAD-DATE: December 24, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper
LABOUR DONOR PULLS PLUG ON FUNDING

BYLINE: Scott Macnab, Scottish Press Association

LENGTH: 331 words

One of Labour's biggest donors in Scotland today said he won't give the party any more money until the row over funding is cleared up.

It has also emerged that Holyrood's standards watchdog has been asked to look into the row surrounding donations to Wendy Alexander's party leadership campaign.

Glasgow businessman Willie Haughey has donated an estimated £1 million to the party since 2003, including more than £150,000 to the party in Scotland.

His name emerged last week on a leaked list of donors to Ms Alexander's campaign for the leadership.

But Mr Haughey told the Sunday Times today: "I'm calling on the Prime Minister (to ensure) that every single penny given to any party is transparent.

"I will not be giving anymore money if that is not the case."

Ms Alexander's team have admitted that an illegal donation of £350 was accepted from Jersey-based tycoon Paul Green to back her leadership campaign.

This was illegal because he is not a registered UK elector.

The money was solicited by Glasgow Cathcart MSP Charlie Gordon who said that he believed that it had been a donation from the developer's UK-based firm and as such complied with electoral rules.

But Mr Green himself has made it clear that money was donated on a personal basis.

Both Ms Alexander and Mr Gordon have said they will stay on as MSPs while an Electoral Commission inquiry into the the issue is carried out.

Mr Gordon did stand down as Labour's transport spokesman in Scotland when the row broke out.

It also emerged today that Ms Alexander could be facing a second probe by Parliament's standards commissioner Dr Jim Dyer over the funding of her leadership campaign.

It comes after a complaint by the SNP that the donations made to Ms Alexander were not declared on the register of members' interests.

A spokeswoman for the Nationalists said: "A complaint has been made by a party member."

Wendy may face police probe No2 The News of the World (England) December 9, 2007 Sunday
A Holyrood spokesman said he could not comment on whether any investigation will be launched or a complaint had been received.

LOAD-DATE: January 11, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

JOURNAL-CODE: SCN

Labour loses top donor in sleaze row

BYLINE: Eddie Barnes Political Editor

SECTION: Pg. 1

LENGTH: 650 words

ONE of Labour's biggest donors last night warned party chiefs he would refuse to hand over any more cash until they cleaned up the scandal-hit system of political funding.

Glasgow-based millionaire Willie Haughey - who has given Labour more than GBP 1m - said there should be "total transparency" on donations and only then would he give Labour more money.

In a further blow to the party in the wake of the scandal over illegal donations, Scotland on Sunday can also reveal that a key local ally of Wendy Alexander is under police investigation following allegations of "financial irregularities".

Tommy Williams, the former chairman of Alexander's own constituency party in Paisley and a prominent member of Renfrewshire Council, was sacked as a Glasgow City Council official last week amid claims timesheets had been falsified.

Last night, it emerged that Alexander is also facing an investigation by the Standards Commissioner after a complaint by an SNP member. The complaint centres on why the donations to Alexander's campaign have not yet been placed on the register of interests.

The stream of damaging revelations come as Alexander continues to fight for her job. It emerged two weeks ago that she had accepted an illegal donation during her campaign for the top post. The GBP 950 cheque handed over by Jersey-based businessmen Paul Green was solicited by Labour MSP Charlie Gordon, who is facing further calls this week for his resignation from Parliament.
The affair has now led Haughey to act. He gave his backing to Alexander last night, but added: "I wouldn't be happy giving any more money to the party if we don't get total transparency. I will be reluctant to give any more money to the party if we don't get some transparency into this."

The 51-year-old, whose Glasgow-based company City Refrigeration has an estimated turnover of GBP 234m, said the rules needed to be changed so that all donations, no matter how small, were made public.

Green's GBP 980 cheque was kept secret because all funds of less than GBP 1,000 do not need to be currently registered.

Haughey said:

"This threshold should be removed. That would take away the ambiguity."

He said that "innocent people" who had given less than GBP 1,000 to political parties were now being made to look as if they had something to hide.

Haughey said parties should not accept money from people on the condition they remained anonymous. "People who want to give money anonymously shouldn't be giving it anyway and the parties shouldn't accept it."

But Alexander's woes continued last night as the details emerged that a Labour councillor in her own constituency is now facing a police inquiry. Williams worked alongside Alexander in recent election campaign when he was chairman of her own local party and is thought to be a key local ally.

Tommy Williams was sacked from his job as a community support worker at Glasgow City Council last week. An investigation had centred on allegations that Williams' time-sheets had shown him at work, when he had in fact been engaged elsewhere. Williams' line manager is also believed to have lost his job following the internal investigation.

A spokesman for the council said last night: "It can confirm that two members of staff were dismissed following an investigation into allegations of financial irregularity and the matter has been referred to Strathclyde Police."

It is understood that the Labour Party will suspend Williams from the party pending a full investigation.

At his home in Paisley yesterday, Williams refused to comment.

A spokesman for the Scottish Tories said: "This is more embarrassment for the Labour Party. There seems to be systemic problems in the party wherever money is concerned."

On Haughey's decision not suspend his donations to the party, a spokesman for the SNP said: "Mr Haughey's threat to the Labour Party just exposes the internecine warfare breaking out in the party."

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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The Sunday Times (London)
Top donor quits over Alexander

BYLINE: Tom Gordon Scottish Political Editor

SECTION: HOME NEWS; Scotland News; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 528 words

SCOTLAND'S biggest Labour donor has cut off funding to the party in protest at the row over Wendy Alexander's illegal campaign donations.

Willie Haughey, the Glasgow businessman and former director of Celtic Football Club, has donated £1m to the party at national level since 2003.

The entrepreneur, who has given more than £150,000 to Scottish Labour, including £110,000 during the Holyrood election campaign earlier this year, said he was angry about the way donations had been concealed and about how the row had been handled by Alexander.

His decision will be a huge blow to Gordon Brown and will increase pressure on Alexander to resign. The beleaguered Scottish Labour leader is already the subject of an investigation by the Electoral Commission and is facing a police inquiry over the illegal donation she received from Paul Green, the Jersey-based tycoon.

Yesterday it emerged that Holyrood's standards commissioner has also been asked to investigate the matter after receiving a complaint from a member of the public.

Haughey, who made his donations in person and through his firm City Refrigeration, was named last week as one of the donors to Alexander's leadership campaign. He said he was angry at being dragged into the row after being assured twice by sources close to Alexander that his money had not been used to fund her campaign.

Haughey said he felt "disappointed" that he had misled journalists as a result.

Like Green, Haughey made a donation of £950, which did not have to be declared under Electoral Commission rules.

"I'm blaming the information that I got from the party," he said. "You should not be put in a position where you give information to journalists and it's wrong. I'm not happy."

"I'm calling on the prime minister (to ensure) that every single penny given to any party is transparent. I will not be giving any more money if that is not the case," he said.

The row has angered another of Scottish Labour's leading donors.

Jim Tait, who has worked alongside Alexander for most of her political career, and whose PR firm Tait Communications donated £113,000 in staff time to Scottish Labour over the past year, said: "Most people are disappointed that all of this has happened. I know Wendy very well but I don't think you'd need to be a genius to think it could have been better handled."

"There's now a serious concern that the Labour party in Scotland has a long way back. People need to look hard and seriously at themselves and how they connect with the voters in Scotland."

Earlier this week, Alex Salmond called on Alexander to step down while her campaign donations were being investigated by the Electoral Commission. He added that he believed a police investigation was "inevitable".

While Alexander's team has admitted breaking the law by accepting the cheque from Green, who is not a UK-registered voter, the Scottish Labour leader has continued to insist that she is innocent.
Alexander claims that she will be cleared of "intentional wrong-doing" because she checked the legality of the donation with Charlie Gordon, the Glasgow Cathcart MSP who solicited the money from Green, who also said he was unaware the donation was unlawful.

LOAD-DATE: December 14, 2007
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

The trail that goes to the heart of Holyrood;
INVESTIGATION BY PAUL HUTCHEON, SCOTTISH POLITICAL EDITOR

BYLINE: PAUL HUTCHEON
SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2
LENGTH: 1073 words

The secret list of donors that showed Wendy Alexander's team knew four weeks ago about a legally suspect donation from a Jersey tycoon was sent directly from the Labour leader's office.

The Sunday Herald understands the list of fundraisers was circulated by her office using the parliamentary email system - a link that ties Alexander to the document.

It also suggests the Labour leader's campaign was using MSP facilities for party fundraising purposes - an activity that is explicitly against Holyrood rules.

The revelation comes as Alexander faces a disciplinary probe after the parliament's Standards Commissioner, Dr Jim Dyer, received a complaint about her non-disclosure of donations on her MSP's register of interests.

Alexander managed to avoid declaring any of her donors to Holyrood after each contribution was sent to her campaign, rather than to the leader herself.
This has prompted an SNP researcher to call on Dyer to investigate Alexander’s failure to register the donations.

The researcher’s letter to the standards commissioner states: “Given that Ms Alexander was the donor for a number of payments of more than GBP500, I believe she may have breached regulations on receipt and declaration of gifts.” The move follows Alexander’s admission that her campaign to become Labour’s Holyrood leader was partly financed by an illegal GBP950 donation from Jersey tax exile Paul Green.

Alexander’s campaign team defended her by saying she first knew the donation was a personal, rather than a corporate contribution, on November 29. However, last week this newspaper revealed that Alexander’s secret donor list, dated November 5, included Green’s Jersey address in the column reserved for the purpose of Electoral Commission registration.

The document, which listed Alexander’s husband Brian Ashcroft as its author, also questioned the legality of the donation. In other words, Team Alexander was aware of the donation’s dodgy status weeks ago.

The list also revealed that four members of Team Alexander - Tom McCabe, treasurer David Whilton, Pauline McNeill and Jackie Baillie - were listed as “contacts” for putting in donations of GBP950, or GBP5 less than the minimum requiring public registration.

The Sunday Herald now understands the secret donor list was circulated from Alexander’s office on the parliamentary email system. The revelation makes it difficult for the Labour leader to argue that she was not aware of the document’s contents.

The parliament’s MSPs’ Allowances Code makes clear that publicly funded facilities should not be used for party ends, laying down that “Parliamentary stationery and office equipment must not be used for party purposes.” It adds:

“Premises, or the relevant part of premises, acquired as Parliamentary offices, shall not be used as a base for canvassing or election campaigning, or any party activity related to elections.”

The revelations in last week’s issue of the Sunday Herald are believed to have led Alexander to consider resigning, a decision that was avoided after she received supportive phone calls from the prime minister and her brother Douglas, the secretary of state for international development.

Alexander instead put out a statement in which she insisted there had been no “intentional” wrong-doing on her part.

Her week then involved dealing with the numerous political tremors that followed the initial Green revelations.

On Tuesday, Green’s accusation that Team Alexander was guilty of “gross mismanagement” seemed to complement a weekend of shocking headlines.

But hours later, Alexander read out a well-received statement to the media at Holyrood and took questions from the press.

In particular, her revelation that correspondence existed between her and Charlie Gordon, in which she had questioned the Green donation, which the Glasgow Cathcart MSP had solicited, strengthened her position.

On Thursday, a sober performance at first minister’s questions was followed by health minister Nicola Sturgeon mocking her in a debate on the constitution. It was an uncomfortable, rather than disastrous, day.

At the same time, a parallel story about the other key player in the Green scandal, Gordon, was also unfolding.

The Labour MSP told journalists on Tuesday that he would make a statement on his “political future” later in the week. But reports he was to quit as an MSP proved to be unfounded after he issued a bland statement on Friday stating he was intending to stay.
A subplot to the drama is the increasing paranoia and feeling of mistrust within the Labour camp. Whilton was said to have been unamused at the suggestion he might be legally liable for the dodgy donation and Iain Bundred, the Labour fixer sent up from London to help the embattled Labour leader, was known to have displeased one senior member of Team Alexander last week.

First Minister Alex Salmond and Sir Alistair Graham, the former chairman of Westminster's Committee on Standards in Public Life, have said Alexander should quit her post while she attempts to clear her name.

A spokesman for Alexander, speaking about the donor list that was sent from the leader's office, said that "due process is under way and should be respected".

On the specific point about using Holyrood facilities for fundraising purposes, Jackie Baillie said: "If any of those who were helping out on the campaign has committed a minor breach in this way, then we are sincerely sorry."

SNP MSP Alex Neil said: "This gives the lie to the idea that they didn't know the donation was illegal until two Thursdays ago, and it shows a level of crassness of judgement that is beyond the pale.

"Using the Holyrood email for this is also against the parliament's rules. I don't think taxpayers will be very happy that their money and resources are being used for internal elections to the Labour party."

Deputy Scottish Tory leader Murdo Fraser said: "Wendy Alexander's defence throughout this whole process has been that she did not intentionally break the law. However, that defence looks increasingly incredible, given that there is a clear link between her personality and this document, which queried the permissibility of Green's donation.

"She has to come clean and give a full public explanation of her entire involvement with this donation."

Paul Green, meanwhile, is tending his business interests at home in Jersey. A horseracing enthusiast, he has received the official registration for his latest horse.

Its name? No More Donations.

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: How the Sunday Herald broke the story . . . and how other newspapers followed Wendy Alexander faced the media pack at Holyrood last Tuesday as the controversy over a campaign donation from businessman Paul Green, below, continued to intensify. Main photograph: Reuters/ David Moir

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: SH

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The Sun (England)
December 6, 2007 Thursday

Another fine mess, Wendy

BYLINE: Andrew Nicoll, Scottish political reporter
LABOUR leader Wendy Alexander could face exclusion from Parliament and a £5,000 fine because she failed to register the secret donors who banked her leadership campaign.

The Tories say that failing to name secret donors is "concealing" and could lead to a formal complaint to Holyrood’s Standards Committee.

But Labour insists the Committee has already given the all-clear to a black out on her secret backers.

Ms Alexander asked for more than two
dozen supporters, including tax exile Paul Green, 65, to give cash donations.

Her campaign team used election law to try to keep the names secret by ensuring all the backers gave 
under £1,000.

Donations above that level must be publicly recorded with the Electoral Commission.

And all the cash was paid over to the W.A. Campaign, rather than directly into her accounts.

But tough Parliament rules, designed to combat corruption, mean she is obliged to name her backers in
her Holyrood Register of Interests.

The Code of Conduct for MSPs is clear.

It states: "Any gift, the value of which exceeds one per cent of a Member’s salary on the date the gift is made must be registered where the gift also meets the prejudice test in section 3(2) of the Act."

This means that any gift of more than £500 MUST be registered if it looks like the MSP owes the donor a favour.

Last night, Tory deputy leader Murdo Fraser, left, said: "The rules governing registration of interests are there to ensure openness, so there is no question of any MSP being influenced by a third party."

String

"Wendy Alexander’s failure to register these gifts raises real concerns."

The regulations are so tough that former First Minster Jack McConnell found himself forced to list a
painting which he received as a Christmas gift from his wife.

Ms Alexander, for her part, has been careful to list a string of minor donations on her Register of Interests.

They include gifts of under £1,000 for local campaigning work from two trade unions and donations worth as little as £200 from eight companies who sponsored her calendar this year.

Yet she’s avoided listing those who backed her Labour leadership campaign.

It’s up to Parliament’s Standards Committee to investigate any breach of the Code of Conduct and their
enquiries are carried out in secret.

Any MSP or member of the public could call for an investigation but committee members are forbidden
from mentioning any probe that is under way.

Last night, a Labour spokesman insisted the party leader had been given permission to keep the gifts
secret.

He said: "The Scottish Parliament Standards Clerk advised that they were satisfied no Register of
Members Interests reporting requirement arose as no donations were made to Ms Alexander personally."

Parliament authorities declined to comment last night.