

McDougall L (Lynne)

From: Pringle K (Kevin)
Sent: 15 December 2007 23:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Trump

Hi Iain

Just saw your piece on Trump in Sunday Herald. Two things to clarify. John Swinney did not play golf at Westchester! And the Perm Sec has already said that the government car was entirely appropriate as Alex Salmond was on government business that day. Cheers Kevin

I attached a few facts that you may find useful

* John Swinney attended the first regional conference of the Globalscot network in New York on Monday 3 December. The previous evening, he attended a reception for approximately 150 Globalscots attending the conference, which was hosted by visitscotland, and took place at the Trump Golf Village at Westchester. A commercial fee was paid for the use of the venue. No members of the Trump organisation were present. John Swinney has never met with or had any conversations with any member of the Trump organisation.

Globalscot is an international business network whose purpose is to support sustainable growth of the Scottish economy. It achieves this primarily through helping to accelerate the growth of Scottish companies. Since its launch in November 2001, the Globalscot network has grown to an international membership of nearly 950 individuals - Scots, and those with a strong affinity for Scotland, working in leadership positions around the world in industries and geographies that are important to Scotland's economic development. It provides Scottish organisations with a ready-made international support network that will accelerate growth and success.

Scottish Enterprise ran the Globalscot the event in response to demand from Globalscots and Scottish companies. The objective for this conference was the same as that for the previous Edinburgh conference: acceleration of Scottish company growth.

* Amid all the noise, worth remembering that the full Aberdeenshire Council did not have the ability to overturn the decision of the committee. To quote the Council leader Anne Robertson: "There is nothing in the standing orders to allow this decision to be overturned." (Aberdeen Evening Express, 4 December 2007).

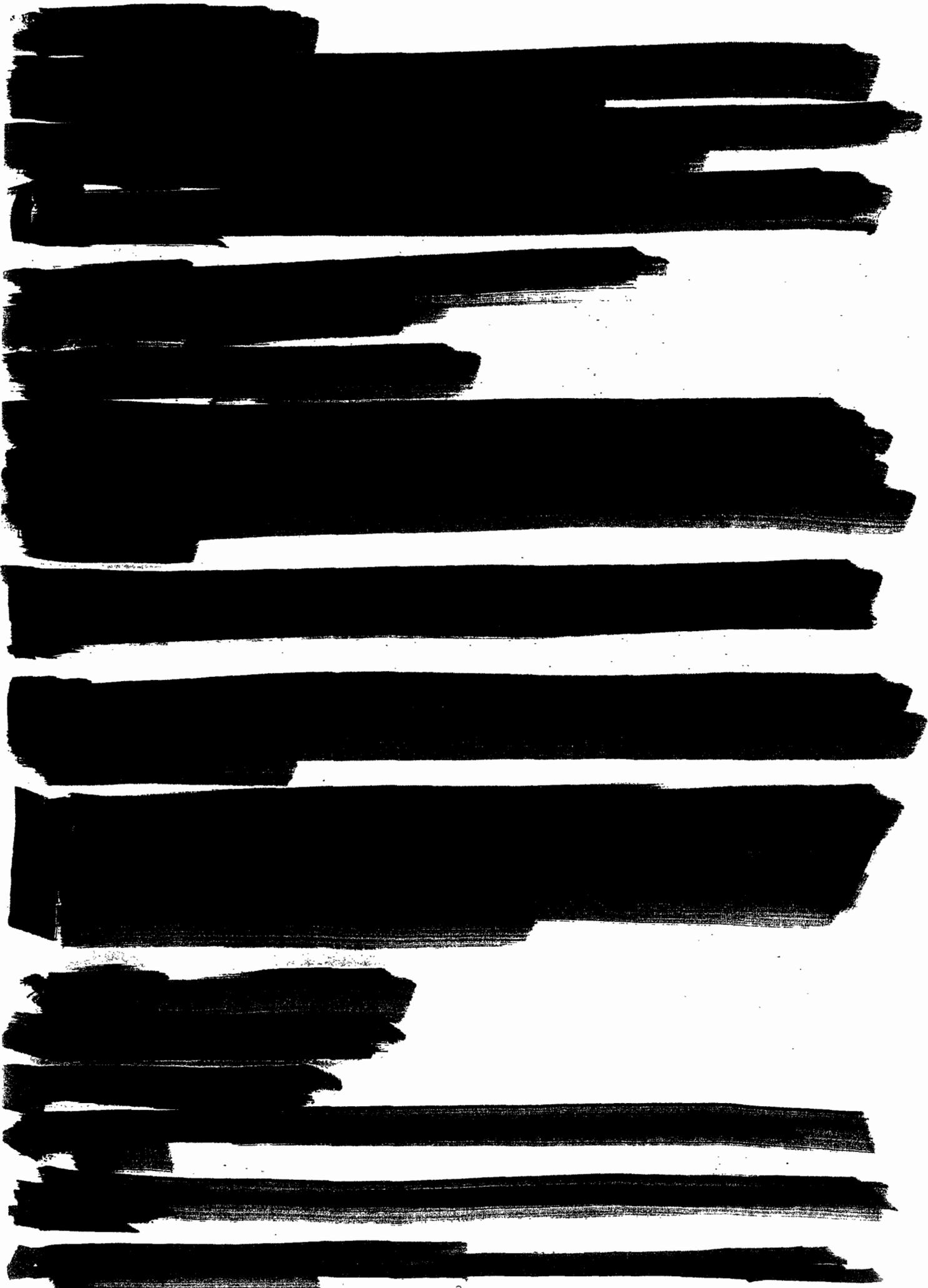
And the Council welcomed the Scottish Government decision to call the application in. Ms Robertson said: "What is important in all this is securing the economic future of the north-east of Scotland. The Scottish Government quite rightly feels this application raises issues of such importance that they require scrutiny at a national level. If the decision of ministers to call this application in keeps it alive, then we welcome this intervention" (BBC website, 5 December).

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