

Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner

Press Statement

Issued 24th May 2004

REPORTING ON POSSIBLE COMPLAINT ABOUT THE FIRST MINISTER TO THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS COMMISSIONER – 23 May 2004

“I noted reporting in various media outlets yesterday that there is said to be an intention to make a complaint to me about an action by the First Minister. I simply wish to make a general statement to clarify what appears to be misunderstanding in the reporting, which might mislead the public, about my role as Standards Commissioner.

The remit given to my post by the Scottish Parliament does not include the investigation of complaints about Ministerial actions. There is a separate Ministerial Code governing these, issued by the Scottish Executive in February 2002. My remit involves investigating complaints that a member has breached the Code of Conduct for members. This covers the conduct of Ministers when they are acting in their MSP capacity, e.g. pursuing matters on behalf of constituents; but when they are acting in their capacity as members of the Scottish Executive, the separate Ministerial Code applies.”

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