

Midlothian Council

Labour Group



Midlothian Council
7 February 2017

Notice of Motion

At the Council meeting on 20 December 2016 Councillor Johnstone stated that as Leader of Midlothian Council she had met Derek Mackay MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, to discuss the Scottish Government proposal to raise the Council Tax in the higher bands with the Scottish Government retaining £1.2 million of the £1.7 million raised in Midlothian.

Following a Freedom of Information request to the Scottish Government asking

- 1 the date of the meeting;
- 2 what was discussed;
- 3 what was decided; and
- 4 was a civil servant present with the minister and if so, whom?

a reply from the Private office of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance states -- 'The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for because no records exist to indicate any such meeting took place between Councillor Catherine Johnstone and Derek Mackay as Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution.'

Clearly, Council Leader Catherine Johnstone's statement to Midlothian Council has no factual foundation, and she should tender her immediate resignation.

Moved:

COUNCILLOR ADAM MONTGOMERY

Seconded:

COUNCILLOR BRYAN POTTINGER