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# Alex Salmond inquiry: Government insists FM's chief of staff can't give evidence



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Nicola Sturgeon with chief of staff Liz Lloyd



**JOHN Swinney** has insisted the civil service's code of conduct prevents the First Minister's chief of staff from giving her own written and oral evidence to the [Alex Salmond](#) inquiry.

Ahead of the opening session tomorrow, MSPs have told the Government they want to be able to hear in writing and in person from [Nicola Sturgeon](#)'s most senior aide Liz Lloyd.

But in a letter to the cross party committee the Deputy First Minister argued it would be in breach of the civil service code of conduct for officials to give "personal reflections or private opinions" on areas of government responsibility.

The Government want Lloyd's evidence to be included solely in a written timeline recording how events unfolded.

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