

PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER

RA

SCOTTISH JUDGES

Malcolm Rifkind's office have rung me to alert us to the imminent resignation of one of the Scottish High Court Judges, Judge Dervaird. This will be announced at 7.00 pm this evening.

The background is speculation in press circles that three Scottish Judges have been involved in a homosexual scandal. This has been looked into by the Lord President (the senior Scottish Judge) and the Secretary of State, who concluded that Judge Dervaird should be asked to resign. Apparently, nothing illegal has been uncovered, but he does seem to have allowed his widespread activities to have been conducted in a public way.

The other two judges named in the stories going round amongst the press are Lords Weir and [redacted] also High Court judges. The former has resolutely denied any of the stories being spread about him; and no evidence has been unearthed about the latter. But the Scottish Office do not rule out the possibility that there may be further developments.

None of the press rumours have so far been made public. But it is likely that, once the news of Judge Dervaird's resignation is out, the press will go public, and the other two names may be brought to light.

None of the three are Prime Ministerial appointments.

Paul.

PAUL GRAY

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