

Police charge councillor with alleged sexual offences

Cllr Lewis Ritchie, 36, the Independent councillor for Leith Walk, has been charged by police with five offences which are alleged to have happened between 2016 and 2019.

Some of the offences include allegedly sending indecent communications.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: "A 36-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection with sexual offences and indecent communications between April 2016 and October 2019 in the Leith area of Edinburgh and October 2017 in the Kelvinbridge area of Glasgow.

"He was released on an undertaking to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court at a later date."

Cllr Ritchie was elected as an SNP councillor in 2015, but resigned from the SNP over accusations of sexual misconduct at the 2017 SNP conference. He denied all claims. He has owned a café on Easter Road for around a year, and is married with one young child.

His Twitter account has been deleted.