



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Scottish Parliament Annual Report 2010–2011



Contents

Foreword from the Presiding Officer	1
The Parliament at work	
The Chamber	2
Committees	10
Engaging with other legislatures	26
Engaging with the public	28



Designed and edited by www.turtonmiddleton.com
Photography: HE Media, Andrew Cowan
© Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body 2011.

Cover photos:

Clockwise from top left: The Scottish Parliament's education outreach service delivers activities at local schools; the Debating Chamber; members of the public on a guided tour; participants at the International Women's Day conference; action in support of a public petition on knife crime.

Inside cover photos:

Clockwise from top left: Meeting in a committee room; Mary Scanlon MSP talks to a group of students during a visit organised by the education outreach service; a group of schoolchildren on a tour of the Holyrood building; broadcast recording in the Garden Lobby; a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament speaks in a committee meeting in the Chamber.

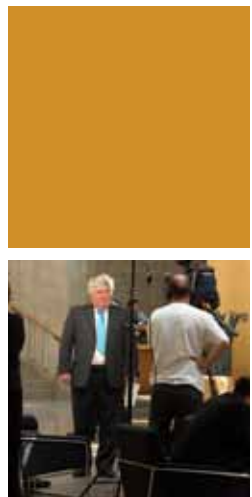
Parliamentary Copyright. © Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body 2011.

Produced by Turton Middleton and published by RR Donnelley on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

The Office of the Queen's Printer for Scotland (OQPS) administers copyright on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Information Policy Team, Office of the Queen's Printer for Scotland Admail ADM4058, Edinburgh, EH1 1NG. Email: licensing@oqps.gov.uk

Alternatively you can make an application via the OQPS website: www.oqps.gov.uk/crown-copyright/



Foreword from the Presiding Officer

The aim of this annual report is to provide information on how the Scottish Parliament has fulfilled its role during the period 9 May 2010 to 22 March 2011. The report covers all areas of the Parliament's operations over this period.

This year, of course, represents the final year of the Parliament's third session and it has been a busy one on a number of fronts.

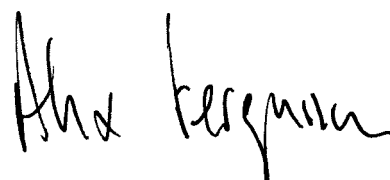
In the Debating Chamber, the Parliament has passed 24 bills, including three members' bills. In addition, the Chamber has heard debates on a wide range of subjects touching on almost every area of devolved responsibility.

We have continued to support Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) in their committee work. The legislative programme has kept the committees busy in scrutinising bills and holding the Scottish Government to account. Additionally, committees have reported to the Parliament on a number of key issues. The Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee, for example, reported on its inquiry into the local newspaper industry while the Finance Committee completed its inquiry into preventative spending.

A key part of the Parliament's work is in seeking to engage the people of Scotland in the work of its members and in the political process more generally. On that front, the Parliament held the second Understanding and Influencing Your Parliament conference in October 2010. The event attracted dozens of voluntary organisations from across the country and gave them an insider's insight into the workings of the Parliament.

We welcomed the business community into Holyrood through the sixth Business in the Parliament conference, organised in partnership with the Scottish Government. Also, the European and External Relations Committee played host to the UK delegates to the Committee of the Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe.

It has been a busy conclusion to this third session of the Scottish Parliament. I hope that this report will provide you with a good snapshot of many of the Scottish Parliament's activities over the last year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature is a light blue rectangular graphic element.

The Rt Hon Alex Ferguson MSP

The Parliament at work

The Chamber

The Chamber is at the centre of parliamentary business, hosting meaningful and topical debates on a wide range of political issues, policy proposals and legislation including, for example, a debate on the Scotland Bill which had been laid before the UK Parliament. Weekly question time sessions, where members hold the First Minister and other Scottish ministers to account on current high-profile issues, tend to generate particularly lively debate.

Agendas for meetings of the Parliament are proposed by the Parliamentary Bureau on a business motion which, once approved, forms a rolling programme of business for the coming fortnight. Membership of the Bureau currently comprises the Presiding Officer, who chairs the meetings, along with one representative from each party with five or more MSPs.

Debates

Debating time in the Chamber is allocated to political parties on the basis of the proportion of seats that they hold. Once this allocation has been made, it is each party's responsibility to propose subjects to be discussed during its debating time. In the past year the Scottish National Party Government, with the largest proportion of debating time, led debates on a wide range of social, political and economic issues, including the following:

- annual fisheries negotiations
- antisocial behaviour framework
- Curriculum for Excellence
- NHS quality strategy
- poverty framework
- refresh of the skills strategy
- Scottish variable rate of income tax
- zero waste plan.

Twenty days were allocated to debate non-Government business in the Chamber during this parliamentary year. Debates on a range of topics have taken place, including the following:

- the future of Scotland's supported employment workplaces (Scottish Labour Party)
- winter resilience (Scottish Labour Party)
- care home costs (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
- higher education (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
- renewable energy (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
- support for business (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
- protecting public services (Scottish Green Party).

(Opposite) MSPs taking part in parliamentary business in the Chamber

Committee debates

Committees can request debating time in the Chamber to bring issues raised in reports that they have published to the attention of a wider audience. For example, the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee debated its report on banking and financial services in Scotland in June 2010.



Ministerial statements

Ministerial statements are made by the First Minister and his ministerial colleagues to inform the Parliament of urgent matters or to make announcements on policy. Statements can be between 10 and 15 minutes long, and are followed by 20 or 30 minutes for questions from members. In the past year, the First Minister made a statement on the Scottish Government's legislative programme. Ministerial statements have also been made on a number of topics, including:

- broadcasting
- economic and social impact of the strategic defence and security review
- reform of the police and fire and rescue services
- severe weather
- Skills Development Scotland
- supporting young people in the context of the economic climate
- UK emergency budget and end-year flexibility.



Members' business

Members' business is held at the end of each meeting of the Parliament, and allows individual members from any party or group to highlight issues that would not necessarily be given prominence during the main proceedings. Members' business is often used to raise a particular constituency or regional matter or to highlight a commemorative or



awareness-raising event. Examples of such debates held during the past year include:

- 65th anniversary of VE Day
- addressing young offenders' communication support needs
- Bluelight, an initiative addressing issues surrounding antisocial behaviour, drugs and alcohol
- dual the A9 timetable
- Hunterston – not the way forward for carbon capture
- keep Leuchie House
- perspectives of children and young people with a parent in prison
- the see me campaign, addressing perceptions of mental health problems in Scotland
- the importance of RAF Kinloss and RAF Lossiemouth.

Time for Reflection

Business in the Chamber each week begins with Time for Reflection, giving people of different faiths and beliefs the chance to share their thoughts with the Parliament. Representatives from a wide range of religious groups and faiths, and individuals of no faith, who have taken part this year include:

- Larry Blance, Kagyu Samye Dzong Buddhist Centre
- Marion Chatterley, Spiritual and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Waverley Care
- Rt Reverend John Christie, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
- General Sir Richard Dannatt, Guest Speaker, National Prayer Breakfast Scotland
- Mimi Evans-Agnew and James Clements, pupil and former pupil of Hyndland Secondary School

- Frances Hume, Development and Education Officer, Scottish Inter Faith Council
- Tina McGeever, petitioner and campaigner from Buckie, Moray
- His Eminence Keith Patrick Cardinal O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

Parliamentary questions

Parliamentary questions can be oral or written. MSPs have a weekly opportunity to lodge oral questions, and to direct them to the First Minister and his ministerial colleagues. Written questions may be lodged at any time and will receive a written answer.

Six topical questions, put forward by the three main opposition party leaders and other MSPs, are selected by the Presiding Officer and are asked during First Minister's Question Time on a Thursday. MSPs can also enter their names in a ballot to ask general and themed questions to Scottish ministers on a Thursday. Thirty members, randomly selected in the ballot, submit their questions in advance for publication in the *Business Bulletin*. At General and Themed Question Time the relevant minister provides an answer to the published question, and to any related supplementary questions (about which no notice has been given).

Any question that has not been reached by the end of the time allocated for oral questions receives a written answer which will then appear, along with all other written answers, in the weekly *Written Answers Report*. This can be accessed through the Parliament's website.

Parliamentary questions answered from 9 May 2010 to 22 March 2011

	Answered in Chamber	Received written answer
First Minister's Question Time	191	0
General and Themed Question Time	745	145

7,053 questions were also lodged for written answer in the same period, and 603 for First Minister's Question Time. First Minister's questions not selected by the Presiding Officer are not published and do not receive an answer.

Motions

MSPs use parliamentary motions for a number of purposes – to highlight an issue or event, to generate support for a cause, to acknowledge and congratulate an achievement or to stimulate debate on a subject. Motions lodged by MSPs appear in the following day's *Business Bulletin*, along with the names of other members who support their terms.

Motions for debate in the Chamber are lodged on the basis of the business programme agreed by the Parliament. Amendments to these motions can also be lodged and the Presiding Officer selects which amendments will be debated. The vast majority of motions are not intended for debate, however.

2,103 motions and amendments were lodged during the year, on a broad range of topics. Those lodged but not debated addressed a wide variety of issues, including:

- International Youth Day
- coastguard search and rescue teams

- how police are passing on skills to help tackle domestic abuse
- Chilean miners' rescue
- new Victoria & Albert Museum in Dundee
- drug dealers as a blight on communities
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2011.

Legislation

Draft laws (known as bills while they are being considered by the Parliament) can take several months to complete the standard, three-stage, passage through the Parliament. When a bill is passed, it takes around one month for it to receive royal assent and to become an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

The majority of bills introduced this parliamentary year were introduced by the Scottish Ministers to further the Scottish Government's policy aims on matters such as criminal justice, the environment and reform of public services. A significant number of members' bills were also introduced, covering a diverse range of matters.



(Left to right) John Swinney MSP, the Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, Nicola Sturgeon MSP

20 MSPs from different parties decided not to seek re-election this year. They are pictured below.



Alasdair Morgan MSP



Wendy Alexander MSP



Bill Aitken MSP



Cathy Jamieson MSP



Christopher Harvie MSP



Margaret Curran MSP



Ian McKee MSP



the Rt Hon Jack McConnell MSP



Marlyn Glen MSP



Jim Mather MSP



John Farquhar Munro MSP



George Foulkes MSP



Jamie Stone MSP



Nicol Stephen MSP



Peter Peacock MSP



Rhona Brankin MSP



Robin Harper MSP



Ted Brocklebank MSP



Trish Godman MSP



Andrew Welsh MSP

Members' bills

One of the key provisions for power sharing in the Scottish Parliament is that which allows members to generate their own bills. The final year of the Parliament generally sees a number of members' bills introduced and this year was no exception, with eight meeting the 1 June 2010 deadline.

In the final year of the session the Parliament passed three members' bills, three were rejected, one fell at dissolution and two were withdrawn (see the table below).

Overall during session 3, 13 members' bills were introduced, of which seven were passed to become Acts of the Scottish Parliament.

Committee bills

There are few countries in which parliamentary committees are able to initiate legislation. This year, however, saw the passing of the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc Bill, in June 2010. During the third session another committee bill, the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Bill, was also passed.

Members' bills considered by the Parliament in session 3

Bill	Introduced	Outcome
Scottish Register of Tartans Bill	25 March 2008	Royal assent 13 November 2008
Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Bill	19 May 2008	Royal assent 8 July 2009
Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Bill	2 June 2008	Royal assent 1 April 2009
Control of Dogs (Scotland) Bill	22 June 2009	Royal assent 26 May 2010
End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill	20 January 2010	Rejected 1 December 2010
Autism (Scotland) Bill	26 May 2010	Rejected 12 January 2011
Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill	27 May 2010	Fell at dissolution
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill	27 May 2010	Royal assent 20 April 2011
Criminal Sentencing (Equity Fines) (Scotland) Bill	1 June 2010	Withdrawn 25 November 2010
Damages (Scotland) Bill	1 June 2010	Royal assent 7 April 2011
Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill	1 June 2010	Withdrawn 2 December 2010
Property Factors (Scotland) Bill	1 June 2010	Royal assent 7 April 2011
Protection of Workers (Scotland) Bill	1 June 2010	Rejected 22 December 2010

Bills introduced (19)

A total of 19 bills were introduced in the Parliament between 9 May 2010 and 22 March 2011. They are listed below in order of date of introduction. Two of the bills – the Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill and the Criminal Sentencing (Equity Fines) (Scotland) Bill – were withdrawn during stage 1 by the member sponsoring the bill. A further two – the Protection of Workers (Scotland) Bill and the Autism (Scotland) Bill – fell at the end of stage 1, the Parliament having rejected their general principles. The Long Leases (Scotland) Bill and the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill fell at the end of the session as they had not completed their parliamentary passage by that time. The remaining bills were passed.

- Autism (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 26 May 2010
- Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 27 May 2010
- Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 27 May 2010
- Criminal Sentencing (Equity Fines) (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 1 June 2010
- Damages (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 1 June 2010
- Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 1 June 2010
- Property Factors (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 1 June 2010
- Protection of Workers (Scotland) Bill [Member's] 1 June 2010
- Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill [Government] 9 June 2010
- Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Bill [Government] 29 September 2010
- Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Bill [Government] 4 October 2010
- Reservoirs (Scotland) Bill [Government] 6 October 2010
- Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill [Government] 7 October 2010
- Double Jeopardy (Scotland) Bill [Government] 7 October 2010
- Local Electoral Administration (Scotland) Bill [Government] 7 October 2010
- Public Records (Scotland) Bill [Government] 7 October 2010
- Criminal Procedure (Legal Assistance, Detention and Appeals) (Scotland) Bill [Government] 27 October 2010
- Long Leases (Scotland) Bill [Government] 10 November 2010
- Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill [Government] 20 January 2011



Acts (26)

Twenty-six bills received royal assent to become Acts of the Scottish Parliament between 9 May 2010 and the end of April 2011. One of the bills, the Criminal Procedure (Legal Assistance, Detention and Appeals) (Scotland) Act 2010, was introduced by the Scottish Government and completed its passage through the three stages in one day, under the Parliament's emergency bills procedure. It received royal assent two days later. Of the rest, a further 18 were Government bills, four were introduced by a backbench member, one was a committee bill, one was a private bill, and one was a hybrid bill.

- Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 [Member's]
- Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 [Government]
- Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc Act 2010 [Committee]
- William Simpson's Home (Transfer of Property etc) (Scotland) Act 2010 [Private]
- Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 [Government]
- Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 [Government]
- Criminal Procedure (Legal Assistance, Detention and Appeals) (Scotland) Act 2010 [Government]
- Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010 [Government]
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 [Government]
- Alcohol etc (Scotland) Act 2010 [Government]
- Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Forth Crossing Act 2011 [Hybrid]
- Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Budget (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Damages (Scotland) Act 2011 [Member's]
- Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011 [Member's]
- Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2011 [Member's]
- Local Electoral Administration (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Double Jeopardy (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]
- Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 [Government]



Convener:
Iain Smith

Members:
Wendy Alexander

Gavin Brown

Rob Gibson

Christopher Harvie

Marilyn Livingstone

Lewis Macdonald

Stuart McMillan

Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee

During this year, the main focus for the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee has been on concluding two major inquiries. The first of these focused on the public sector's support for Scottish exporters, international trade and the attraction of inward investment. Lasting six months, this major study into state support for business internationalisation came to a conclusion with the publication of the committee's report in September 2010. The inquiry investigated the current strategy and policy in the public sector in Scotland and considered the allocation of resources to help Scottish businesses internationalise their activities. It also looked at how these policies are co-ordinated within Scotland and with other trade promotion bodies at a UK level.

The second of the committee's major inquiries was a fundamental review of the purpose of an enterprise agency and the success of the recent reforms. This looked at the current structure and purpose of Scotland's enterprise network and reviewed the transfer of responsibilities which were announced in 2007 by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, to examine whether or not they had improved delivery. The inquiry report was published in February 2011.

The committee was also kept busy scrutinising the Protection of Workers (Scotland) Bill and carrying out its analysis of the Scottish Government's draft 2011–12 budget.

Finally the committee, alongside partners in the Scottish Government, the main business organisations and the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), helped organise the sixth in the series of Business in the Parliament conferences, which was held on 11–12 November 2010.

Committee members visited Ardsvar filling station and post office, run by the Sleat Community Trust (left), and held a committee meeting (right) on the Isle of Skye as part of their inquiry into the enterprise network.



Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee

The committee began the year with its continued consideration of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill, followed by scrutiny of the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill and the Public Records (Scotland) Bill. The committee also scrutinised one member's bill, the Autism (Scotland) Bill. As part of this scrutiny, the committee held an informal meeting with a group of people with autism to discuss the bill's proposals. The Autism (Scotland) Bill fell at stage 1, when the Parliament did not agree to its general principles.

The committee also concluded two scoping exercises which it had begun during the previous parliamentary year. The first, on local authority funding of education and children's services, sought to assist members' understanding of the process by which local authorities spend their budgets relating to these services. A number of fact-finding visits informed this exercise, as well as oral evidence sessions. The second exercise focused on the question of the future structure of the state school system and considered the mechanism by which education is presently delivered, together with possible alternatives. The committee's study was informed by a round-table discussion with key stakeholders, as well as by written evidence. Full consideration of these issues was limited by dissolution, however. The committee published a report in March 2011 summarising the issues raised by both these exercises, and recommended that its successor committee consider these matters further.

The committee continued with its series of one-off evidence sessions on a range of topics within its remit. Among other issues, it took evidence on teacher employment, class sizes, further and higher education and broadcasting in Scotland.



Convener:
Karen Whitefield

Members:
Alasdair Allan
(from 20.05.10)

Claire Baker

Aileen Campbell
(until 20.05.10)

Kenneth Gibson

Ken Macintosh

Christina McKelvie

Elizabeth Smith

Margaret Smith

A committee meeting in progress: (left) Karen Whitefield MSP, Kenneth Gibson MSP; (right) Ken Macintosh MSP, Claire Baker MSP, Margaret Smith MSP, Elizabeth Smith MSP





Convener:
Margaret Mitchell

Members:
**Malcolm
Chisholm**

Willie Coffey
(until 20.05.10)

Marlyn Glen

Jamie Hepburn
(from 04.11.10)

Bill Kidd
(until 04.11.10)

**Christina
McKelvie**

Stuart McMillan
(from 20.05.10)

Hugh O'Donnell
Elaine Smith

Equal Opportunities Committee

The committee's work this year again covered a wide range of equality issues. This included a major inquiry into migration and people trafficking, which explored both the impact and contribution of migrant populations within Scottish society and the extent and nature of trafficking. As part of its evidence taking, the committee held an informal meeting in Glasgow with migrants to discuss their experiences of coming to, and settling in, Scotland. It also took evidence from UK Government departments, along with many other bodies, in a wide-ranging inquiry.

The committee also scrutinised the Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Bill. The bill makes provision for Forced Marriage Protection Orders, which protect people from being forced to enter into marriage without their consent. The committee heard harrowing evidence about the damage that forced marriage causes. Although the number of victims in Scotland may be low, the committee believed that the impact on individuals and on society more widely is high and that forced marriage should not be tolerated in Scotland in the 21st century. The bill was passed by the Parliament on 22 March 2011.

The committee continued to consider the budgetary implications for equalities in its scrutiny of the Scottish Government's draft budget. It welcomed an improved Equality Statement this year as a positive step forward in terms of providing an overview assessment of the equality implications of the draft budget. However, the committee believes that much work remains to be done to transform the budget process to ensure that resource allocation decisions are informed and, if necessary, altered by equality considerations.

To inform its inquiry into migration and people trafficking, the committee held an informal meeting in Glasgow in June 2010 to hear the views and experiences of 25 people who had migrated to Scotland.



European and External Relations Committee

This year the committee considered the Treaty of Lisbon and its impact on Scotland. Arising from this inquiry, the committee recommended the introduction of a parliament-wide European Union (EU) Strategy which had, at its heart, the enhanced role of subject committees. The proposals, which are currently being piloted, cover early engagement, the appointment of EU Reporters, scrutiny of emerging EU legislative proposals and consideration of issues in relation to potential breaches of subsidiarity (the principle that member states should take decisions on issues best dealt with at a local or national level). The committee's proposals were published in articles in the *Journal of the Law Society of Scotland* and SCOLAG (Scottish Legal Action Group).

Other EU-related inquiry work looked at the EU budget and at Europe 2020 (a ten-year strategy proposed by the European Commission on 3 March 2010 for reviving the economy of the European Union). The committee considered these to be key issues likely to have significant implications for Scotland. It submitted its findings to the House of Lords.

In relation to its international remit, the committee's report on the Scottish Government's international engagement strategy included the first analysis of public expenditure on international engagement outside the UK since devolution. The committee recommended a new emphasis on developing a culture of internationalism among Scots, and the improvement of Scotland's linguistic performance.

In addition, the committee scrutinised the Europe and External Affairs portfolio of the Scottish Government's budget for 2011–12. The committee heard evidence from the Belgian Ambassador to the UK on Belgium's EU Presidency priorities and continued to engage with Scottish Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), the European Commission, the European Parliament and other EU regional parliaments, as well as colleagues at Westminster and within the other devolved institutions in the UK. Amongst its international visitors, the committee received the New Zealand High Commissioner and also hosted the annual meeting of the UK Delegation of the Committee of the Regions and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe.



Convener:
Irene Oldfather

Members:
Rhona Brankin
(until 24.06.10)
Ted Brocklebank
Patricia Ferguson

Jamie Hepburn
(until 04.11.10)

Jim Hume

Bill Kidd
(from 04.11.10)

Michael Matheson
(until 01.07.10)

Frank McAveety
(from 24.06.10)

Sandra White

Bill Wilson
(from 01.07.10)



Convener:
Andrew Welsh

Members:
Derek Brownlee
Malcolm Chisholm
Linda Fabiani
Joe FitzPatrick
Tom McCabe
Jeremy Purvis
David Whitton

Finance Committee

The committee's main area of work is the annual budget process. In advance of its scrutiny of the draft budget for 2011–12 the committee carried out a major inquiry into the efficient delivery of public services. The committee also took evidence for the first time from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and from the Independent Budget Review Panel.

One of the main issues which arose during the committee's initial work on the draft budget was the need to look at ways of shifting the focus of spending decisions towards trying to prevent negative social outcomes, rather than reacting to them. The committee subsequently conducted a major inquiry into preventative spending. The resulting report demonstrated a clear political consensus for a more preventative approach and especially for investment in early years services.

The findings of the report and the response from the Scottish Government were debated at a conference in the Chamber that was attended by more than 90 senior public figures, and the outcome helped to inform the committee's legacy paper. The committee recommended that there is a need for a sustained political commitment to preventative spending over the longer term, and that the next Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government must provide the leadership required to make this happen.

The committee also carried out a short inquiry on a number of issues in relation to the Scottish variable rate (SVR) of income tax. The committee made a number of recommendations, including the suggestion that any decisions that could further affect the next Parliament's ability to exercise its SVR powers should be agreed by the Parliament.

The committee held a conference on the outcome of its inquiry into preventative spending in March 2011: (left) delegates at the conference; (right) Dr Suzanne Zeedyk of the University of Dundee addresses the conference.



Health and Sport Committee

The Health and Sport Committee was appointed as lead committee for the scrutiny of two bills during this parliamentary year – the Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill and the Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill.

In its stage 1 report on the Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill, the committee agreed that improvements to the delivery of palliative care services should be pursued, but questioned the need for legislation.

During its scrutiny of the Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill, the committee recommended that the general principles be agreed, but sought further clarity from the Scottish Government on certain issues.

In addition, the committee continued its scrutiny of the Patient Rights (Scotland) Bill, following a call for evidence in the previous parliamentary year. In its stage 1 report, the committee could not reach a consensus on the general principles of the bill. Some members considered that a comprehensive patient rights charter would be more appropriate than primary legislation. Amendments to the bill to require the publication of such a charter were agreed to at stage 3.

The committee also concluded its scrutiny of the Alcohol etc (Scotland) Bill. With certain reservations, the committee was broadly supportive of the general principles of the bill at stage 1. During its stage 2 consideration the committee agreed, by division, to remove from the bill the section that would introduce a mechanism for setting a minimum unit price for alcohol in Scotland.

In addition to the above legislation, the committee also scrutinised the Scottish Government's draft health and wellbeing budget for 2011–12, as well as undertaking an inquiry into NHS board allocations for the preceding financial year.



Convener:
Christine Grahame

Members:
Helen Eadie
Ross Finnie
Rhoda Grant
Michael Matheson
Ian McKee
Mary Scanlon
Richard Simpson

**Convener:**

John Lamont
(member from
24.02.11 and
convener from
01.03.11)

Members:

Bill Aitken
(member and
convener until
22.02.11)

Robert Brown

Bill Butler

Angela Constance
(until 20.05.10)

Cathie Craigie

Nigel Don

James Kelly

Stewart Maxwell

Dave Thompson
(from 20.05.10)

Justice Committee

The final year of session 3 saw the work of the Justice Committee dominated by its consideration of eight bills.

In May 2010 the committee concluded stage 2 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill, and in June it considered more than 400 amendments to the Legal Services (Scotland) Bill.

September 2010 to March 2011 was taken up with consideration of four members' bills and two Scottish Government bills: the Double Jeopardy (Scotland) Bill and the Long Leases (Scotland) Bill. Two of the members' bills – the Damages (Scotland) Bill and the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill – and the Double Jeopardy (Scotland) Bill all proceeded through the Parliament and were passed. A third member's bill, the Criminal Sentencing (Equity Fines) (Scotland) Bill, was considered to be outwith the legislative competence of the Parliament, while a fourth, the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill, ran out of time for stage 1 consideration.

Although the committee published its stage 1 report on the Long Leases (Scotland) Bill in March, it too ran out of time and fell at dissolution.

In its other work, the committee scrutinised the Scottish Government's draft budget for 2011–12, and undertook post-legislative scrutiny of the Criminal Procedure (Legal Assistance, Detention and Appeals) (Scotland) Act 2010 (which had previously bypassed the committee as it had been considered using the emergency bill procedure). The committee also considered more than 70 items of subordinate legislation during the year, with the final four meetings of the session alone seeing 41 Scottish statutory instruments (SSIs) appear on the agendas.

A committee meeting in progress: (left) Robert Brown MSP, Cathie Craigie MSP, James Kelly MSP; (right) Nigel Don MSP, Dave Thompson MSP, Maureen Watt MSP



Local Government and Communities Committee

Much of the committee's focus this year was on the scrutiny of legislation, particularly in relation to housing issues in both the social and private rented sectors, through scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Housing (Scotland) Bill and Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Bill and Patricia Ferguson MSP's Property Factors (Scotland) Bill.

The committee has taken an interest in electoral issues for the whole of this parliamentary session. As well as scrutinising the Local Electoral Administration (Scotland) Bill, it took evidence from the Electoral Commission and the chair of the interim Electoral Management Board on the preparations for this year's Scottish Parliament elections. It also held a very successful seminar on voter turnout with the Scottish Government, bringing together key stakeholders, academics and electoral professionals to discuss electoral issues.

The committee continued to monitor progress on recommendations made in previous reports on issues such as child poverty, equal pay in local government and the National Planning Framework, also holding a number of stand-alone evidence sessions on a variety of issues.

The committee's scrutiny of the Scottish Government's draft budget 2011–12 focused on local government finance, and built on previous work undertaken in this area.

Committee members also undertook a visit to Brussels to participate in meetings on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on devolved administrations, the European Employment Strategy and the Social Protection and Inclusion Process.



Convener:
Duncan McNeil

Members:

Alasdair Allan
(until 20.05.10)

Bob Doris

Patricia Ferguson

Alex Johnstone
(from 22.12.10)

David McLetchie
(until 22.12.10)

Alasdair Morgan
(from 20.05.10)

Mary Mulligan

Jim Tolson

John Wilson

(left) Duncan McNeil MSP and Bruce Crawford MSP; (right) Delegates look on as Mary Mulligan MSP addresses the Chamber during the committee's seminar on electoral turnout.





Convener:
Hugh Henry

Members:
Willie Coffey

Cathie Craigie
(until 24.06.10)

George Foulkes

Murdo Fraser

Jamie Hepburn
(from 04.11.10)

Bill Kidd
(until 04.11.10)

Frank McAveety
(from 24.06.10)

Anne McLaughlin

Nicol Stephen

Public Audit Committee

The Public Audit Committee scrutinises public expenditure. It holds to account those who are charged with spending taxpayers' money and helps to ensure that public funds are spent wisely. The primary focus of the committee's work is the examination of reports produced by the Auditor General for Scotland and its remit allows it to consider matters of wider public audit policy.

This year, the committee published reports on a wide range of issues, including an overview of mental health services, national concessionary travel and progress on planning for the delivery of the Commonwealth Games 2014. In its reports, the committee identified where improvements could be made in national data collection and the effective use of public sector resources. The committee also urged the Scottish Government to improve its record keeping and the transparency of its decision taking. In its report on *The Gathering 2009*, the committee identified lessons that the Scottish Government should learn if public money is to be used effectively in the delivery of events of national significance.

The committee also took evidence on other issues such as the Edinburgh Trams project and highlighted in its legacy paper a number of issues that the session 4 committee may wish to pursue.

The committee produced a report on key themes arising from its session 3 reports, which then formed the basis for the committee's first Chamber debate. This debate took place on 3 March 2011.

The committee received the Committee award at the Herald Politician of the Year Awards, for the second year running.

Public Petitions Committee

The Public Petitions Committee continued to provide members of the public with a direct route for raising issues of concern to them with their Parliament. During the reporting period the committee met 19 times and considered 298 current and 63 new petitions, taking oral evidence from the petitioner on 18 of these. The committee also took oral evidence on ten current petitions, including evidence from six Scottish Government ministers and one UK Government minister.

The committee continued its external meetings policy with a meeting at Arran High School in September.

The work of the committee continues to be driven by issues important to the public. For example, the committee's consideration of petitions PE1098 and PE1223 on school bus safety led to talks between the Scottish and UK Governments on the possible devolution of powers to Scotland on this subject.

In October 2010 the committee held a meeting in the Chamber as part of the Scottish Youth Parliament conference and considered three petitions lodged by young people. This continued the committee's commitment to engage young people in the public petitions process.

Once more the e-petitions site continued to be influential, with 64 e-petitions hosted during the reporting period enabling them to attract worldwide support. Continued international interest in the Scottish petitioning model was indicated by discussions with several legislatures and by visits from the petitions committees of the Bavarian Parliament and German Bundestag.



Convener:
Rhona Brankin
(convener from 29.06.10)

Members:
Bill Butler
Cathie Craigie
(from 24.06.10)

Nigel Don

Robin Harper

Frank McAveety
(convener until 22.06.10 and member until 24.06.10)

Anne McLaughlin

Nanette Milne

**John Farquhar
Munro**

John Wilson

(left) The convener met with the John Smith Fellows; (right) The committee held a meeting in the Chamber as part of the Scottish Youth Parliament conference.





Convener:
Maureen Watt

Members:
Aileen Campbell
(20.05.10–
23.12.10)

Karen Gillon

Liam McArthur

Alasdair Morgan
(until 20.05.10)

Elaine Murray

Peter Peacock

John Scott

**Stewart
Stevenson**
(from 23.12.10)

Bill Wilson

Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

This year was dominated by scrutiny of primary legislation, including completing scrutiny of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 2, and consideration of a largely technical bill on reservoir safety. Both of these were subsequently passed by the Parliament.

However, most of the time was spent in scrutinising the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill at stages 1 and 2. This bill included proposals on several important topics such as snaring, species licensing, deer management and management of invasive species, and the committee undertook fact-finding visits to areas where the provisions of the bill would be likely to have the greatest impact. The bill was passed by the Parliament in March 2011.

The committee also carried out an inquiry into the future of agricultural support in Scotland. The subsequent report concluded that Scotland is not receiving its fair share of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding. The committee called for better recognition of the public goods produced by Scottish farmers and for more coherence between agricultural support and land use in moving towards a rural development strategy for Scotland.

Other work undertaken this year included:

- post-legislative scrutiny of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- a letter to the Scottish Government expressing the committee's dismay at the dispute surrounding mackerel fishing quotas in the north-east Atlantic, and calling for action
- evidence taking on the Scottish Government's draft land use strategy, resulting in a letter from the committee to the Scottish Government which included recommendations on the general purpose of the strategy.

As part of their fact finding for the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill, (left) committee members visited the Langholm Project in the Scottish Borders; (right) John Scott MSP and Bill Wilson MSP listen to evidence at the committee meeting in Langholm.



Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

The committee has undertaken a range of work across the three elements of its remit.

The main focus on standards matters has been an inquiry into changes to the legislation governing the registration of members' interests and the associated provisions of the Code of Conduct for MSPs. As a result of the committee's work, the number of categories of interest has been streamlined and the definitions of these categories clarified. The revised requirements will be in place for the start of session 4 of the Parliament.

The committee considered one report from the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner and also took oral evidence from the Commissioner on his Annual Report 2009–10.

A number of inquiries relating to the procedures element of the committee's remit have been completed in the course of this year. The committee reported to the Parliament with specific proposals about the implementation of the recommendations of the Calman Commission on Scottish Devolution relating to the Parliament's procedures. The committee's report set out four areas where greater flexibility should be introduced.

New rules regarding the transparency, financial scrutiny and debate of Financial Resolutions and amendments to bills were proposed by the committee and agreed to by the Parliament in March 2011. The committee also took evidence from the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland on her consultation on a Revised Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments from Public Bodies in Scotland. The committee's report on this formed part of the Parliament's formal response to the consultation.



Convener:
Gil Paterson

Members:

Robert Brown
(until 19.01.11)

Aileen Campbell

Angela Constance
(20.05.10–
15.12.10)

Jim Hume
(from 19.01.11)

Marilyn Livingstone

Nanette Milne

Peter Peacock

Stewart Stevenson
(from 23.12.10)

Dave Thompson
(until 20.05.10)



Convener:
Jamie Stone

Members:
Jackson Carlaw
(until 26.05.10)

Margaret Curran
(until 25.05.10)

Bob Doris

Helen Eadie

Rhoda Grant

Alex Johnstone
(from 26.05.10)

Ian McKee

Elaine Smith
(from 26.05.10)

Subordinate Legislation Committee

The committee continued to conduct effective and meaningful scrutiny of Scottish statutory instruments laid before the Parliament throughout the year, in particular the large number of instruments laid in the run-up to dissolution. In order to address the committee's findings, the Scottish Government re-laid or revoked a number of these instruments.

Unusually, the committee was designated lead committee in the consideration of three Scottish statutory instruments that were brought forward under the Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 relating to changes to the framework for consideration of SSIs. The committee took evidence from the Minister for Parliamentary Business before debating the instruments, which were then agreed to without division.

The committee also continued to scrutinise powers to make secondary legislation in bills and, as a result of the committee's scrutiny, changes were made to the level of control to which a number of those powers were subject in the Parliament. In particular, the committee took evidence from Scottish Government officials in relation to the delegated powers contained within the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill and the Patient Rights (Scotland) Bill. The Patient Rights (Scotland) Bill was amended in line with the recommendations of the committee, and the committee also successfully brought forward an amendment to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill on its own behalf.

The committee also considered and reported on a number of legislative consent memorandums in respect of Westminster bills containing delegated powers, including those contained within the Scotland Bill.

A committee meeting in progress: (left to right) Bob Doris MSP, Helen Eadie MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP, legal advisers to the committee, Ian McKee MSP and a committee clerk



Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee

The committee continued its scrutiny of documents arising from the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. This included consideration of the Scottish Government's *Low Carbon Scotland: The Draft Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP)*, its climate change public engagement strategy and the Low Carbon Economic Strategy. The committee also considered several pieces of subordinate legislation stemming from the 2009 Act, including the subordinate legislation setting the annual targets for the maximum amount of greenhouse gas emissions for Scotland in the period 2010–22.

The committee conducted an inquiry into the relationship between transport and land use planning policies. It made several recommendations in its report, including that the Scottish Government should consider examples of progressive and constructive communication between transport operators and planning professionals to ensure that more is done to integrate the two disciplines.

Evidence sessions were also held on the subject of road safety and young drivers. The committee examined why the level of accidents involving young people on rural roads is disproportionately high, and the progress made by the Scottish Government to ensure continuation and improvement of road safety policies. The committee also heard evidence from the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland regarding the transport-related difficulties faced by many disabled public transport users, and considered what further measures could be taken to overcome them.

Other work included scrutiny of the Scottish Government's draft budget 2011–12, continued monitoring of the Forth Replacement Crossing Project with regular written and oral updates, and evidence sessions to scrutinise the functions of Scottish Water and its regulatory regime.



Convener:
Patrick Harvie

Members:
Jackson Carlaw
(from 26.05.10)

Rob Gibson

Marlyn Glen

Charlie Gordon

Alex Johnstone
(until 25.05.10)

Alison McInnes

Cathy Peattie

Shirley-Anne Somerville



Jim Barton (left) and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney MSP (right), giving evidence to the committee

Other committees



Convener:
Wendy Alexander

Members:
Brian Adam
Robert Brown
Tricia Marwick
David McLetchie
Peter Peacock

Scotland Bill Committee

The Scotland Bill Committee was a special, ad hoc committee established by the Scottish Parliament in December 2010 to consider the Scotland Bill currently before the UK Parliament, and to recommend whether or not the Scottish Parliament should consent to that bill. Consent for the bill is needed because, if enacted, it will make changes to the powers and functions of the Scottish Parliament and of the Scottish Ministers.

The Scotland Bill is the direct consequence of the work of the Commission on Scottish Devolution, more commonly known as the Calman Commission after its chairman, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman.

The proposals in the Scotland Bill will, if enacted, devolve new tax-raising powers to the Scottish Parliament and will mean that, for the first time, spending decisions made in Scotland will have direct consequences for personal taxation in Scotland. The bill also makes proposals for amendments both to the devolved powers of the Scottish Parliament and the executive competences of the Scottish Ministers.

Over a series of four months, the Scotland Bill Committee held 11 formal meetings and received more than 100 written submissions of evidence from the UK and Scottish Governments, interest groups, trade and professional associations, trade unions, STUC, local authorities, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and private individuals. In addition, the committee met informally on three separate occasions with a cross-section of businesses and business associations to discuss the implications of the financial provisions in the bill.

The committee's recommendations in its final report (published on 3 March 2011) were endorsed by a substantial majority in the Parliament during a debate on legislative consent held on 10 March 2011. The Scotland Bill is now continuing its passage through the UK Parliament.



Convener:
Trish Godman

Members:
Jackson Carlaw
Ross Finnie
Joe FitzPatrick
Jamie Hepburn
Johann Lamont

Review of SPCB Supported Bodies Committee

The SPCB Supported Bodies Committee introduced the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc Bill, which was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 9 June 2010 and received royal assent on 19 July 2010.

End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill Committee

The End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill aimed to permit assistance to be given to persons who wished their lives to be ended. The committee received more than 600 written submissions and took oral evidence from a wide range of interested parties. These included medical practitioners, palliative care charities, religious groups, legal experts and academics based in the UK and overseas. However, the majority of the committee was not persuaded that the case had been made to decriminalise the law of homicide as it applied to assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia and the committee's report, published on 18 November 2010, did not recommend the general principles of the bill to the Parliament. Following a debate on 1 December 2010, the Parliament did not agree to the general principles of the bill and it therefore fell.



Convener:
Ross Finnie

Members:
Helen Eadie
Michael Matheson
Ian McKee
Nanette Milne
Cathy Peattie

Forth Crossing Bill Committee

On 15 December 2010, the Forth Crossing Bill became the first hybrid bill to be passed by the Scottish Parliament.

The Forth Crossing Bill Committee recommended to the Parliament in May 2010 that the Scottish Government's scheme for a new bridge over the River Forth should go ahead and the Parliament agreed. The committee then began work on considering the detail of the bill. Over the summer, a specially appointed assessor heard evidence on behalf of the committee from objectors to the bill and from the Scottish Government. Once agreements and decisions had been made on the objections by the committee, the bill was amended at stage 2. It was passed at stage 3 by the Parliament and became an Act of the Scottish Parliament on 20 January 2011.



Convener:
Jackson Carlaw

Members:
Joe FitzPatrick
Hugh O'Donnell
David Stewart

William Simpson's Home (Transfer of Property etc) (Scotland) Bill Committee

The Parliament passed a private bill, the William Simpson's Home (Transfer of Property etc) (Scotland) Bill, on 9 June 2010.

The trustees of the Home wished to improve its governance arrangements and to expand its services – specialist care for individuals with alcohol-related brain damage – to a wider and larger group of people. The passing of the bill transferred the property, rights, interests, employees and liabilities of the Home to a new charitable company.



Convener:
Shirley-Anne Somerville

Members:
Nanette Milne
David Stewart

Engaging with other legislatures

Activity in our international relations with other parliaments and institutions continued apace in this final year of the third parliamentary session.

Annie Lennox OBE and the Presiding Officer visiting a project in Malawi



Some highlights, in a year covering almost 100 visiting delegations, included a high-profile visit from Russia, led by the Chairman of the Council of the Federation, which looked at contrasts between the political systems within the United Kingdom. A study tour by Ugandan parliamentarians learned of the best practices and procedures in the Scottish Parliament that they could adapt for use in their own legislature. A high-level delegation from the National People's Congress of China also visited in order to examine the Scottish model of devolution to help in the development of its own relationship with the Hong Kong Legislative Council.

Following the UK general election in May 2010, engagement with UK ministers grew, including several ministerial visits and meetings with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Diplomatic engagement proved particularly busy, with visits from a large number of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, representing every corner of the globe.

Scotland has a close bond with Malawi. As such, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Scotland Branch (CPASB) within the Scottish Parliament plays a key role at a political level, through advice and assistance to the National Assembly of Malawi. In January 2011 a series of workshops focusing on key areas central to the development of Malawian parliamentarians was led by a cross-party group of MSPs in the country's capital, Lilongwe.

A new programme of technical assistance was announced, following agreement during a visit by the Presiding Officer to Malawi in February 2011 – in itself, a first-time visit by a Presiding Officer to that country. A further key objective of that landmark visit was the fact-finding mission for the CPASB special envoy, Annie

Lennox OBE, looking at the strength of the Scotland–Malawi relationship. The Presiding Officer and Ms Lennox reported back in March with a very positive assessment of the work being carried forward, through a DVD documentary of the visit and a question and answer session with MSPs. This publicly-aired session in the Parliament was a key event in a number of activities involving civil society and the Parliament to mark Commonwealth Week in 2011 – a particularly special year as it celebrated the 100th birthday of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The Scottish Parliament also developed its relationship with Malawi through two other pilot projects. A pairing scheme between ten members each from Scotland and Malawi is helping to share ideas and best practice, through personal contact by email and other means. The second pilot provided an inaugural internship programme for an official of the National Assembly of Malawi to learn from and directly engage with the Scottish Parliament, as part of a two-month secondment at Holyrood.

The Deputy Presiding Officer Alasdair Morgan MSP represented the Parliament in this year's key Scotland Week activity for 2011, in both the USA and Canada. The programme included a visit to Ottawa on 6 April, to help recognise the efforts of the Canadian Federal Parliament in passing a resolution to forever mark this date as Tartan Day across the whole of Canada.

Engaging with the public

Educational outreach and school visits

In May 2010, teachers from around Scotland came to Holyrood for a new, week-long *Inside Parliament* course. The group spent time with MSPs and staff, gaining a unique insight into how the Scottish Parliament works. Also that month, our education outreach team programme visited all four Small Isles primary schools – Eigg, Muck, Canna and Rum – in one day.

The Parliament's education team piloted a workshop for P7/S1 transition pupils at Peebles High School, using citizenship as a theme, and have worked with the Modern Studies Association to host their conference at the Parliament for the first time. MSPs from the Public Petitions and Health and Sport Committees, as well as Scottish Parliament staff, helped to lead lively and topical discussions. The Justice Committee also supported a research workshop for Advanced Higher Modern Studies students in November.

More than 200 young people, representing 40 Scottish organisations and schools, took part in a special day at the Festival of Politics in August 2010. First, delegates explored themes and issues from the World Press Photography exhibition, as well as political engagement. A workshop ran at Queen Anne High School, Dunfermline, where young people from Fife discussed 'The Environment: Politics or Peace?' Everyone came together to take over the Debating Chamber, to get their voices heard and to contribute to the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People's *a RIGHT blether* project, making sure the opinions of young people were represented.

Community partnerships

The innovative Community Partnerships Project continued into its second phase with partners from Mid Argyll Youth Project, Multi Ethnic Aberdeen Limited (MeAL), Ownership Options in Scotland and South Ayrshire Youth Forum. Outcomes included:

- a petition about consulting young people on changes to local leisure and cultural facilities
- a report on issues affecting black and minority ethnic people, presented to the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee
- an exclusive newspaper aimed at changing perceptions of young people
- roadshow events around Scotland, cascading learning about the Parliament and gathering information on issues affecting people with disabilities.

All partners have held local meetings and events and have contacted their MSPs to discuss their campaigns. The programme will be expanded in its third phase so in March 2011 the Parliament announced its new partners – Action in Mind, Stirling, Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Forum, Grampian Family Support Forum, and Volunteer Centre, East Dunbartonshire. MeAL will continue as a partner.

(top) Primary and secondary teachers from across Scotland came together to take part in the first ever Inside Parliament course; (left) Mary Scanlon MSP makes her way to the primary school on the Isle of Canna to meet pupils as part of a Scottish Parliament education outreach visit; (right) Jodie McCoy and Jennifer Kerr address guests in the Parliament's Garden Lobby as three new organisations team up with the Scottish Parliament as part of its innovative Community Partnerships Project.





Gaelic

Gaelic Day was held at the Scottish Parliament in November. This included the annual BT Gaelic Schools Debate, as well as tours and public events. School groups took part in Gaelic song workshops and staff hosted a stall for visitors to learn a bit of Gaelic and about Gaelic at the Scottish Parliament.

Visitors and guided tours

More than 380,000 visitors came to the Parliament building during 2010.

Free guided tours continued to be hugely successful – 21,000 visitors joined the regular public tours, while a further 1,500 constituent tours were supplied for MSPs. Visitor Services staff also conducted tours for a further 1,600 students visiting through the Education and Community Partnerships visits programme and some 200 dignitaries for the United Kingdom and International Relations Office.

Audio and multi-media tour handsets continued to be very popular; 762 visitors used this access facility, with Spanish, Mandarin and French being the most frequently requested.

(top left) Nicholson Institute pupil Catriona Louise MacLeod pictured at this year's BT Scotland National Gaelic Schools Debate; (top right) visitors on a tour of the Scottish Parliament building



Visitor comments

"The tour has really brought the building to life, I can really appreciate it now and why it is the way it is."

"Fantastic tour - we now understand how the Scottish Parliament works and appreciate the beautiful building."

"What a wonderful experience!"

"Wonderful tour, we want to go round again!"

"The guide was very good; we didn't like the building from the outside but now appreciate how beautiful it is."

"Interesting and informative tour, hugely enjoyable and the story behind the architecture is mind blowing!"

"Fantastic! Loved it!"

Presiding Officer's summer programme

The Presiding Officer once again undertook a programme of visits around Scotland during the summer recess. The main aim of the programme was to listen to, and learn from, local people and groups about how best the Parliament can communicate and engage with them. This year the programme was focused around the Western Isles and Central Scotland. However, during the course of this third session, the Presiding Officer visited all eight Scottish Parliament electoral regions.

This year's programme was split into two periods of between three and four days. The first part of the Presiding Officer's programme saw him visit the Hebridean communities of Benbecula and both North and South Uist. On Benbecula, the Presiding Officer hosted a reception for the Parliament's *Moving Stories* exhibition at the school in Lionacleit. He then spent the next few days learning about some of the traditional industries and crafts of the Uists, visiting a

crofting school and tweed mill and meeting a number of voluntary organisations based at the groundbreaking East Camp Trust at Balivanich. In Stornoway, the Presiding Officer paid a visit to the League of Friends of the Western Isles Hospital, where he met volunteers and gave an interview to the Hospital Radio station.

For the second part of his programme, the Presiding Officer travelled to the parliamentary regions of Mid Scotland and Fife and Central Scotland. In Perth, he met with veterans of the historic Black Watch Regiment at its regimental museum at Balhousie Castle. In Falkirk, he attended a specially arranged event at the High School which celebrated the town's links with Malawi. He heard from local groups, including students of the High School, who had turned out during their summer holidays to talk about their own experiences in engaging with schools and communities in Malawi – a theme that tied in with the Scottish Parliament's ongoing engagement with the National Assembly of Malawi.

The Presiding Officer visiting HM Coastguard at Stornoway during his 2010 summer programme



Exhibitions and events

Exhibitions and events provide valuable opportunities for organisations and individuals from every part of Scotland to engage directly with MSPs and parliamentary committees on a wide range of issues relevant to the Parliament and to Scotland. These remained popular forms of engagement during this reporting year, with more than 80,000 people either attending exhibitions or participating in one of nearly 500 events, conferences, briefings, displays and debates.

In addition to the events and exhibitions held at Holyrood, the Parliament's refreshed and updated travelling exhibition, *Moving Stories*, continued to tour around Scotland, travelling 1,250 miles. It visited a further seven locations across four different parliamentary regions, including venues in Benbecula and Stornoway. Learning and community outreach events were held at several venues and local MSPs attended launch events in Hamilton, Benbecula, Greenock and Elgin. Feedback from visitors and venues continues to be very positive.

May 2010 saw the third final of Euroquiz, an annual competition for primary 6 pupils that helps young people develop their knowledge of Europe and the EU. For the first time, all 32 local authorities participated. Altogether 128 primary 6 pupils from across Scotland took part in the final in the Chamber, chaired by Deputy Presiding Officer Alasdair Morgan MSP. The Euroquiz event was broadcast live and attracted one of the Scottish Parliament website's biggest audiences.

(from the top) Lord Prescott (right) in conversation with the Presiding Officer at the Festival of Politics; Annie Lennox OBE attended the GTC reception in the Garden Lobby of the Scottish Parliament; the Scottish Parliament travelling exhibition, Moving Stories



Over the summer recess the Parliament's landscaped gardens played host to the 2010 International Triathlon Union Duathlon World Championship. The Presiding Officer formally welcomed approximately 1,000 athletes representing 40 countries to Scotland for the championships.

As part of the St Andrew's weekend, the Parliament once again hosted *Burnsong Live*, a national song-writing project and celebration with the aim of developing and nurturing song-writing in Scotland. This year Burnsong presented *The Charmed Circle*, a performance that allowed past Burnsong performers to tell its story through the music it has helped create over the past five years.

On Burns Night, the Presiding Officer hosted the annual Burns Supper for the consular corps to celebrate Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns. The event was attended by more than 70 representatives from the consular corps and MSPs.

Festival of Politics

In August 2010, the sixth Festival of Politics took place, with a programme of politically-themed debates, lectures and cultural events attracting record audiences. The overarching theme for the Festival was *Changing Politics*. Headline Festival events included appearances by renowned musician Annie Lennox OBE, updating on her SING Campaign which fights HIV/AIDS in Africa, and veteran politician Lord Prescott, Britain's longest serving Deputy Prime Minister, talking about his life in politics and his work in tackling climate change.

The Festival worked productively with a number of stakeholder organisations in order to present engaging events. These included *Land for the People: why land reform matters and why we need more of it*, organised in association with the Carnegie UK Trust and "*It's Nae Fair*" – *But Who is Responsible for Our Understanding of the Law?*, which took place in association with the Law Society of Scotland.

The Parliament hosted the World Press Photography exhibition for a fifth year, with nearly 50,000 people visiting over the four weeks. Guest speakers for the associated events programme included 2010 winner Laura Pannack and previous winners Nina Berman, Mathias Braschler and Monika Fischer.

Conferences

The Scottish Parliament Policy Conference, which took place at the beginning of October, was aimed at engaging with local community-based voluntary and charity-sector organisations, civic groups and campaign organisations from across Scotland. It sought to skill-up these smaller, local groups to help them campaign more effectively, and to increase the opportunities for such groups to have their voice heard at Holyrood. The conference was attended by 150 delegates and focused on practical advice and guidance for successful and effective engagement.

From 8 to 10 October 2010, the Scottish Parliament hosted the prestigious 10th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions on the theme of 'Business and Human Rights'. This was organised by the Scottish Human Rights Commission in co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Co-ordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The delegates comprised 150 commissioners, human rights experts, and business and NGO leaders from more than 80 countries. The conference explored the role of national commissions in advancing the duties of states to ensure effective remedies and protect people against corporate human rights abuses, and the responsibility of companies to respect human rights. The conference concluded with the ratification of the Edinburgh Declaration, which was drafted as a result of the discussions that took place during the event.

2011 marked the centenary of International Women's Day. The event hosted in the Debating Chamber in March by Deputy Presiding Officer Trish Godman MSP took as its theme *A Century of Aspirations, Achievements and Advancements* and was attended by more than 350 women from across Scotland.

Exhibitions

An exhibition entitled *Rebels with a Cause – The Jacobites and the Global Imagination*, developed in partnership with Aberdeen University, showcased 30 artefacts, paintings and documents from the University's Jacobite collections at the Parliament from the end of October 2010 until early January 2011. The theme of the exhibition was an international perspective on the history of the Jacobites, looking at the Jacobites in exile, considering

how they lived their lives and how they contributed to other societies and cultures. The exhibition also looked at the impact of Jacobite history on the literature, art and music of Scotland.

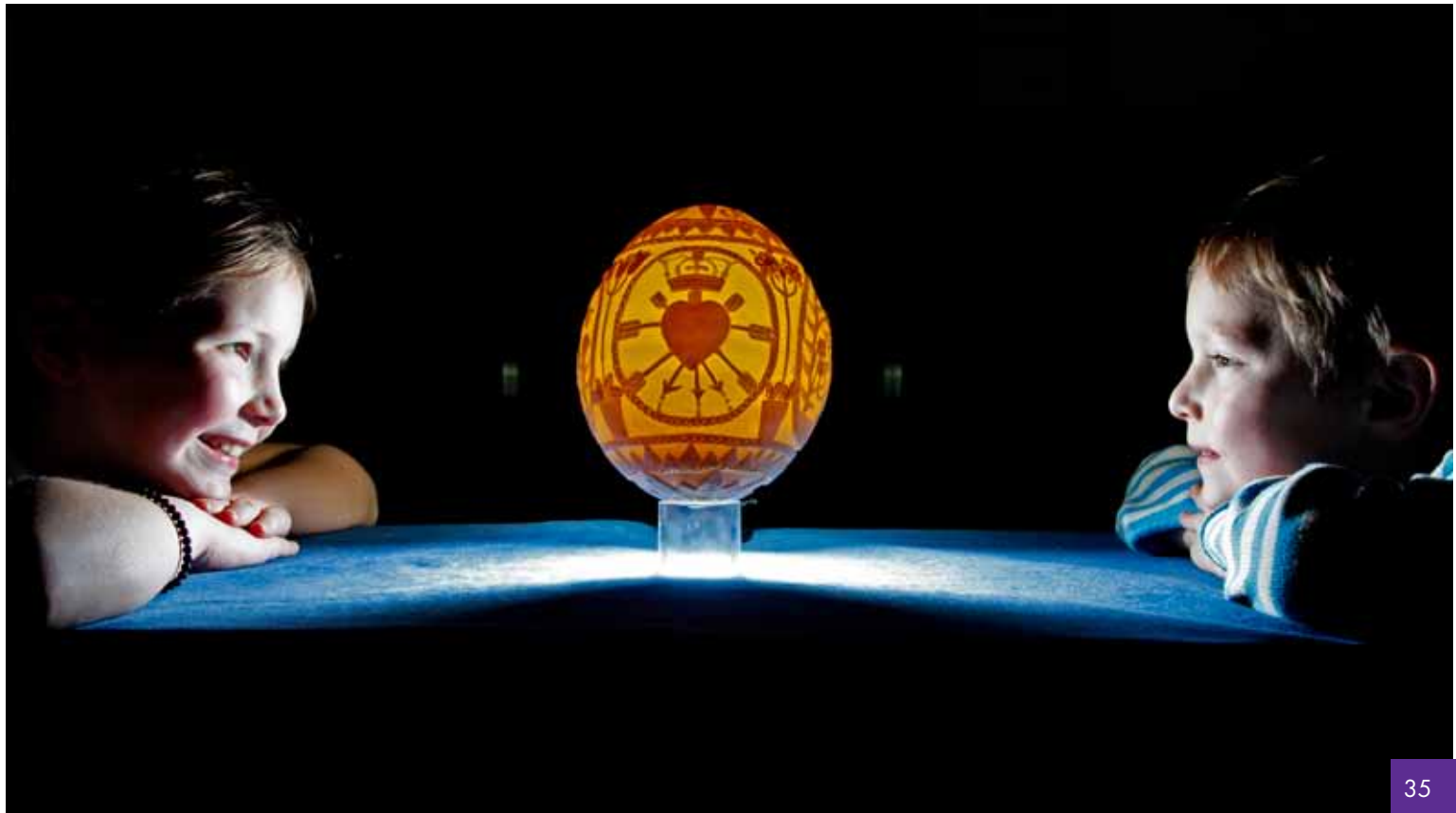
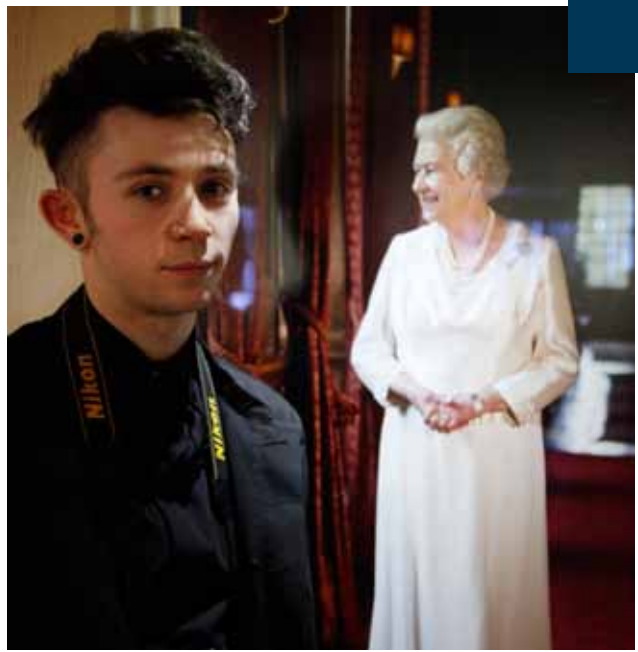
To mark St Andrew's Day 2010, and to coincide with the *Rebels with a Cause* exhibition, the Parliament hosted a range of special, free events aimed at families and visitors over the weekend of Friday 26 to Monday 29 November. Visitors and families had the opportunity to participate in a number of free Jacobite-themed events and activities which included drama workshops, a quiz, storytelling and tours, while also learning more about the Parliament.

From mid to late January the Parliament also hosted an exhibition of the six shortlisted designs for the new Victoria & Albert Museum in Dundee, including the winning design by Kengo Kuma & Associates.

Official portrait

To commemorate its 10th anniversary in 2009, the Scottish Parliament commissioned an official photographic portrait of Her Majesty The Queen. On 21 May 2010 a commissioning panel selected Shaun Murawski, a graduate of Reid Kerr's HND Photography course, from five shortlisted photographers to create the portrait. Photographer Harry Benson CBE was a mentor for the project. The portrait sitting took place on 12 July 2010 in the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and the portrait was unveiled in the Parliament's Main Hall on 16 March 2011 by HRH The Princess Royal.

(clockwise from top left) The reception for the 10th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; Shaun Murawski, pictured with his portrait of Her Majesty The Queen that he was commissioned to take after being picked as the winner from a shortlist of talented young photographers; audience enjoying the International Women's Day conference; children pictured with a white chocolate replica of the carved ostrich egg adorned with secret Jacobite symbols on display as part of the Rebels with a Cause exhibition



Environmental management

The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) is committed to being a role model for best practice in environmental performance and to contributing to sustainable development.

In 2010–11 the SPCB continued to implement its environmental policy and achieved its environmental targets to reduce carbon emissions, energy use and waste sent to landfill.



The SPCB became the first public sector organisation to meet the requirements of CEMARS® certification, having measured its

greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with the requirements of ISO 14064-1:2006.

The SPCB continued to implement the Carbon Management Plan and made good progress to reduce its carbon emissions. This was achieved by replacing equipment with more efficient technologies such as LED lighting in the committee rooms and the MSP Building and the installation of an air-cooled chiller.



The RACE programme was officially launched to engage all building users in our resolve to ensure we become a low

carbon organisation. RACE has already held events on carbon footprinting, zero waste and discussions on the potential impact of climate change on our lives.

Carbon target

Reduce the Parliament's carbon footprint by 12% from the 2005–06 total by March 2011.

Achieved

Electricity

Reduce incoming electricity used by 15% from the 2005–06 total by March 2011.

Achieved

Gas

Gas use not to exceed 3,300,000 kWh.

Achieved

Waste

Reduce landfill waste by 65% from the 2005–06 total by March 2010.

Achieved

Paper

Reduce office paper consumption by 35% from the session 2 total during session 3 (2007–2011).

25% reduction achieved

Languages and formats

For information in languages other than English or in alternative formats (for example in Braille, large print or audio), please send your enquiry to public information. We welcome written correspondence in any language. Contact details are on the back cover. Further information about the Scottish Parliament is available on our website: www.scottish.parliament.uk

Tha a' bhileag seo cuideachd ri faighinn ann an Gàidhlig. Cuiridh sinn fàilte air litrichean ann an cànan sam bith.

للحصول على نسخة عن هذه الوثيقة باللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بنا. إننا نرحب بالرسائل الخطية بأي لغة أنت.

বাংলা ভাষায় এই তথ্যপত্রের একটি কপি চাইলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সংগে যোগাযোগ করবেন। আমরা যে কোনো ভাষায় লেখা চিঠি সাদরে গ্রহণ করি।

如欲索取本文件以廣東話 (中文繁體字) 印刷的版本, 請聯絡我們。我們歡迎你使用任何語文寫信給我們。

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਪੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ। ਅਸੀਂ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਚਿੱਠੀ ਪੱਤਰ ਦਾ ਹਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਆਗਤ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

براه مہربانی اس دستاویز کی اردو زبان میں کاپی حاصل کرنے کے لئے ہم سے رابطہ قائم کریں۔ ہم کسی بھی زبان میں تحریری خط و کتابت کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں۔

Prośby o informacje i pomoc w innych językach należy w pierwszej kolejności zgłaszać do Biura Informacji Publicznej (Public Information).

This annual report is published in electronic format only and was published by RR Donnelley.





The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

How to contact us

The public information service provides information about the business, membership and procedures of the Scottish Parliament.



Address

Public Information
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



Telephone 0800 092 7500 or 0131 348 5000

Fòn 0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)

Textphone 0800 092 7100

Calls using the Text Relay service are also welcome



Text

07786 209 888



Email

sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk



Website

www.scottish.parliament.uk



Twitter

twitter.com/ScotParl

ISBN 978-1-4061-7509-7



9 781406 175097