



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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SPCB Updates Finance Committee on Holyrood Project

The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) has written to Parliament's Finance Committee with the latest information on the Holyrood Project, following the most recent programme position released last month.

As the letter sets out, the Project Director's evidence to the Committee in October highlighted emerging concerns about the viability of construction completion being achieved by April 2003.

Subsequently, the Presiding Officer confirmed on 19 November that a number of important areas including glazing could not be completed until around the end of August 2003. This remains our target completion date.

This programme slippage from April 2003 to August 2003 can be attributed to a number of factors, including the resolution of some complex technical challenges and the finalising of blast testing of the windows at the East end of the site.

In its letter to the Finance Committee, the SPCB reports that its cost consultants advise that the provisional estimated cost associated with moving to a target date of August 2003 for construction completion has a total gross cost implication of £15.9m. This breaks down as follows.

- £6.6m is attributable to the additional costs of extending existing contracts and maintenance of the site from April 2003 to August 2003.
- £9.3m is attributable to acceleration measures required to complete the revised programme by the end of August 2003.

The acceleration measures follow an assessment by the cost consultants that if the programme were simply allowed to run its course, the costs inherent in running the site as well as in prolonging contracts could very quickly overtake the costs of specific acceleration measures designed to finish construction more quickly.

While these figures are provisional, the results of a full formal risk review, on which forward budgets are based, will be reported to the Finance Committee early in the new year.

[SPCB's letter to Finance Committee](#)

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Benedetta Tagliabue Endorses Holyrood's Miralles Credentials

Benedetta Tagliabue, wife of the late Enric Miralles, architect and inspiration behind the Holyrood building project, has given her strongest defence to date over the design integrity of her husband's last and most important design commission.

In a broadcast interview for BBC Newsnight Scotland, Ms Tagliabue has dismissed emphatically a repeated suggestion that the Holyrood building is not a true Miralles creation.

Speaking in Edinburgh shortly after addressing a Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) conference on the future of the Royal Mile, Gordon Brewer asked if Holyrood is still the same project as that created by her late husband. Ms Tagliabue said:

"Absolutely, totally. The project being built is absolutely the project drawn by Enric, so he would recognise it totally. There is nothing substantial that has been changed.

"Enric was alive until July 2000, and the design was finished then. The last substantial change to the design was the introduction of the foyer, but this was hand-drawn by Enric in February.

"It's this beautiful foyer, it's a kind of pavilion with beautiful openings in leaf shapes, very beautiful, but this is absolutely his hand."

Prior to the screening of the Tagliabue interview, Newsnight Scotland canvassed three young architects working in and around Edinburgh for their views on Holyrood, arguably Scotland's most important building in 300 years.

Comparing Holyrood to Europe's most extraordinary recent construction project, Andrea Faed said:

"I'd equate it to the Bilbao Guggenheim, where the building has done wonders for the city."

John Thompson said:

"It shows Scotland could compete on a pan-European level and produce a building of a standard which can stand alongside any other building in Europe, or in the world for that matter."

Scott Turpie said:

"The political controversy and discussion over cost detract from what should be a magnificent building... The question for the Scottish Parliament should be how the Parliament stands up to scrutiny in 25 years time when I suspect any discussion over the budget will have long disappeared into the past."

Background

Rethinking the Royal Mile was organised by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

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SPCB Sets Out Latest Holyrood Information

The Scottish Parliament's Corporate Body (SPCB) announced today that the migration to the new Parliament building at Holyrood will not take place as planned over the 2003 summer recess.

Following a meeting of the SPCB and members of the Holyrood Progress Group, it was decided that further options be explored on migration due to additional difficulties which have recently emerged, in particular on aspects of bomb blast proofing on areas in the east side of the complex, primarily around the chamber and the committee towers. The shift in programme came on the same day as members of the SPCB announced that MSPs would meet in the nearby Hub during the Church of Scotland's 2003 General Assembly.

Bovis Lend Lease, the Parliament's construction managers, reported that while the majority of the site remains on target for completion by the end of April 2003, uncertainty remains over some key elements. Work on site is not now expected to be fully completed until August 2003 at the earliest, which would not allow migration to Holyrood to be carried out over the summer recess 2003.

The design team, including the architects, the structural engineers and the construction managers, are working to ensure that design problems can be resolved as quickly as possible, but the nature of this process means that the current uncertainty is likely to remain for some weeks yet. Sir David Steel, the Parliament's Presiding Officer, said:

"Everyone involved in the project has experienced great frustration with the delays and difficulties associated with it. Nevertheless, the Corporate Body is aware that what is being built is a highly complex and sophisticated building, meeting the highest standards of quality and environmental best practice, and will be an internationally recognised design landmark.

"While there is no doubt that the information we heard today was unwelcome, it remains the Corporate Body's responsibility to ensure that a permanent building fit to serve future generations as Scotland's new Parliament is delivered at Holyrood at the best possible cost and programme. This project is at all times being carefully controlled and managed.

"This work is facilitated by first-rate colleagues, including both the elected and professional members of the Holyrood Progress Group and the Holyrood Project Team under Sarah Davidson.

"Given the need for sufficient time to migrate staff from our temporary accommodation to Holyrood and to test systems ahead of occupation, the delay we are announcing today means that we will not be able to begin full Parliamentary business at Holyrood in September 2003.

"In the light of this information, the Corporate Body will consider a range of options for migration once more certainty has been reached, especially on the ongoing issues related to blast. These options will include dates both in the standard recess calendar and outside it. The preferred options will focus on 2003, but others may extend into 2004.

"There has been extraordinary speculation recently about the cost for the Holyrood Project. Contrary to some reports, the information recently given to the Finance Committee was based on the latest and most accurate assessment of progress and risk from our professional advisers as at September 2002.

"While any such delay is likely to have cost implications, the figure of nearly £400m reported in the press is seriously misleading and inaccurate. Once more detailed information is available on blast-related delay and hence cost, the SPCB will report it to the Finance Committee in the usual way."

May 2003 post-election arrangements, during Church of Scotland's General Assembly

It has been clear that alternative arrangements to meeting at the Mound would be required for the duration of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly in May 2003 (17-23 May).

Given that the Assembly will meet during the key post-election period following 1 May 2003, subject to the Parliament's agreement it will meet to carry out its own plenary session business in The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh.

As the Church's Chamber will be out of use from a parliamentary point of view for approximately one week either side of the Assembly's dates, the SPCB will lease the use of The Hub from 12 May until 29 May. This will enable Parliament to carry out all of its essential, constitutional functions as required under the terms of the Scotland Act.

During May, the following parliamentary business must be conducted:

- The General Election will be held on 1 May.
- Within seven working days of that date the Parliament must meet to allow Members to take the Oath and elect a Presiding Officer and two Deputy Presiding Officers.
- The Parliament has ten sitting days to elect a Corporate Body.
- The Parliament must also nominate a candidate for appointment by The Queen as First Minister within 28 days of the election.

In addition during this period, Ministerial appointments are likely to be agreed by the Parliament, as is the establishment of the new committees.

It is expected that Members' Oath Taking and the election of Presiding Officers will take place in the Chamber at the Mound. From 12 May, business will be in The Hub. As a venue, The Hub offers the Parliament a visually impressive setting that is large enough to accommodate its key business. Its close proximity to Parliament Headquarters means that there will be minimal disruption to staff and Members, who will not need to vacate their Edinburgh offices. The Hub also has a good-sized public gallery for up to 100 people. The hire cost of The Hub is expected to be less than £40,000.

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Award-Winning Holyrood Visitor Centre Moves to Make Way for Landscaping

Today, Friday November 1st, will be the last chance for people to go around the Holyrood visitor centre in its current location. The temporary accommodation on site is to close to allow work on the landscaping at Holyrood to begin. The centre will re-open in the Tun in mid-December.

Eric Kinsey, of the Parliament's Holyrood Project Team, said:

"The Visitors Centre has been open for just over two years, and there has been an extraordinary level of interest from home and abroad. We've counted 72,725 visitors through our doors over that time, and we expect a busy day on Friday ahead of this temporary closure.

"Our new centre in the Tun will offer a condensed version of the material currently on show including the film covering the history of the Holyrood project, as well as, latest images from around the site.

"The visitors' book provides a fascinating record of the views of all our visitors, including school parties, architects, members of the public and visitors from abroad. Each gives their individual perspective on the building. It's hugely encouraging for us that so far the positive opinions seem to outweigh the negative by more than five to one."

Background

The Visitors Centre is moving from Horse Wynd across the road from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to accommodation in the Tun on Holyrood Road.

In 2000 the centre was one of four Scottish visitor attractions and museums to win an award in the Interpret Britain Awards 2000 scheme, run by the Association for Heritage Interpretation.

Opening hours for the last day in the current accommodation are 10am to 4pm.

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Holyrood Progress Group To Host Question And Answer In Holyrood Visitor Centre

7.00 pm, Wednesday, October 9

MSPs are being invited to question the Holyrood Progress Group on the construction of the new Scottish Parliament building in a question and answer session to be held in the Parliament's Holyrood Visitor Centre on Wednesday, 9 October.

This is the sixth in a series of such meetings, giving Members the opportunity to raise any questions they have on the progress so far of the Parliament project.

The Progress Group members taking questions will be John Home Robertson, Linda Fabiani and Jamie Stone.

Members of the media are invited to attend. Entrance is via Horse Wynd, across the road from the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Background

The event runs from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm in the Holyrood Visitor Centre.

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First Miralles Bay Windows Installed in MSP Offices at Holyrood

The first Enric Miralles-designed oak and steel bay windows have been put in place in MSPs offices at Holyrood, it was announced today. Once complete, there will be 130 of the highly stylised windows on the site, each offering views out to Salisbury Crags.

John Gibbons, Chief Architect and Parliament's advisor on the project said:

"These windows are one of Enric Miralles' most unusual and striking design elements for the new Parliament building, and it's wonderful to see this distinctive element of his vision for Holyrood taking shape.

"If you believe the folklore, then Enric took inspiration for the highly unusual shape from the outline of Raeburn's painting of the Reverend Walker skating on Duddingston Loch. However, pupils from a local primary school told us that they thought the windows looked more like an old-fashioned pram.

"Either way, there's no doubt that Enric was the sort of architect who makes you stop and think, and there's no better illustration of that than these windows."

Background

The oak used in the bay windows is supplied from sustainably managed French forests.

Design, assembly and installation work on this contract is being carried out by Co. Durham-based Baydale Architectural Systems Ltd.

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First Oak Beams Installed for Holyrood Chamber Roof

Aberdeen company's £1.3m engineering holds it together

The Scottish Parliament today announced that the first section of oak and steel beams and Scottish-engineered steel 'nodes' have been installed for the roof of the new Parliament's debating chamber.

The specially laminated and steel reinforced oak beams, spanning 30 metres across the chamber, will all be held in place by 111 unique steel nodes supplied by Aberdeen-based company MSD Design Ltd in a contract worth approximately £1.3m.

Together the beams and nodes form the main structural elements of the chamber roof, and the installation of the first section constitutes a major landmark for the project.

The roof structure has been designed and engineered to the highest standards by Ove Arup, one of the world's leading structural engineering companies, and has been tested to ensure it can withstand the most extreme weather conditions.

John Gibbons, the Parliament's Chief Architect, said:

"The use of glue-laminated oak beams and steel nodes allows us to create this spectacular 30 metre wide pillar-less span. Enric Miralles designed for the new Parliament's debating chamber.

"This elegant chamber will be the final part of the project to be completed in the overall construction process, and, of course, is the focal point and the very heart of Holyrood. When the last beam is put in place in November we'll have taken a significant step towards its completion."

Martin Stevenson, Managing Director of MSD Design Ltd. said

"MSD Design Ltd are proud to be associated with all the good works which are taking place on site at Holyrood just now. We are grateful for the opportunity to prove our capabilities and would like to thank our sub-contractors, client, architect and main roof contractor for their continuing support and professionalism. Our part of the project has generated substantial employment opportunities in the north east and in Tayside. MSD Design Ltd aim to build on the successful completion of our important part in this very prestigious undertaking."

Background

The beams are composed of structural steel and a glue-laminated oak covering, giving the roof both the structural strength and the aesthetic qualities required for the chamber.

The shape of the chamber means that no two of the 111 nodes are exactly the same. Each node weighs around half a tonne.

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Holyrood Leads the Way With Crèche for Parliamentary Visitors

Holyrood is expected to become Europe's first Parliament to provide crèche facilities specifically for members of the public when it opens for business in September 2003, it emerged today.

The Scottish Parliament will underline its commitment to openness and accessibility with a crèche for visitors who are meeting with MSPs or giving evidence to parliamentary committees, as well as those coming to watch business in the Chamber.

The crèche will form a key part of the Parliament's strategy to ensure that Holyrood is a family-friendly and accessible environment for visitors.

Presiding Officer Sir David Steel said:

"While many other Parliaments and assemblies around Europe have crèches for the children of staff and elected members, Holyrood will break new ground by specifically focussing on the needs of members of the public who come to Holyrood for Parliamentary business.

"Accessibility is one of the four founding principles upon which our Parliament is built. This crèche will ensure that parents of young children are given every opportunity to attend and take part in the work of the Scottish Parliament."

Background

Other Parliaments around Europe currently have crèches for use by Members and staff, including Germany, Greece and Sweden. Research conducted by the Scottish Parliament has so far not identified any other Parliament in Europe which provides crèche facilities for visitors.

The Scottish Parliament's crèche will provide a service for children up to the age of 14. It will be specifically for children of visitors. Staff and MSPs with young children will only be able to use the crèche under circumstances of exceptional need.

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Holyrood Will Become a Magnet For Visitors Says Presiding Officer

Speaking on site at Holyrood yesterday during a visit to inspect the first leaf shaped roof sections to be installed for the lobby of the new Parliament building, Presiding Officer Sir David Steel said:

"I think it's going to be a very remarkable building, both for those working in it and for those visiting it. Quite apart from watching politicians, I think people will come to see this quite extraordinary piece of architecture in the heart of Edinburgh. I think it will become quite a magnet."

Once the lobby roof is complete, each steel section will house one of 12 large rooflights, ensuring that the 850 square metre space will take best advantage of the natural light available. The lobby will be Holyrood's central space, linking MSPs' offices and Queensberry House with the committee towers and the debating chamber.

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Holyrood Predicted to Become one of Edinburgh's Top Attractions

The new Holyrood Parliament building could attract visitor numbers that would place it amongst Edinburgh's top visitor attractions, predicts a survey report commissioned by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB).

When the new Parliament building opens in September next year, the number of visitors is expected to peak at between 600,000 and 700,000 per year over the first three years - figures which could see the building achieving as high as third in the ranking. More than 90,000 people currently visit the two free existing Parliament visitor centres at George IV Bridge and the Holyrood site each year.

This would place Holyrood up alongside popular attractions like Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, the Royal Museum & Museum of Scotland.

The commissioned report will assist Parliament staff to develop equally high quality facilities for visitors at Holyrood to match Enric Miralles' vision that the Parliament building will become an 'anchor for a new public space'.

Presiding Officer Sir David Steel said:

"I am very encouraged by these visitor number projections, which suggest a great public interest both in the work of the Scottish Parliament and in the architectural merits of our new building at Holyrood.

"We look forward to welcoming Scots and UK and overseas visitors alike to our new building. I believe Holyrood will become an international attraction for people interested in both politics and architecture.

"Openness and accessibility are cornerstones of the Holyrood design and our visitor facilities will be world class by Parliamentary standards. The facilities will cater for people of all ages, and will include an educational centre, which will encourage learning in a modern, welcoming environment. I suspect there will also be architectural enthusiasts who will want to decide for themselves the merits of the design and the sustainability of the buildings.

Sir David added: "The report also shows that confidence in devolution remains high with survey responses showing that 78% of people agreed that 'It is important for Scotland that it now has its own Parliament'. In fact, only 11% of people interviewed in the street agreed with the statement 'I wouldn't want to go to the Parliament because I'm not interested in politics'. This suggests that the public's apathy about politics might be somewhat exaggerated."

John Gibbons, the Chief Architect for the Parliament said:

"A key objective of Enric Miralles' proposals for the Holyrood Parliament was not only to provide a fitting and exciting architectural solution to the design of the buildings, but to

utilise the surrounding landscape of the Park and Canongate to create new public spaces for the enjoyment of all.

"In addition to the landscaping proposals for the Park, a major new urban space is being created between Holyrood Palace and the public entrance to the Parliament. This area is designed to cope with the anticipated Visitor interest in the new Parliament and provide a link with the other attractions of The Queens Gallery, Our Dynamic Earth and of course the park itself."

Other results of this research include:

Potential visitors often make their first contact with the Parliament through the Scottish Parliament website: while there were just more than 1.5 million page views in 1999, this number grew to more than 8.5 million over 2001.

49% of those surveyed agreed that with the statement "I think the architecture of the new building will be what attracts most people to visit the new Scottish Parliament".

55% of those surveyed said they were likely / quite likely to visit the new Scottish Parliament building in the first three years after it opens in 2003

Interest in visiting Holyrood was particularly strong in Edinburgh and the Highlands.

Background

This report was prepared for the Scottish Parliament's Corporate Body by Edinburgh based consultants RGA Ltd. in partnership with Lynn Jones Research. The predicted Holyrood figures are based on a combination of primary and secondary research information. This information was entered into a computer model and the predicted figures analysed. Whilst the figures are dependent upon a complex set of variables, the SPCB has accepted the numbers submitted as a 'reasonable' expectation upon which to plan.

A summary of the report is available on the Scottish Parliament website and in News Release 060a/2002

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Visitor Services Management Strategy for the New Scottish Parliament Building

Report by RGA Ltd: Key Findings

Introduction

RGA Ltd were appointed by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body to produce a report on current provision for visitors to Parliament and to predict likely visitor numbers and trends for Holyrood.

Purpose

The information gathered from the primary and secondary research has been used to predict visitor numbers and visiting patterns. The report will be used to inform suggestions for visitor management systems and other visitor services for the building.

Methodology

RGA Ltd worked with Lynn Jones Research, who conducted primary research with members of the public across Scotland using 4 key research techniques - 5 questions in the Scottish Omnibus Survey, on street interviews, interviews with visitors to Parliament and focus groups. The research was carried out over a 16 week period. The figures used, e.g. for tourism trends, refer mainly to 2001.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains an executive summary of the report methodology, findings and key conclusions.

Project Objectives

- Review current visitor management
- Characterise potential visitors
- Project the number of visitors
- Find out what visitors will want to do
- Identify key issues and make recommendations.

Methodology

- Workshop to identify mission
- Key interviews to determine current policy and practice
- Primary and secondary research
- Review of primary competitors
- Assimilation of research into projected usage model.

Where are we now?

- 90,816 visitors in 2001 to the Parliament's visitor centres
- Visitor numbers declining at George IV Bridge but increasing at Holyrood

What are the Markets?

- Scottish population declining
- UK tourism experiencing temporary decline but some recovery evident
- Overseas tourism in decline
- Decline in visitors to Scottish attractions
- Primary and secondary pupils declining
- Further and higher education growing.

Comparative Buildings - how are they performing?

- Parliament buildings are modifying product offer and achieving positive results
- Education is central to the products they offer
- Landmark buildings generate a significant number of casual visitors

What do the public know?

- General low awareness that can visit current Parliament
- Awareness of the current visitor centres low even among current users of the Chamber
- Majority of visitors satisfied with visit and comment that staff are very friendly
- People visit Parliaments, both at home and overseas. Houses of Parliament and the White House are most popular.

What do the public think?

- Interested in politics
- Misconceptions about access to Parliament
- They are curious about the building and this will motivate them to visit
- Lack of time is key barrier to attendance.

What will the public do?

- A third are likely to visit in the first three years
- Current visitors to the Parliament are more likely to visit the new buildings
- Propensity to visit is highest from within the Lothians and lowest from Central Scotland and Glasgow.

What do they want?

- Primarily interested in how the Parliament works and the procedures
- A guided tour followed by a full meeting of the Parliament and meeting MSPs
- The architecture and outdoor areas of significant interest
- Educational resources and café.

Key Issues

- Communicating the visitor experience
- Using the neighbourhood to augment the product offer, manage visitor flow and improve the experience.

Recommendations

- Develop marketing and communications strategy
- Identify key visitor flows within building
- Develop a wide range of tools to satisfy projected numbers and manage visitors.

PRIMARY RESEARCH

Scottish Omnibus Survey January 2002

Whether respondents were aware that all members of the public are able to visit the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh	41% aware
Their likelihood of visiting the new Scottish Parliament building in the first three years after it opens in 2003	31% likely to visit
How interesting they would find the following three aspects of a potential visit to the new Parliament building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation of how Parliament works • The opportunity to sit in on a committee meeting or a full meeting of the Parliament • The opportunity to meet MSPs 	Very interesting / quite interesting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% • 49% • 50%

On-street interviews

Their likelihood of visiting the new Scottish Parliament building in the first three years after it opens in 2003	55% likely / quite likely to visit. 29% will visit to see the new building plus 25% out of curiosity or general interest
What would they most like to do during a visit to the Scottish Parliament	The top five responses were: Guided tour (55%) Find out how Parliament works (43%) Sit in on meeting (33%)
Attitude statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important for Scotland that it now has its own Parliament • I think the architecture of the new building will be what attracts most people to visit the new Scottish Parliament • I wouldn't want to go to the Parliament because I'm not interested in politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78% agreed • 49% agreed; 32% neither agreed or disagreed; 19% disagreed • 77% disagreed

Visitors to Parliament

- Interviews with 33 adult visitors to the Scottish Parliament on the Mound.
80% likelihood of visiting the new Scottish Parliament building in the first three years after it opens in 2003

Reasons for visiting the current Parliament

- general interest in politics
- interest in specific debates
- part of a group
- curiosity about what happens at the Parliament.
- Focus groups with Edinburgh residents from varying socio-economic backgrounds.

SECONDARY RESEARCH

This included analysing the current situation, the market potential and the experiences of comparative buildings, including the Sydney Opera House, Europe's Parliament Euroscola, the Bundestag in Berlin and the Guggenheim in Bilbao.

Top Visitor Attractions in Edinburgh 1998-2000

(italics represents paid attractions)

	1998	1999	2000
<i>Edinburgh Castle</i>	1,219,055	1,220,338	1,204,285
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	812,574	609,488	609,838
Royal Museum & Museum of Scotland	424,320	759,579	599,337
Royal Scots Regimental Museum	550,000	540,000	525,000
<i>Edinburgh Zoo</i>	525,000	526,000	522,279
National Gallery of Scotland	442,322	439,928	421,612
<i>Our Dynamic Earth</i>	n/a	295,959	398,790
St Giles' Cathedral			386,400
<i>The Former Royal Yacht Britannia</i>	60,461	415,297	304,395
<i>Palace of Holyroodhouse</i>	288,000	294,500	254,721

Source: Visitor Attractions Monitor, 2000/RGA

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Holyrood Underlines its Environmental Credentials

The Holyrood Project Team today unveiled its impressive green credentials for the new Scottish Parliament Building, shortly ahead of the overall completion of a major study into the environmental impact of the Holyrood building.

The Parliament highlighted impressive interim results of the detailed environmental assessment of the new Parliament building at Holyrood. The assessment was carried out by the independent Building Research Establishment.

The two main areas of the site evaluated so far, Queensberry House and the MSP office block, both receive an overall rating of "Excellent", the highest level available, and an Environmental Performance Index score of 10 out of 10.

The final stage of the design assessment, covering the debating chamber and the rest of the east end of the complex, is expected to be completed by the end of August.

The significant features of the Parliament at Holyrood highlighted by this assessment include:

- The ecological impact across the whole site is assessed as "significant and positive", based on the levels of biodiversity expected on the site. The site scored full marks overall in the Ecology section.
- The inspectors are satisfied that all timber for the site will be "demonstrably from well-managed, regulated, sustainable sources".
- Domestic hot water for both Queensberry House and MSP offices will be primarily provided by solar panels.
- Full marks were given to the Parliament for its ozone-friendly design. No air conditioning will be used for MSP offices and Queensberry House, and halon-free fire-fighting equipment is specified.
- 100 per cent of the water used for toilet flushing will be collected from wells on the site.
- A score of 10 out of 10 was awarded for the low levels of carbon dioxide expected to be generated by travel to and from Queensberry House, while the MSP office building scored 9 out of 10. This is based on predicted levels of car use for commuting, and takes account of factors like the proximity to good transport facilities, and the provision of 90 bike racks and only 65 car parking spaces.
- The MSP offices were awarded a very respectable 10 credits out of 15 for the low levels of carbon dioxide emissions predicted from the building (where 15 credits require a zero-emission building). Queensberry House was awarded 9 out of 15 on this measure.
- A variety of receptacles will be provided around offices for recyclable refuse, and a dedicated area on site will be used to collect this material as part of the Parliament's commitment to recycling.
- The site will, where possible, be naturally ventilated and lit.
- Other lighting systems used will reduce energy consumption by incorporating automatic monitors to detect when staff leave offices and sense daylight levels.

- Credit was also given for the Parliament's plans to re-use demolition material from the site as fill and hardcore.

John Gibbons, the Parliament's Chief Architect, said:

"Sustainability is a key feature of Enric Miralles' design for the new Scottish Parliament, and our aim has always been to follow best environmental practice at Holyrood.

"The results of this detailed investigation by the Building Research Establishment show the extent to which that ambition has been realised. We are proud of both of our 10 out of 10 ratings received so far, and hopeful that the final report will give the committee towers and the debating chamber equally high marks."

Background

The Building Research Establishment made these Environmental Assessment Awards under BREEAM for Offices- the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method for New and Existing Office Designs in 2001.

BREEAM for Offices seeks to minimise the adverse effects of new buildings on the environment at global and local scales, whilst promoting healthy indoor conditions for the occupants. The environmental implications of a new building are assessed at the design stage, and compared with good practice by independent assessors.

The BREEAM assessment considers building design according to 56 separate environmental criteria.

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SPCB Updates Finance Committee on Holyrood Latest

The latest quarterly report from the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) to Parliament's Finance Committee today outlines up to date progress on the new Holyrood building project.

In his letter to the Finance Committee, Presiding Officer Sir David Steel reports on behalf of the SPCB that:

- the SPCB still expects to take delivery of the completed, fitted out building in time for May 1, 2003;
- construction manager Bovis Lend Lease confirms that progress on site remains in accordance with achieving its target date of completion and fit out by April 30; and that
- following a detailed examination of the full, logistical exercise involved in migrating all of Parliament's staff, resources and equipment to Holyrood, the SPCB plans to arrange the transfer process from the Mound to Holyrood to be carried out over the summer recess of 2003. This will enable Parliament to undertake a full testing of all new systems and facilities at Holyrood to ensure that the building is fully operational in time for the start of business in September.

In the text of his letter to the Finance Committee Sir David says:

"As this letter indicates, one or two of the remaining key packages still carry an element of risk. It is therefore worth reiterating here that, subject to clarifying these remaining issues, the construction manager has recently reported to the (Parliament's) Progress Group that the programme remains on target for the finished Parliament building to be 'handed over' to the client in late April 2003.

"However, the significant work undertaken by the (Parliament's) Implementation Unit in recent months has made it clear to us that migration will be a massive logistical exercise for the Parliament as a whole to undertake and that thorough testing of the key systems is essential. In the light of this, we have agreed that, while there will be no change to the target construction completion date, actual migration to the new building should more sensibly be planned to take place over the summer recess 2003."

Given the current commercial sensitivity of negotiations over the final, remaining key packages to be let, Sir David's letter is an interim report to the Finance Committee. A detailed update of the risk register will go to the Committee in September, by which time the outcome of these contract negotiations is likely to be complete.

Summer Migration of staff and facilities

Since early 2002, parliamentary officials working with the Holyrood Implementation Unit have been carrying out a detailed assessment of the entire logistical challenge involved in moving the Parliament from seven existing buildings around the Mound to Holyrood. The task involves planning for the migration of all 129 MSPs plus support staff, 450 parliament staff and all the parliamentary in-house services, as well as the procurement, installation and testing of a wide range of systems and services designed for the new building.

The SPCB is keenly aware that this migration represents the single biggest managerial task ahead for the Parliament in the Holyrood programme. The SPCB is therefore inclined to use the summer recess as the most logistically sound period to undertake this transition rather than attempt to carry out the operation during a busy election period in April and May or during the early business of the new parliament in May and June.

Summer migration will allow staff the opportunity to carry out a full testing of systems and services with a view to ensuring that September begins with a fully operational, working Parliament. A fully working Parliament will include relocation of all Members, Members' staff, parliament staff, installation of tested broadcasting facilities, sound systems, voting systems, IT networks, catering facilities and cleaning and maintenance services.

In view of the decision to begin business at Holyrood in September, parliament officials are already in discussion with the Church of Scotland to agree the likely use and format of facilities at the Mound during May. Such arrangements will take into account the scheduled meeting of the Church's General Assembly.

Background Notes

The full text of Sir David Steel's letter to the Finance Committee (dated June 20) is reproduced below.

In its last report to the Finance Committee in March 2002, the SPCB reported the following cost details:

- £6 million - Inflation on packages not yet let
- £39.6 million - Outstanding risk (current prices)
- £220.8 million - Commitment plus as yet uncommitted packages (incl. VAT and fees)

The separate landscaping scheme is valued at £14.2 million.

The SPCB will update these figures to the Finance Committee in September. The figures set out in Annex A of Sir David's letter represent risk already identified in the last quarterly report to the Finance Committee.

[Sir David Steel's letter to the Finance Committee](#)

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Holyrood Progress Group Visits Parliament's Granite at Kemnay Quarry

MSPs from the Scottish Parliament's Holyrood Progress Group today will make their first official visit to the Kemnay Quarry to inspect granite purchased for the Holyrood building in a contract worth approximately £1.5m.

The quarry, situated to the west of Aberdeen, will yield 2500 tons of the top quality granite which will feature prominently in the new Parliament building. Six thousand square metres of Kemnay granite will take pride of place as external cladding for the Holyrood building, while a further 3500 square metres will be used internally for flooring.

John Home Robertson MSP, Convenor of the Holyrood Progress Group, said:

"We are delighted that the Kemnay Quarry was able to provide such beautiful high-quality granite at a competitive price for use throughout the new Parliament building. The implementation of Enric Miralles' vision for a new seat of Scottish democracy is entering its final phase.

"As it does so, we are proud to demonstrate again our use of typically Scottish materials, reminding people that this Parliament is not just a Parliament for Edinburgh or the Central Belt, but a Parliament for all of Scotland."

Linda Fabiani MSP, Deputy Convenor of the Holyrood Progress Group, said:

"As the Parliament prepares to meet in Aberdeen, what better way could we find to restate the Parliament's proud links with the North East than visiting the main source of granite for the new Scottish Parliament.

"It's wonderful to know that the very fabric of the building will remind future generations of the strength of those links."

Background

Granite cladding will be used on the exterior of all sections of the Holyrood building except for Queensberry House. Sixty per cent of the granite from Kemnay has now been extracted from the quarry, while more than 10% is cut and finished ready for installation.

The Kemnay Quarry is providing the stone for cladding as a subcontractor to W & JR Watson Ltd and the flooring as a subcontractor to Vetter UK Ltd.

Other Scottish materials that will feature prominently in the new Parliament at Holyrood include Caithness stone for paths and flooring, and Scottish Oak for use in the Debating Chamber.

Holyrood Article by Sir David Steel

Writing in 1998, during the competition to select an architect for the new Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh, the leading architectural commentator Deyan Sudjic wondered whether the usual public sector "quest for safety" in public buildings was, "genuinely compatible with making the inspired choice that the Secretary of State so clearly wants. Looking for excellence is never an entirely risk-free process. And creating a brand new national institution is too important a process for a safe choice. There won't ever be the chance to try again".

Two years later and amidst the daily clamour, it is dangerously easy to lose sight of just how important our task is, how great the responsibility entrusted to us as the midwives of this remarkable building. No, the selection panel did not make a 'safe' or a 'risk-free' choice of architect or design. But what they did prize was exactly that excellence to which Sudjic challenged them to make the bold commitment. It was the nurturing and bringing to completion of that vision of excellence which became the duty of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body under my chairmanship in June 1999. At the beginning of 2002, it is incredibly exciting to be able to say that next year, that vision will be complete.

As Sudjic recognised, great endeavours in the field of construction do not always sit comfortably in the public sector. Building is a risky business and there is more uncertainty about costs and timescales than we would ideally wish. Nonetheless, the much-maligned Construction Management contract form means that we only pay for those risks which actually happen to the project, rather than shelling out vast sums to a single contractor who in their pricing would effectively be insuring themselves against costs which might never come to pass. I have in the past however criticised the method of financing our new building whereby the cost of providing a Parliament, which will serve the people of Scotland for 200 years over, has to be borne over a very short period of only four years. That short term pain aside, the overall cost should still be viewed in the context of a total Scottish Block of around £20 billion a year.

The SPCB of course inherited a project that was already underway and whose path was marked out in a number of fundamental ways. By the time of the first elections to the Scottish Parliament the site had been chosen, the architect and design well developed, the funding method fixed and demolition of old buildings on the site started. We had to buckle down and get on with delivering the new building, whilst others continued to fight the battles of yesteryear. Indeed a small industry of self-appointed critics of questionable expertise seems to have grown up around us armed mischievously with the old chemist's motto: 'we dispense with accuracy'. And so it is a source of considerable frustration to me that so many misunderstandings about the project are still held and promulgated. It is quite wrong to suggest that the cost of the building has escalated five or six times. Whatever figures were produced in the early years, those used to produce that comparison did not relate to this building on this site. At the time we took it over, the published estimated cost was £108m.



Enric Miralles at Holyrood Road

With the establishment of the parliament the SPCB were able to take stock of the space and services required in light of actual experience. Enric Miralles had designed the shape of the Chamber before our Parliament was created on assumptions based upon European parliaments, which turned out to be not wholly appropriate. The building concept however remained fundamentally unchanged. We also had to increase the size of the accommodation by some 30% to meet our, by then, clearer business needs. To ignore the need for these changes would have been to saddle our successors and, critically, the public who visit Parliament, with unsatisfactory facilities. Much as we have come to feel at home in our temporary accommodation, we currently experience the cost and inefficiency caused by being located in seven separate and unsuitable buildings. To condemn future Parliaments to continue that would have been foolish in the extreme.

The renovation of Queensberry House was described by John Spencely in his independent report on the project as "poor value for money". Some of us certainly sympathised with that but felt that pro bono publico we should strive to retain this significant building at the foot of the royal mile, and approved an excellent renovation scheme. Renovating old buildings, maintaining the country's built heritage, usually comes I am afraid at a cost. We will however have a building of considerable distinction which completes the rest of the modern Parliamentary complex.

These changes, plus the inclusion of fees, VAT, contingencies, inflation, etc, resulted in the estimated cost at that time going up to £195m. That is the real baseline figure for the building that is being constructed at Holyrood. Increases to that figure have been reported as and when they have materialised and we will continue to keep everyone informed. With the risks involved in a unique construction of this kind (such as the bankruptcy we have experienced of one of the many contractors) the final outcome may well be around £260m. *[Editor's note: As of March 2002, this figure has risen to £266m].*

That is not exceptional for expenditure on such a complex and unique building, as Portcullis House at Westminster has demonstrated. That recent addition to the Westminster landscape actually provides office space only for 120 MPs and the cost of £235m did not include the cost of the tube station underneath. Uncannily similar delivery pains to ours were experienced over the then controversial Sydney Opera House, which everyone now accepts as a major addition to global architecture. My opposite number in Northern Ireland, Lord Alderdice, told me recently that the same was true of the building of Stormont between the wars. Then, he said, people complained as they do now in Scotland, but now they look at the magnificent building set in its majestic park and say "what vision these people had". Fifty years on, he assured me, they will say the same in Edinburgh! That is of small comfort to me, but it is important to emphasise that the value for money for something to last over 200 years must be assessed over that time frame.

I recall a private conversation with Donald Dewar at the time of the handover of the project when he was persuasive, against my known support for adapting the Calton Hill site, that Scotland should be provided with a new building for its new parliament, one of international renown to last well into the 22nd century, rather than a patchwork of old buildings which might in the end cost as much to adapt. I agreed with him then and, as I see the new Parliament building now rising rapidly, I remain convinced it is the right approach. Enric Miralles gave us a wonderful, exciting design concept which has been developed, since his tragic death, by his widow Benedetta Tagliabue Miralles and colleagues in EMBT-RMJM Ltd. The design has been a real challenge for the engineers and contractors but is as was always intended now being taken to completion under the leadership of Brian Stewart, one of EMBT-RMJM's Scottish directors.

The evidence of progress is there to see for anyone who takes the time to visit the site. The structure of the MSP office block was completed some time ago; the conservation and re-development of Queensberry House, a major undertaking in its own right, is well under way; and the main towers housing the Committee rooms and staff accommodation have all taken shape. An important milestone was achieved in December as the first steelwork was put in place for what will be the stunning Debating Chamber with highly innovative structural engineering. The interior finishes will emphasise clean, uncluttered lines, reflecting an open and modern parliament. Considerable time and attention has been given to the services and facilities to be provided for visitors and members of the public coming into the building. And the arrival of the Parliament at Holyrood promises to bring other benefits to the locality. For example the re-generation of local residential areas, re-development of Waverley Station and neighbouring sites, strong pedestrian links from Waverley to Holyrood and good sustainable public transport systems. We shall also see the grounds which surround the Parliament and lead out into the park landscaped to extend the Miralles themes from within the building. And that work along with the road re-routing, which were both originally outwith our cost remit, will bring benefit and enhancement to that whole part of town.

The Members of the Corporate Body aided by our colleagues on the Holyrood Progress Group are determined to keep a close control over costs to ensure value for money, without adversely affecting the quality of the Miralles concept, and to deliver the building if at all possible in time for occupation in May 2003. That remains our target.

It is an enormous privilege to be associated with what I believe will be a truly remarkable building and a fitting Parliament. We will indeed never have the opportunity to try again. I hope that 2002 will be the year in which we all pull together in this final stage of the creation of the new home for Scotland's Parliament.

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