



Des McNulty MSP
Convener
Finance Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

23 October 2003

Dear Des

HOLYROOD REPORT, OCTOBER 2003

This is the fourth of my monthly reports on Holyrood, providing the Finance Committee with the latest information on the Project cost and programme.

Key points this month

1. There is no change in the overall cost reported last month. This remains at £389.4m, plus a programme contingency of £11.8m.
2. Since the September report, £2.4m has been moved from the risk reserve into construction commitment. Details are given in the attached cost breakdown at annex A.
3. There is no change in the strategic programme reported last month.

Progress on site this month includes:

- Most scaffolding has been removed from the east and west facades of the MSP Building. With the installation of garden level windows, all glazing to these facades is now complete. Carpet is now being laid on level 5, and is ready to be laid on levels 3 and 4;
- Oak screens have been fitted across all the general office areas in the Towers and are complete in the stair wells;
- All glazing has now been completed for the extensive Debating Chamber rooflights;
- Elements of scaffolding to Towers 3 & 4 have been taken down, revealing distinctive stone trigger panels in this area. The same work has also allowed increased access to the North Lightwell area, where glazing has now gone in;
- Scaffolding to the rear of Tower 1 has been removed to allow the first phase of access to the South Lightwell area;
- The first Caithness flagstones have been laid in the public entrance below the Debating Chamber;
- All kerbs have now been completed, and granite setts have been laid in Horse Wynd. The open public space between Holyrood and Horse Wynd is taking shape, and final preparations have been made for the concrete pond linings to be poured.

Target deadlines for completion

- MSP Building – end November
- Queensberry House – end November
- Towers 1 & 2 – end January
- Towers 3 & 4 – end February
- Canongate Buildings – end March
- Debating Chamber and Press Tower – end March
- Lightwell and public stair area behind Chamber – early July
- Final handover of completed complex – July 2004
- External landscaping, (plantings and final removal of site accommodation) – end August 2004

Progress in other areas this month:

- Members' offices

Since the last letter issued, representatives of all the parties have visited the Members' building or held meetings with officials to discuss where they might go. Negotiations on the allocation of floors are underway and I hope that they will be completed after the October recess. We also intend to invite all members down to the site before the end of the year to look at alternative room layouts and furniture combinations and to choose how they would like their rooms configured.

- Migration Projects

Migration projects cover the goods and services the Parliament needs to set up and run at Holyrood, including catering, cleaning and services contracts. Many of the projects associated with migration are now complete, and almost all the remainder are now underway. Thirty nine of fifty two service contracts have been let, with the bulk of the remainder due to be let in November and December this year.

A significant milestone in the preparation work is that the Parliament's contractors are now on-site installing the new network and phone systems.

- Fraser Inquiry

The SPCB fully supports Lord Fraser's inquiry, and remains absolutely clear that its overriding priority is to get into a building of quality, at the lowest price, at the earliest date possible.

At the outset, the First Minister, Lord Fraser and myself agreed that the investigation should not delay the completion of the Project and, in consequence, increase costs. Our consultants have expressed concern about the impact of current inquiries, but Lord Fraser has given assurances that his inquiry will not impede progress with the project. The HPG and SPCB will continue to monitor the situation.

Yours sincerely



GEORGE REID

Attachments:

[Financial Summary annex](#) (pdf)

[Progress Report annex](#) (1Mb pdf)