



Parliamentary News Release

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LATEST HOLYROOD REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLISHED TODAY

Presiding Officer George Reid today provided Parliament's Finance Committee with the latest information on the Holyrood project. Reports from Parliament's consultants continue to show the programme on target, and the costs unchanged from last month.

This is the third consecutive report to the Finance Committee that has shown no increase in cost.

Progress on site this month includes:

- A key milestone has been reached with the Chamber crash deck removed over the Christmas period, 21 days ahead of schedule. This was achieved by authorising overtime at a cost of £28,000.
- The high level crash deck in the problematic lightwell area has seen excellent progress in accordance with the key milestones set out in November's letter.
- The MSP offices are complete and fully functioning, and snagging is well underway. Telephone systems are installed and are fully working. Office space has been allocated and furniture choices are being made by Members.
- In Queensberry House all building works are complete and snagging is well underway. The next phase is for IT and other fit-out works to progress.
- Following the removal of scaffolding, the public stair is now in place and glazing is underway. This complex design, which has proved challenging to construct, is moving forward in line with programme.
- Horse Wynd is complete and re-opened to traffic on 4 January.
- The floor of the Chamber is nearing completion and building services are well advanced. The next stage will see the installation of internal wall linings.
- Glazing is installed to the back wall of the public entrance hall.
- A solution to the 'extruded garden' at first floor level on the Canongate has been achieved which will ensure that its completion will not threaten achievement of the strategic programme.
- Ninety per cent of the windows in Towers 1 and 2 have been handed over for internal finishings.

Cost

The overall cost of the project is unchanged. Since the November report, £2.8m has been moved from the risk and programme reserve into construction commitment. The overall cost now sits at £396.5m plus a programme contingency of £4.6m.

Future programme

There is no change to the strategic programme reported in November. Completion continues to target July 2004, which would allow business to commence at Holyrood in September.

Bovis will shortly present to the Holyrood Progress Group its revised strategy for the final push for completion by July. This strategy will address slippage to the Towers to ensure that the July 2003 programme is protected.

The cost consultants, DLE, will review the remaining contingency figure in time for February's report, taking account of prolongation on the Towers and the need for acceleration measures to maintain the overall completion date.

Presiding Officer George Reid said:

“This month has seen excellent progress with us hitting all key milestones.

“We are now engaged in the final push towards completion by July. We are determined to enforce a ‘completion culture’ on everyone involved. Everything must be programme-driven.”

Additional information on all the latest developments on site, plus this month's construction pictures, is available in Annex B to the Presiding Officer's letter.

Background

The following associated documents are available on the Parliament's website:

- [Letter to Des McNulty, Finance Committee Convener.](#)
- [Annex A – Financial summary](#) (pdf file)
- [Annex B – Progress report and latest site images](#) (pdf file)

All the latest images from Holyrood contained in Annex B can be used by bona fide media organisations.