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Cover photographs - clockwise from top left:
Finance Committee
A street art workshop
The crown of Scotland being carried to the Chamber on 1 July
Public Petitions Committee
Deputy Presiding Officer Elaine Smith MSP and Clerk of the Parliament/Chief Executive Paul Grice

Inside cover photographs - clockwise from top left:
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee
MSPs in the Chamber
Moving Stories exhibition
Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Health and Sport Committee

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SP Paper Number 135  Web Only  Session 4 (2012)
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 parliamentary year 11 May 2011 to 10 May 2012. The report covers all areas of the Parliament’s operations over this period.

The election for the fourth session of the Scottish Parliament was held on Thursday 5 May 2011. The 129 members elected to Holyrood included 47 who were completely new to the Parliament.

Fourteen mandatory and subject committees were established at the beginning of the session and two further committees were later formed to consider two UK Parliament bills – on the Scotland Bill and the Welfare Reform Bill. The Parliament’s committees carry out a vital role in scrutinising legislation and seeking to hold the Scottish Government to account.

The Debating Chamber has heard debates on a range of subjects from housing and health to education and Europe, in addition to the weekly question time sessions.

A vital 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. A highlight of the year was the official opening of the fourth session held on 1 July 2011. Following Her Majesty The Queen’s address to Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), 1,200 people from across Scotland joined MSPs in the traditional riding procession down the Royal Mile, after which the Parliament opened its doors to the public for a variety of events and exhibitions.

I hope our annual report provides you with an interesting and informative summary of some of the Parliament’s activities over the last year.

Tricia Marwick MSP
Election results

The fourth general election to the Scottish Parliament took place on 5 May 2011.

Allocation of seats through the voting system
Under the Additional Member System used for Scottish Parliament elections, each voter has two votes. One vote is to elect a constituency MSP and the other is cast for a political party list or an independent candidate within the voter’s parliamentary region.

The Chamber
In the 2011 election, for the first time since the Scottish Parliament was established, a single party – the Scottish National Party – achieved an overall majority in terms of seats. The Scottish National Party won 69 seats, followed by the Scottish Labour Party (37), the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party (15), the Scottish Liberal Democrats (5) and the Scottish Green Party (2). One independent MSP was also elected.

The Parliament approved the nomination of Alex Salmond MSP, the leader of the Scottish National Party, as First Minister on 18 May 2011, and the Scottish National Party forms the current Scottish Government.

Chamber seating plan, May 2011

MSPs elected in May 2011
MSPs by party, May 2011

Scottish Parliament election results 1999–2011

Percentage of seats won by party, 2011

Scottish National Party 53.49%
Scottish Labour Party 28.68%
Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party 11.63%
Scottish Liberal Democrats 3.88%
Scottish Green Party 1.55%
Independent 0.8%
Your representatives

There are 129 MSPs elected to the Scottish Parliament. Of these, 73 are elected for a particular local area (known as a constituency) and 56 are elected for the eight larger areas (known as parliamentary regions).

Scottish National Party constituency MSPs:

Aberdeen Central: Kevin Stewart
Aberdeen Donside: Brian Adam
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine:
  Maureen Watt
Aberdeen East: Alex Salmond
Aberdeen West: Dennis Robertson
Airdrie and Shotts: Alex Neil
Almond Valley: Angela Constance
Angus North and Mearns: Nigel Don
Angus South: Graeme Dey
Argyll and Bute: Michael Russell
Banffshire and Buchan Coast: Stewart Stevenson
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross: Rob Gibson
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley:
  Adam Ingram
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane: Keith Brown
Clydebank and Milngavie: Gil Paterson
Clydesdale: Aileen Campbell
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth: Jamie Hepburn
Cunninghame North: Kenneth Gibson
Cunninghame South: Margaret Burgess
Dundee City East: Shona Robison
Dundee City West: Joe FitzPatrick
Dunfermline: Bill Walker
East Kilbride: Linda Fabiani
Edinburgh Central: Marco Biagi
Edinburgh Eastern: Kenny MacAskill
Edinburgh Pentlands: Gordon MacDonald
Edinburgh Southern: Jim Eadie
Edinburgh Western: Colin Keir
Falkirk East: Angus MacDonald
Falkirk West: Michael Matheson
Glasgow Anniesland: Bill Kidd
Glasgow Cathcart: James Dornan
Glasgow Kelvin: Sandra White
Glasgow Shettleston: John Mason
Glasgow Southside: Nicola Sturgeon
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse:
  Christina McKelvie
Inverness and Nairn: Fergus Ewing
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley: Willie Coffey
Kirkcaldy: David Torrance
Linlithgow: Fiona Hyslop
Mid Fife and Glenrothes: Tricia Marwick
Midlothian North and Musselburgh: Colin Beattie
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale:
  Christine Grahame
Moray: Richard Lochhead
Na h-Eileanan an Iar: Alasdair Allan
North East Fife: Roderick Campbell
Paisley: George Adam
Perthshire North: John Swinney
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire:
  Roseanna Cunningham
Renfrewshire North and West: Derek Mackay
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch: Dave Thompson
Stirling: Bruce Crawford
Strathkelvin and Bearsden: Fiona McLeod

Scottish National Party regional list MSPs:

Central Scotland: Clare Adamson
Central Scotland: Richard Lyle
Central Scotland: John Wilson
Glasgow: Bob Doris
Glasgow: Humza Yousaf
Highlands and Islands: John Finnie
Highlands and Islands: Mike MacKenzie
Highlands and Islands: Jean Urquhart
Mid Scotland and Fife: Annabelle Ewing
North East Scotland: Mark McDonald
South Scotland: Chic Brodie
South Scotland: Joan McAlpine
South Scotland: Aileen McLeod
South Scotland: Paul Wheelhouse
West Scotland: Stewart Maxwell
West Scotland: Stuart McMillan

Scottish Labour Party constituency MSPs:
Coatbridge and Chryston: Elaine Smith
Cowdenbeath: Helen Eadie
Dumbarton: Jackie Baillie
Dumfriesshire: Elaine Murray
East Lothian: Iain Gray
Eastwood: Kenneth Macintosh
Edinburgh Northern and Leith: Malcolm Chisholm
Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn: Patricia Ferguson
Glasgow Pollok: Johann Lamont
Glasgow Provan: Paul Martin
Greenock and Inverclyde: Duncan McNeil
Motherwell and Wishaw: John Pentland
Renfrewshire South: Hugh Henry
Rutherglen: James Kelly
Uddingston and Bellshill: Michael McMahon

Scottish Labour Party regional list MSPs:
Central Scotland: Mark Griffin
Central Scotland: Margaret McCulloch
Central Scotland: Siobhan McMahon
Glasgow: Hanzala Malik
Glasgow: Anne McTaggart
Glasgow: Drew Smith
Highlands and Islands: Rhoda Grant
Highlands and Islands: David Stewart
Lothian: Sarah Boyack
Lothian: Kezia Dugdale
Lothian: Neil Findlay
Mid Scotland and Fife: Claire Baker
Mid Scotland and Fife: John Park
Mid Scotland and Fife: Richard Simpson
North East Scotland: Richard Baker
North East Scotland: Lewis Macdonald

Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party constituency MSPs:
Ayr: John Scott
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire: John Lamont
Galloway and West Dumfries: Alex Fergusson

Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party regional list MSPs:
Central Scotland: Margaret Mitchell
Glasgow: Ruth Davidson
Highlands and Islands: Jamie McGrigor
Highlands and Islands: Mary Scanlon
Lothian: Gavin Brown
Lothian: David McLetchie
Mid Scotland and Fife: Murdo Fraser
Mid Scotland and Fife: Liz Smith
North East Scotland: Alex Johnstone
North East Scotland: Nanette Milne
West Scotland: Jackson Carlaw
West Scotland: Annabel Goldie

Scottish Liberal Democrat constituency MSPs:
Orkney Islands: Liam McArthur
Shetland Islands: Tavish Scott

Scottish Liberal Democrat regional list MSPs:
Mid Scotland and Fife: Willie Rennie
North East Scotland: Alison McInnes
South Scotland: Jim Hume

Scottish Green Party regional list MSPs:
Glasgow: Patrick Harvie
Lothian: Alison Johnstone

Independent regional list MSP:
Lothian: Margo MacDonald
1. MSPs in the Chamber
2. Presiding Officer
   Tricia Marwick MSP
3. The Chamber
4. Ruth Davidson MSP
5. First Minister, the Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
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. 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 comprises the Presiding Officer, who chairs the meetings, along with one representative from each party with five or more MSPs.

Appointment of the Presiding Officers and nomination of the First Minister

In addition to the usual parliamentary business, various proceedings were required as a result of the election on 5 May 2011.

Every person who is elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament is required to take an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty The Queen, or to make a solemn affirmation, and this took place in the Chamber on 11 May 2011.

That meeting also saw the election of a new Presiding Officer, Tricia Marwick MSP, and two Deputy Presiding Officers, Elaine Smith MSP and John Scott MSP.

At the second meeting of the Parliament, Alex Salmond MSP was nominated for appointment as First Minister and his appointment was subsequently approved by Her Majesty The Queen.

The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) is responsible for ensuring that the Parliament is provided with the property, staff and services it requires to carry out its work. It is chaired by the Presiding Officer. Four other members were elected by the Parliament from among MSPs on 25 May 2011. The new Corporate Body held its first meeting on 2 June. (The SPCB elected members are pictured on page 13.)

Debates

Debating time in the Chamber is allocated to political parties on the basis of the proportion of seats that they hold. 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:

- climate justice
- delivery and legacy of the Commonwealth Games
- ensuring the integrity of Scots criminal law
- the Green Investment Bank
- integration of health and social care
- maritime safety and coastguards
- the oil and gas framework
- the UK Parliament’s Scotland Bill
- the UK Parliament’s Welfare Reform Bill
- youth employment strategy
Sixteen half-days were allocated to debate non-Government business in the Chamber during this parliamentary year. Once this allocation has been divided among the non-Government parties by the Bureau, these parties propose the topics and motions for debate. Debates on a range of topics have taken place, including the following:

- cancer drugs and their availability in Scotland (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)
- caring for Scotland’s older people (Scottish Labour Party)
- college funding (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)
- local energy companies (Scottish Green Party)
- prisons (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
- procurement of social care services (Scottish Labour Party)
- public transport (Scottish Labour Party)

Committee debates
Committees can request debating time in the Chamber to bring issues to the attention of a wider audience. For example, the Education and Culture Committee held a debate on its inquiry into the educational attainment of looked-after children.

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. In the past year, the First Minister made statements on the Scottish Government’s legislative programme and the referendum consultation. Ministerial statements have also been made on a number of topics, including:

- decision on the Stirling visualisation impact mitigation scheme for the Beauly to Denny power line
- fuel poverty
- outcome of end-of-year fishing negotiations
- police and fire reform
- review of teacher employment
- Scotland’s fossil fuel levy
- waiting times, NHS Lothian

Members’ business
Members’ business is normally 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:

- community benefit and the cumulative impact of wind farm developments in communities
- designation of Special Areas of Conservation
- fighting sectarianism and anti-Irish racism
- high interest payday loans
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- remembering the Russian Arctic convoys
- road forward for community transport
- save Glasgow’s local train services
- truth about youth project
- Upper Clyde Shipbuilders

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:

- Rt Reverend David Arnott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
- Reverend Helen Cook, Kingussie Parish Church
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 from the Scottish Government.

Six topical questions, put forward by the main opposition party leaders and other MSPs, are selected by the Presiding Officer, published in the Business Bulletin and asked during First Minister’s Question Time on a Thursday. The Presiding Officer also invites questions from backbench MSPs of a local and/or urgent nature at First Minister’s Question Time. 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 and these are published in the Business Bulletin. At General and Themed Question Times, the relevant minister provides an answer to each question, and to any related supplementary questions (about which no notice has been given).

Oral parliamentary questions answered from 11 May 2011 to 10 May 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Minister’s Question Time</th>
<th>216</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General and Themed Question Time</td>
<td>905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6,384 questions were also lodged for written answer in the same period.

Motions
MSPs use parliamentary motions for a number of purposes – to highlight an issue or event, to generate support for a cause, to acknowledge or congratulate an achievement or to stimulate debate on a subject. Motions are published in the Business Bulletin, along with the names of other members who have added their support to these.

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.

2,987 motions and amendments were lodged during the year, on a broad range of topics. The vast majority of motions are not intended for debate but address a wide variety of issues, some of which over the course of the year have included:

- the equal marriage debate
- human trafficking in Scotland
- promoting renewables
- remembering 9/11 a decade on
- Scotland team’s Homeless World Cup success
- tribute to Campbell Christie
- World Schools Debating Championships
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.

All the bills introduced during this parliamentary year were introduced by the Scottish Ministers to further the Scottish Government’s policy aims on matters such as criminal justice, social care and reform of public services. No members’ or committee bills were introduced, but this is unsurprising as it is unusual for such bills to be introduced during the first year of a new parliamentary session.

Bills introduced (13)
A total of 13 bills were introduced in the Parliament between 11 May 2011 and 10 May 2012. They are listed below in order of date of introduction. Two of the bills were passed during the parliamentary year and the remainder are continuing their parliamentary passage.

- Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill 16 June 2011
- National Library of Scotland Bill 26 October 2011
- Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill 31 October 2011
- Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill 31 October 2011
- Criminal Cases (Punishment and Review) (Scotland) Bill 30 November 2011
- Land Registration etc (Scotland) Bill 1 December 2011
- Long Leases (Scotland) Bill 12 January 2012
- Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill 16 January 2012
- Budget (Scotland) Bill 19 January 2012
- Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Bill 29 February 2012
- Welfare Reform (Further Provision) (Scotland) Bill 22 March 2012
- Local Government Finance (Unoccupied Properties etc) (Scotland) Bill 26 March 2012
- Scottish Civil Justice Council and Criminal Legal Assistance Bill 2 May 2012

Acts (2)
Two bills received royal assent to become Acts of the Scottish Parliament between 11 May 2011 and 10 May 2012. They are listed below in order of the date on which they received royal assent.

- Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 [Government]
- Budget (Scotland) Act 2012 [Government]
1. MSPs in the Chamber
2. Johann Lamont MSP and Paul Martin MSP
3. The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (from the top: Linda Fabiani MSP, Mary Scanlon MSP, David Stewart MSP, Liam McArthur MSP)
4. Patrick Harvie MSP
5. Willie Rennie MSP
Photographs of committee sessions and visits:
1. Health and Sport Committee
2. Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee
3. Justice Committee
4. Education and Culture Committee
5. Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee
Committees

The Parliament has different kinds of committee. There are mandatory and subject committees, and it can also establish ad hoc committees to consider particular issues or pieces of legislation. At the start of session 4, the Parliament established seven mandatory committees and seven subject committees. Two ad hoc committees were also created this year: the Scotland Bill Committee and the Welfare Reform Committee.

For more information about a committee, click on its name in the list below. Each mandatory and subject committee publishes its own annual report and you will find links to these under the membership details for the committee.

### Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee

- **Members:**
  - Patrick Harvie
  - Angus MacDonald
  - Mike MacKenzie
  - Stuart McMillan
  - Anne McTaggart
  - John Park
  - John Wilson

- **Convener:**
  - Murdo Fraser
    - (from 23.11.11)

- **Annual Report**

### Education and Culture Committee

- **Members:**
  - Neil Bibby
    - (from 22.12.11)
  - Neil Findlay
    - (from 22.12.11)
  - Jenny Marra
    - (until 21.12.11)
  - Joan McAlpine
  - Liam McArthur
  - Liz Smith
  - Jean Urquhart

- **Convener:**
  - Stewart Maxwell
    - (from 22.12.11)

- **Annual Report**
Equal Opportunities Committee

Members:
- Clare Adamson (until 23.02.12)
- Claudia Beamish (member and convener until 21.12.11)
- John Finnie
- Annabel Goldie (from 16.11.11)
- Siobhan McMahon
- Stuart McMillan
- Margaret Mitchell (until 16.11.11)
- Dennis Robertson
- Jean Urquhart (from 23.02.12)

Convener:
- Mary Fee (from 10.01.12)

Annual Report

European and External Relations Committee

Members:
- Clare Adamson (from 23.02.12)
- Helen Eadie
- Annabelle Ewing (until 23.02.12)
- Bill Kidd
- Hanzala Malik
- Jamie McGrigor
- Aileen McLeod
- Christina McKelvie

Convener:
- Christine Ewing

Annual Report

Finance Committee

Members:
- Gavin Brown (from 16.11.11)
- Alex Johnstone (until 16.11.11)
- Derek Mackay (until 14.12.11)
- John Mason
- Margaret McCulloch (until 21.12.11)
- Mark McDonald (from 15.12.11)
- Michael McMahon (from 22.12.11)
- Elaine Murray (from 22.12.11)
- John Pentland (until 21.12.11)
- Paul Wheelhouse

Convener:
- Kenneth Gibson

Annual Report

Health and Sport Committee

Members:
- Jackson Carlaw (16.11.11–02.05.12)
- Bob Doris
- Jim Eadie
- Mary Fee (until 21.12.11)
- Richard Lyle
- Fiona McLeod
- Nanette Milne (from 02.05.12)
- Gil Paterson
- Mary Scanlon (until 16.11.11)
- Richard Simpson
- Drew Smith (from 22.12.11)

Convener:
- Duncan McNeil

Annual Report
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

Members:
- Jackson Carlaw  
  (until 16.11.11)
- Malcolm Chisholm
- Neil Findlay  
  (until 21.12.11)
- Jamie Hepburn  
  (until 23.02.12)
- Adam Ingram
- Alex Johnstone  
  (from 16.11.11)
- Gordon MacDonald
- Margaret McCulloch  
  (from 22.12.11)
- Aileen McLeod  
  (from 23.02.12)

Convener:
Maureen Watt

Annual Report

Justice Committee

Members:
- Roderick Campbell
- John Finnie
- Colin Keir
- James Kelly  
  (until 21.12.11)
- John Lamont  
  (until 16.11.11)
- Jenny Marra  
  (from 22.12.11)
- Alison McInnes  
  (from 16.11.11)
- David McLetchie  
  (from 16.11.11)
- Graeme Pearson
- Humza Yousaf

Convener:
Christine Grahame

Annual Report

Local Government and Regeneration Committee

Members:
- Ruth Davidson  
  (until 16.11.11)
- James Dornan  
  (from 07.03.12)
- Kezia Dugdale  
  (until 21.12.11)
- Mark Griffin  
  (until 21.12.11)
- Anne McTaggart  
  (from 22.12.11)
- Margaret Mitchell  
  (from 16.11.11)
- John Pentland  
  (from 22.12.11)
- Kevin Stewart
- David Torrance
- Bill Walker  
  (until 05.03.12)

Convener:
Joe FitzPatrick

Annual Report

Public Audit Committee

Members:
- George Adam
- Colin Beattie
- Willie Coffey
- Murdo Fraser  
  (until 16.11.11)
- Mark Griffin  
  (from 22.12.11)
- Hugh Henry  
  (member and convener until 21.12.11)
- Colin Keir  
  (from 15.12.11)
- Mark McDonald  
  (until 15.12.11)
- Mary Scanlon  
  (from 16.11.11)
- Tavish Scott
- Drew Smith  
  (until 21.12.11)
- Humza Yousaf

Convener:
Iain Gray  
  (from 18.01.12)

Annual Report
## Public Petitions Committee

**Convener:** David Stewart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members:</th>
<th>Mark McDonald</th>
<th>Bill Walker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neil Bibby</td>
<td>(from 08.09.11)</td>
<td>(until 05.03.12)</td>
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<td>(until 21.12.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Lyle</td>
<td>Anne McTaggart</td>
<td>Sandra White</td>
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<tr>
<td>(until 08.09.11)</td>
<td>(from 22.12.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angus MacDonald</td>
<td>Nanette Milne</td>
<td>John Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>(from 07.03.12)</td>
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## Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

**Convener:** Rob Gibson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members:</th>
<th>Jim Hume</th>
<th>Margaret McDougall</th>
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<tr>
<td>Claudia Beamish</td>
<td>John Lamont</td>
<td>(from 22.12.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(from 22.12.11)</td>
<td>(16.11.11–28.03.12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graeme Dey</td>
<td>Richard Lyle</td>
<td>Aileen McLeod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annabelle Ewing</td>
<td>(from 08.09.11)</td>
<td>(until 23.02.12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Fergusson</td>
<td>Jenny Marra</td>
<td>Elaine Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>(until 16.11.11 and then</td>
<td>(until 21.12.11)</td>
<td>(until 21.12.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>from 28.03.12)</td>
<td>Mark McDonald</td>
<td>Dennis Robertson</td>
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<td>(until 07.09.11)</td>
<td>(from 23.02.12)</td>
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## Scotland Bill Committee

**Convener:** Linda Fabiani

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<th>John Mason</th>
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<td>Richard Baker</td>
<td>Stewart Maxwell</td>
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<td>Nigel Don</td>
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<td>Adam Ingram</td>
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<td>Alison Johnstone</td>
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<td>James Kelly</td>
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## Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

**Convener:** Dave Thompson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>John Lamont</th>
<th>Nanette Milne</th>
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<td>Margaret Burgess</td>
<td>(from 28.03.12)</td>
<td>(until 16.11.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Doris</td>
<td>Margaret McCulloch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Eadie</td>
<td>(from 22.12.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Fergusson</td>
<td>Margaret McDougall</td>
<td>(until 21.12.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(16.11.11–28.03.12)</td>
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### Annual Report
Subordinate Legislation Committee

Convener: Nigel Don

Members:
- Chic Brodie
- James Dornan
- Kezia Dugdale (until 21.12.11)
- Mike MacKenzie

Convener: Michael McMahon

Annual Report

Welfare Reform Committee

Convener: Michael McMahon

Members:
- Margaret Burgess
- Annabelle Ewing
- Jamie Hepburn
- Alex Johnstone

Members:
- Drew Smith
- Kevin Stewart
- Michael McMahon (from 22.12.11)
- John Pentland (from 22.12.11)
- John Scott
- Drew Smith (until 21.12.11)

Photographs of committee sessions and visits:
1. Local Government and Regeneration Committee
2. Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee
3. Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee
1. Deputy Presiding Officer John Scott MSP greets High Commissioner of Singapore, His Excellency Mr T Jasudasen.
2. Special Envoy to Africa for the CPA Annie Lennox OBE
3. The Presiding Officer and Dr Vartan Gregorian
4. Sarah Boyack MSP in Bangladesh
5. Deputy Presiding Officer Elaine Smith MSP greets the Speaker of the Canadian Senate, the Hon Noël Kinsella during a courtesy call in Queensberry House.
International engagement

Activity in our international relations with other parliaments and institutions continued in the new, five-year parliamentary session.

Some highlights, in a year covering more than 80 visiting delegations, included high-profile visits from the Speakers of the Australian and Canadian Senates, who looked at services provided to members and the use of information technology in a parliamentary setting. A study tour by the three Vice-Presidents of the Macedonian Parliament learned of practices and procedures in the Scottish Parliament, particularly focusing on financial and legislative scrutiny, that they could adapt for use in their own legislature. A high-level delegation from the Parliament of South Africa also visited to examine the role MSPs played in the passing of climate change legislation and in subsequent scrutiny of Scottish Government policy in this area.

Annie Lennox OBE visited the Scottish Parliament on 14 March to participate in the 2012 Commonwealth Day events organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Scotland Branch. Ms Lennox, who is Special Envoy for CPA Scotland Branch on matters pertaining to HIV/AIDS, Women and Children, addressed an audience of more than 300 people from all walks of life, on the Global Plan and the development of the UN AIDS targets, particularly in relation to preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

In addition, the UK and International Relations Office helped support members attend a range of international conferences and events over the course of the year. Highlights included:

- David Stewart MSP’s visit to Johannesburg at the end of February 2012 to deliver a presentation at a conference on public participation entitled ‘The People Shall Govern: Public Participation Beyond Slogans’.
- Sarah Boyack MSP’s visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh, in March 2012 to attend a ‘Meeting of Parliamentarians of Countries Most Vulnerable to Climate Change: Beyond Durban’. More than 30 countries, from across five continents, were represented at the conference.
1. Connect! education session, LGBT Dundee
2. The BT Scotland National Gaelic Schools Debate
3. Her Majesty The Queen, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and the Presiding Officer at the opening of the fourth session
4. Moving Stories exhibition
Engagement with the public

Events, exhibitions and partnership working have continued to play key roles in the Parliament’s engagement with the people of Scotland. In the year 2011-12, more than 80,000 people attended events and exhibitions, conferences, briefings, receptions and performances and had the opportunity to speak to members about the issues that were important to them.

The new parliamentary session

Events to mark the opening of the fourth session on 1 July provided a snapshot of modern Scotland, reflecting its aspirations for the next five years.

The day began with the procession of the crown of Scotland down the Royal Mile. Her Majesty The Queen addressed MSPs and invited guests in the Chamber, and then had an opportunity, with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, to meet with the ten sitters from the Parliament’s travelling exhibition Moving Stories and to see the Parliament’s official photograph of The Queen.

The morning’s proceedings concluded with the traditional riding down the Royal Mile, which featured 1,200 performers and guests, including ‘local heroes’ nominated by MSPs from their constituencies and regions. Ensuring it reflected Scotland’s achievements, the riding was themed around the four aspirations expressed on the Parliament’s mace – wisdom, compassion, justice and integrity.

Later that day, the Parliament opened its doors to the people of Scotland and the best of young Scottish musical talent was showcased as part of an afternoon of free entertainment. Performances included Scottish Pipes and African Drums, new and traditional music, opera, rock and samba.

Festival of Politics

The seventh Festival of Politics was spread over the period from Saturday 20 to Saturday 27 August 2011 and delivered 34 events with the over-arching theme of Renewing Politics in the Age of New Media. Highlights included a discussion on the Arab Spring, chaired by the BBC’s Allan Little, and debates on the rise of Twitter. Guests to this year’s Festival were also encouraged to tweet during the events, which not only gave valuable feedback but allowed their thoughts and ideas to feed into the ongoing discussions.

The Carnegie Dunfermline and UK Trusts and the Law Society of Scotland once again supported the Festival as key partners and delivered their own events within the programme, looking at intellectual property in a digital age and at how the media may report and operate during the forthcoming referendum. The Members’ Restaurant was also transformed into a distinctive and intimate venue, allowing musical and theatre performances from the likes of Midge Ure and Roddy Hart and the Lonesome Fire that gave a fantastic festival feel to the overall programme.

Also part of the 2011 Festival, the Parliament hosted Get the Picture!, an exciting event attended by more than 200 young people from across Scotland that gave them the chance to
showcase issues and present their ambitions for Scotland for the next five years.

The day started with a marketplace, where groups shared their issues and experiences and met the Presiding Officer. A range of workshops gave young people a chance to learn how to campaign and how to use social media, or helped them explore their issues using cartoons, street art and photography. The highlight of the day was a debate in the Chamber on motions taken from the Scottish Youth Parliament manifesto, which gave the young people an opportunity to share their views and vote on possible solutions using interactive voting.

Get the Picture! also included an innovative reporting competition, organised in partnership with the Carnegie UK Trust, which gave all groups participating in the event an opportunity to use a media-based approach to communicate to their peers about an issue that affects them. The competition was won by Highland Children’s Forum, with a podcast the group made about their experiences of disability. The judges – who included Tam Baillie, Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Carnegie UK Trust and STV Local – were impressed with the clarity of their message and engaging style. The young people received training sessions on working with the media and came to Holyrood for a VIP visit in March 2012. They used their skills and knowledge to plan and record a film to expand on the message from their podcast, and interviews with the young people were then posted to the Parliament’s SoundCloud pages.

The prestigious annual photojournalism exhibition World Press Photography was also on display in the Parliament building during August, with the aim of providing a platform for information and discussion about world events during the Festival of Politics. Between the Festival and the exhibition, nearly 40,000 people visited, participated and debated.

**Events and exhibitions**

The innovative Design & Democracy exhibition, in which the Parliament worked with Scotland’s four art colleges – Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Edinburgh College of Art, Gray’s School of Art and The Glasgow School of Art – showcased work by 15 design graduates. The exhibition, which was on display between November 2011 and March 2012, aimed to demonstrate how designers engage with social issues and encourage peer educational and design audiences to visit the Parliament. To coincide with St Andrew’s Day and the Design & Democracy exhibition, a weekend of science-based events inspired by the exhibition took place on 25 and 26 November.

Other noteworthy events during the year included:

- the final of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition 2011 on 16 June. This is an annual event, organised by the Law Society of Scotland, to promote an understanding of the importance of debate, advocacy and communication, in which all Scottish secondary schools are invited to participate. One hundred and twenty-eight teams competed from across Scotland, from the Western Isles to the Scottish Borders. The final debate, on the motion ‘This House would put youth before experience’, was won by Braes High School from Falkirk.
- ‘Political Voices’ on 17 June. This novel and creative event saw more than 200 teenagers coming together to express their desires and concerns for the future. The young people got involved in a variety of art forms, expressing their ‘Political Voices’ in drama, dance, animation, story-telling, film making and street art. A round-up of the day
1. Young people at the Get the Picture! event
2. Burnsong performers at the Festival of Politics
3. Street art workshop
4. Delegates attending the third Communities Conference
was posted on the Scottish Parliament’s YouTube page.

- an event in November, both at Holyrood and using GLOW (the national schools intranet service), in which Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils from across Scotland were given the chance to ask the Justice Committee convener and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice about a range of issues including prisons, policing, reoffending and the causes of crime.

In addition, the Moving Stories travelling exhibition continued to tour to venues around Scotland, with the aims of taking information to people not living within convenient travel time of Edinburgh and encouraging them to get involved with the Parliament. During this year, it toured to Cumbernauld College, Central Library, Dundee, the Mitchell Library, Glasgow and East Kilbride Central Library.

Connect!

A new service for 16 to 25-year-olds was launched in July, working in partnership with the Scottish Youth Parliament. Connect! is a youth-led peer-to-peer education programme, enabling young people to help other young people find out how they can get involved with the Parliament and make a difference.

Underlining the aim of the travelling exhibition to encourage participation, Connect! sessions are held in the venues hosting Moving Stories. Young people have been taking part in this unique project as both audience members and facilitators delivering a session. The facilitators are given advice and training, offering young people an opportunity to acquire new skills and experiences through the programme, and facilitators have been young people from a range of local youth and community groups, as well as Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Community Partnerships Project

After three successful phases, the Community Partnerships Project concluded in March 2012, with an event hosted by the Presiding Officer to mark the achievements of the third phase partners: Grampian Family Support Forum; Action in Mind, Stirling; Volunteer Centre East Dunbartonshire; Dumfries & Galloway Third Sector Forum and Multi-Ethnic Aberdeen Ltd.

During the year, the groups determined an issue that they would like to see addressed, and worked on a campaign to bring this to the Scottish Parliament. They successfully held exhibitions and events at Holyrood; launched innovative publications; submitted petitions; delivered Time for Reflection in the Chamber; and engaged with their local MSPs, who supported them by lodging parliamentary motions and questions.

Online engagement

Engagement has always been at the heart of the purpose of the Scottish Parliament and we have long been using a wide range of technologies to connect with the people of Scotland. Our website already published all of our information and publications digitally and our webcasting service, Holyrood.tv, broadcast Chamber and committee business live, as well as hosting an archive of selected events and a weekly studio programme of highlights.

The Scottish Parliament recognised that it could make its web and online presence work more effectively, and this year has seen several major developments.

Social media

Since the election on 5 May 2011, the Scottish Parliament has been developing its presence on Twitter, tweeting regularly on parliamentary business, events, information and education resources, and opportunities for the public to...
engage with the Parliament. Twitter has also provided another way for members of the public to ask questions about the Parliament and to submit comments or questions to inform discussion with MSPs on Holyrood Highlights programmes. By 10 May 2012, the Parliament’s Twitter account had more than 6,000 followers. In addition, in February 2012, the Health and Sport Committee launched the first committee Twitter account to communicate directly with the public about its work. Other committees are set to follow its example.

Just after the election in May, a Gaelic blog was also launched to engage Gaelic speakers and learners in current business and help them access further information and engage with MSPs and the work of the Parliament.

Website
Our new website launched in October 2011, with an updated look and feel designed to be clear, accessible and easy to find your way around. As well as an improved search, it is now easier to find information about what is happening in the Parliament and track parliamentary business. All MSP home pages have links to their most recent speeches, motions, questions and voting records. Other new features include an interactive Calendar, a ‘Find your MSP’ search on the home page and a range of new interactive educational resources. The new website provides a strong basis for future developments.

To guide this and our other online activities a fresh web strategy has been developed. This sets out the vision for the website and social media involvement of the Scottish Parliament for session 4. Put simply, we wish to make greater use of online options to engage, with the aim of Connecting People and Parliament Online.

Environmental management
The Scottish Parliament is committed to being a role model for best practice in environmental performance and a contributor to sustainable development.

View our latest environmental annual report on our website at www.scottish.parliament.uk/abouttheparliament/46933.aspx

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