NOTE OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ART ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY MAY 28 2008

Present: Robin Harper MSP, Chair
Ted Brocklebank MSP
Ian McKee MSP

In attendance: Fiona McDougall, Art Curator / Exhibitions Manager
Ruth McPake (Minutes)

Apologies: Patricia Ferguson MSP
Liz Lochhead
Jeremy Purvis MSP

Minutes of last meeting

1. The Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting.

Feedback from SPCB

2. The Art Curator / Exhibitions Manager updated the Group on the feedback from the SPCB Meeting. She noted that the response from the SPCB had been positive and that they had agreed to continue developing the Collection in line with the current policy, using a mix of commissioning, purchases, loans and gifts. It was noted that the SPCB had requested that legal advice be sought on options for a new governance structure with options and resource implications for acquisitions to be presented to them in September. Until then the SPCB have decided to delay recruiting new members.

3. The SPCB agreed that the Art Advisory Group should deliver the review of their Acquisition and Disposal Policy by January 2010 and that they should develop collecting priorities within the current policy at the present time.

4. It was noted that SPCB had expressed interest in taking forward a creative residency for a visual artist and for an art in the landscape project, as part of the plan to mark ten years of devolution. The Art Advisory Group would be involved in taking forward this project.

5. The Chair suggested that the Group should continue to develop ideas and that further ideas should be considered at the next meeting.

ACTION: Art Curator / Exhibition Manager to give presentation on the development of the Art Collection.

ACTION: Members to advise the Chair if they have any suggestions for developing the Art Collection.
Collecting proposals

6. The Group considered the work of a number of artists. It was agreed that as part of their research a studio visit should be arranged to provide the Group with further background information. The Group also agreed that the Parliament should consider supporting the work of younger artists.

**ACTION: Art Curator / Exhibitions Manager to arrange a research visit.**

External proposals

7. The Group agreed to recommend to the SPCB that it would not be appropriate to place a sculpture of Mary Queen of Scots in the Parliament’s landscaped gardens. It was noted that the SPCB had expressed an interest in initiating its own residency and commission for art in the landscape and that the Group recommended that any works being placed in the grounds should in particular have been conceived or commissioned to respond to the design of the Parliament building and its landscaped areas and to the nature of the Scottish Parliament as a newly devolved institution. It was felt that the specific subject matter of this proposal was considered outwith the remit of the Scottish Parliament Art Collection.

Any Other Business

8. It was noted that the Art Curator / Exhibitions Manager had written to Fergus Ewing MSP and that she will follow up on making arrangements to viewing the work before the Group consider an appropriate location for the painting. It was reiterated that the location of the work within the Parliament building should be at the discretion of the Group.

**ACTION: Art Curator / Exhibitions Manager to contact Fergus Ewing MSP**

9. The Group discussed the acquisition of portraits and the possibility for a designated space within the Parliament for displaying them. The Art Curator / Exhibitions Manager noted that the commissioning of portraits would take a significant portion of any budget and it would be helpful if the Group could advise on a balance between portraiture and on developing the rest of the Collection.
10. It was suggested that the Group consider holding an exhibition of work by recent graduates of Scotland’s art schools and it was noted that as this was outwith the remit of the Group that the correct course of action would be to put this in writing to the Presiding Officer.

   **ACTION:** A Member of the Group to write to the Presiding Officer to suggest the possibility of an exhibition of work by recent graduates of Scotland’s art schools.

**Date of next Meeting**

11. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 June.