

# **EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday 8 October 2008

Session 3

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# CONTENTS

Wednesday 8 October 2008

	Col.
INTERESTS.....	1533
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE .....	1534
BUDGET PROCESS 2009-10.....	1535

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## EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2008, Session 3

### CONVENER

\*Karen Whitefield (Airdrie and Shotts) (Lab)

### DEPUTY CONVENER

\*Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\*Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab)  
\*Aileen Campbell (South of Scotland) (SNP)  
\*Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab)  
\*Christina McKelvie (Central Scotland) (SNP)  
\*Elizabeth Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)  
\*Margaret Smith (Edinburgh West) (LD)

### COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Ted Brocklebank (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)  
Bill Kidd (Glasgow) (SNP)  
Hugh O'Donnell (Central Scotland) (LD)  
Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab)

\*attended

### THE FOLLOWING GAVE EVIDENCE:

Linda Fabiani (Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture)  
David Seers (Scottish Government Europe, External Affairs and Culture Directorate)  
Wendy Wilkinson (Scottish Government Europe, External Affairs and Culture Directorate)

### CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Eugene Windsor

### SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Nick Hawthorne

### ASSISTANT CLERK

Andrew Proudfoot

### LOCATION

Committee Room 6



## Scottish Parliament

### Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee

*Wednesday 8 October 2008*

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 09:15*]

#### Interests

**The Convener (Karen Whitefield):** Welcome to the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee this year.

The first item on our agenda is a declaration of interests. I am glad to be able to welcome Claire Baker as a new member of the committee. She replaces Mary Mulligan. I invite Claire to declare any relevant interests.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab):** I have no relevant interests to declare.

**The Convener:** I hope that you will enjoy your time on the committee. I think it right that we record our thanks to Mary Mulligan for her contribution to the work of the committee during the past few months. She was always a constructive member and, although I am sure that Claire Baker will be an able replacement for her, we will miss Mrs Mulligan.

### Decision on Taking Business in Private

09:16

**The Convener:** Under item 2 on our agenda, we must decide whether to consider in private item 4, which is consideration of our approach to the scrutiny of the draft Provision of School Lunches (Disapplication of the Requirement to Charge) (Scotland) Order 2008. Do we agree to take that item in private?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

## Budget Process 2009-10

09:16

**The Convener:** The third item on our agenda is our continued consideration of the budget process 2009-10. I am pleased that the Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, Linda Fabiani, is with us today. She is accompanied by Wendy Wilkinson, the deputy director of the Europe, external affairs and culture directorate, and David Seers, the head of the cultural excellence team in that directorate.

I understand that the minister wishes to make some opening remarks.

**The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture (Linda Fabiani):** I am happy to be here to talk about the culture aspects of my draft portfolio budget for 2009-10. Obviously, as I have been granted only four minutes in which to make my introductory remarks, my initial contribution will be somewhat limited. However, I am sure that we can explore any aspect that members wish.

Despite a difficult financial settlement under the United Kingdom comprehensive spending review, this Administration has increased the budget for culture by 14 per cent in cash terms over three years. That equates to an extra £33.6 million in real cash terms. In addition, there is around £200 million of funding for culture from other Scottish Government sources. Scottish local authorities also spend around £200 million each year on culture.

Of course, cultural expenditure cuts across ministerial portfolios. For example, we will be using £1.8 million from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 fund to develop arts and cultural activities for young and vulnerable people across the country. That shows that the justice and culture portfolios are co-operating to deliver real benefits for young people. Also, the year of homecoming in 2009 will provide a rich variety of cultural activities as part of the year-long celebrations, which is a good example of culture working with other portfolios on a major national project.

The economic benefits of cultural activities are significant. For example, the turnover in the creative industries sector increased from £2.6 billion in 1998 to more than £5.1 billion in 2006, which is the most recent year for which figures are available. In the same year, there were approximately 8,000 companies in the sector, employing around 58,000 people.

I want to outline some of the highlights of what we have delivered for Scotland in cultural terms so far. A total of £974,830 has now been allocated to 10 projects across the 12 Edinburgh festivals by

the expo fund, which has allowed a range of diverse and sterling new work to be commissioned. Across the range of festivals, it is clear that the expo fund is already making a significant and sustainable impact on the cultural landscape of the nation.

The Scottish Government is committed to making progress on Gaelic's learning, use and status. We have demonstrated that commitment by including significant increases for Gaelic development, amounting to £7.5 million of new funding in the next three years. That includes increases for Gaelic education, Gaelic broadcasting, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Bòrd na Gàidhlig and for the implementation of the national plan.

We have also been able to provide significant increases in funding for the cultural collections, with additional resources over the spending review period to complete the royal museum project and for National Galleries of Scotland's redevelopment of the Scottish national portrait gallery. Of course, we also contributed £5 million towards the cost of saving Dumfries house for the nation. Also, the acquisition of the d'Offay collection will attract thousands of visitors to the national gallery next year.

The national performing companies made a great success of their first year of having a direct sponsorship and funding relationship with the Scottish Government. Grant in aid to the five national performing companies increased by 4.4 per cent in 2008-09, to £25.1 million.

As I announced in June, the creative innovation fund will deliver £5 million over two years to creative Scotland, which will enable it to take forward exciting new ideas to support our artists. Planned funding for culture will increase to £272 million in 2010-11, which will enable our cultural bodies to deliver high quality cultural experiences to audiences at home and abroad.

I am happy to answer questions. If members require more detailed responses than I am able to give, I will engage with my officials and report back to the committee.

**The Convener:** Thank you for your opening statement, which gave us a helpful overview of your budget commitments.

**Elizabeth Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con):** Your opening statement gave us some clarification on some of the key areas. Obviously, there is a big and challenging world out there and I think that some of the things that are happening are very exciting. I want to talk about the difficulties that we faced in June around the transition costs, when you revised your estimates of £700,000 to £1 million. Could you explain the reason behind that revision?

**Linda Fabiani:** I am happy to talk about that, but we should bear in mind that the Creative Scotland Bill has fallen. The Finance Committee clearly expressed concerns about the bill's financial memorandum, and we agreed to take those concerns on board. We did more detailed revisions and presented the costs, as we saw them at that point, to the Finance Committee.

**Elizabeth Smith:** I asked the question because of media speculation that the transition costs will be more substantial than expected. Could you comment on that? If those reports are in any way correct, we are talking about a considerable increase on the initial estimate.

**Linda Fabiani:** First of all, I must say that those media reports are spurious and have no basis.

Obviously, the due process of Parliament means that the detailed transition costs will be presented to Parliament in the financial memorandum to the forthcoming public services reform bill at the appropriate time, as was explained to the convener prior to today's meeting. We are currently scrutinising those costs in order to prepare the financial memorandum for the public services reform bill.

**Elizabeth Smith:** Are you confident that there will be no major inflation of the figure that you gave the last time you revised the costs? Some people are talking about an increase of five to seven times the figure.

**Linda Fabiani:** The Creative Scotland Bill fell in June and is no more. There is a new process, which involves the forthcoming public services reform bill. The transition costs will be included in the financial memorandum to that bill.

**Elizabeth Smith:** You are right to say that the Creative Scotland Bill fell, but there are still concerns about the transition period, and there is comment in the media that there is going to be a considerable increase in the cost. However, I see that you are confident that that is not correct and that you believe that the reports are spurious. If you were prepared to put that view on the record, that would be an important guarantee to the committee.

**Linda Fabiani:** As I explained prior to coming to the committee, I cannot discuss details of the transition costs of creative Scotland. That would be disrespectful to Parliament, as due process requires that the matter be dealt with in the financial memorandum to the public services reform bill, which will be produced at the appropriate time.

**Elizabeth Smith:** When is that likely to be?

**Linda Fabiani:** I believe that the public services reform bill will be introduced at the beginning of next year.

**The Convener:** You said that you are allocating £5 million to the innovation fund over a two-year period. Is that money in the £55 million for 2009-10?

**Linda Fabiani:** Yes, it is.

**The Convener:** If it is included in that money, it is not new money. It is part of the budget that was already allocated. It is core funding.

**Linda Fabiani:** No. It was not part of the spending review for the three years. I announced the creative industries innovation fund to Parliament in June. That is the fund you are talking about.

**The Convener:** If the innovation fund is additional money, should the budget for 2009-10 not be £60.1 million, rather than £55.1 million?

**Linda Fabiani:** David Seers will explain it. It is obviously part of the revisions of budgets that go on all the time. That is normal practice, particularly in the culture budget, because of issues that arise and the nature of the culture portfolio.

**David Seers (Scottish Government Europe, External Affairs and Culture Directorate):** I draw a distinction between core funding for the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen—the component parts of creative Scotland—and the overall figure. The innovation fund is not part of the core funding, but it is part of the overall figure. As we explained in a letter to the convener in December, the fund is part of an overall line that is labelled for creative Scotland and includes not only core funding but a number of other elements, including the expo fund, to which the minister referred in her opening remarks.

**The Convener:** That does not seem to mean that the £5 million is new money.

Is the innovation fund subject to the 2 per cent efficiency savings that all Government departments must find?

**David Seers:** The 2 per cent efficiency savings are based on the core grant, so the fund is not part of that.

**The Convener:** So there is no need to find 2 per cent efficiency savings on that money. That is helpful.

Has there been a transfer of resources from the Scottish Enterprise budget to the draft budget for creative Scotland?

**Linda Fabiani:** In the debate in which I announced the innovation fund, I announced that £100,000 from the cultural enterprise office will be transferred from Scottish Enterprise to creative Scotland. That will show up in the budgets that the committee receives after the revisions that take place as normal practice throughout the year.

**Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP):**

A press release accompanying the First Minister's legislative statement to the Parliament on 3 September stated:

"Creative Scotland will begin life as a company limited by guarantee, allowing a new board of directors and chief executive to take forward the final phase of transition. The arrangements for establishing Creative Scotland will also undergo further Parliamentary scrutiny through the Public Services Reform Bill, enshrining the arms' length principle in legislation. It is expected that the new board of directors and chief executive will be in place by April 2009, with the organisation maturing into a statutory body by February 2010."

Will the financial memorandum for the proposed public services reform bill impact on the budget for creative Scotland and, if so, how?

**Linda Fabiani:** We are working on that as part of the work on the proposed public services reform bill. I can say that if there is a requirement to alter the budgets that have been presented to the committee, as is normal practice, we would inform you of that as appropriate. I hope that that answers your question.

**The Convener:** I have a question about moneys for the traditional arts and the Scots language. I am sure that the minister is well aware that that is a difficult issue at present and that the Scottish Arts Council recently offered a very welcome lifeline for the Scots language, for six months only, while the audit of the Scots language is completed. Can you confirm that the audit will look not only at the Scots language, but at financing of support for the Scots language? If that is the case, are you confident that your budget has the flexibility to allow you to follow through on any funding implications that might arise as a result of the audit?

09:30

**Linda Fabiani:** That is a welcome question. The Government puts a high premium on indigenous Scots language and arts, so that is a welcome lifeline that the Scottish Arts Council has offered to both the Scottish Language Dictionaries and the Scots Language Resource Centre Association. It has also encouraged the three traditional arts groups to apply for funding.

The audit is expected to report at the beginning of November. I do not want to pre-empt anything that may be in it, so I genuinely have not asked for any progress reports or interim findings. It is important that we look closely at the results of the audit, which is about the current state of play in relation to the Scots language in Scotland. I addressed some of the sector at an event fairly recently, and I have said that it is extremely important that, when the results of the audit are published, we hold another event so that everyone

who is involved can offer input on how they think we should move forward.

As I said earlier, we have a flexible budget. It has always been thus in relation to culture—it has to be because of the unforeseen circumstances that can arise, of which the d'Offay collection is one. We also have the current situations with the Titian paintings and Dumfries house. There is flexibility in the budget and we are committed to promotion of the Scots language.

**The Convener:** I accept that you do not want to pre-empt the findings of the audit—that is the right approach for you to take. However, people who work in the sector are anxious about their funding. You will know that only too well, as I am absolutely positive that they are making representations to you just as they are making representations to members of the committee. Although they welcome the six-month extension, it offers them only a bit of a lifeline. The difficulty is that they may still have to make people redundant, and people who once worked with those organisations are taking other jobs because they need some certainty—they are concerned that their posts will no longer exist.

I seek assurance today that you are confident—and will commit to this—that moneys will be allocated to the traditional arts and to the Scots language to ensure that they continue to flourish in Scotland in the next 18 months.

**Linda Fabiani:** I will lay out the background to the current position. Last year, when I became Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, I inherited the existing funding regime for all the organisations that you are talking about. Prior to that, there had been some ring fencing in relation to the traditional arts, which a review of the Scottish Arts Council back in 2006 had removed, putting those bodies on the flexible and foundation funding regime that was introduced at that time.

The flexible funding for the Scottish Language Dictionaries and the Scots Language Resource Centre Association will continue until 2009—as I say, I inherited that. The lifeline that has been thrown is interim funding for the six months beyond that. So, we have a year in which to consider how we can best support one of our indigenous languages. I repeat that I am absolutely committed to that. It is anomalous that, over decades, we have had a system in which our indigenous arts have been given no guaranteed funding. That is something that I will look at because it is unsatisfactory that our indigenous arts are grasping for funding from year to year. However, I do not want to pre-empt anything—I want to look at the whole picture and am happy to do so. I welcome the fact that the SAC has given that lifeline to allow us the time to look for a good solution for both traditional language and arts in this country.



**The Convener:** The audit is focusing exclusively on the Scots language. You could do something for the arts right now. Is there a reason why you have chosen not to do something for our traditional arts at this time?

**Linda Fabiani:** I refute the suggestion that we do not do anything for our traditional arts. The situation that I inherited was that there was no guaranteed funding for the sector. I work with what I am given—there is recognition across the sector that I cannot change things overnight. I am not suggesting that you are saying this, convener, but there is a view that the Scottish Arts Council does not fund traditional arts, which is not the case. It is unfair to accuse the council of that, if we consider how the fèis movement has been funded and the relationship that has been built up over the years between Gaelic arts and the council.

The SAC has worked within the funding regime that it was given. The regime is fairly new and has thrown up the anomaly that some sectors of our indigenous arts do not fit into it. I am more than happy to look at that. The audit of the Scots language is only part of what we are doing; we are considering the whole area. The Scottish Arts Council has been extremely helpful and cares about traditional arts issues. Statements have been made about the council trying to withdraw funding from all traditional arts in Scotland, which is not the case. The council is working hard with Government to come up with a package that will help, and the creative Scotland joint board is considering how creative Scotland can ensure that it has in place practices to support arts across the board.

**The Convener:** Do you have a rough timetable—I will not hold you to it—for when you anticipate being in a position to give funding certainty to the organisations that are experiencing pressures at the moment?

**Linda Fabiani:** I am working on that. The importance of our indigenous arts and languages has been at the forefront of our minds since we came into government. We have already taken many steps to improve the situation and will carry on doing that.

**Elizabeth Smith:** My question is about the future of creative Scotland under the new bill that the First Minister has announced. Can you reassure us about how the detail of the financial memorandum to the proposed public services reform bill will affect the budget for creative Scotland this time next year?

**Linda Fabiani:** As I said to Mr Gibson, if there are substantial changes to the culture budget—generally, such changes are considered twice a year, at the October and spring reviews—I will feel obliged to report to the committee in the normal way.

**Elizabeth Smith:** Do you anticipate that the proposed bill will affect creative Scotland's budget?

**Linda Fabiani:** The culture budget is always flexible. It is due process for the proposed bill to come before Parliament at the appropriate time. At that point, I will be more than happy to inform the committee of any changes to the culture budget. I have said previously that I am more than happy to appear before the committee at the appropriate time to talk about such changes. I stand by that. It is inappropriate for me to comment at the moment.

**Elizabeth Smith:** Do you agree that there are still interesting debates to be had about the lead role in creative Scotland and that those may impact on some of the budgetary commitments that must be made in the future?

**Linda Fabiani:** The transition team is continuing its discussions. My in-house team meets the transition team regularly, and I have regular meetings with Richard Holloway, the chair of the joint board. Discussions are on-going in preparation for the creative Scotland element of the public services reform bill.

**Elizabeth Smith:** Do you think that some of the difficulties with the bill that fell in June can be overcome through the discussions that are taking place at the moment?

**Linda Fabiani:** I do not think it is helpful to look back to a bill that no longer applies because it fell. Parliament voted down the financial memorandum and caused the bill to fall, despite Parliament agreeing unanimously to the bill's general principles. The way forward is to look at how we can best develop creative Scotland as an agency for future arts development.

**Elizabeth Smith:** People are, however, looking for reassurance so that we can move forward. You are entirely right about the cross-party support and that many good things are happening, but we have to ensure that the financial backing exists to allow that development. As you well know, in June there were difficulties around some of the slight contradictions in the bill, so Parliament decided that that had to be reviewed. Are you confident that, since then, the discussions have been helpful in allaying some of Parliament's concerns?

**Linda Fabiani:** I say again that the due process of Parliament is such that the issues will come to Parliament at the appropriate time as part of the Scottish public services reform bill.

**The Convener:** Do you accept that that is a bit frustrating, particularly for the members of this committee, which is responsible for cultural matters and for scrutinising what the Government does in that regard? The Scottish public services reform bill might well not come to the Education,

Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee, although it might be a secondary committee, if the lead committee thinks it appropriate. We might not be able to give the bill appropriate scrutiny, and we might not be able to use the expertise that all members of this committee developed through our scrutiny of the Creative Scotland Bill to make sure that the Scottish public services reform bill gets creative Scotland right.

**Linda Fabiani:** As I said clearly in the run-up to this meeting, I am unable to talk about the detail of the Scottish public services reform bill. However, I have said that I will be happy to come back to the committee at the appropriate time for specific discussions about creative Scotland, if the committee feels that that will be useful.

**The Convener:** I do not think that I asked a specific question about the detail of creative Scotland but about the rightness of the policy that creative Scotland should be formed under the Scottish public services reform bill and whether creative Scotland should have a bill in its own right.

**Linda Fabiani:** I am sorry. I do not understand what you mean by that.

**The Convener:** I suggested that my question did not ask for any detail about creative Scotland. I was asking about the Government's policy approach, which is that the establishment of creative Scotland will be contained in a bill whose scope will be much wider than just creative Scotland and will cover public services, of which creative Scotland is one small part. As the minister who is responsible for culture, are you content that legislation for which you have direct responsibility will be contained in a bill for which another minister will have responsibility?

**Linda Fabiani:** I would have preferred that Parliament had not voted down a bill that all members agreed with—and which I inherited from the previous Administration. It was right for the Government to act quickly to give some comfort to the sector, which has spent many years being told that reforms were going to happen, and being subject to all sorts of reviews and consultations but seeing no action.

I am also confident that the Government has acted correctly and that there will be ample scrutiny of creative Scotland under the Scottish public services reform bill.

**Aileen Campbell (South of Scotland) (SNP):** Convener, I apologise to you and the minister for being late; I was held up in traffic.

I have a question about something that is not necessarily in the detailed spending plans in the draft budget, although the expo fund is part of the key spending priority. The £6 million package was

announced in April. How significant will that be and how do you see that money being spent over the three years?

**Linda Fabiani:** It is hugely significant and it has been welcomed by all 12 of the Edinburgh festivals. In the first year, we funded 10 of the festivals. An example of the use of the money was for Smetana's opera, "The Two Widows", which was performed by Scottish Opera at the Edinburgh festival. There was also the publishing of a book by four renowned Scottish authors, which is being sent out internationally. It is all about showcasing the wonderful talents that we have in Scotland.

09:45

Because I was so determined to achieve an impact straight away, we have split the £6 million budget differently over each of the three years. So far this year, just below £1 million has been spent. You will notice from the budget lines that the allocation is about £2.6 million for 2009-10; the figure comes down the following year. As far as the budget reviews are concerned, we will take note of the applications coming in for next year. There might be a slight adjustment to the profile for the following two years.

It will be interesting to monitor the effects of what we are putting in to promote the festivals and to promote Scottish artistry in relation to touring and the impact outwith Scotland. I am pretty certain that it will be difficult when we get the applications in for the 2009 festival, as there will be many more applications for next year compared with this year, given the speed at which we have proceeded.

It is also interesting to note that, because of the importance of homecoming next year, the applications are likely to have homecoming themes. Right across Government and across Scotland, we want to tie as much as we possibly can into homecoming, especially in the current financial climate, as we discussed earlier. We need all the boosts we can get in relation to tourism and cultural spend in Scotland.

**Aileen Campbell:** Thank you. That was helpful.

**The Convener:** I have a general question about the overview of your budget. Your budget for 2009-10 is £55.1 million. I meant to say creative Scotland's budget—

**Linda Fabiani:** Right—I thought you had cut my whole budget for a moment.

**The Convener:** Sorry. Could you give us a breakdown of how you anticipate that £55.1 million being spent?

**Linda Fabiani:** Yes. There are the core grants, which are equivalent to the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen grants. We then have—

**The Convener:** Could you tell us how much that constitutes, please? That would be helpful in allowing us to track the budget.

**Linda Fabiani:** Of course. The core grant for what is currently the Scottish Arts Council is £32.296 million for 2009-10. There is the youth music initiative, which is a restricted set of funds for the Arts Council. That is carried on from the previous Administration, and amounts to £10 million. For 2009-10, there is also the cultural co-ordinator budget. That is its last financial year, and the budget for that comes to £2.15 million. Arts and business, which I think is an extremely important component of what we do, is £400,000. That is separate from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 money that arts and business is helping us to expend in special projects. Depreciation always exists: under the Scottish Arts Council line, it comes to about £70,000. There is a transfer from the health budget of £180,000.

Scottish Screen has a core grant, which is static at £3.24 million. Its capital is £8,000. Scottish Screen depreciation is £225,000. Then there is the festivals expo. For 2009-10, as I just explained, that fund comes in at £2.692 million. There may well be an adjustment of that over the next two years. The new Government priorities amount to £4.016 million. That is how we get to the £55.1 million for creative Scotland.

**The Convener:** Claire Baker has a question.

**Linda Fabiani:** I should have said that if you want further detail on the figures, we are more than happy to give the committee a written breakdown.

**The Convener:** That would be helpful.

**Linda Fabiani:** I can also give you that for 2010-11, which will mean that you have a picture of the year before and the year after. If anything arises from that on which you wish further information, do not hesitate to ask, and we will supply you with it.

**The Convener:** Thank you. That would be helpful.

**Claire Baker:** Once we have that breakdown, it might answer this question. I understand that, according to the 2007-08 budget, the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen budgets were due to total £59.4 million. In the figures that the minister has outlined, the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen combined have been allocated £32.296 million in core grant plus another £3.24 million exclusively for Scottish Screen. Can we be given more detail on those figures?

**Linda Fabiani:** Are you talking about what we inherited from the previous Administration?

**Claire Baker:** In the 2007-08 budget, £59.4 million was to be allocated next year for Scottish

Arts Council and Scottish Screen combined. I am asking for a breakdown of the £55.1 million. The amount seems to have dropped. Is my understanding correct, or have I missed something?

**Linda Fabiani:** Thinking back, I remember that the top-line allocation for creative Scotland was about £59 million when we came into office. However, that included moneys for the national performing companies. Our reallocation of those budgets accounts for some of that difference. The top-line budget included more than £20 million for the national performing companies. Putting those into a separate budget brought down the total.

**Claire Baker:** So the money for the national performing companies has been transferred.

**Linda Fabiani:** Yes. We should remember, too, that the issue is made all the more complicated by the fact that we changed the headings. For example, the overall budget for the portfolio in the previous Administration included culture and sport, so it included many other things. However, I can make that detail available, if you bear with me.

**Claire Baker:** That is helpful. If we can have that breakdown, that will be fine.

**Linda Fabiani:** When the national performing companies were transferred from the Scottish Arts Council budget, we added the extra on to our budget. Once you work it all out, you will see quite clearly how those differences have arisen. We also increased the budget for the performing companies during the first year when it was decided that they should be taken in-house. That decision was made by the previous Administration, but we agreed with it and were happy to continue with it. Those perceived anomalies can clearly be explained. We will do that in the detail that we send to the committee.

**Claire Baker:** That detail would be appreciated.

Finally, in providing the convener with the breakdown of the £55.1 million allocation, you mentioned £4.016 million for Scottish Government priorities. What are those priorities?

**Linda Fabiani:** I might ask Wendy Wilkinson to respond, given her experience generally.

As I said earlier, the culture budget in particular needs flexibility to deal with matters that arise. Obviously, every new Government has different priorities. For example, the indigenous and traditional arts that we have discussed are a priority of ours—of course they are. We also had an opportunity to purchase the d'Offay collection jointly with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport at Westminster. One of the Scottish Government's priorities is to ensure that we keep Scotland at the forefront of cultural excellence, whether in collections or performing. Flexibility is

required within all those budgets to be able to deal with such things.

**Wendy Wilkinson (Scottish Government Europe, External Affairs and Culture Directorate):** I should add that the £4.016 million includes the first year of the innovation fund, which accounts for £2.5 million.

**The Convener:** That has pre-empted my next question. I was slightly confused about where that would appear.

We have no further questions, so that concludes our evidence session with the minister. We look forward to receiving written confirmation. For all of us, our shorthand writing is not nearly as good as that of the official reporters, so it will be helpful to have written confirmation of the figures. I thank the minister for her attendance at committee.

**Linda Fabiani:** Thank you. If any further points arise in the committee's discussions, I will be more than happy to furnish further details.

**The Convener:** Thank you. We now move into private session.

09:54

*Meeting continued in private until 10:25.*

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