

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Additional papers circulated after the 30th meeting, 2000

Note by the Executive on expenditure figures	JH/00/30/7
Note by the Executive on prisoner accommodation and numbers as at 29 September 2000	JH/00/30/8
*Executive spending plans for justice	JH/00/30/9
*Executive note on resource accounting and budgeting	JH/00/30/10
Note by the Convener on drug misuse targets (letter and paper from Executive Health Department attached)	JH/00/30/11
Written Answer on prisons (referred to by the Minister for Justice during the 30th meeting)	
Minutes of the 30th Meeting, 2000	JH/00/30/M

Note: the items marked * are circulated to non-members only, since it is understood that members have received copies direct from the Executive. However, members can of course obtain further copies on request from the clerks.

Important note: cancellation of meeting

The Convener has decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for Monday 23 October in Stirling. This is because the only items suitable for taking on that day were consideration of a petition and consideration of a draft report on the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill. Neither need be dealt with that week (the Rural Affairs Committee timescale for Stage 1 having now been extended until December) and they would not have justified holding a meeting, particularly given the additional cost and travelling time involved for members and staff. Also importantly the latter item, which would form the bulk of the agenda, is scheduled to be taken in private, which would make it difficult to justify either the expense of having the Official Report staff in Stirling or notifying local people and media. The Committee will therefore next meet on Tuesday 31 October. An agenda and other papers for that meeting will be circulated in due course.

It is envisaged that an informal briefing on the inquiry into access to justice and legal aid will take place on **Wednesday 25 October at 10 am**. Further details will be provided in due course.

Recent Executive publications

- “Feasibility Study for a Victim and Witness Support Service in Scotland” – report is available in Document Supply or on the website <http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

- “Tagging Offenders – the role of electronic monitoring in the Scottish criminal justice system” – consultation paper is published on 9 October with responses to be submitted by 10 December. This paper again should be available in Document Supply or on the above website.

5 October 2000

ANDREW MYLNE

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Note by the Executive on expenditure figures

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON SR2000 INCREASES

The Comprehensive Spending Review in 1998 set the baseline provision for 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02. When the Scottish Parliament was established, the Scottish Executive carried out a budgetary review and the baselines were revised, although this was mainly a moving around provision within the overall total of the Scottish Executive Budget, not new money. Additional funds came to the Scottish Executive as a result of the Chancellor's budget speech earlier this year, although in the main these were for the current year only.

SR2000 was the next major spending review. The budgetary announcements now being made deal with how the additional spending that came to the Scottish Executive in formula consequentials is being allocated to the individual services.

SR2000 additions were made over three years – 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 – and the baselines increased accordingly. Additional provision is made for each year, and the total of these additions is usually announced as a headline figure over the three-year period. As an example:

Say a baseline has £10m in the current year. Under SR2000, this baseline receives additional funding of £2m in year 1, £3m in year 2 and £4m in year 3. Total increases over the three year period is therefore £9m. The baseline then becomes £12m in year 1, £13m in year 2 and £14m in year 3. The overall increase over the three-year period is still £9m, but the increase for year 3 over the current year is £4m. To simply announce a £4m increase loses sight of the additional funding granted in years 1 and 2.

Headline increase announcements are always followed by individual year increase information. Percentage change information is calculated on the difference between the third year in the survey and the current year – for example in Justice for Fire Central Government the baseline provision for 2003-04 is £6.4m and current year's baseline is £3.8m. Cash terms percentage increase is therefore $\frac{£6.4m - £3.8m}{£3.8m} = £2.6m$, expressed as a percentage of the current year = 68.4%.

There is therefore no element of double or triple counting.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Note by the Executive on prisoner accommodation and numbers

PRISONER ACCOMMODATION/NUMBERS

Friday 29 September 2000

Total Accommodation	6276 places
Out of use for refurbishment etc	495
Balance	5781

Prisoner population	5811
Shortfall	30 places

Accommodation to be returned to use shortly:

Cornton Vale	50 places
Greenock	56 places
Friarton	60 places

SR 2000 : JUSTICE SPENDING PLANS : DEL

	Baseline				Cash Increase %	Real Terms Change %
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2000-01 to 2003-04	2000-01 to 2003-04
Criminal Injuries Comp.	31.0	31.5	31.5	31.5	1.6%	-5.6%
Criminal Justice Social Work Services	46.2	57.1	65.5	71.0	53.7%	42.7%
Fire Central Government	3.8	6.4	6.2	6.4	68.4%	56.4%
Legal Aid	132.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	1.5%	-5.7%
Miscellaneous	15.5	27.5	31.3	34.3	121.3%	105.5%
Police Central Government	41.4	57.0	69.9	69.6	68.1%	56.1%
Prisons	209.5	217.5	224.5	239.5	14.3%	6.2%
Scottish Courts	56.0	60.9	63.4	64.4	15.0%	6.8%
CG Total	536.1	592.7	627.1	651.5	21.5%	12.8%
Police GAE	741.9	786.5	822.1	845.5	14.0%	5.8%
Fire GAE	186.9	202.3	209.3	216.3	15.7%	7.5%
Civil Defence Specific Grant	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0%	-7.1%
Police LG Capital	19.7	24.7	29.7	31.4	59.4%	48.0%
Fire LG Capital	15.6	19.6	22.6	23.6	51.3%	40.5%
Total Justice Support to Local Government	966.8	1035.8	1086.4	1119.5	15.8%	7.5%
TOTAL	1502.9	1628.5	1713.5	1771.0	17.8%	9.4%

SR 2000 : JUSTICE SPENDING PLANS : TME

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Fire Central Government	4.9	7.5	7.3	7.5	53.1%	42.1%
Legal Aid	132.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	1.5%	-5.7%
Miscellaneous	15.5	27.5	31.3	34.3	121.3%	105.5%
Police Central Government	45.1	60.8	73.8	73.5	63.0%	51.3%
Prisons	249.0	258.3	265.7	281.2	12.9%	4.9%
Scottish Courts	82.9	89.8	92.3	93.3	12.5%	4.5%
CG Total	608.0	668.1	703.0	727.9	19.7%	11.2%
Police GAE	741.9	786.5	822.1	845.5	14.0%	5.8%
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TOTAL	1574.8	1703.9	1789.4	1847.4	17.3%	8.9%

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JH/09/30/9

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TOTAL	1574.8	1703.9	1789.4	1847.4	17.3%	8.9%

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Note by the Executive on resource accounting and budgeting

Key points

- Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) applies practices of rest of economy to central government.
 - Accruals accounting for public spending - matches payments and receipts to time period incurred rather than when paid.
 - Recognises non-cash costs of government activity - e.g. capital consumption (depreciation), and opportunity cost of investment in assets (cost of capital)
- Expands mainstream practice to reflect nature of Parliamentary control and need to focus on departmental outputs.
 - Departments required to:
 - set objectives;
 - report on how resources are allocated to these objectives; and
 - report what is achieved as a result.
- Present system of accounting is cash based. Departments plan and account for cash as it passes through their books, irrespective of what it is spent on or when the items purchased will be used.
- Main differences
 - Timing of recognising payments and receipts
 - Capital Charges (Depreciation and Cost of Capital)
 - Public corporations - measure total public spending effect rather than external finance or grants received.

Benefits of RAB

- ensure full economic cost of government activity is measured properly.
 - It will include non-cash costs e.g. the consumption of capital assets, and will match costs to the correct time period.
- improve treatment of capital spending.
 - The cost and consumption of capital will be spread over its useful life. This will remove the initial bias against capital spending and ensure capital is managed correctly once purchased.
- require departments to report systematically on how their resources are allocated to their objectives, and what this achieved.
 - This will improve transparency for the taxpayer. It will also improve the process of deciding where to allocate resources to best effect

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Drug misuse targets: request for committee feedback

Note by the Convener

I attach a letter from the Scottish Executive Health Department and associated material. As you will see, this was sent to the Clerk to this Committee and to the clerks to three other committees with an interest in this topic.

The letter makes clear that the Minister, Angus MacKay, is seeking the views of “the relevant parliamentary committees”. However, the timescale for feedback does not easily allow this committee, or any of the other committees concerned, time to formulate a considered response. For this reason, the letter invites individual members to respond direct to the official named at the bottom of the letter.

The draft targets attached to the letter are the product of some months of consultation and discussion by individuals informed in this multi-disciplinary area. I do not see how this Committee could offer a worthwhile input into this process without devoting a substantial amount of work to it, which would be likely to involve either evidence-taking or fact-finding visits. Given the recess, and the Committee’s other ongoing priorities, I do not believe this is practicable within the timescale set (which, the clerk has established, is not flexible).

I am therefore asking the Clerk to circulate this material to members primarily for information only. Any member is, of course, free to take up the offer to comment on an individual basis. To avoid any uncertainty, I think it would be helpful if any member doing so makes clear in his or her response that it does not represent the view of the Committee as a whole.

5 October 2000

ALASDAIR MORGAN



JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

30th Meeting, 2000 (Session 1)

Wednesday 4 October 2000

Present:

Scott Barrie
Gordon Jackson (Deputy Convener)
Mrs Lyndsay McIntosh
Alasdair Morgan (Convener)

Christine Grahame
Maureen Macmillan
Pauline McNeill
Euan Robson

Also present: Adam Ingram

Apologies were received from Phil Gallie, Kate MacLean and Michael Matheson

The meeting opened at 9.32 am.

- 1. Convener:** The Committee chose Alasdair Morgan as its new convener.
- 2. Item in private:** The Committee agreed to consider a draft report on the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill in private at its next meeting.
- 3. Budget Process 2001-02:** The Committee took evidence on the Executive's spending plans for justice at Stage 2 of the Budget process 2001-02 from—

Jim Wallace MSP, Minister for Justice.

- 4. Leasehold Casualties (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Alistair G Rennie, Deputy Keeper, and Mr Ian Davis, Head of Legal Services, Registers of Scotland;

Dr Eric Clive and John Dods, Scottish Law Commission;

Brian Hamilton;

Micheline Brannan, Justice Department, Scottish Executive, and Stuart Foubister, Office of the Solicitor to the Scottish Executive.

5. **Forward Programme:** The Committee considered its forward programme and agreed to take evidence on *Parents and Children*, the Scottish Executive White Paper on Scottish Family Law, once the responses to the Executive's consultation on that document become available.
6. **Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its response to evidence taken on the Bill.

The meeting closed at 12.23 pm.

Andrew Mylne, Clerk to the Committee

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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