Education, Culture and Sport Committee
17th Meeting, 2001
Tuesday 29 May 2001

The Committee will meet at 12.30 pm in Committee Room 4.

1. **Item in Private**: The Committee will consider whether to take item 5 in private.

2. **Budget 2002-03**: The Committee will take evidence from the Deputy Minister for Education, Europe and External Affairs, Mr Nicol Stephen.

3. **Children’s Commissioner**: The Committee will be updated on the Children’s Commissioner Inquiry.

4. **Committee Travel**: The Committee will consider the approval of travel arrangements for Cathy Peattie in connection with her duties as reporter on traditional arts and culture matters.

5. **Budget 2002-3**: The Committee will consider a report from the Deputy Convener, Cathy Peattie.

The following papers are attached for this meeting—

*Written Answers from Executive (Agenda item 2)*

*Report on Budget from Cathy Peattie (Private paper to be tabled)*

---

Martin Verity
Clerk to the Committee
Room 2.7 Committee Chambers
Ext. 85204
Email: martin.verity@scottish.parliament.uk
Education, Culture and Sport Committee

Request for clarification on Scotland’s Budget Documents (with reference to ‘The Scottish Budget’ the annual expenditure report of the Scottish Executive)

Education and Children

1. It is not clear whether the Making a Difference figures for ‘Schools’ and ‘Children and Young People’ include specific grants such as the Excellence Fund. Is this the case?

There are no specific grant figures contained in the table shown on page 10 of Making a Difference. Specific grant funding is included in the local government figure on page 26 of the publication.

2. In the Scottish Budget (AER), overall education budget does not increase as much as envisaged in Making a Difference. Is this entirely due to the McCrone settlement? If not, what other factors have affected the budget?

Making a Difference set out the draft budget. The biggest change was that ‘Schools’ figures did not take account of the eventual transfer for 2001-02 of £16m to the Excellence Fund. This was in respect of £6m for mainstreaming of children with special educational needs and £10m for ICT in schools. The changes were reflected in Scotland’s Budget Documents laid before Parliament in January 2001. The subsequent reduction of this figure in ‘The Scottish Budget’ publication was highlighted in note no 1 on page 51 of that document reflecting funding transferred to local government finance in respect of the Teaching Profession for the 21st Century agreement.

3. Why does the difference between the documents’ figures vary so much from year to year?

The transfers detailed in the previous answer affected years 2002-03 and 2003-04 also. As noted in Note no 1 page 51 of ‘The Scottish Budget; these years have also been subject to a reduction in respect of the Teaching Profession for the 21st Century agreement; that reduction varies substantially between years.

4. What impact has the McCrone settlement had on programmes in the ‘Schools’ budget?

Programmes within the ‘Schools’ budget have been unaffected. Funding transferred from this line in respect of the Teaching Profession for the 21st Century agreement consists of an element specifically earmarked as part of the Spending Review 2000 process and funding designated for raising standards in schools.
5. What impact has the McCrone settlement had on the programmes within the Excellence Fund specific grant? There has been no impact on programmes planned to receive the continued support of the Fund. With the agreement of CoSLA, transfers were made from unallocated Excellence Fund provision to fund non-pay elements of the Teaching Profession for the 21st Century agreement. This is consistent with the intended purpose for these funds of raising standards in schools.

6. What is the estimated cost of the McCrone pay settlement? What other programmes are affected? It has been agreed with CoSLA that the Executive will provide support of £176.0/274.0/404.9m for the Teaching Profession for the 21st Century agreement. The effects on other Education programmes are explained in the responses to questions 4 & 5. No other programmes are affected in 2001-02 and decisions about whether any other programmes will be affected in later years are still under consideration.

Funding

1. How much of the Changing Children’s Services Fund is allocated under the Young People and Looked After Children Budget? Within the Education Department budget, Spending Review 2000 identified £15m in 2002-03 and £17.5m in 2003-04.

2. Why is the increase in Curriculum Development, IT etc., greater than that outlined in Scotland’s Budget Documents, which support the Budget Bill, show capital expenditure separately from the resource budgets. In the other two budget publications these are combined. Scotland’s Budget Documents 2001-02 gave a resource figure of £39.9m for this area. Included in the £36.5m global figure for ‘Schools’ capital was £9.1m in respect of Curriculum Development, IT etc. The overall total of £49m equates to that given on page 54 of ‘The Scottish Budget’ publication.
3. To what extent does the increase in the HMI Budget derive from a reallocation of staff costs from another budget heading, consequent to the change to Executive Agency status?

As stated on page 57 of ‘The Scottish Budget’, the Executive is in the process of agreeing with the SQA the support necessary to cover additional costs of getting final, accurate results to all candidates. Consequently, no budget provision for additional costs is yet included in the Schools budget figures.

The transfer from budget provision for Scottish Executive Administration is greater than the difference between the 2000-01 and 2001-02 budget figures. This is because the transfer of provision for administration costs of HMIE is offset by the transfer of the budget for the research programme for the Education Department within the budget for schools, standards and improvements, as noted on page 61 of ‘The Scottish Budget’.

4. To what extent is the drop in pupil support under the ‘Schools’ budget compensated for by additional funding elsewhere, such as drugs education funding in the Changing Children’s Services Fund?

The £2.7m drop in the pupil support line between 2000-01 and 2001-02 onwards is exceeded by the £6m transfer noted earlier to the Excellence Fund in respect of costs associated with the mainstreaming of children with special educational needs. There is therefore an underlying increase of £3.3m in other pupil support spending.

5. How does the recurring £141.8m allocation for Childcare and Pre-school take account of the recent prioritisation of adoption and fostering?

The figure of £141.8 relates almost solely to pre-school education. Funding for adoption and fostering is contained within local authority GAE and is not included here.

£26.7m of the increase equates to the New Deal for Schools initiative, which is included in the capital figure for schools in the 2001-02 Budget Documents (consistent with the general practice on capital budgets explained in an earlier answer). In addition, included in the global capital figure of £42m for ‘Schools’ was £200,000 for SSI.

6. Why has the Schools Standards and Improvements budget line 2000-01 been increased by £26.9m since the publication of Scotland’s Budget Documents 2001-02?

The only area of Social Work Services budget to see a reduction is the Specific Grant from £2.7m to £2.2m. This is compensated for by a transfer of £0.5m to Young People and Looked After Children to allow the direct funding of the Residential Child Care Initiative.

7. What programmes are affected by the Social Work Services budget fall in 2001-02?

The £2.7m drop in the pupil support line between 2000-01 and 2001-02 onwards is exceeded by the £6m transfer noted earlier to the Excellence Fund in respect of costs associated with the mainstreaming of children with special educational needs. There is therefore an underlying increase of £3.3m in other pupil support spending.
Culture

1. Is the increase under sport & culture wholly accounted for through funding commitments to the Cultural Strategy? If not, what other areas are receiving funding increases?

The cultural strategy provides the general framework to guide the allocation of resources. Increases in the budgets for National Institutions, Scottish Arts Council and Other Arts broadly support the cultural strategy and their role in implementing it. Other agencies should have a role to play in the strategy – particularly local authorities – and they will do so within the general level of resources allocated to them.

2. What are the capital projects for Sport & Culture, as identified in Scotland’s Budget Documents 2001-02, but presumably aggregated under other heading in the Scottish Budget?

National Galleries of Scotland
£4.4 million:
Reserve Collections Store, Granton (new build)
Playfair - Royal Scottish Academy (refurbishment)

National Library of Scotland
£0.2 million:
Ongoing phased programme of fire-prevention works.

National Museums of Scotland
£1.2 million:
Phased accommodation strategy including fire precaution works.

Sport
£1.6 million:
Capital expenditure at national and regional facilities including works at sportscotland’s three National Centres and the demonstration programme which includes IT Facilities Planning Model.
Historic Scotland
£18.6 million:
This includes funding for Urquhart Castle Visitor Centre, Stanley Mills, the Capital Grants Programme, landscaping and other work at Holyrood associated with the Scottish Parliament project and various small projects.

3. Where is the extra £1m for Scottish Opera accounted for within the Budget? Scottish Opera is supported from resources allocated to the Scottish Arts Council.

4. How will the £1.5m for traditional arts be monitored to ensure that it is used effectively? This programme will be developed and overseen by the Scottish Arts Council who will monitor the projects and activities supported with these additional funds.

5. Who will administer and set criteria for the school culture co-ordinators project? The criteria for this project are being considered by the Scottish Executive. Decisions on the administration of the project have not yet been taken.

6. Is the money allocated to Traditional Arts Centres of Excellence intended for physical resources such as buildings, or for human resources? Following consultation with a wide range of interests in the traditional arts, the Scottish Arts Council has made awards to a number of bodies for programmes of activity and performance. It will be for the Scottish Arts Council to monitor the programme to ensure that the specific objectives they have identified for the programme are fully achieved.

7. How can the success of the budget objectives be assessed in the absence of a commonly accepted definition of what constitutes excellence within the traditional arts? It will be for the Scottish Arts Council to monitor the programme to ensure that the specific objectives they have identified for the programme are fully achieved.

Sport

1. Given the budget will be static at £13m, how is inflation taken into account? Following the 26% increase over the 2000-01 funding level, it will be for sportsscotland to determine the best use of funds to achieve the strategic objectives set out for them by Ministers.

2. How much money will be used to promote inclusion in sport, and how will this be done? sportsscotland will work with a range of partners including governing bodies, local authorities and Social Inclusion Partnerships to develop and deliver programmes and other initiatives to promote inclusion in sport. Some £3.4m of planned spend in 2001-02 is directly attributable to this area of activity, with target groups including children and young people,
women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people in deprived and remote/island areas. **sportscotland** spending in this area will be complemented by the substantial funding which will arise from the new priorities for the New Opportunities Fund which the Scottish Executive has agreed with the UK Government.

**Historic Scotland & RCAHMS**

1. Why does planned expenditure rise for 2001-02 and 2002-03 but then fall back in 2003-04?

   Planned expenditure in 2003-04 is £0.3m greater than in 2002-03. In general, the shape of this budget line reflects the expected pattern of expenditure by Historic Scotland on landscaping and other work at Holyrood associated with the Scottish Parliament project.

**Miscellaneous**

1. What was the print run of the document ‘The Scottish Budget’ and why is it not listed under the Finance section of the Scottish Executive web-site?

   2,500 copies of the summary document were produced with 400 copies of the detail document. Both documents are available on the Executive’s web-site and are now listed in the Finance publications section.