

Meet the new Miss Jean Brodie

Scots actor **Gayle Rankin**
will take iconic role on tour
as National Theatre of
Scotland celebrates
its 20th anniversary

Full story, page 11



Duhan is not the man
Townsend's big call
to drop star winger
for All Blacks clash

See Sport

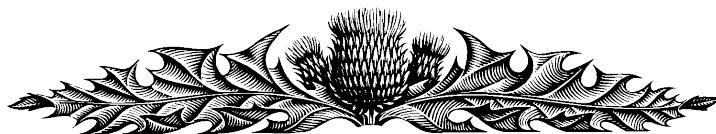
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Ibrox side continue to
prop up Europa League

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THE SCOTSMAN

Swinney's vow not to hike tax dropped amid Budget fears

◆ First Minister cites 'changing
circumstances' when challenged

Alistair Grant
Political Editor

John Swinney appears to have dropped a commitment not to increase income tax in Scotland next year, citing "changing circumstances".

The First Minister repeatedly failed to rule out tax hikes when quizzed by Scottish Conservative leader Russell Findlay at Holyrood yesterday.

Mr Findlay accused him of "plotting yet another income tax raid on hard-working Scots".

It came amid speculation Chancellor Rachel Reeves could be preparing to increase the basic rate of income tax down south.

Income tax rates and thresholds are devolved to Holyrood, but such a move could still have a big impact on Scotland's

block grant. An additional 2p on the UK basic rate would cost the Scottish Government £1 billion next year, according to the respected Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI).

Last week, Mr Swinney ruled out any changes to income tax in the Scottish Budget, which is due to be published in January.

He said: "We've said that there won't be any changes to income tax in the remainder of this Parliament. The Finance Secretary made that commitment at the Budget last December, so I'm very happy to reinforce that point today."

However, he notably failed to repeat this pledge during First Minister's Questions at Holyrood.

In an analysis published last week, the FAI said there was "no free lunch here", adding: "If UK income tax rates are raised,

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PICTURE: TRISTAN HEWINGS/PA WIRE

Royal remembrance

Queen Camilla visited the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in London yesterday as the UK prepares for Armistice Day, marking the sacrifice of its Armed Forces

27 wrongly freed
from Scotland's
jails in four years

**Alistair Grant and
Martyn McLaughlin**

A total of 27 prisoners have been mistakenly released from Scottish prisons in recent years, it has been revealed, as the error was branded as a "disgraceful betrayal of victims".

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) confirmed the statistics as a manhunt continues in England after two criminals were released in

Continued on page 4

Revealed: Stories
of 'hidden' Stone
of Destiny pieces

Neil Pooran

Research by a Stirling University academic has revealed the stories behind fragments of the Stone of Destiny found around the world.

Professor Sally Foster traced pieces of the ancient artefact given to SNP politicians, as well as a newspaper editor in Canada and a museum in Australia.

Full story, page 17

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GENERAL NOTICES

JOHN WOOD GROUP PLC
Company Number: SC036219

POSTPONEMENT OF SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS RELATING TO THE SIDARA ACQUISITION

Publication of Supplementary Circular to the Scheme Document

On 29 August 2025, the boards of directors of John Wood Group PLC ("Wood") and Dar-Al Handasah Consultants Shair and Partners Holdings Ltd ("Sidara") announced that they had reached agreement on the terms and conditions of a recommended cash acquisition of the entire share capital of Wood by Sidara Limited (an entity controlled by Sidara) (the "Acquisition"), to be implemented by way of a Court-sanctioned scheme of arrangement under Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Scheme").

On 11 September 2025, Wood published and sent to Wood Shareholders the Scheme Document containing notices convening the Court Meeting and the General Meeting relating to the Scheme (the "Meetings"). A supplementary circular to the Scheme Document (the "Supplementary Circular") was published and sent to Wood Shareholders on 30 October 2025. The Supplementary Circular is supplemental to the Scheme Document and Wood Shareholders must read the Supplementary Circular and the Scheme Document together as a whole.

The Scheme Document and the Supplementary Circular are available, subject to certain restrictions relating to persons resident in Restricted Jurisdictions and Sanctioned Shareholders (each as defined in the Scheme Document), on Wood's website at www.woodplc.com/investors/pages/sidara-proposal-2025 and Sidara's website at www.energy-pillar.com.

Postponement of the Court Meeting and the General Meeting

As set out in the Supplementary Circular, the Meetings relating to the Scheme have been postponed to 17 November 2025 to provide Wood Shareholders sufficient time following publication of the Audited Accounts and H1 2025 Interim Results (each as defined in the Scheme Document) to consider and reach a properly informed decision as to the Acquisition.

The Court Meeting and the General Meeting will be held at Sir Ian Wood House, Hareness Road, Altness Industrial Estate, Aberdeen, AB12 3LE, United Kingdom at 3.00 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as the Court Meeting concludes or is adjourned) on 17 November 2025. Please refer to the Supplementary Circular for further details.

Any changes to the arrangements for the Court Meeting and the General Meeting will be communicated to Wood Shareholders before the relevant Meeting, through Wood's website <https://www.woodplc.com/investors> and by announcement through a Regulatory Information Service.

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GENERAL NOTICES

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

The City of Edinburgh Council proposes to make an Order under sections 1(1) and 152(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 re-determining the roads described in the Schedules hereto. The title of the Order is "The City of Edinburgh Council (Benhar Road and Bauld Drive Area, Edinburgh) (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 2025" - HS0/25/08. A copy of the proposed Order and the accompanying plans showing the roads over which the means of exercise of the public right of passage are to be re-determined, together with a statement of the reasons for making the Order and our privacy notice can be viewed free of charge at the City of Edinburgh Council, Waverley Court Reception, between 09.30 and 15.30 from 07/11/25 to 05/12/25 or online during the same period at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders and www.tellmescotland.gov.uk. Any person may, within 28 days from 07/11/25, object to the making of the Order by notice, quoting reference **RSO/25/08**, in writing to Traffic Orders, Waverley Court, 4 East Market St, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG, or by e-mail to TRO.consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk. Objections should state the name and address of the objector, the matters to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made. **SCHEDULE 1 ROAD OVER WHICH MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO BE REDETERMINED FROM FOOTWAY TO CYCLE TRACK Benhar Rd (North-East Side)** (i) see Newcraighall Rd (north-west side) item (i); **Newcraighall Rd (North-West Side)** (i) All that part of the roadway on the north-west side of Newcraighall Rd and the north-east side of Benhar Rd, from 18.3m north-east of the intersection of the extended north-west kerbline of Newcraighall Rd and the extended north-east kerbline of Benhar Rd, south-westwards for 18.3m then north-westwards for 31.7m and which has a width that varies from 3.2m to 0m; **SCHEDULE 2 ROAD OVER WHICH MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO BE REDETERMINED FROM CARRIAGEWAY TO FOOTWAY Benhar Rd (South-West Side)** (i) All that part of the carriageway on the south-west side of Benhar Rd, from 21.7m north-west of the intersection of the extended north-west kerbline of Newcraighall Rd and the extended south-west kerbline of Benhar Rd, north-westwards for 19.7m and which has a width that varies from 0m to 2m; **Benhar Rd (South Side)** (i) All that part of the carriageway on the south side of Benhar Rd, from 31.4m east of the extended east property line of No. 32 Benhar Rd, eastwards for 29.7m and which has a width that varies from 0m to 2m; **SCHEDULE 3 ROAD OVER WHICH MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO BE REDETERMINED FROM FOOTWAY TO CARRIAGEWAY Benhar Rd (North-East Side)** (i) All that part of the roadway on the north-east side of Benhar Rd, from 25.8m north-west of the intersection of the extended north-west kerbline of Newcraighall Rd and the extended north-east kerbline of Benhar Rd, north-westwards for 17m and which has a width that varies from 0m to 2m; (ii) All that part of the roadway on the north-east side of Benhar Rd, from 30.8m east of the extended east property line of No. 32 Benhar Rd, eastwards for 31.9m and which has a width that varies from 0m to 2m; **SCHEDULE 4 ROAD OVER WHICH MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO BE REDETERMINED FROM CYCLE TRACK TO CARRIAGEWAY RCC ED/22/0011 ROAD 58 (Both Sides)** (i) All that part of the cycle track on both sides of the road known as RCC ED/22/0011 Road 58, from 18.7m north of the extended north-east kerbline of Benhar Rd, northwards for 4.7m and which has a width throughout of 6.5m; **Bauld Dr (Both Sides)** (i) All that part of the cycle track on both sides of Bauld Dr, from 26.3m north of the extended north property line of No. 47 Bauld Dr, northwards for 3.9m and which has a width throughout of 6m; (ii) All that part of the cycle track on both sides of Bauld Dr, from 3.6m north of the extended north property line of No. 47 Bauld Dr, southwards for 13.7m and which has a width that varies from 0m to 6m; **SCHEDULE 5 ROAD OVER WHICH MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO BE REDETERMINED FROM CYCLE TRACK TO FOOTWAY Bauld Dr (West Side)** (i) All that part of the cycle track on the west side of Bauld Dr, from 26.3m north of the extended north property line of No. 47 Bauld Dr, northwards for 4m and which has a width throughout of 2m.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (NEWCRAIGHALL ROAD TO BAULD DRIVE CYCLE TRACK, EDINBURGH) (STOPPING UP) ORDER 2025 - PO/25/09

The City of Edinburgh Council proposes to make an Order under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, to stop up the lengths of cycle track described in the Schedule hereto, in order to enable development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted under said Act. A copy of the Order, public notice, accompanying plan, showing the cycle track to be stopped up, together with a statement of reasons and our privacy notice can be viewed free of charge, between 09.30 and 15.30, Mon-Fri, from 07/11/25 to 05/12/25 at Waverley Court reception or online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders or www.tellmescotland.gov.uk. Any person may, within 28 days from 07/11/25 make representations or object to the making of the Order by notice, in writing, or e-mail to TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk quoting reference **PO/25/09** to Traffic Orders, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG. Representations and objections should state the name and address of the objector, the matters to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made. After the 28 day period the Order will be confirmed as an unopposed Order by the Council or submitted to the Scottish Ministers for consideration as an opposed Order. **SCHEDULE LENGTHS OF CYCLE TRACK TO BE STOPPED UP Newcraighall Rd to Bauld Dr Cycle Track** (i) All that part of the cycle track from 18.3m north-east then 2.2m north-west of the intersection of the north-west kerbline of Newcraighall Rd and the extended north-east kerbline of Benhar Rd, north-westwards for 51.7m and which has a width that varies from 4.4m to 4.9m; (ii) All that part of the cycle track from 25.8m north and 3.4m east of the extended north property line of No. 47 Bauld Drive, south-eastwards for 26.6m and which has a width that varies from 3.9m to 3.5m; (iii) All that part of the cycle track from 5.2m north of the extended north property line of No. 47 Bauld Dr, north-westwards for 39.1m and which has a width that varies from 0m to 5.6m; and (iv) All that part of the cycle track from 27.6m north of the extended north property line of No. 47 Bauld Dr, north-westwards for 52.2m and which has a width that varies from 3.4m to 0m.

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE CITY OF EDINBURGH TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO.237 (18 CORNENIE GARDENS)

Notice is hereby given that the City of Edinburgh Council (referred to below as the "Council") as planning authority in exercise of their powers conferred upon them by Section 160 of the above Act have made the City of Edinburgh Tree Preservation Order No.237 (18 Cornenie Gardens) (referred to below as the "Order") in respect of a tree at or around 18 Cornenie Gardens, Edinburgh. The Order takes effect on 05 November 2025. The Order has been made to protect the cedar tree from unnecessary removal.

The Order can be viewed on the Council's website (search for 'new tree preservation orders'). A certified copy of the Order will be deposited at Morningside Library, 184 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, EH10 4PU for inspection by any person without payment on Monday-Wednesday 10am-5pm and Thursday-Saturday 10am-5pm. An electronic copy of the Order can be provided by email free of charge by sending a request to planningtrees@edinburgh.gov.uk

Objections and representations in respect of the Order may be made to the planning authority in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010. Any objection or representation must be in writing and shall be duly made if it states its grounds, specifies the particular tree in respect of which it is made and is received by the planning authority no later than 17 December 2025.

Objections and representations should be sent to the Chief Planning Officer, Level G3, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG or by email to planningtrees@edinburgh.gov.uk

Proper Officer, Legal and Assurance, City of Edinburgh Council, Waverley Court, Edinburgh



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