

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

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

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Rangers 0 Roma 2
Italians dominate as 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. 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, 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.

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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

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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.

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