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THE SCOTSMAN



My life in books
Allan Massie on stepping back after 50 years as literary critic for The Scotsman

Scottish Life, pages 26-27



Relentless attacks on women's rights continue – despite legal victories in 'gender wars'

Jenny Lindsay, page 20

'Wake-up call' for politicians as money fears fuel disaffection

◆ Poorest feel 'overlooked' ahead of Holyrood election, study finds

Alistair Grant
Political Editor

Fears over household finances are driving disaffection with politics in the run-up to May's Scottish Parliament election, a new poll has found.

The survey by the Diffley Partnership for anti-poverty charity the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) found nearly half (47 per cent) of adults feel economically insecure.

More than one in five (22 per cent) feel very economically insecure, of which nearly three quarters (72 per cent) are not confident they could pay an unexpected cost of £200 in the next week, or cover essentials such as food and energy.

The research found the more

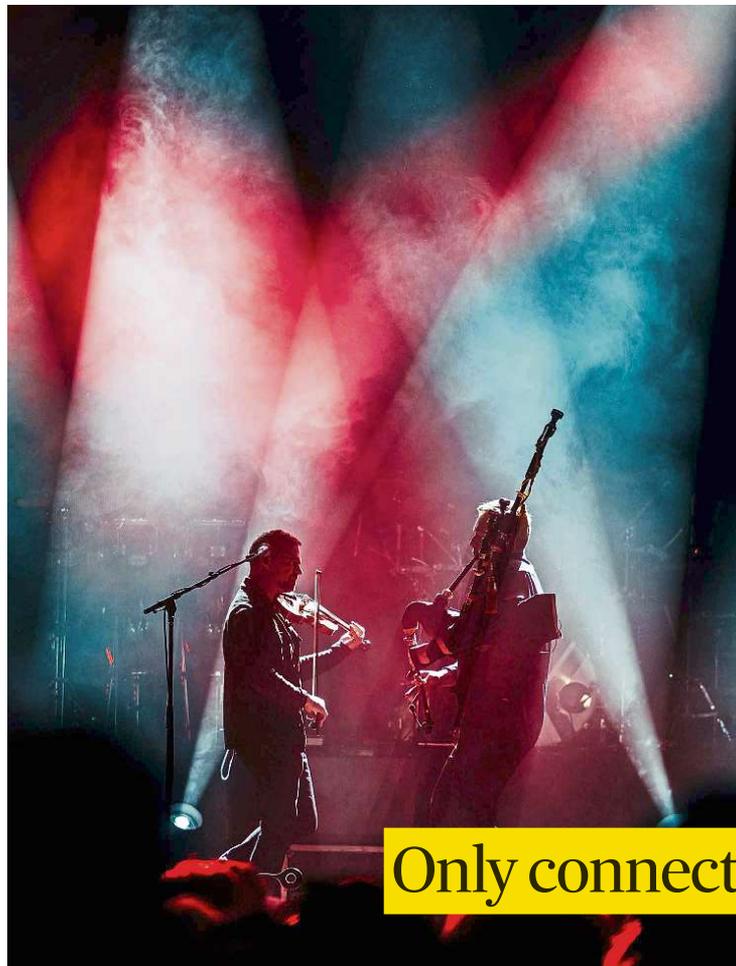
economically insecure people are, the more likely they are to be politically disaffected.

The JRF described the findings as "a wake-up call for political parties as they enter the election to commit to investing in policies that will improve living standards".

Chris Birt, its associate director for Scotland, said: "These findings show that people are really worried about their day-to-day finances, with many not even sure they can cover the cost of essential things like food and energy.

"At the same time, people are feeling overlooked by politicians, with levels of disaffection and mistrust worryingly high as we head towards the Holyrood

Continued on page 6



Trad rockers Skerryvore perform during the first weekend of the Celtic Connections music festival in Glasgow, where other acts included US country legend Emmylou Harris **REVIEWS, PAGE 24**

PM tells Trump he is 'wrong' on Greenland tariff

Helen Corbett

Sir Keir Starmer has told Donald Trump that "applying tariffs on allies for pursuing the collective security of Nato allies is wrong" in a telephone call, Downing Street said.

The conversation came after the US president said he would charge the UK a 10 per cent tariff "on any

Continued on page 8

Sarwar pledges to release 'Salmond files' if Labour win

Sarah Ward

Anas Sarwar has pledged to release "the Salmond files" if he becomes first minister, after the Scottish government was threatened with legal action for not doing so.

The documents relate to a probe into whether ex-first minister Nicola Sturgeon broke the ministerial code.

Full story, page 14



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PUBLIC NOTICES

GENERAL NOTICES

JOHN WOOD GROUP PLC

Company Number: SC036219

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, on 9 September 2025, a Petition (the "Petition") was presented to the Court of Session of Parliament House, Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RQ, Scotland (the "Court") by John Wood Group PLC, a public limited company incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act 2006 (the "Companies Act") (Company no. SC036219) and with its registered office at Sir Ian Wood House, Hareness Road, Altens Industrial Estate, Aberdeen, AB12 3LE (the "Company"), for, among other things, sanction of a scheme of arrangement (the "Scheme") under Part 26 of the Companies Act proposed to be entered into between the Company and the Scheme Shareholders (as defined in the Scheme).

A copy of the Scheme and a copy of the explanatory statement required to be furnished pursuant to section 897 of the Companies Act are incorporated into the circular relating to the Scheme (the "Scheme Document") which was sent to, amongst others, Scheme Shareholders on 11 September 2025, in advance of the Court Meeting. A supplementary circular relating to the Scheme (the "Supplementary Circular") was subsequently sent to, amongst others, Scheme Shareholders on 30 October 2025. Unless the context requires otherwise, any capitalised term used but not defined in this notice shall have the meaning given to such term in the Scheme Document. Copies of the Scheme Document and the Supplementary Circular are available, subject to restrictions in relation to persons resident in Restricted Jurisdictions and Sanctioned Shareholders, from the following websites: www.woodplc.com/investors/pages/sidara-proposal-2025 and www.energy-pillar.com.

At a meeting held under the authority of the Court on 17 November 2025 (the "Court Meeting"), the Scheme Shareholders voted to approve the Scheme and, at a general meeting held on the same date, the Company passed the related Special Resolutions which are set out in the Scheme Document and the Supplementary Circular.

By an order dated 20 November 2025, the Court ordered that: (i) notice of the Petition be advertised once in each of The Edinburgh Gazette, The Scotsman and The Financial Times newspaper; and (ii) any parties claiming an interest in the Petition be allowed to lodge written answers to the Petition, if so advised, at the Office of Court, Court of Session, 2 Parliament Square, Edinburgh, EH1 1RQ, within 21 days after the date of publication of the last of those advertisements. As the last of those advertisements is expected to be published on 19 January 2026, the deadline for lodging answers to the Petition is expected to be 9 February 2026.

The Court hearing to sanction the Scheme (the "Sanction Hearing") is expected to be in H1 2026, subject to satisfaction (or, if applicable, waiver) of the relevant Conditions to the Scheme (as set out in the Scheme Document) and, in any event, prior to the Long Stop Date. Adequate notice of the date and time of the Sanction Hearing will be given when a date for the Sanction Hearing has been fixed by the Court, by the Company issuing an announcement through the Regulatory Information Service of the London Stock Exchange, with such announcement being made available on the Company's website at <https://www.woodplc.com/investors/pages/sidara-proposal-2025/microsite>. Any updates or changes to this date and time will be notified to Scheme Shareholders in the same way.

Any Scheme Shareholder or other person who considers that they have an interest in the Scheme (each an "Interested Party") and who is concerned that the Scheme may adversely affect them is entitled to lodge written answers to the Petition and to be heard by the Court, as explained below. If an Interested Party wishes to raise concerns in relation to the Scheme with the Court or appear at the Sanction Hearing, he or she should seek independent legal advice and lodge written answers to the Petition with the Court at the above address within 21 days after the publication of the last of the advertisements referred to above and pay the required fee. Written answers are a formal Court document which must comply with the rules of the Court and are normally prepared by Scottish counsel or Scottish solicitor advocates. The Court may also consider written objections which are not in the form of written answers and/or allow an Interested Party who has not lodged written answers to appear at the Sanction Hearing. Each Interested Party should note that, although the practice of the Court is to consider informal objections made in person or in writing, the decision to do so is entirely at the discretion of the Court, and that the Court may require an Interested Party to lodge written answers in order to raise objections to the Scheme and/or appear at the Sanction Hearing.

Dated 19 January 2026

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Solicitors for the Company

CHARITY

CHRISTIAN AID SCOTLAND

National Public Collection 12-18 May 2024
Gross Amount raised: **£763,063.05**
Less Expenses: **£123,259.19**
Net total: **£639,803.86**
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