

Five things you need to know today

☒ Somewhere in the city centre we found this graffiti. Someone told us it is by Banksy. We don't know if we believe them. What do you think?

In the week before all candidates are announced for the city centre council by-election, one of the LibDem councillors has defected to the SNP. [The BBC](#) reports that Elaine Morris who represents the Forth ward has joined the SNP. This does not change the arithmetic of the SNP/LibDem coalition which forms the administration, but we have yet to see if the by-election does.

Meanwhile [The Herald](#) reports that the council has sacked an employee who worked for the Property Conservation Department has been sacked after he was found to be a director of a company now being investigated over repair contracts awarded by the council.

The Edinburgh Mela 2011 will take place between 2 & 4 September and they held their press launch yesterday morning (although we were not invited!) and you can find out more about what will happen [on their website](#).

And [The Scotsman](#) tells us all about the Jazz Festival which kicks off today.

