

Five things you need to know today

Scottish Affairs Committee to discuss Barnett formula

The Scottish Affairs Committee will hold the first evidence session of its inquiry into the [financing](#) of the Scottish Government.

During the inquiry, MPs will examine the current funding model for The Scottish Government and the wider framework for fiscal devolution.

Today the Committee will question expert commentators on the effectiveness and fairness of the Barnett formula, which calculates the annual change in the Block Grant, which is The Scottish Government's core source of funding. Annual changes in this funding, or 'Barnett consequentials', reflect changes in UK Government department spending and can be spent on any devolved services by the Scottish Government.

MPs may also examine how transparent the UK Government is about its funding decisions and approaches to bypassing the formula to provide additional funding, as well as exploring potential routes to formalise this process.

Members could examine the borrowing limits and conditions of the wider fiscal framework between the two Governments and views on the prospect of changing these conditions.

Witnesses at 09:30am:

- David Phillips, Associate Director at Institute for Fiscal Studies

- Claire Murdoch, Head of Fiscal Sustainability and Public Funding at Scottish Fiscal Commission
 - Dr João Sousa, Senior Knowledge Exchange Fellow and Deputy Director at Fraser of Allander Institute
-
- [The financing of the Scottish Government](#)
 - Wednesday 29 January, 9.30am, Committee Room 15
 - [Watch live on parliamentlive.tv](#)

The Edinburgh Reporter February issue

Our February issue has gone to press and will be sent out to our subscribers very soon. If you would like to join them then sign up [here](#) or click on the image below.

And our 6,000 copies will be distributed to our various stockists from 1 February. Look out for a copy – and if you can't find them we are planning to update our stockists list very soon too.

For now here is the January issue just one more time.

Labour limp on

Council chaos
after resignation

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Donovan returns

Playhouse reprise
for Jason

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City surprise

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the Edinburgh Reporter

January 2025

EDINBURGH'S **FREE** LOCAL NEWSPAPER...A CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

THE YEAR STARTS with good news for the team at The Biscuit Factory. Our photo above shows (left to right) Holly Dobbin, Murray Clarke, Fiona Hamilton and Michael Johnstone who run the old Crawford's Biscuits on Anderson Place. This is the first location in Edinburgh to be granted a S50 planning certificate under the newly adopted City Plan 2030, and ensures that the premises can continue to be full of activity and

events throughout 2025.

Fiona Hamilton, Managing Director of the Biscuit Factory, said: "We are so happy to finally be able to move forward with my original plans for the Biscuit Factory. Through our events and bar management the Biscuit Factory has been able to supplement the rents of over 20 local businesses housed inside our walls allowing them to thrive, collaborate and support the Leith community and each other. With the Council's ruling we are now able to comfortably execute

our plans for building accessibility and environmental improvements as well as continuing to offer up a fantastic events space as well as a nice co-working space to enjoy a drink."

The newest attraction will be the new Factory Floor Café which will be open from Monday to Friday 7am to 3pm.

On 18 January the Open House with new neighbours PLATFORM_ will be an opportunity to thank customers and clients for their support over the years, and will also be a

chance for locals to meet the many businesses which have their home in Bonnington.

On 25 January the Alternative Burns Night is an invite to everyone to join the fun with a haggis burger, whisky, poetry and ceilidh dancing.

And then in April the Biscuit Factory Beverage Festival returns for a second year hoping to build on the success of the first with beer, wine and spirits galore on offer.

www.biscuitfactory.co.uk/

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Gaelic events this week



A ceilidh dance, a walking tour and a writing workshop are among the line-up of fringe events supporting this year's John MacLeod Memorial Lecture, named after a notable figure in the Gaelic Community. Events begin on Thursday and continue until Sunday.

The Memorial Lecture will open the programme on Thursday 30 January and will be presented by Gaelic singer and musician Duncan MacLeod. The lecture, which will be delivered in Gaelic with simultaneous interpretation to English, will explore what language decay tells us about Gaelic.

A recent graduate of the University of Edinburgh's Celtic and Linguistics MA programme, Duncan and his younger sister Rona have formed a musical duo and frequently compete at Scotland's premier Gaelic festival, the Royal National Mòd.

The expanded programme will take place between Thursday 30 and Sunday 2 February 2024.

Events are open to all – from Gaelic enthusiasts, to those looking to gain more of an understanding of Gaelic language and culture.

[More information here.](#)

Òraid Chuimhneachaidh

Iain Mhicleòid 2025

John Macleod

MEMORIAL LECTURE

30.01.2025 @ 7F

**DONNCHADH
MACLEÒID**



"Beachd a' Chànanaiche: Dè tha crìonadh càin ag innse dhuinn mun Ghàidhlig?"

PROJECT ROOM, EDINBURGH UNI. 50 GEORGE SQUARE,
THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, CENTRAL CAMPUS, EDINBURGH, EH8 9JU

LE TAIC BHO WITH SUPPORT FROM



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ALBA

Edinburgh Charity Fashion Show 2025

Tickets are on sale now for Mirror Mirror at Mansfield Traquair on 22 March which will raise funds for The Rock Trust.

[Tickets from Fixr here.](#)

EDINBURGH CHARITY FASHION SHOW PRESENTS

MIRROR MIRROR



FIXR

22 MARCH 2025
MANSFIELD TRAQUAIR


EH3 Studios

Heating Edinburgh in the 2030s

The Clean Heat Edinburgh Forum has organised an event this Monday all about community heating.

**“How to keep Edinburgh warm AND reduce fossil fuel emissions?
How can you / your community get involved in the decisions
about who benefits?”**

[Tickets here or below.](#)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heating-edinburgh-in-2030s-community-heat-group-930am-mon-3-feb-at-auc-tickets-1206919983159?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>