

CHAPTER 12: ACCOMMODATION

- 12.1 This Chapter sets out the steps to be taken to house the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Executive and the Secretary of State for Scotland.
- 12.2 [Contingent on further consideration It is expected that New Parliament House (the former Old Royal High School) and its ancillary buildings will, after purchase from the City of Edinburgh Council and refurbishment, house the Chamber, Committee rooms and main offices of the Scottish Parliament. The refurbishment will bring the building up to a standard appropriate for modern Parliamentary use. Account will be taken of the fact that it is a Grade A listed building. A refurbishment of nearby St Andrew's House will also take place to convert the building from the headquarters of The Scottish Office into offices and facilities for MSPs and their support staff, main Ministerial offices and some staff of the Scottish Executive.]
- 12.3 The Government intend that there should be public access to the Chamber and for Committee sittings to allow members of the public the opportunity to watch their elected representatives. Appropriate arrangements will be made for the media to broadcast Parliamentary proceedings and to allow access to MSPs and the Scottish Executive.
- 12.4 The bulk of staff of the Scottish Executive will continue to be based mainly in Edinburgh, with other staff in Glasgow, and small offices throughout Scotland. The Scottish Executive will also have an office in London; and also in Brussels.
- 12.5 The Secretary of State for Scotland will have his own Department and accommodation for these staff will be required both in London and in Edinburgh.
- 12.6 Overall, the Government intend that the accommodation for the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Executive and the Secretary of State for Scotland will be fit for purpose, and cost effective.