

JE14 309

From: Alistair Brown
DAS
25 August 1997

- Site selection
- Design competition
- Timetable
- Costs £40 m costs
Quality & Size, with 2nd br
- ~~Priority~~
- Building brief

1. PS/Mr McLeish
2. PS/Secretary of State

Copy to: PS/US of S
PS/AEFD
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PFO
PEO
Robert Gordon, Constitution Group
John Elvidge, DD
Alastair MacKenzie, DD
John Gibbons, DD
Paul Grice, Constitution Group
Director, InD
Wendy Alexander
Murray Elder

Not for Calton Hill!

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT BUILDING - PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose

1. To bring Ministers up to date with current work to find a site and a building for a new Scottish Parliament. No decisions are required right now, but views would be welcome. We will provide further advice as soon as we are in a position to ask Ministers for decisions.

Timing

2. Routine. However the overall timetable for accommodating the Parliament is tight - see below. When further advice comes forward we will be asking Ministers to make decisions urgently.

Current position: site selection

3. Following the Secretary of State's decision to invite suggestions for accommodation for a Parliament in Edinburgh (announced at the press conference on 16 July) over 20 proposals have been submitted. In co-operation with City of Edinburgh Council officials, we have reduced this "long list" to a short list of 3 feasible options, plus the fall-back of using the Old Royal High School (ORHS) and its debating chamber. These are Calton Hill/Regent Road (using St Andrew's House together with a new debating chamber and stopping up Waterloo Place/Regent Road to provide public space); new build on a cleared site near the Victoria Quay building; and new build on a vacant site at Haymarket. We have kept the