

Mr Gordon, CG

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Copy to: PS/Mr McLeish  
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PS/DD  
Mr Elvidge, DD  
Mr Brown, DAS  
Mr Munro, Historic Scotland  
Mr Gibbons, DD  
Mr Grice, CG  
Director, InD  
Mr Baird, InD  
Mr Elder  
Ms Alexander

### SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT BUILDING

The Secretary of State and Mr McLeish met you, Mr Grice, Mr Elder and Ms Alexander at 3.30 pm on 7 December to discuss whether to undertake detailed feasibility studies of the Holyrood Site for the Scottish Parliament.

Ministers concluded that the site offered the possibility of a purpose-built Parliament building on a city-centre site at a competitive price and an acceptable timescale. They therefore wished to consider it alongside the other sites. You and Mr Grice will set the necessary work in hand.

Ministers decided that the addition of a fourth site to those under consideration should be announced as soon as possible, so that it did not appear an implausible rabbit from a hat at a later stage. We therefore prepared and cleared with the Secretary of State the attached draft news release, for issue later today, and key messages, for use in a briefing by officials this afternoon. The Secretary of State wanted to speak to key political players, and officials to speak to those whose reaction to the news might be sought, including those backing the other sites. I attach an updated copy of the task list which we prepared last night. I should be grateful if you and colleagues in InD would now take this forward.

K A L THOMSON  
PS/Secretary of State  
8 December 1997