

FOI 202300344494 – Information for release

Item 1:

From: The Bayes Centre [Redacted]
Sent: 06 February 2023 14:35
To: Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]
Subject: The Bayes Centre - February Newsletter

Bayes Centre Newsletter - February 2023

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The University of Edinburgh's Innovation Hub for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

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Welcome

Welcome to the Bayes Centre's February newsletter.

We're delighted to be able to bring you a range of stories and information from across the Bayes Centre and from our community, as well as a range of exciting events, including the first Bayes Centre Forum of 2023 on the 8th of February.

The Bayes Centre Forum is an excellent opportunity to hear from informative speakers, share experiences and explore multi-disciplinary AI and data science research collaboration opportunities. You can [register here](#).

It's also nearly time for the Venture Builder Incubator and AI Accelerator Showcase Events and tickets are going fast, so book now to avoid missing out! Find out more in our Spotlight feature below.



Spotlight On... VBI and AI Accelerator Showcase Events



We are excited to invite you to The University of Edinburgh's [Venture Builder Incubator](#) and [AI Accelerator](#) Showcase Events.

Both events are **free to attend** and will be exciting opportunities to discover some of the most interesting new companies, find potential investment opportunities and network with the data-driven entrepreneurship scene in Edinburgh!

Both programmes are delivered by the University of Edinburgh's world-leading Innovation Hub for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, [the Bayes Centre](#), and supported by [Edinburgh Innovations](#), the University of Edinburgh's commercialisation service. They are delivered on behalf of the Data-Driven Innovation Hubs, in contribution to the Data-Driven Entrepreneurship programme.

Date: 3rd March
Time: 2pm - 6pm (Registrations open 1:30pm)
Place: The Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, Scottish National Gallery, The Mound, EH2 2EL

This year's Incubator has supported [23 start-ups](#) across industries including financial services and oncology. In our 16 week programme we have helped founders explore and validate the commercial potential of their data-driven ideas and explore investment and mentoring opportunities.

Date: 22nd March
Time: 1:30pm – 7pm (Registrations open 1pm)
Place: Playfair Library Hall, Old College, EH8 9YL

This year's AI Accelerator cohort boasts an impressive mix of four companies under each of our three themes: Health, Climate and AI for Good. You can read more about them [here](#) before meeting them in person at our Showcase event.

[Book a free ticket](#)

[Book a free ticket](#)

News

Find out more about planning events at the Bayes Centre

The Bayes Centre hosts a wide range of events for both internal and external audiences and our facilities are available for bookings.

Our main event space is G.03, on the ground floor of the Bayes Centre, with fantastic presentation facilities. G.03 can seat 50 people theatre style.

Our atrium capacity allows for 50 during opening hours (9am-5pm) and 80 after 6pm for evening events.

Get In Touch



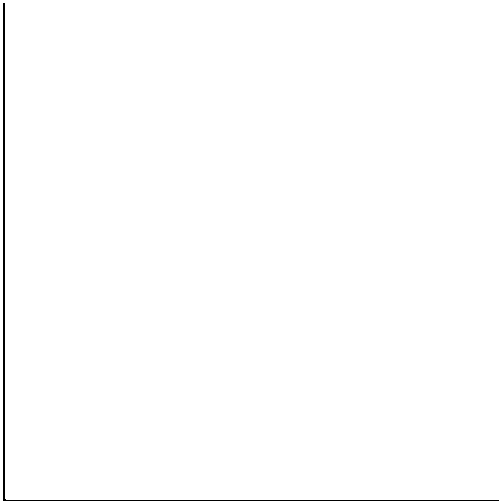
Guidance On Event Booking



Data Upskilling Short Courses



Boost your data skills with our short online courses



The Bayes Centre's Data Upskilling Short Courses are designed to boost your data skills across a wide range of topics and are fully online, to easily fit into your life. Upcoming and recent courses include subjects such as planetary health data, marketing, Python, health data science, data ethics for business and much more.



Courses run throughout the year, with fully funded places available (eligibility applies). Find out more by [visiting our course calendar](#).



Find Out More



Bayes Centre Director Michael Rovatsos to Chair first event in EFi *Love Machine* event series



Edinburgh Futures Institute has a series of events coming up in their Love Machine event series running from 6 March to May 2023. The first event is Edinburgh Futures Conversations - The Future of Artificial Intelligence: Shaping our AI Futures. Bayes Centre Director, Michael Rovatsos, is the chair of that event. You can book a ticket for this event [here](#).

Love Machine focuses on the interdisciplinarity of Artificial Intelligence (AI), data and machine learning technologies and how we make room for such technologies within our lives and wider cultures.

The co-produced events will explore the interconnections and intimacies of AI, data and machine learning with other disciplines, from the arts and humanities, sciences and engineering.

[Find Out More About The Series and Book Tickets Here](#)

FinTech Scotland

Scotland's fintech cluster fuelled by record number of SME firms and a 200% jump in investment funding

Bayes Centre Member FinTech Scotland announces, on its fifth birthday, a further increase in the number of entrepreneurial fintech SME firms as well as a record-breaking new investment funding for the year.

In the last 12 months, Scottish fintechs received over £305m in funding supporting their growth and development, representing an increase of over 200% on the previous year.

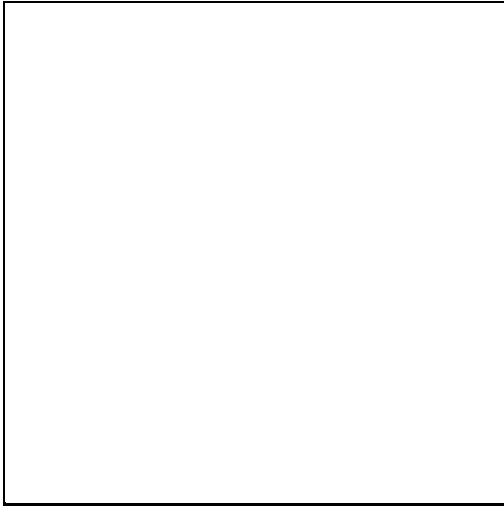
FinTech Scotland CEO Nicola Anderson

[Find Out More](#)

Scottish AI Alliance



Scottish AI Alliance announce Scottish AI Summit agenda and 20% discount code



It is with great excitement that the Scottish AI Alliance has released the outline agenda for the Scottish AI Summit 2023 and it features many members of the Bayes Centre!

UB-OK will be organising a workshop with NHS Grampian on building inclusive AI, and Katy Guthrie, Programme Manager for the Bayes Centre's AI Accelerator will be running a panel session on selling AI. The Data Lab will be running a panel on AI and the Climate.

Bayes Centre newsletter readers can get 20% off tickets using the code **BAYES** at checkout.



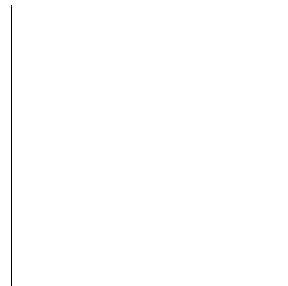
[Get Your Tickets Now](#)



Rovco

Rovco strengthens team with strategic appointment: Graham Bells joins as Head of Geoscience

Bayes Centre Partner Rovco, global provider of subsea robotics and integrated survey solutions to the offshore wind and oil field decommissioning sectors, has strengthened its team with the appointment of Graham Bell as Head of Geoscience.



Graham Bell, Head of Geoscience at Rovco

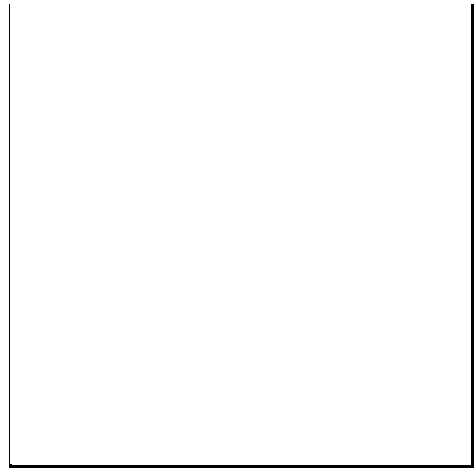
[Find Out More](#)



Edinburgh Innovations

Extraordinary People: Professor Melissa Terras

Edinburgh Innovations help researchers, students and industry drive innovation. They celebrate all the extraordinary people at this University for their excellence, ambition and their positive impact on our communities, societies and our world. Each month they will be spotlighting just some of the extraordinary people we've had the pleasure and privilege of working with.



This month's highlight is Melissa Terras, Professor of Digital Cultural Heritage, Founding Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Data, Culture and Society, Director of Research at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, and Co-Director of Creative Informatics.

A leading international figure in the field of Digital Humanities, this extraordinary person is a pioneer in digital innovation and a passionate champion of enriching Humanities scholarship through applied computing.

Be Inspired Here



Research Data Scotland

Data jobs available at RDS



Bayes Centre Partner Research Data Scotland's (RDS) aim is to make it simpler and easier for researchers find and make use of public sector data to improve lives.



RDS is advertising a number of new technical roles on two-year fixed term contracts. They are looking for data analysts, data sourcing specialists and a data engineer. The deadline for applications is Monday 13 February. Salary information and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Public Engagement Fund

Research Data Scotland has announced a £40,000 pilot Public Engagement Fund to support projects that improve public understanding of data in research in Scotland.

Eligible organisations can apply for up to £10,000 and it's open to researchers, public engagement professionals, schools and museums. They are particularly interested in projects that involve people who don't usually have a voice in discussions about data, and projects that offer creative ways of engaging the public. They are keen to see applications from those who would like to undertake some high impact activities to support people's understanding of data research.

Applications opened on **Monday 30 January** and close on **Friday 24 February**.

[Find Out More](#)

Digital transformation project to improve access to public sector data

Nexer Digital has been chosen to deliver a six month digital transformation programme for Research Data Scotland (RDS), to support it in its mission to simplify and speed up access to public sector data. The project includes designing a new 'Data Access Service' to reduce the time it takes researchers to identify and access data without compromising scrutiny or security.

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[Find Out More](#)

University of Edinburgh Digital Research Services

2023 Ambassadors Internship – Registration of Interest

The registration of interest for the 2023 Ambassadors Internship Scheme is closing soon. This is a funded program with a maximum length of 12 weeks to be completed by July 2023.

It is a chance to inspire new generations of researchers, develop digital research-related skills, and foster interdisciplinary collaborations.

Those interested are invited to fill out [this form](#). Have a look at the [Digital Research Services website](#) to discover more.

Events

8 February

12:15 - 13:15

- 1.1 The Bayes Centre
 - 1.2 [Bayes Centre February Forum](#)
- Online

8 February

18:00

- 1.3 ICMS
 - 1.4 [What is a quant?](#)
- Online and in-person (G.03, Bayes Centre)

9 February

09:30 - 10:30

- 1.5 Edinburgh Innovations
- [Community of Practice - forming and engaging with companies](#)

13 February

13:00 - 17:00

- 1.6 [Networking in Complex Systems](#)
- Online and in-person (G.03/ the atrium. Bayes Centre)

16 February

13:00 - 14:00

- 1.7 Digital Research Services
 - 1.8 [2023 ECR Forums](#)
- Digital Scholarship Centre, Main Library, 6th floor or online via MS Teams

28 February

12:00 - 13:00



3 March

14:00 -18:00



14 March

13:00 -14:00



14 March

09:00 -17:00



21 -22 March



22 March

13:00- 19:00



Want to let us know about new events and training opportunities?

Get in Touch!



1.9 Digital Research Services
1.10 [2022-2023 Lunchtime Seminars](#)

Argyle House, Floor E, Room 14 or Online via MS
Teams



The Bayes Centre

[Venture Builder Incubator Showcase Event](#)

The Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, Scottish
National Gallery



1.11 Edinburgh Innovations
1.12 [Converge Information Session by
Edinburgh Innovations](#)
Murchison House, Kings Buildings



1.13 The Data Lab
1.14 [Data Talent 2023 - Scotland's largest data
careers and networking event](#)
Hilton, Glasgow

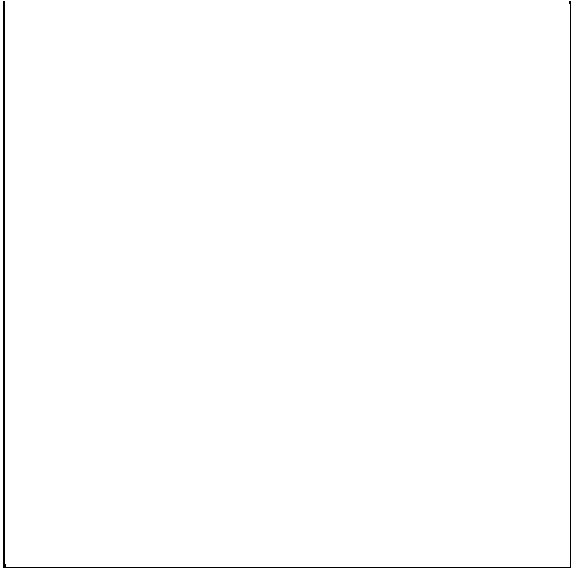


1.15 The Alan Turing Institute
1.16 [AI UK 2023](#)
London's QEII Conference Centre



1.17 The Bayes Centre
1.18 [AI Accelerator Showcase Event](#)
Playfair Library Hall

Get involved



If you wish to contribute to our newsletter or provide feedback; we'd love to hear from you so please [get in touch](#).

Alternatively if you're interested in working with us, find out more about our [Partners and Members opportunities](#).

For more information about the Bayes Centre [visit our website](#).

Connect with the Bayes Centre on social media!



[LinkedIn](#)



[Twitter](#)



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The Bayes Centre processes the personal data of our internal and external stakeholders in order to communicate and raise awareness of relevant opportunities, news and events. To do so, we are using Dotdigital as our mailing system. Dotdigital's privacy policy can be viewed at: <http://dotdigital.com/terms/privacy-policy/>

We are currently using information about you because you have previously indicated your interest to be added to our newsletter mailing list. We will hold the personal data you provided us for as long as you are a subscriber, however, you can unsubscribe at any time via the link at the bottom of this email.

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Item 2:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitoring Unit Manager

Sent: 06 February 2023 10:28

To: Media Summaries [Redacted]; keith.brown.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: This Morning's News and Events - Monday 6 February 2023

Broadcast summaries

BBC Scotland

Current round of teacher's strikes comes to an end A rolling programme of teachers strikes will come to a temporary halt later, the action ends in Inverclyde and Shetland. National teachers strikes are planned for the end of February and beginning of March before more rolling strikes until April. The Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has told BBC she wants the action suspended during exams.

Rep Scotland	<i>Report</i>	Andrew Kerr
GMS0700		
GMS0730	<i>Report</i>	Andrew Kerr
GMS0748		
GMS0800	<i>Report</i>	Derek Ferguson
GMS0807	<i>Clip</i>	Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
	<i>Interview</i>	Andrea Bradley (EIS)
GMS0830	<i>Clip</i>	Andrea Bradley (EIS)
GMS0850		

Drinks firms make plea over advertising Drinks companies are joining forces to call on the Scottish Government to abandon a move which could restrict alcohol advertising. Ministers say they are determined to tackle Scotland's problematic relationship with alcohol.

Rep Scotland		
GMS0700		
GMS0706	<i>Interview</i>	Mark Crothall (Scottish Tourism Alliance)
GMS0730	<i>Clip</i>	Mark Crothall (Scottish Tourism Alliance)
GMS0748		
GMS0800	<i>Report</i>	Linda Sinclair
GMS0815	<i>Interview</i>	Alison Douglas (Alcohol Focus)
GMS0830		

Colonsay gets first affordable homes in 20 years The community on Colonsay have put out an appeal for new people to live and work on the island. It comes with the first affordable homes to be built there for 20-years. The island has a population of about 125 people. There is a chronic housing shortage due to the increasing number of holiday homes and second homes

GMS0700 *Clip* Dannie Onn (Colonsay Development Company)

GMS0830 *Clip* Kari Seymore (Colonsay Development Company)

GMS0850

ScotRail campaign to encourage more train travel ScotRail is launching a national advertising campaign encouraging more people to start using rail services again. It runs for six weeks and aims to boost passenger numbers which are currently 70 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.

GMS0700

Good Morning Britain

Current round of teacher's strikes comes to an end As three weeks of rolling teacher strikes come to a close, union bosses say we're still no closer to a breakthrough in pay negotiations. Schools in Inverclyde and Shetland are closed today, with 22 additional days of action to begin later this month. The EIS wants a ten per cent uplift, which the Scottish Government calls 'unaffordable'.

Drinks firms make plea over advertising Leaders from the drinks sector say banning alcohol sponsorship for sports and live events could destroy the industry. More than 100 firms have signed an open letter to the Scottish Government, as ministers consult on the move.

Colonsay gets first affordable homes in 20 years Colonsay is looking for new residents as part of efforts to tackle the need for long-term housing. The Colonsay Community Development Company is providing the first affordable houses there in more than 20 years.

Clyde One

Current round of teacher's strikes comes to an end Teachers are on the last of three weeks of local strikes today, with a walkout closing schools in Inverclyde, but there will be two national walkouts at the end of the month if pay talks with the Scottish Government remain deadlocked.

Radio 4

No further stories

Kaye Adams

- How important an issue is gender reform to you?

Press coverage

First Minister

Comment Has Sturgeon kept her Promise? In short, no Times24

Sturgeon accused by Tories of 'short changing' the NHS *See Health and Social Care*

End delay to trans advice for teachers, urge MPs *See Education and Skills*

Minister urges SNP critics of gender reform to stand down *See Social Justice, Housing and Local Government*

Ex Nat MSP McAlpine hits out at First Minister over gender reform *See Social Justice, Housing and Local Government*

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Finance and the Economy

Legislators not 'working with people' to create solutions Two of Scotland's most successful entrepreneurs have expressed their deep concerns that both the UK and Scottish governments are not working with ordinary people to reach the right decisions about finance and the future of the economy. Speaking on the Go Radio Business Show With Hunter & Haughey, Lord Willie Haughey said: "Our friend Stuart Patrick, the chief executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, has been in the news, having... H20

'Nightmare' tax hikes and service cuts loom Dundee leader John Alexander has warned taxpayers they face council tax rise and cuts to services to plug an £18 million budget blackhole. The council chief said there are "no quick fixes" with the council facing "huge challenges" to balance its budget. The SNP councillor added it is "not his job to sugar coat reality" as he laid bare the stark situation. He said that to minimise council tax increases... DC6

Comment Councils must weigh impact of tax rises on households H21

Comment Levelling up is a letdown for cash strapped city after reckless Brexit DR17

Health and Social Care

Drinks firms challenge plan to ban alcohol advertising Firms including the Budweiser Brewing Group, Lanson Champagne, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's Lager have signed an open letter to the Scottish Government challenging moves that could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Signatories also include Belhaven, Brewdog, Chivas Brothers/Pernod Ricard, The Macallan, and the Molson Coors Beverage Company, and a number of smaller producers. SM1; SM5; H8; DR4; DMail13; DExp7; Times1; PJ13; DC30

Comment Ministers must heed drink sector concern SM20

Comment Protect health of vital industry PJ28

Foodbanks for NHS staff in Lothians receive 'steady use' Foodbanks operating in hospitals across the Lothians to help NHS staff, including nurses, cope with the spiralling cost-of-living crisis have been receiving "steady use". The trade union Unison said seven sites opened at the start of the year and will run for three months, in partnership with local charities. Tracy Anne Miller, Unison Lothian's health branch secretary, said the "food pantries" started after stories emerged on social media of staff... SM16

Warning as thousands saved after overdose Thousands of people have experienced near-fatal overdoses since Scotland's drug deaths crisis was declared a public health emergency - with new figures labelled "deeply concerning". Statistics released by the Scottish Ambulance Service show that, over the last three years, there have been more than 11,500 incidents where ambulance crews have administered naloxone, a medicine used to prevent fatal opioid overdoses. Naloxone rapidly reverses the effects of an overdose from opioids... H4; DExp7; DC6

A warning on the dangers of a law on 'assisted dying' In Scotland, the implacable desire of those seeking to enable people to kill themselves more easily has endured for 13 years. A colossal amount of time, energy and money has been devoted to this project, involving dozens of MSPs, their advisors, the per-diem lobbying sector and at least two national newspapers. It betokens a culture of death in which the debate around "assisted dying" is framed in the most callously... H13

A 6-year wait in agony is nuts Humza Yousaf has apologised to a man left in agony for six years with severe testicular pain. The Health Secretary described the delay in patient Martin Brown's treatment as "unacceptable". The 52-year-old's condition is now so bad he can barely walk or spend time with his grandchildren. But last night, Labour's health spokeswoman Jackie Baillie hit out, saying: "Instead of apologising, Humza Yousaf should actually fix the problem. DR7

Comment **Waiting in pain** DR8

Sturgeon accused by Tories of 'short changing' the NHS Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the first minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula, which delivers cash to devolved governments based on public spending south of the border. Pre-pandemic figures show that from 2008-09 to 2019-20, spending per head on... DC17

Comment **Mental health** SM22

Comment **Has Sturgeon kept her Promise? In short, no** Times24

Education and Skills

Plans to ensure no exams hitches Ministers are working on contingency plans to ensure exams are not disrupted by teacher strikes, Scotland's education secretary has said. Shirley-Anne Somerville called on trade union leaders to suspend any action that would threaten the exam period. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish on Monday and more action planned. SM4; H4; Sun2; DExp6; DTel2; PJ21; DC15

Comment **Must do better Sun10**

Labour rage over Nats' teacher plan Councils fear the Government will strongarm them into ditching cuts to teacher numbers by playing hardball on £145million of funding. Local authority chiefs believe the cash could be used as a "sanction" to prevent classroom savings. Labour MSP Michael Marra said: "Panicking SNP ministers are descending to fines instead of finance for hard-pressed councils. DR6

Don't leave our schools exposed to these threats Politicians and teaching unions hit out last night over the "terrifying" revelation that dozens of pupils have been suspended after weapons were seized in schools. A probe found there were 191 occasions when kids aged seven to 16 were found carrying potentially deadly items, including 37 knives. And 64 incidents which happened in school grounds were deemed so serious that they were reported to the police. In 47 instances, pupils... Sun13

End delay to trans advice for teachers, urge MPs Ministers were last night facing urgent calls to publish guidance for teachers which would help them block children from changing gender if they believe they are too young. Tory MPs and campaigners said 'foot dragging' by education officials was potentially failing to protect children from safeguarding risks. They also accused Whitehall of 'abandoning' teachers who want to delay children from starting on the path to transitioning too young, claiming that... DMail8

Comment **Teachers need answers DMail14**

Comment **Quotas for students from deprived backgrounds are reasonable but not perfect SM26**

Minister urges SNP critics of gender reform to stand down *See Social Justice, Housing and Local Government*

Net Zero, Energy and Transport

A9 dualling delay and over budget MSPs are expected to hear this week that the cost of the delayed next stage of dualling the A9 has rocketed. Work on the six-mile section between Tomatin and Moy near Inverness was due to start months ago. SM1; SM10

MSPs to hear ferry woes far wider than just CalMac What's Europe's busiest single-vessel ferry route? It might surprise you, as it did me, that it's the Corran ferry - across Loch Linnhe, south of Fort William, to the Ardgour peninsula. The service carries 270,000 cars annually and is growing at 2 per cent a year. However, what might appear to be a success story masks a chronic problem that's affecting this vital link just as much as the... SM2

UK government rail shake-up could see return tickets axed Return rail tickets are to be scrapped for cross-border and other English-based train operators under plans to be announced tomorrow, according to reports. They would be replaced by passengers buying two single journeys for round trips, as East Coast operator London North Eastern Railway trialled in 2020. There could also be a renewed effort on shifting passengers from paper tickets to tickets stored on smartphones and other mobile devices. SM14

Scotland blasts off to the final frontier In October 2021 the Scottish Government published its Space Strategy setting out Scotland's ambition to become Europe's leading space nation. Committing to the delivery of a dedicated launch capability by summer 2023, and with five spaceports in development across the country, it targets a £4 billion share of the global space market, generating 20,000 jobs by 2030. This target reflects a current 12 per cent year-on-year growth of the sector... SM24

Anger as only one government building is using a heat pump Ministers have come under fire as it is revealed that just one Scottish Government building is making use of eco-friendly heat pumps despite the SNP drive to ban fossil fuel boilers. The government accepted that the pathway to net zero for Scotland requires a rapid large-scale decarbonisation of heat. To facilitate this, the Heat In Buildings Strategy, launched in February 2021, set out the Scottish Government's ambition to double the... H1

Comment Meeting green building targets will impact on us all H15

Drinks deposit plan 'worst idea I've seen in 43 years in politics' The recycling policy of the Scottish government, criticised as "unworkable" by 600 businesses, has been described by a former SNP minister as the "worst" in his 43 years in politics. Fergus Ewing said the deposit return scheme would "decimate" the drinks sector and he warned that tens of thousands of businesses would face "severe adverse consequences". The initiative is set to be launched in August. Times6

Oil downturns sink subsea capability The renowned UK subsea industry has lost 20% of its capability due to recent oil downturns, according to a membership body - and there's an urgent need for joined-up thinking to deliver on the "tsunami" of energy transition opportunity ahead. Neil Gordon, CEO of the Global Underwater Hub (GUH), said opportunities across oil and gas, decommissioning, offshore wind and areas like carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) are expected to... PJ2

Energy strategy under spotlight in Holyrood Energy policy and legislation has dominated the political agenda at Holyrood and Westminster since parliamentarians returned in January. At Holyrood, the Scottish Government published a draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, setting out a roadmap to deliver a fair and secure zero carbon energy system for Scotland. The draft includes a Just Transition Plan for the energy sector, detailing the support being provided to grow Scotland's highly skilled energy workforce... PJ4

Eco-planning changes could sink retail park Campaigners say new government guidelines could scupper plans for an "eco-disaster" retail park outside Banchory. Developers last month revealed proposals to build a Lidl, M&S Food store, Home Bargains, garden centre and Starbucks drive-thru behind the town's Tesco. But just days later, the Scottish Government rolled out changes that could hamper the scheme. Ministers passed new planning guidelines aimed at fighting the climate crisis, which are to be followed by... PJ5

New subsea hub will 'accelerate transition' The multi-million pound National Subsea Centre opened its doors this year following a turbulent development process hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Dyce-based facility brought in collaboration between Robert Gordon University and Net Zero Technology Centre was launched by Scottish

Government energy secretary Michael Matheson and UK Scotland Office minister Malcolm Offord. The National Subsea Centre (NSC) has hit the ground running with its work on the "SeaSense" project which will... PJ20

Comment **We need real and radical change in way we run our utilities in Scotland** H12

Comment **Swifter action needed over electricity market** PJ32

Justice

Tories call for more special constables The number of special constables in Scotland has slumped, the Scottish Conservatives have said, with 971 fewer on the beat than almost a decade ago. Police Scotland told the party, which asked for the figures in a freedom of information request, that there were 423 in the force as of September, compared with the 1,394 volunteering to keep their communities safe in 2014. Jamie Greene, the Scottish Conservatives' justice spokesman... SM5; H4; DR6; DExp10; DC18

Hardly any complaints against police lead force to take action Police Scotland must offer reassurances about the speed and robustness of the force's complaints process, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said, after they revealed that just 63 out of the more than 4,000 complaints made against officers led to management action. Between October 2021 and 2022 the force received 4,280 complaints about the behaviour of police officers, a freedom of information request revealed, and of those some 1,324 are still... SM12; H4; DMail11; DExp10; Times19; PJ5

Checks on hold Thousands of cops haven't had a full background check in over a decade, it's emerged. Only around a quarter have seen their finances, family and social life reviewed. It should happen every seven to ten years. Ex-Tayside top cop Angela Wilson, who runs a women's crisis centre in Dundee, said fresh scrutiny "must be a priority". The Scottish Police Authority said all staff will be checked against national systems. Sun6

Wigs and fake breasts available to Bryson Transgender rapist Isla Bryson will have access to make-up, wigs, women's underwear and even fake breasts while serving time in a male prison under Scottish Prison Service policy, it can be revealed. Bryson is at the centre of a political storm after it was revealed the rapist, once a man called Adam Graham, swapped gender after being charged with two rapes. The 31-year-old was sent to Cornton Vale women's prison near... DExp4

Call for pre-trial law to protect victims Victims of violent crime may be made safer in their own home, thanks to a piece of legislation a Highlands and Islands MSP is fighting for. Inverness-based Emma Roddick has asked the Scottish Government to consider strengthening the law that would protect victims of crime in a pre-trial period. At the moment someone charged with a violent crime and released on bail could potentially live right next door to their... PJ13

Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

Minister urges SNP critics of gender reform to stand down SNP politicians critical of Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms should consider whether to stand for the party at the next election, a senior Scottish Government minister has suggested. Shirley-Anne

Somerville said opponents should question whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" which policies to support. Her comments came as SNP MP Joanna Cherry insisted it is time for the party to "eat some humble pie"...

SM1; H4; DMail1; DExp1; DTel1; DTel6; Times8; DC14

...Flynn: We must respect rebels' right to disagree DMail5; Guard12

...Ex Nat MSP McAlpine hits out at First Minister over gender reform DExp4

Hundreds join rally in Glasgow against gender recognition reform A gender reform critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow on Sunday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December, but blocked by... SM7; H4; DR6; Sun19; DMail4; DExp5; DTel6; Times8; PJ21; DC2

End delay to trans advice for teachers, urge MPs See *Education and Skills*
Wigs and fake breasts available to Bryson See *Justice*

Rural Affairs and Islands

Firm appeals ruling to block new salmon farm in national park A company behind plans to build a salmon farm in Loch Long has said it will challenge a national park's decision to block the project. Loch Long Salmon wanted to build the farm in the loch at Beinn Reithe, near Arrochar. It would have been the first in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and the first farm in Scotland to use semi-closed aquaculture technology. SM18; H1; H7; DExp23

Green lairds rich list 'can expose handouts culture' A north campaigner has demanded the Scottish Government publish a list of the country's top 100 richest landowners and how much cash they receive in public handouts. Former Labour MSP and Cabinet minister Peter Peacock is also calling for an inquiry into the level of subsidies being given to wealthy estate owners. Stepping up his action against so-called "green lairds", Mr Peacock said: "It is time for a full investigation..." PJ1; PJ11; DC14

Residents say feral pigs are a horrid bore Concerns have been raised about a marauding squad of wild boar on the shores of Loch Ness. Complaints range from the boar digging up fields, attacking people walking dogs and attacking other wild animals - and now Highlanders want something done about them. Free-ranging, breeding populations of pigs have established in the Highlands following recent escapes or deliberate releases from wild boar farms or collections. Wild boar interbreed with domestic... PJ17

Salmon farms not to blame for decline The number of wild Atlantic salmon returning to rivers across Scotland from their oceanic feeding grounds has been in decline since records began in 1971. Back then, the number was around 1.2 million fish, whereas now the estimate is about 360,000. The most worrying aspect of this decline is that we don't know why it is happening, a point made by the King when he spoke at the 50th anniversary... PJ27

Deer numbers threaten future of ancient forest Soaring deer numbers are threatening to extinguish the last pockets of an ancient forest in Highland Perthshire, according to a new study. The Black Wood of Rannoch on the southern bank of Loch Rannoch

contains some of the largest areas of ancient pine forest in Scotland. But the area is under threat as the deer population has doubled in the past 30 years, and old deer fences to protect the... DC1

New fund to protect numbers of wild salmon A new fund has been launched by salmon farmers to help save Scotland's stocks in the wild. It will focus on habitat protection, protection from predators, and restocking programmes. But in making the cash available, the head of the fish farm industry body blasted the "handful of urban activists who live far from rural Scotland (who) are determined to shut down salmon farms and make 12,000 people unemployed". DC8

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

War refugees 'may end up living rough' Women and children who escaped Ukraine to be housed on a ferry in Scotland could end up living rough, it has been warned. More than 1,100 people are in Glasgow on board the MS Ambition, which was chartered by the Scottish Government to accommodate refugees. But the lease expires at the end of next month, triggering a scramble among Scottish local authorities to find alternative housing. DMail12

SNP minister is 'prolific pedlar of fake fact' One of Nicola Sturgeon's senior ministers used fake figures to boast about Scotland's wind energy potential to foreign politicians even after he was warned they were inaccurate, it has emerged. Angus Robertson, the SNP's constitution secretary, is facing accusations that he has broken the ministerial code after he ignored warnings from officials and repeated the debunked claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. SNP politicians... DTel6

£1.6m in funding to boost refugee strategy The Scottish Government has announced a £1.6 million investment in refreshing the country's refugee integration strategy. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was announced in 2018, with a lifespan that was due to end last year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the funding will allow the Scottish Government to take account of the changes of the past few years - including displacement caused by the withdrawal of western forces... DC15

Scottish Government

Scottish Parliament

Other

Local Broadcast Summaries (Provided by Precise)

Original 106

It is the last day of a rolling campaign of strikes by Scotland's teachers with more dates on the horizon. There is still no agreement over a pay deal with the Scottish government ruling out the ten percent being demanded by unions saying it's unaffordable.

Tay

Police Scotland insists complaints made against its officers as investigated thoroughly after it emerged less than 2 per cent led to management action . A freedom of information request shows over four thousand reports about the behaviour of officers were made between October 2021 and 2022.

It is the last day of a rolling campaign of strikes by Scotland's teachers with more dates on the horizon. There is still no agreement over a pay deal with the Scottish government ruling out the ten percent being demanded by unions saying it's unaffordable.

Forth 1 08:00 - 08:04

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It is the last day of a rolling campaign of strikes by Scotland's teachers with more dates on the horizon. There is still no agreement over a pay deal with the Scottish government ruling out the ten percent being demanded by unions saying it's unaffordable.

Northsound

Thousands of people have nearly died of an overdose since Scotland's drug problem was declared a public health emergency three years ago, Scottish Labour said. The Scottish Ambulance Service revealed in that time there have been more than 11,500 instances when paramedics have used naloxone, a medicine used to prevent fatal opioid overdoses, according to data obtained using freedom of information powers.

Heart Scotland West

A Scottish strategy for dealing with drug addiction as being described as insanity. Some campaigners as we learn paramedics treated 11,500 cases of near fatal overdoses in the last three years.

It is the last day of a rolling campaign of strikes by Scotland's teachers with more dates on the horizon. There is still no agreement over a pay deal with the Scottish government ruling out the ten percent being demanded by unions saying it's unaffordable.

Moray Firth

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to prevent fatal opioid overdoses, according to data obtained using freedom of information power

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Media Monitoring Unit Manager

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Item 3:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitor **On Behalf Of** Communications MMU

Sent: 06 February 2023 07:47

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

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Subject: Media Digest - Monday 06 February 2023

Please do not reply to this email. For any questions related to the Media Digest mailing list, please email [Redacted]

Press Summary For Scottish Government

06 February 2023

Compiled By Precise

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[10. CORPORATE](#)

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1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Sturgeon needs to admit defeat to save her party** THE division inside the SNP ranks is becoming more obvious by the day. Nicola Sturgeon has ruled her party with an iron fist, but now her hold on the ranks is slipping. The single issue of gender identity legislation has left her very possibly facing a fight for

her own survival. Supporters are abandoning the party amid the controversial law, which has spectacularly backfired on the Holyrood administration. And if the

Daily Express 2 **Sturgeon's trans row hits support for independence** SUPPORT for Scottish independence is dwindling in a blow for Nicola Sturgeon as she suffers a backlash over "trans" biological males being held in women's prisons. The Scottish National Party is also losing popularity among voters north of the border. The YouGov survey shows backing for independence dropped from 53 per cent to 47 per cent among decided voters. The findings boost the Daily Express Unite The Kingdom crusade, which

The Herald 1 **Anger as only one government building is using a heat pump** MINISTERS have come under fire as it is revealed that just one Scottish Government building is making use of eco-friendly heat pumps despite the SNP drive to ban fossil fuel boilers. The government accepted that the pathway to net zero for Scotland requires a rapid large-scale decarbonisation of heat. To facilitate this, the Heat In Buildings Strategy, launched in February 2021, set out the Scottish Government's ambition to double the

The Courier (Main Edition) 16 **Survey shows SNP support has dropped** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for The Sunday Times of 1,088 Scottish voters shows support for the party dropped from 50% to 44% in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40% to 36% in the regional list, when compared to the results of the same poll in December. Support for independence also dropped substantially, from 53% to 47%

The Courier (Main Edition) 6 **'Nightmare' tax hikes and service cuts loom** Dundee leader John Alexander has warned taxpayers they face council tax rise and cuts to services to plug an £18 million budget blackhole. The council chief said there are "no quick fixes" with the council facing "huge challenges" to balance its budget. The SNP councillor added it is "not his job to sugar coat reality" as he laid bare the stark situation. He said that to minimise council tax increases

The Herald 4 **Cherry tells Sturgeon to 'eat some humble pie' over gender reforms** JOANNA Cherry has told Nicola Sturgeon to "eat some humble pie" as the rift between the two SNP figures further escalated over the party's gender recognition reforms. The dig at the First Minister from one of her MPs comes as Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville told those opposing the SNP's reforms to think about whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" policies to support. Ms

Daily Mail 8 **End delay to trans advice for teachers, urge MPs** MINISTERS were last night facing urgent calls to publish guidance for teachers which would help them block children from changing gender if they believe they are too young. Tory MPs and campaigners said 'foot dragging' by education officials was potentially failing to protect children from safeguarding risks. They also accused Whitehall of 'abandoning' teachers who want to delay children from starting on the path to transitioning too young, claiming that

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **SNP in crisis as sturgeon loyalist rounds on rebels** A LOYAL supporter of Nicola Sturgeon has launched a bit attack on the SNP's gender bill "comfortable" in the party. Nicola bitter bill rebels - questioning if they are "Internal splits over controversial TURN TO PAGE 4 controversy FROM PAGE ONE reforms to gender self-ID law have thrown the party into crisis and seen support plummet. But Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said the law changes were in the SNP's election-winning manifesto -

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Support for SNP drops following trans** SUPPORT for the SNP and Scottish independence has dropped, a new poll has suggested. The YouGov survey of 1,088 Scottish voters showed the party has lost ground, with backing dropping from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list, compared to the results of the same poll in December. And Scots have lost

Daily Mail 14 **Teachers need answers** HOW illuminating that after the transgender prisoner row blew a hole in the logic of Nicola Sturgeon's shambolic gender reforms, support for her and Scottish independence has plummeted. The public, unlike the SNP and Labour, are concerned that self-ID puts women and girls at risk from predatory males. So this is the perfect moment for the Government to reiterate that teachers are under no legal obligation to refer to children

The Herald 11 **All that pain and effort from the SNP for two lousy points?** THINK of all the effort: the 2014 referendum, the rows over Brexit, the calls for a second independence vote in 2016 and every single year thereafter, the Supreme Court case, the briefing papers, the street rallies, the clenched fists and the gritted teeth. And for what exactly? The SNP is two points ahead of where it was in 2014. Two. Lousy. Points. I must say, even I'm a bit surprised

The Courier (Main Edition) 17 **Sturgeon accused by Tories of 'short changing' the NHS** Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the first minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula, which delivers cash to devolved governments based on public spending south of the border. Pre-pandemic figures show that from 2008-09 to 2019-20, spending per head on

The Times (Scotland) 2 **SCOTLAND AND THE WORLD TODAY'S EDITION** Anger at cash for extremists Home Office officials responsible for the decision to fund groups that spread Islamist extremism should be sacked, according to a former counter-terrorism official. A review of the Prevent programme is due to be published this week. Page 4 Sturgeon 'must eat humble pie' Joanna Cherry has insisted that Nicola Sturgeon must "eat some humble pie" over her transgender policies after support for the party at

i (The paper for today) 9 **Transgender row hits support for SNP and Sturgeon in poll** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped amid the row over transgender prisoners, a poll suggests. The YouGov survey for The Sunday Times of 1,088 Scottish voters shows support for the party dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in

the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 to 36 per cent in the regional list, when compared with the results of the same poll in December. Support

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Wings and fake breasts available to Bryson** TRANSGENDER rapist Isla Bryson will have access to make-up, wigs, women's underwear and even fake breasts while serving time in a male prison under Scottish Prison Service policy, it can be revealed. Bryson is at the centre of a political storm after it was revealed the rapist, once a man called Adam Graham, swapped gender after being charged with two rapes. The 31-year-old was sent to Cornton Vale women's prison near

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **FEMINIST AND PRO-TRANS GROUPS RALLY** FEMINIST campaigners and rival groups of pro-trans activists were kept apart by police at rallies in Glasgow's George Square yesterday. The Let Women Speak rally was organised by Standing For Women, founded by feminist Kellie-Jay Keen, in response to the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Police were braced for disorder after a counter protest was announced by the Cabaret Against the Hate Speech and Furies Against Fascism - "pro-trans

i (The paper for today) 18 **First Minister dug herself into a hole** The Scotsman Nicola Sturgeon was making it up as she went along throughout the campaign to reform the Gender Recognition Act and she continues to do so now that the inevitable backlash threatens her career. (Euan McColm) The Sunday Times Almost lost in the debate are transgender and transsexual people, who will no doubt be pained by headlines associating identity changes with violence against women. Yet, women have the right

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Trans rights row hits streets as rival rallies stay apart** Hundreds of feminist campaigners and pro-trans activists were kept apart by police yesterday at rival rallies in George Square, Glasgow (Mary Wright writes). A Let Women Speak event was arranged by Standing for Women, a group set up by Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull as a response to the Scottish government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The legislation was passed by MSPs in December but has been blocked by the UK government. Two pro-trans

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Sturgeon must eat humble pie over gender policy, says Cherry** An SNP MP has insisted that Nicola Sturgeon must "eat some humble pie" over her transgender policies after support for the party at Holyrood slumped to a five-year low. Joanna Cherry is at odds with the SNP leadership over trans rights issues. She said that if the party failed to sort out the "mess" it would sustain more damage to its reputation and hurt the independence cause. A YouGov poll

The Daily Telegraph 6 **Eat humble pie and ditch trans laws, Sturgeon told** NICOLA STURGEON has been told to "eat some humble pie" and abandon her gender reforms after she recorded her worst ever approval rating. A poll carried out after the controversial decision to place transgender rapist Isla Bryson in a female jail suggests that the nationalists are haemorrhaging support owing to the First Minister's position on transgender rights. Ms Sturgeon's personal approval rating has fallen to minus four, YouGov research found,

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Ex Nat MSP McAlpine hits out at First Minister over gender reform** A FORMER Nationalist MSP has warned that Nicola Sturgeon must accept "personal responsibility for her personal passion" after driving through laws making it easier to change gender. Joan McAlpine said the First Minister has risked the safety of women and the cause of independence by making the legislation a flagship issue for her government. Weeks after the legislation was pushed through just before Christmas, double rapist Isla Bryson - who

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Even karaoke din of Dancing Queen failed to drown out women's anger** IT was billed as a potential powderkeg in the bitterly divisive gender war, and those with a dog in the fight came to bare their teeth. With flimsy sets of metal barriers keeping them at bay, hundreds of feminist campaigners confronted pro-trans rivals from opposite ends of George Square. The Let Women Speak event was a response to the SNP's contentious gender reforms, which were passed by a majority of

The Guardian 12 **SNP MPs' leader calls for respect in gender debate** Scottish National party politicians' opposition to legal changes on gender recognition should be "respected like any other conscience issue", according to the party's new Westminster leader Stephen Flynn. Discussing the issue that has convulsed the SNP since he was elected Westminster group leader in December, the Aberdeen South MP said: "Ultimately, they are a member of the Scottish National Party just as much as I am." This stands in contrast

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Has Sturgeon kept her Promise? In short, no** On February 5, 2020, the Independent Review of Care was published. Nicola Sturgeon declared that it was one of the most important moments of her tenure. She said the need for action was clear. The first minister said the Scottish government understood the extent of its obligations to the "care-experienced" community — people who spent some or all of their childhood in settings other than with their biological parents, from

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 21 **Sturgeon under fire at protest over gender bill** A controversial gender critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December but blocked by the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **sturgeon's gender bill is tearing snp apart** THE SNP is embroiled in fresh infighting and has seen its support dwindle amid the fallout from Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms. As public rows rage over the issue in the SNP, the Education Secretary suggested colleagues should not stand for the party if they do not support its stance in the gender debate. At the same time, a poll showed support for the SNP had fallen at Holyrood and Westminster,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 **Support for SNP, indyref and Nicola ALL down** SUPPORT for the SNP, Nicola Sturgeon and independence has fallen amid the row over gender laws. The furore - heightened by the scandal of trans rapist Isla Bryson being sent to a female prison - appears to have dealt a blow to the party, its leader and her cause.

A survey shows SNP support has dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **Slump in support for Scots independence** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for the Sunday Times of 1,088 Scottish voters shows support for the party dropped from 50% to 44% in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40% to 36% in the regional list, when compared to the results of the same poll in December. Support for independence also dropped substantially, from 53% to 47%

The Scotsman 6 **Support waning for Scotland to leave the UK, according to fresh poll** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for the Sunday Times of 1,088 voters in Scotland shows support for the party dropped from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list, when compared to the results of the same poll question in December.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 30 **Think you know everything about... RYAN REYNOLDS** 1 THE Canadian-born Hollywood star is co-owner of Welsh football club Wrexham AFC, a fifth-tier team which hit the headlines in its spirited FA Cup tie with Championship title contenders Sheffield United last week. Which of these duos did Reynolds recently meet on the Wrexham pitch? A. Victoria and David Beckham B. The King and Queen Consort C. Nicola Sturgeon and Theresa May D. Tom Jones and Catherine Zeta-Jones 2

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Strip the SNP of its sales patter and all you're left with is a chaotic mob** THE SNP is embroiled in so many rows these days it's hard to keep up. But there is one scandal ticking away in the background and set to explode in the very near future. That bombshell is council underfunding and when it detonates expect fiscal shrapnel to fly in every direction. We got another signal of the scale of the threat on Friday when the Institute for Fiscal Studies published

The Scotsman 1 **Minister urges SNP critics of gender reform to stand down** SNP politicians critical of Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms should consider whether to stand for the party at the next election, a senior Scottish Government minister has suggested. Shirley-Anne Somerville said opponents should question whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" which policies to support. Her comments came as SNP MP Joanna Cherry insisted it is time for the party to "eat some humble pie"

The Scotsman 20 **SNP rebels should call Sturgeon's bluff to save their cause** T he fate of Nicola Sturgeon's tenure as First Minister lies in the hands of SNP rebels. Sturgeon and her loyalists would have them stand down at the next election - instead they should call their bluff and force byelections against her leadership now. Humility is not the only attribute absent from the First Minister's personal strengths, so too is a willingness to find consensus, show contrition or craft a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **War refugees 'may end up living rough'** WOMEN and children who escaped Ukraine to be housed on a ferry in Scotland could end up living

rough, it has been warned. More than 1,100 people are in Glasgow on board the MS Ambition, which was chartered by the Scottish Government to accommodate refugees. But the lease expires at the end of next month, triggering a scramble among Scottish local authorities to find alternative housing. A local government

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Sturgeon losing her grip in gender fiasco** FOR years, internal dissent has been effectively banned within the ranks of the SNP under Nicola Sturgeon's iron grip. Now, with her gender reforms in danger of unravelling, one of her top ministers has sent a clear message to would-be rebels. Shirley-Anne Somerville advised opponents of the shambolic gender Bill to question whether they are 'comfortable' retaining their party membership - and whether they should stand as candidates. It is

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Rebels tell Sturgeon to 'eat humble pie' in trans row** NICOLA STURGEON has been told to "eat some humble pie" and abandon her gender reforms after support for the SNP plummeted and she recorded her worst ever approval rating. A new poll, carried out in the wake of the scandal over transgender rapist Isla Bryson being placed in a female jail, suggests that the nationalists are hemorrhaging support due to the First Minister's controversial positions on transgender rights. Ms Sturgeon's

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Trans rapist case has 'woken up' Scotland, says activist** A SCANDAL over a double rapist being placed in a female jail has caused Scotland to "wake up" to the dangers of transgender ideology, a controversial gender-critical campaigner has claimed. Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, which was passed by a majority of MSPs in December but blocked by the UK Government. Despite

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **SNP minister is 'prolific pedlar of fake fact'** ONE of Nicola Sturgeon's senior ministers used fake figures to boast about Scotland's wind energy potential to foreign politicians even after he was warned they were inaccurate, it has emerged. Angus Robertson, the SNP's constitution secretary, is facing accusations that he has broken the ministerial code after he ignored warnings from officials and repeated the debunked claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. SNP politicians

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **POLLS THREE AND QUEASY FOR NICOLA** NICOLA Sturgeon faced a triple whammy of disappointment yesterday as a poll revealed a dip in her own popularity — plus a slump in support for the Nats and independence. The survey found the First Minister's personal approval rating had fallen from +7 to -4 since October last year. Backing for the SNP at the next Scottish Parliament election also dropped six points. Numbers planning to vote for the party

The Sun (Scotland) 19 **SQUARE TACTICS** THOUSANDS of rival protesters faced off yesterday at demos over Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID law. Two arrests were made amid tense scenes in Glasgow's George Square. Throngs of activists opposing the Nats' reform bid brandished posters bearing slogans such as "No men in women's refuges". An image of trans double rapist Isla Bryson, 31 — who was formerly Adam Graham — was displayed alongside pics of other transgender criminals. And

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Costly diversion** NICOLA Sturgeon would probably claim she doesn't pay much attention to her own polling numbers. She's been the First Minister and SNP leader since 2014 and in this time, her own standing and that of her party has fluctuated. However, the Nats chief does now appear to be facing a real challenge to pull back support for the SNP and the independence cause. Polling guru Sir John Curtice suggests that

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

Daily Record 6 **Labour rage over Nats' teacher plan** COUNCILS fear the Government will strongarm them into ditching cuts to teacher numbers by playing hardball on £145million of funding. Local authority chiefs believe the cash could be used as a "sanction" to prevent classroom savings. Labour MSP Michael Marra said: "Panicking SNP ministers are descending to fines instead of finance for hard-pressed councils. "These people are meant to be running Scotland's education. I wouldn't send them out for a

The Herald 4 **Councils and teaching unions 'still some way apart' on resolving pay dispute** COUNCILS and teachers remain "some way apart" in resolving a pay dispute that has led to widespread strike action, Scotland's Education Secretary has warned. Shirley-Anne Somerville insisted it was for teaching unions to suspend strike action ahead of the exam period to ensure no disruption for pupils. However, opponents accused the Scottish Government of "doing nothing to win back the lost trust of teachers and parents". The latest pay offer,

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Call to halt school strikes for exams** Teaching unions must suspend strikes to ensure there is no disruption of the exam period in Scotland, the education secretary has said. A two-week rolling period of walkouts is due to end today in the teachers' dispute with councils and the Scottish government. More action is planned. Shirley-Anne Somerville confirmed that the two sides were still "some way apart". The latest offer amounts to a 5 per cent rise but

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Has Sturgeon kept her Promise? In short, no** On February 5, 2020, the Independent Review of Care was published. Nicola Sturgeon declared that it was one of the most important moments of her tenure. She said the need for action was clear. The first minister said the Scottish government understood the extent of its obligations to the "care-experienced" community — people who spent some or all of their childhood in settings other than with their biological parents, from

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **PUT students first and rule exam strikes out** SCOTLAND'S Education Secretary insisted it is up to the teaching unions to suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been involved in a bitter pay dispute with councils and the Scottish Government in recent months. A two-week rolling period of walkouts is due to finish today but there are more strikes in the pipeline. Shirley-Anne Somerville insisted the Scottish Government does not have

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Strip the SNP of its sales patter and all you're left with is a chaotic mob** THE SNP is embroiled in so many rows these days it's hard to keep up. But there is one scandal ticking away in the background and set to explode in the

very near future. That bombshell is council underfunding and when it detonates expect fiscal shrapnel to fly in every direction. We got another signal of the scale of the threat on Friday when the Institute for Fiscal Studies published

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Somerville urges teachers to avoid exam disruption** Scotland's Education Secretary has said that teaching unions should suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Government in recent months, and a two-week rolling period of walkouts was due to end today, although more action is planned. Speaking to BBC One Scotland's The Sunday Show, Shirley-Anne Somerville said that the parties were still "some way

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Firefighter action looms** Public safety during strike action by firefighters is the responsibility of the Government and fire chiefs, not striking workers, the head of the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) has warned. The union is expected to announce strike dates which will affect the whole UK in the coming days after members voted for a nationwide strike for the first time since 2003. Its general secretary, Matt Wrack said: "The question about public

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Somerville plea to scrap class strikes** TEACHERS should suspend their strike action while pay talks continue to keep Scotland's schools open, the education secretary said yesterday. Shirley-Anne Somerville stressed many pupils are soon to face exams and urged 'more compromise' from unions. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Scottish government, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today. Speaking to the BBC, the education secretary said the two sides were

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Let pupils sit exams in peace, Somerville urges unions** SCOTLAND's Education Secretary has called on teaching unions to "respect children's rights" and ensure exams are not disrupted by their strikes. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the SNP Government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today and more action planned. Strikes could continue into the exam period in the spring, which would make it the third out of the past

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 21 **Strike impact on exams 'up to unions' - minister** Scotland's education secretary has said it is for teaching unions to suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today and more action planned. Speaking to the BBC on Sunday, Shirley-Anne Somerville said the two sides were still "some way apart", with

The Scotsman 4 **Plans to ensure no exams hitches** Ministers are working on contingency plans to ensure exams are not disrupted by teacher strikes, Scotland's education secretary has said. Shirley-Anne Somerville called on trade union leaders to suspend any action that would threaten the exam period. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish on Monday and more action planned. Des Morris, the salaries

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Nat plea for exam strike KO** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville yesterday refused to rule out teacher strikes impacting on pupils' exams. She said the SNP Government was putting "contingencies" in place in the event of walkouts during the crucial period. But she urged unions to suspend action if there is no pay deal by April. Ms Somerville told BBC Scotland's The Sunday Show: "I'd like to think it wouldn't be difficult for trade unions to say,

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Must do better** THERE appears to be no end in sight to the teacher strikes across Scotland. Holyrood Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has said that no fresh pay offer will be tabled. Unions are calling for a ten per cent rise — something which Ms Somerville and the Scottish Government have insisted is not affordable. When she was quizzed on the issue yesterday, the SNP minister was unable to rule out the prospect

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Daily Record 6 **Labour rage over Nats' teacher plan** COUNCILS fear the Government will strongarm them into ditching cuts to teacher numbers by playing hardball on £145million of funding. Local authority chiefs believe the cash could be used as a "sanction" to prevent classroom savings. Labour MSP Michael Marra said: "Panicking SNP ministers are descending to fines instead of finance for hard-pressed councils. "These people are meant to be running Scotland's education. I wouldn't send them out for a

The Courier (Main Edition) 15 **It is on teachers' unions to stop exam disruption in dispute, says minister** Scotland's education secretary has said it is for teachers' unions to suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today and more action planned. Shirley-Anne Somerville told the BBC yesterday the two sides were still "some way apart", with the latest offer

The Courier (Main Edition) 14 **SNP rebel MSPs told to follow party line or leave** A senior SNP figure has said rebels should "question" if they want to stay in the party at the next election. Shirley-Anne Somerville, who has been a perennial cabinet member during the SNP's time in office and is now serving as Scotland's education secretary, weighed into the row started by MP Alyn Smith, who said those unwilling to support party positions should "stand as an individual". The issue has been

The Herald 4 **Cherry tells Sturgeon to 'eat some humble pie' over gender reforms** JOANNA Cherry has told Nicola Sturgeon to "eat some humble pie" as the rift between the two SNP figures further escalated over the party's gender recognition reforms. The dig at the First Minister from one of her MPs comes as Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville told those opposing the SNP's reforms to think about whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" policies to support. Ms

The Herald 4 **Councils and teaching unions 'still some way apart' on resolving pay dispute** COUNCILS and teachers remain "some way apart" in resolving a pay dispute that has led to widespread strike action, Scotland's Education Secretary has

warned. Shirley-Anne Somerville insisted it was for teaching unions to suspend strike action ahead of the exam period to ensure no disruption for pupils. However, opponents accused the Scottish Government of "doing nothing to win back the lost trust of teachers and parents". The latest pay offer,

The Herald 20 **Roofing boss is taking industry to new heights** A GUEST caller on the Go Radio Business Show has been praised for his responsible stance on protecting customers. Darren McGhee, managing director of DMG Services Group roofing contractors, was seeking advice from Sir Tom and Lord Haughey on how to introduce accreditation to the roofing industry. Mr McGhee said: "I'd like to make it a requirement that roofers must hold specific certification in a similar way to gas certification.

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Call to halt school strikes for exams** Teaching unions must suspend strikes to ensure there is no disruption of the exam period in Scotland, the education secretary has said. A two-week rolling period of walkouts is due to end today in the teachers' dispute with councils and the Scottish government. More action is planned. Shirley-Anne Somerville confirmed that the two sides were still "some way apart". The latest offer amounts to a 5 per cent rise but

Daily Mail 8 **End delay to trans advice for teachers, urge MPs** MINISTERS were last night facing urgent calls to publish guidance for teachers which would help them block children from changing gender if they believe they are too young. Tory MPs and campaigners said 'foot dragging' by education officials was potentially failing to protect children from safeguarding risks. They also accused Whitehall of 'abandoning' teachers who want to delay children from starting on the path to transitioning too young, claiming that

Daily Mail 14 **Teachers need answers** HOW illuminating that after the transgender prisoner row blew a hole in the logic of Nicola Sturgeon's shambolic gender reforms, support for her and Scottish independence has plummeted. The public, unlike the SNP and Labour, are concerned that self-ID puts women and girls at risk from predatory males. So this is the perfect moment for the Government to reiterate that teachers are under no legal obligation to refer to children

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Rebels told they may no longer belong in SNP** A senior SNP figure has urged rebels opposed to gender reforms to "question" whether they want to be in the party at the next election. Shirley-Anne Somerville, the education secretary, weighed into a row started by Alyn Smith, the SNP MP for Stirling, who said that those unwilling to support party positions should "stand as an individual". In December, nine MSPs voted against gender recognition reforms championed by the Scottish

The Guardian 16 **Parents of student who took own life condemn response to petition** The parents of Natasha Abrahart, who took her own life while studying at the University of Bristol, have reacted with "absolute horror" to the government's response to their petition calling for a statutory legal duty of care for all higher education students. The Abraharts are among 25 bereaved families who helped launch a parliamentary petition last October calling on ministers to pass a law to better protect students, saying their

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 21 **Strike impact on exams 'up to unions' - minister** Scotland's education secretary has said it is for teaching unions to suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today and more action planned. Speaking to the BBC on Sunday, Shirley-Anne Somerville said the two sides were still "some way apart", with

The Scotsman 20 **SNP rebels should call Sturgeon's bluff to save their cause** The fate of Nicola Sturgeon's tenure as First Minister lies in the hands of SNP rebels. Sturgeon and her loyalists would have them stand down at the next election - instead they should call their bluff and force by-elections against her leadership now. Humility is not the only attribute absent from the First Minister's personal strengths, so too is a willingness to find consensus, show contrition or craft a

The Scotsman 1 **Minister urges SNP critics of gender reform to stand down** SNP politicians critical of Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms should consider whether to stand for the party at the next election, a senior Scottish Government minister has suggested. Shirley-Anne Somerville said opponents should question whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" which policies to support. Her comments came as SNP MP Joanna Cherry insisted it is time for the party to "eat some humble pie"

The Scotsman 4 **Plans to ensure no exams hitches** Ministers are working on contingency plans to ensure exams are not disrupted by teacher strikes, Scotland's education secretary has said. Shirley-Anne Somerville called on trade union leaders to suspend any action that would threaten the exam period. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish on Monday and more action planned. Des Morris, the salaries

The Scotsman 26 **Quotas for students from deprived backgrounds are reasonable but not perfect** I have to be honest: when someone told me that the University of Edinburgh had last year only admitted young Scots from deprived areas or from underperforming schools to nine courses, including English, history and law, I thought they were kidding, that they had misunderstood something. Then it turned out that it was true, and my feeling of puzzlement turned to anger and incredulity. How can this possibly be? To

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **PUT students first and rule exam strikes out** SCOTLAND'S Education Secretary insisted it is up to the teaching unions to suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been involved in a bitter pay dispute with councils and the Scottish Government in recent months. A two-week rolling period of walkouts is due to finish today but there are more strikes in the pipeline. Shirley-Anne Somerville insisted the Scottish Government does not have

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **SNP in crisis as sturgeon loyalist rounds on rebels** A LOYAL supporter of Nicola Sturgeon has launched a bit attack on the SNP's gender balance "comfortable" in the party. Nicola's bitter bill rebels - questioning if they are "Internal

splits over controversial TURN TO PAGE 4 controver FROM PAGE ONE reforms to gender self-ID law have thrown the party into crisis and seen support plummet. But Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said the law changes were in the SNP's election-winning manifesto -

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Strip the SNP of its sales patter and all you're left with is a chaotic mob** THE SNP is embroiled in so many rows these days it's hard to keep up. But there is one scandal ticking away in the background and set to explode in the very near future. That bombshell is council underfunding and when it detonates expect fiscal shrapnel to fly in every direction. We got another signal of the scale of the threat on Friday when the Institute for Fiscal Studies published

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon's gender bill is tearing snp apart** THE SNP is embroiled in fresh infighting and has seen its support dwindle amid the fallout from Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms. As public rows rage over the issue in the SNP, the Education Secretary suggested colleagues should not stand for the party if they do not support its stance in the gender debate. At the same time, a poll showed support for the SNP had fallen at Holyrood and Westminster,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Sturgeon losing her grip in gender fiasco** FOR years, internal dissent has been effectively banned within the ranks of the SNP under Nicola Sturgeon's iron grip. Now, with her gender reforms in danger of unravelling, one of her top ministers has sent a clear message to would-be rebels. Shirley-Anne Somerville advised opponents of the shambolic gender Bill to question whether they are 'comfortable' retaining their party membership - and whether they should stand as candidates. It is

Daily Record 10 **Poll shows support for SNP in decline** SUPPORT for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a YouGov survey has suggested. The poll showed support fell from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list. This was compared to the results of the same poll in December. SNP support at Westminster dropped from 43 per cent to 42 per

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Somerville urges teachers to avoid exam disruption** Scotland's Education Secretary has said that teaching unions should suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Government in recent months, and a two-week rolling period of walkouts was due to end today, although more action is planned. Speaking to BBC One Scotland's The Sunday Show, Shirley-Anne Somerville said that the parties were still "some way

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Gender Bill rebels should 'question' future in the SNP** A senior SNP figure has said that rebels in her party should "question" whether they want to remain in it at the next election. Shirley-Anne Somerville, a perennial cabinet member during the SNP's time in office and now serving as Education Secretary, weighed into the row started by MP Alyn Smith, who said that those unwilling to support party positions should "stand as an individual". The issue has been sparked

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Somerville plea to scrap class strikes** TEACHERS should suspend their strike action while pay talks continue to keep Scotland's schools open, the education secretary said yesterday. Shirley-Anne Somerville stressed many pupils are soon to face exams and urged 'more compromise' from unions. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Scottish government, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today. Speaking to the BBC, the education secretary said the two sides were

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Let pupils sit exams in peace, Somerville urges unions** SCOTLAND's Education Secretary has called on teaching unions to "respect children's rights" and ensure exams are not disrupted by their strikes. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the SNP Government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today and more action planned. Strikes could continue into the exam period in the spring, which would make it the third out of the past

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Rebels tell Sturgeon to 'eat humble pie' in trans row** NICOLA STURGEON has been told to "eat some humble pie" and abandon her gender reforms after support for the SNP plummeted and she recorded her worst ever approval rating. A new poll, carried out in the wake of the scandal over transgender rapist Isla Bryson being placed in a female jail, suggests that the nationalists are haemorrhaging support due to the First Minister's controversial positions on transgender rights. Ms Sturgeon's

The Sun (Scotland) 13 **Don't leave our schools exposed to these threats** POLITICIANS and teaching unions hit out last night over the "terrifying" revelation that dozens of pupils have been suspended after weapons were seized in schools. A probe found there were 191 occasions when kids aged seven to 16 were found carrying potentially deadly items, including 37 knives. And 64 incidents which happened in school grounds were deemed so serious that they were reported to the police. In 47 instances, pupils

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Nat plea for exam strike KO** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville yesterday refused to rule out teacher strikes impacting on pupils' exams. She said the SNP Government was putting "contingencies" in place in the event of walkouts during the crucial period. But she urged unions to suspend action if there is no pay deal by April. Ms Somerville told BBC Scotland's The Sunday Show: "I'd like to think it wouldn't be difficult for trade unions to say,

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Must do better** THERE appears to be no end in sight to the teacher strikes across Scotland. Holyrood Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has said that no fresh pay offer will be tabled. Unions are calling for a ten per cent rise — something which Ms Somerville and the Scottish Government have insisted is not affordable. When she was quizzed on the issue yesterday, the SNP minister was unable to rule out the prospect

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **POLLS THREE AND QUEASY FOR NICOLA** NICOLA Sturgeon faced a triple whammy of disappointment yesterday as a poll revealed a dip in her own popularity — plus a slump in support for the Nats and independence. The survey found the First Minister's personal approval rating had fallen from +7 to -4 since

October last year. Backing for the SNP at the next Scottish Parliament election also dropped six points. Numbers planning to vote for the party

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Shining light on historic abuse allows victims to have a future** TALKING about past trauma can be extremely painful but can also be uplifting. The first week in February is Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week, a time to raise awareness of these terrible crimes. Daniel McGinn, a solicitor at Scots law firm Thorntons, has helped courageous victims of such offences to open up and tell their stories in court. While he knows no amount of compensation can ever make

4. JUSTICE

Daily Record 6 **Gender rally battle cry** THE Scottish Government has been thanked for "waking up" Scotland after the row over a rapist being placed in a women's jail. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against gender recognition reform proposals, passed by MSPs in December but blocked by the UK Government. Speaking in George Square, she attacked the Scottish Government over the case

Daily Record 12 **Biggest tax cheat is hit for £1.6m** PROSECUTORS have grabbed £1.6million in illegal earnings from a businessman believed to be Scotland's biggest tax cheat. Police searching Goljar Singh's house discovered suitcases filled with 3000 envelopes stuffed with more than £690,000 in cash. The money was seized under proceeds of crime laws. Singh's tax evasion was discovered after his bank accounts were flagged as having received large cash deposits from the same post office within weeks in March

Daily Record 6 **Fall in special constables** THE number of special constables in Scotland has slumped, the Scottish Conservatives have said, with 971 fewer on the beat than almost a decade ago. Police revealed there were 423 as of September, compared with the 1394 volunteering in 2014. Jamie Greene, the Scottish Conservatives' justice spokesman, called the drop "extremely alarming". The Scottish Government and Police Scotland has been approached for comment.

The Courier (Main Edition) 6 **Overdose remedy is used 11,500 times** Thousands of people have nearly died of an overdose since Scotland's drug problem was declared a public health emergency three years ago, Scottish Labour have said. The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) revealed in that time there have been more than 11,500 instances when paramedics have used naloxone, a medicine used to prevent fatal opioid overdoses, according to data obtained by the party using freedom of information powers. The potentially lifesaving

The Courier (Main Edition) 18 **Huge slump in number of special constables in 10 years to just 420** The number of special constables in Scotland has slumped, the Scottish Conservatives say, with 971 fewer on the beat than in 2014. Police Scotland admitted to the party that there were 423 in the force as of September, compared with the 1,394 volunteering to keep communities safe in 2014. Jamie Greene, the Scottish Conservatives' justice spokesman, called the drop "extremely alarming" and urged the Scottish Government to urgently "reverse this

The Herald 7 **Man gets £600,000 pay order in tax case** A MAN has been ordered to pay £600,000 under proceeds of crime legislation as a result of an unpaid tax case. Goljar Singh, 44, reached an agreement with the Civil Recovery Unit (CRU) and HMRC to hand over the money, in one of the largest settlements in the unit's history. He was tracked by police after several of his bank accounts were flagged as having received large cash deposits from

The Herald 4 **Cherry tells Sturgeon to 'eat some humble pie' over gender reforms** JOANNA Cherry has told Nicola Sturgeon to "eat some humble pie" as the rift between the two SNP figures further escalated over the party's gender recognition reforms. The dig at the First Minister from one of her MPs comes as Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville told those opposing the SNP's reforms to think about whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" policies to support. Ms

The Herald 4 **Tories hit out over 'dramatic' decline in number of special constables** SNP ministers have been accused of presiding over a "dramatic" drop in the number of special constables within Police Scotland, after figures revealed a huge cut over the space of seven years. Freedom of Information requests show there were just 423 special constables available to the force as of last September, compared to the 1,394 officers who were volunteering in 2014. The Scottish Conservatives have pointed to there now being

The Herald 4 **Rally told SNP has woken up Scotland over gender issue** A CONTROVERSIAL gender critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December but then blocked by

The Herald 4 **Warning as thousands saved after overdose** THOUSANDS of people have experienced near-fatal overdoses since Scotland's drug deaths crisis was declared a public health emergency - with new figures labelled "deeply concerning". Statistics released by the Scottish Ambulance Service show that, over the last three years, there have been more than 11,500 incidents where ambulance crews have administered naloxone, a medicine used to prevent fatal opioid overdoses. Naloxone rapidly reverses the effects of an overdose from opioids

The Herald 11 **All that pain and effort from the SNP for two lousy points? THINK** of all the effort: the 2014 referendum, the rows over Brexit, the calls for a second independence vote in 2016 and every single year thereafter, the Supreme Court case, the briefing papers, the street rallies, the clenched fists and the gritted teeth. And for what exactly? The SNP is two points ahead of where it was in 2014. Two. Lousy. Points. I must say, even I'm a bit surprised

The Herald 4 **Speed up call over police complaints** POLICE must offer reassurances about the speed of the complaints process, the Scottish LibDems have said, after it was revealed just 63 out of more than 4,000 made against officers led to management action. Between October 2021 and 2022, Police Scotland received

4,280 complaints about the behaviour of officers. Of those, some 1,324 are still being investigated, while 2,628 have been either abandoned, withdrawn or frontline resolved. Of the remaining

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Trans rights row hits streets as rival rallies stay apart** Hundreds of feminist campaigners and pro-trans activists were kept apart by police yesterday at rival rallies in George Square, Glasgow (Mary Wright writes). A Let Women Speak event was arranged by Standing for Women, a group set up by Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull as a response to the Scottish government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The legislation was passed by MSPs in December but has been blocked by the UK government. Two pro-trans

Daily Express 2 **Sturgeon's trans row hits support for independence** SUPPORT for Scottish independence is dwindling in a blow for Nicola Sturgeon as she suffers a backlash over "trans" biological males being held in women's prisons. The Scottish National Party is also losing popularity among voters north of the border. The YouGov survey shows backing for independence dropped from 53 per cent to 47 per cent among decided voters. The findings boost the Daily Express Unite The Kingdom crusade, which

Daily Mail 14 **Teachers need answers** HOW illuminating that after the transgender prisoner row blew a hole in the logic of Nicola Sturgeon's shambolic gender reforms, support for her and Scottish independence has plummeted. The public, unlike the SNP and Labour, are concerned that self-ID puts women and girls at risk from predatory males. So this is the perfect moment for the Government to reiterate that teachers are under no legal obligation to refer to children

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Sturgeon must eat humble pie over gender policy, says Cherry** An SNP MP has insisted that Nicola Sturgeon must "eat some humble pie" over her transgender policies after support for the party at Holyrood slumped to a five-year low. Joanna Cherry is at odds with the SNP leadership over trans rights issues. She said that if the party failed to sort out the "mess" it would sustain more damage to its reputation and hurt the independence cause. A YouGov poll

Daily Mail 8 **End delay to trans advice for teachers, urge MPs** MINISTERS were last night facing urgent calls to publish guidance for teachers which would help them block children from changing gender if they believe they are too young. Tory MPs and campaigners said 'foot dragging' by education officials was potentially failing to protect children from safeguarding risks. They also accused Whitehall of 'abandoning' teachers who want to delay children from starting on the path to transitioning too young, claiming that

i (The paper for today) 9 **Transgender row hits support for SNP and Sturgeon in poll** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped amid the row over transgender prisoners, a poll suggests. The YouGov survey for The Sunday Times of 1,088 Scottish voters shows support for the party dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 to 36 per cent in the regional list, when compared with the results of the same poll in December. Support

The Daily Telegraph 6 **Eat humble pie and ditch trans laws, Sturgeon told** NICOLA STURGEON has been told to "eat some humble pie" and abandon her gender reforms after she recorded her worst ever approval rating. A poll carried out after the controversial decision to place transgender rapist Isla Bryson in a female jail suggests that the nationalists are haemorrhaging support owing to the First Minister's position on transgender rights. Ms Sturgeon's personal approval rating has fallen to minus four, YouGov research found,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Call for pre-trial law to protect victims** Victims of violent crime may be made safer in their own home, thanks to a piece of legislation a Highlands and Islands MSP is fighting for. Inverness-based Emma Roddick has asked the Scottish Government to consider strengthening the law that would protect victims of crime in a pre-trial period. At the moment someone charged with a violent crime and released on bail could potentially live right next door to their

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 21 **Sturgeon under fire at protest over gender bill** A controversial gender critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December but blocked by the

The Scotsman 7 **Hundreds join rally in Glasgow against gender recognition reform** A gender reform critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow on Sunday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December, but blocked by

The Scotsman 6 **Support waning for Scotland to leave the UK, according to fresh poll** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for the Sunday Times of 1,088 voters in Scotland shows support for the party dropped from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list, when compared to the results of the same poll question in December.

The Scotsman 1 **Minister urges SNP critics of gender reform to stand down** SNP politicians critical of Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms should consider whether to stand for the party at the next election, a senior Scottish Government minister has suggested. Shirley-Anne Somerville said opponents should question whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" which policies to support. Her comments came as SNP MP Joanna Cherry insisted it is time for the party to "eat some humble pie"

The Scotsman 20 **SNP rebels should call Sturgeon's bluff to save their cause** The fate of Nicola Sturgeon's tenure as First Minister lies in the hands of SNP rebels. Sturgeon and her loyalists would have them stand down at the next election - instead

they should call their bluff and force byelections against her leadership now. Humility is not the only attribute absent from the First Minister's personal strengths, so too is a willingness to find consensus, show contrition or craft a

The Scotsman 5 **Tories call for more special constables** The number of special constables in Scotland has slumped, the Scottish Conservatives have said, with 971 fewer on the beat than almost a decade ago. Police Scotland told the party, which asked for the figures in a freedom of information request, that there were 423 in the force as of September, compared with the 1,394 volunteering to keep their communities safe in 2014. Jamie Greene, the Scottish Conservatives' justice spokesman,

The Scotsman 12 **Hardly any complaints against police lead force to take action** Police Scotland must offer reassurances about the speed and robustness of the force's complaints process, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said, after they revealed that just 63 out of the more than 4,000 complaints made against officers led to management action. Between October 2021 and 2022 the force received 4,280 complaints about the behaviour of police officers, a freedom of information request revealed, and of those some 1,324 are still

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Body of man recovered from water** THE body of a man was pulled from the water of a former dock in Edinburgh after an extensive search. Teams were sent to Victoria Quay basin in Leith on Friday night after reports of a man falling into the water. After a hunt lasting more than 37 hours, a body was found and recovered from the water, near one of the Scottish Government's buildings. A police spokesman said: "Inquiries are

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Tory anger over drop in special constables** THE SNP have presided over a "dramatic" drop in the number of special constables in Scotland, the Scottish Tories claim. Freedom of Information requests from the party show there were just 423 special constables available to the force as of September last year, compared to the 1,394 volunteering in 2014. Their numbers have fallen in each of the last few years, from 520 in March 2020 to 461 a year

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **FEMINIST AND PRO-TRANS GROUPS RALLY** FEMINIST campaigners and rival groups of pro-trans activists were kept apart by police at rallies in Glasgow's George Square yesterday. The Let Women Speak rally was organised by Standing For Women, founded by feminist Kellie-Jay Keen, in response to the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Police were braced for disorder after a counter protest was announced by the Cabaret Against the Hate Speech and Furies Against Fascism - "pro-trans

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Ex Nat MSP McAlpine hits out at First Minister over gender reform** A FORMER Nationalist MSP has warned that Nicola Sturgeon must accept "personal responsibility for her personal passion" after driving through laws making it easier to change gender. Joan McAlpine said the First Minister has risked the safety of women and the cause of independence by making the legislation a flagship issue for her government. Weeks after the legislation was pushed through just before Christmas, double rapist Isla Bryson - who

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Tax cheat told to pay £600k after joint op with police and HMRC** A MAN has been ordered to pay £600,000 under proceeds of crime legislation as a result of an unpaid tax case. Goljar Singh reached an agreement with the Civil Recovery Unit (CRU) and HMRC to hand over the money, in one of the largest settlements in the unit's history. The 44-year-old businessman, from East Lothian, was tracked by police after several of his bank accounts were flagged as having received

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Fury as fraction of cop complaints led to action** ONLY a fraction of complaints against police officers led to management action last year, according to figures uncovered by the Scottish Lib Dems. The party discovered there were a total of 4,280 grievances made over the behaviour of Police Scotland officers between October 2021 and 2022. However, just 63 led to management action. Of the complaints, 1,234 are still subject to live inquiry while more than half of the overall

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Support for SNP drops following tran** SUPPORT for the SNP and Scottish independence has dropped, a new poll has suggested. The YouGov survey of 1,088 Scottish voters showed the party has lost ground, with backing dropping from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list, compared to the results of the same poll in December. And Scots have lost

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **SNP in crisis as sturgeon loyalist rounds on rebels** A LOYAL supporter of NicSturgeon has launched a bitattack on the SNP's gender ba "comfortable" in the party. Nicola bitter bill rebels - questioning if they are "Internal splits over controversial TURN TO PAGE 4 controver FROM PAGE ONE reforms to gender self-ID law have thrown the party into crisis and seen support plummet. But Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said the law changes were in the SNP's election-winning manifesto -

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Trans paedophile in sex attack on girl, 14** A TRANSGENDER paedophile carried out a sex attack on a teenage girl while living as a man. Ryan Scott, who was born female, lured the schoolgirl back to their home after meeting up on Valentine's Day last year. The 20-year-old, born Coral Scott, pounced on the girl, who was just 14 at the time, and tried to engage her in sexual activity. After being caught, Scott set up fake social media

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Wings and fake breasts available to Bryson** TRANSGENDER rapist Isla Bryson will have access to make-up, wigs, women's underwear and even fake breasts while serving time in a male prison under Scottish Prison Service policy, it can be revealed. Bryson is at the centre of a political storm after it was revealed the rapist, once a man called Adam Graham, swapped gender after being charged with two rapes. The 31-year-old was sent to Cornton Vale women's prison near

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Scots drugs figures reveal s hugh numbers of overdoses** THOUSANDS of Scots have experienced near-fatal overdoses since the nation's drugs crisis was declared a public health emergency more than three years ago. Figures unearthed by Scottish Labour show that since then there have been more than 11,500 incidents where ambulance crews have administered naloxone - a

medicine that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdoses. Since 2008, after the SNP came to power, there have been over 45,000 incidents

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Sturgeon needs to admit defeat to save her party** THE division inside the SNP ranks is becoming more obvious by the day. Nicola Sturgeon has ruled her party with an iron fist, but now her hold on the ranks is slipping. The single issue of gender identity legislation has left her very possibly facing a fight for her own survival. Supporters are abandoning the party amid the controversial law, which has spectacularly backfired on the Holyrood administration. And if the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Even karaoke din of Dancing Queen failed to drown out women's anger** IT was billed as a potential powderkeg in the bitterly divisive gender war, and those with a dog in the fight came to bare their teeth. With flimsy sets of metal barriers keeping them at bay, hundreds of feminist campaigners confronted pro-trans rivals from opposite ends of George Square. The Let Women Speak event was a response to the SNP's contentious gender reforms, which were passed by a majority of

Daily Mail (Scotland) 11 **Just 1 in 70 police complaints end in force taking action** A TINY fraction of complaints about Scottish police officers result in action by their bosses, force statistics have revealed. Of 4,280 complaints made about the behaviour of Police Scotland officers over the course of a year, just 63 led to 'management' action. They included 21 allegations of criminal behaviour by serving officers. The figures, obtained by the Scottish Liberal Democrats, show that in the 12 months to October last year,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 **Support for SNP, indyref and Nicola ALL down** SUPPORT for the SNP, Nicola Sturgeon and independence has fallen amid the row over gender laws. The furore - heightened by the scandal of trans rapist Isla Bryson being sent to a female prison - appears to have dealt a blow to the party, its leader and her cause. A survey shows SNP support has dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Sturgeon losing her grip in gender fiasco** FOR years, internal dissent has been effectively banned within the ranks of the SNP under Nicola Sturgeon's iron grip. Now, with her gender reforms in danger of unravelling, one of her top ministers has sent a clear message to would-be rebels. Shirley-Anne Somerville advised opponents of the shambolic gender Bill to question whether they are 'comfortable' retaining their party membership - and whether they should stand as candidates. It is

Daily Mail (Scotland) 24 **£7.5m cost of policing eco-mobs for 9 weeks** THE Home Secretary declared yesterday that 'enough is enough' as it was revealed eco-zealots Just Stop Oil cost taxpayers £7.5million in policing in just nine weeks. Scotland Yard spent up to £630,000 a day dealing with their protests last autumn, data shows. The activists' stunts included climbing motorway gantries, blocking main roads in London, throwing soup over Vincent Van Gogh's sunflowers at the National Gallery and destroying a waxwork of

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Record sum recovered from suitcases stuffed with money** A man has been ordered to pay £600,000 under proceeds of crime legislation as a result of an unpaid tax case. Goljar Singh, 44, reached an agreement with the Civil Recovery Unit (CRU) and HMRC to hand over the money, in one of the largest settlements in the unit's history. Singh was tracked by police after several of his bank accounts were flagged as having received large cash deposits from

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Gender Bill rebels should 'question' future in the SNP** A senior SNP figure has said that rebels in her party should "question" whether they want to remain in it at the next election. Shirley-Anne Somerville, a perennial cabinet member during the SNP's time in office and now serving as Education Secretary, weighed into the row started by MP Alyn Smith, who said that those unwilling to support party positions should "stand as an individual". The issue has been sparked

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Firefighter action looms** Public safety during strike action by firefighters is the responsibility of the Government and fire chiefs, not striking workers, the head of the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) has warned. The union is expected to announce strike dates which will affect the whole UK in the coming days after members voted for a nationwide strike for the first time since 2003. Its general secretary, Matt Wrack said: "The question about public

Metro (Scotland) 6 **£600k seized after deposits spark probe** A MAN has been ordered to pay £600,000 under proceeds of crime legislation as a result of an unpaid tax case. Goljar Singh reached an agreement with the Civil Recovery Unit and HMRC to hand over the money in one of the largest settlements in the unit's history. The 44-year-old was tracked by police after several of his bank accounts were flagged as having received large cash deposits from the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Trans rapist case has 'woken up' Scotland, says activist** A SCANDAL over a double rapist being placed in a female jail has caused Scotland to "wake up" to the dangers of transgender ideology, a controversial gender-critical campaigner has claimed. Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, which was passed by a majority of MSPs in December but blocked by the UK Government. Despite

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Rebels tell Sturgeon to 'eat humble pie' in trans row** NICOLA STURGEON has been told to "eat some humble pie" and abandon her gender reforms after support for the SNP plummeted and she recorded her worst ever approval rating. A new poll, carried out in the wake of the scandal over transgender rapist Isla Bryson being placed in a female jail, suggests that the nationalists are haemorrhaging support due to the First Minister's controversial positions on transgender rights. Ms Sturgeon's

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Lib Dems criticise police complaint processes** Police Scotland must offer reassurances about the speed and robustness of the force's complaints process, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said, after they revealed that just 63 out of the more than 4,000 complaints made against officers led to management action. Between October 2021 and 2022 the force

received 4,280 complaints about the behaviour of police officers, a freedom of information request revealed, and of those some 1,324 are still

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Shining light on historic abuse allows victims to have a future** TALKING about past trauma can be extremely painful but can also be uplifting. The first week in February is Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week, a time to raise awareness of these terrible crimes. Daniel McGinn, a solicitor at Scots law firm Thorntons, has helped courageous victims of such offences to open up and tell their stories in court. While he knows no amount of compensation can ever make

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **POLLS THREE AND QUEASY FOR NICOLA** NICOLA Sturgeon faced a triple whammy of disappointment yesterday as a poll revealed a dip in her own popularity — plus a slump in support for the Nats and independence. The survey found the First Minister's personal approval rating had fallen from +7 to -4 since October last year. Backing for the SNP at the next Scottish Parliament election also dropped six points. Numbers planning to vote for the party

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Costly diversion** NICOLA Sturgeon would probably claim she doesn't pay much attention to her own polling numbers. She's been the First Minister and SNP leader since 2014 and in this time, her own standing and that of her party has fluctuated. However, the Nats chief does now appear to be facing a real challenge to pull back support for the SNP and the independence cause. Polling guru Sir John Curtice suggests that

The Sun (Scotland) 13 **Don't leave our schools exposed to these threats** POLITICIANS and teaching unions hit out last night over the "terrifying" revelation that dozens of pupils have been suspended after weapons were seized in schools. A probe found there were 191 occasions when kids aged seven to 16 were found carrying potentially deadly items, including 37 knives. And 64 incidents which happened in school grounds were deemed so serious that they were reported to the police. In 47 instances, pupils

The Sun (Scotland) 19 **SQUARE TACTICS** THOUSANDS of rival protesters faced off yesterday at demos over Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID law. Two arrests were made amid tense scenes in Glasgow's George Square. Throngs of activists opposing the Nats' reform bid brandished posters bearing slogans such as "No men in women's refuges". An image of trans double rapist Isla Bryson, 31 — who was formerly Adam Graham — was displayed alongside pics of other transgender criminals. And

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **Checks on hold** THOUSANDS of cops haven't had a full background check in over a decade, it's emerged. Only around a quarter have seen their finances, family and social life reviewed. It should happen every seven to ten years. Ex-Tayside top cop Angela Wilson, who runs a women's crisis centre in Dundee, said fresh scrutiny "must be a priority". The Scottish Police Authority said all staff will be checked against national systems. The

The Times (Scotland) 19 **Police pressed over complaints action** Police Scotland must offer reassurances about the way it handles complaints, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said. The party revealed that only 63 of the 4,280 complaints made against officers in the year to October had led to management action. A freedom of

information request showed that 1,324 of the cases were still being investigated and 2,628 had been either abandoned, withdrawn or "frontline resolved". Of the remaining 328 complaints,

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Daily Record 16 **Doc in PPE theft probe** A DOCTOR is being probed over the alleged theft of thousands of pounds of protective equipment at the height of the Covid pandemic. It is claimed that the 42-yearold swiped then sold life-saving items such as masks, face visors, and body suits from NHS facilities. The medic was employed by an agency which provided locums to Scottish NHS hospitals and surgeries when they are needed. The investigation centres on alleged

The Courier (Main Edition) 6 **Overdose remedy is used 11,500 times** Thousands of people have nearly died of an overdose since Scotland's drug problem was declared a public health emergency three years ago, Scottish Labour have said. The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) revealed in that time there have been more than 11,500 instances when paramedics have used naloxone, a medicine used to prevent fatal opioid overdoses, according to data obtained by the party using freedom of information powers. The potentially lifesaving

The Courier (Main Edition) 17 **Sturgeon accused by Tories of 'short changing' the NHS** Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the first minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula, which delivers cash to devolved governments based on public spending south of the border. Pre-pandemic figures show that from 2008-09 to 2019-20, spending per head on

Daily Record 7 **A 6-year wait in AGONY is nuts** HUMZA Yousaf has apologised to a man left in agony for SIX YEARS with severe testicular pain. The Health Secretary described the delay in patient Martin Brown's treatment as "unacceptable". The 52-year-old's condition is now so bad he can barely walk or spend time with his grandchildren. But last night, Labour's health spokeswoman Jackie Baillie hit out, saying: "Instead of apologising, Humza Yousaf should actually fix the problem. "After 15

Daily Record 8 **Waiting in pain** THE massive backlog for NHS treatments has left too many Scots feeling anxious and insecure. The latest horror story involves Musselburgh man Martin Brown, who has endured agonising testicular pain for six years. After waiting for surgery since June 2021, he eventually had an operation cancelled without any explanation. Martin says it affects every aspect of his life and he rarely ventures outside his home. "The pain is incredible -

The Courier (Main Edition) 30 **Drinks firms in plea over advertising** Leading companies in the drinks sector have joined forces to challenge the Scottish Government to call time on moves which could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Firms including the Budweiser Brewing Group, Lanson Champagne, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's Lager have all signed an open letter to

Holyrood ministers, saying: "Don't destroy Scotland's drinks industry." The letter, described as being an unprecedented display of concern from the sector, marks

The Herald 8 **Drinks sector calls on Holyrood to ditch alcohol ads crackdown** LEADING companies in the drinks sector have joined forces to urge the Scottish Government to call time on moves that could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Firms including Diageo, Whyte & Mackay, the Budweiser Brewing Group and Tennent's Lager have all signed an open letter to Holyrood ministers, saying: "Don't destroy Scotland's drinks industry." The letter, described as an unprecedented display of concern from the sector, outlines opposition to new

The Herald 4 **Warning as thousands saved after overdose** THOUSANDS of people have experienced near-fatal overdoses since Scotland's drug deaths crisis was declared a public health emergency - with new figures labelled "deeply concerning". Statistics released by the Scottish Ambulance Service show that, over the last three years, there have been more than 11,500 incidents where ambulance crews have administered naloxone, a medicine used to prevent fatal opioid overdoses. Naloxone rapidly reverses the effects of an overdose from opioids

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Advertising ban will destroy our industry, drinks giants warn** Some of the largest whisky and beer companies have united to demand that a proposed ban on alcohol advertising is scrapped. They say the move will "destroy Scotland's drinks industry". Companies including Budweiser Brewing Group, Lanson Champagne, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's Lager have signed an open letter to Holyrood ministers to urge them to abandon the plan, which at its most extreme would stop alcohol branding or

The Herald 13 **A warning on the dangers of a law on 'assisted dying'** IN Scotland, the implacable desire of those seeking to enable people to kill themselves more easily has endured for 13 years. A colossal amount of time, energy and money has been devoted to this project, involving dozens of MSPs, their advisors, the per-diem lobbying sector and at least two national newspapers. It betokens a culture of death in which the debate around "assisted dying" is framed in the most callously

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Has Sturgeon kept her Promise? In short, no** On February 5, 2020, the Independent Review of Care was published. Nicola Sturgeon declared that it was one of the most important moments of her tenure. She said the need for action was clear. The first minister said the Scottish government understood the extent of its obligations to the "care-experienced" community — people who spent some or all of their childhood in settings other than with their biological parents, from

The Scotsman 5 **Brewers call for restrictions to be axed in letter to the Scottish Government** Leading drinks companies including Budweiser Brewing Group and Tennent's Lager have joined forces to challenge the Scottish Government to call time on moves which could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Firms including Lanson Champagne, Diageo and Whyte & Mackay have joined Budweiser and Tennent's in signing an open letter to Holyrood ministers, saying: "Don't destroy Scotland's drinks industry." The letter, described as being an unprecedented display of concern from the sector,

The Scotsman 16 **Foodbanks for NHS staff in Lothians receive 'steady use'** Foodbanks operating in hospitals across the Lothians to help NHS staff, including nurses, cope with the spiralling cost-of-living crisis have been receiving "steady use". The trade union Unison said seven sites opened at the start of the year and will run for three months, in partnership with local charities. Tracy Anne Miller, Unison Lothian's health branch secretary, said the "food pantries" started after stories emerged on social media of staff

The Scotsman 1 **Drinks firms challenge plan to ban alcohol advertising** Firms including the Budweiser Brewing Group, Lanson Champagne, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's Lager have signed an open letter to the Scottish Government challenging moves that could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Signatories also include Belhaven, Brewdog, Chivas Brothers/Pernod Ricard, The Macallan, and the Molson Coors Beverage Company, and a number of smaller producers. 3 FULL STORY, PAGE 5

The Scotsman 22 **Mental health** We are at the start of Children's Mental Health Week (6-12 February), which shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. The rise in such problems over recent years has previously been labelled as a mental health crisis and one of the greatest public health challenges of our times. These problems are even more worrying when they concern the mental fitness of our younger generations,

The Scotsman 20 **Ministers must heed drink sector concern** As a nation, Scotland drinks too much. According to Alcohol Focus Scotland, around one in four Scots drinks a hazardous or harmful amount, which has been defined as more than 14 units a week. The consequences of excess alcohol consumption are clear, both in terms of public health and alcohol-related crime. In response to this problem, the Scottish Government is consulting on a ban on alcohol sponsorship for sport

The Scotsman 19 **Wait for justice over infected blood scandal shouldn't have been so long** For families affected by the contaminated blood scandal it must have felt as if last Friday was a day that would never come. Thirty years and more after their ordeal began, the final evidence in the worst health treatment disaster in British history was laid before the UK-wide inquiry which had taken decades to secure. And now they must all wait, again, for the report. It is difficult to

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Drinks firms challenge ministers on curbs that could 'destroy' industry** Leading companies in the drinks sector have joined forces to challenge the Scottish Government to call time on moves which could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Firms including the Budweiser Brewing Group, Lanson Champagne, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's Lager have all signed an open letter to Holyrood ministers, saying: "Don't destroy Scotland's drinks industry." The letter, described as being an unprecedented display of concern from the sector, marks

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The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Who is going to stand up and fight for Aberdeen and the north-east?** The city of Aberdeen is on its knees and desperately needs quality leadership. Recently, it seems the political system has failed the citizens. Our council is led by the SNP, and our city SNP MSPs, Kevin Stewart, Jackie Dunbar and Audrey Nicoll represent us in Holyrood, although their combined influence has gone either unseen or ignored by their colleagues. We lost out on the Acorn carbon capture and storage project,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Protect health of vital industry** Clearly, there will be conflict when it comes to tackling the impact alcohol-related harm has on our underpressure NHS and the impact any changes in regulations could have on companies in the trade across Scotland. But now we have more than 100 drinks firms putting their names to a letter challenging the Scottish Government's plans. Their case is strong - an industry employing 88,700 people and contributing £6.1 billion gross

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Drinks firms join forces to oppose advertising ban** BUDWEISER, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's Lager are among firms in the drinks sector who have teamed up to challenge threats to alcohol advertising and marketing. More than 100 drinks firms have signed an open letter to Holyrood ministers outlining their opposition to Scottish government proposals to ban alcohol sponsorship for both sports and live events. Ministers are also considering a ban on branded merchandise, all outdoor advertising of

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Scots drugs figures reveal s high numbers of overdoses** THOUSANDS of Scots have experienced near-fatal overdoses since the nation's drugs crisis was declared a public health emergency more than three years ago. Figures unearthed by Scottish Labour show that since then there have been more than 11,500 incidents where ambulance crews have administered naloxone - a medicine that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdoses. Since 2008, after the SNP came to power, there have been over 45,000 incidents

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **100 global drink giants challenge Nicola's ban on booze ads** DRINKS companies have demanded the SNP Government call time on proposals to outlaw alcohol advertising, warning it could 'destroy' the industry. Major firms including Budweiser, Lanson Champagne, Guinness producers Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's have signed an open letter to ministers over fears of a blanket ban. The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on proposals to outlaw breweries and distilleries from selling any branded products and force pubs

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Drinks chiefs say Nats plans could kill sector** DRINKS companies have challenged the Scottish Government plan to ban alcohol advertising, claiming the move could kill the industry. Firms including Budweiser, Lanson Champagne, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's signed an open letter to Scottish ministers, urging: "Don't destroy Scotland's drinks industry." More than 100

drinks firms from across Scotland have put their names to the letter, with signatories also including Belhaven, Brewdog, Chivas Brothers/ Pernod Ricard, Macallan, and

Daily Record 4 **don't destroy drink industry** LEADING firms in the drinks sector have joined forces to challenge the Scottish Government to call time on moves which could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Companies including the Budweiser Brewing Group, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay, Tennent's Lager and Lanson Champagne have all signed an open letter to Holyrood ministers saying: "Don't destroy Scotland's drinks industry." The letter, described as being an unprecedented display of concern from the sector, marks the

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6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

The Courier (Main Edition) 8 **New fund to protect numbers of wild salmon** A new fund has been launched by salmon farmers to help save Scotland's stocks in the wild. It will focus on habitat protection, protection from predators, and restocking programmes. But in making the cash available, the head of the fish farm industry body blasted the "handful of urban activists who live far from rural Scotland (who) are determined to shut down salmon farms and make 12,000 people unemployed". The Salmon

The Courier (Main Edition) 14 **Land reformer pushes for limits on subsidies** The top 100 landowners in Scotland should be named in a "rich list" which shows how much public money they get, according to a former government minister. Peter Peacock's plan includes demands for an inquiry into the level of government handouts to estate owners. The land reform campaigner, who served as education minister in Jack McConnell's Holyrood administration, was one of the first prominent figures to call for action over

The Herald 1 **Appeal over salmon farm plan** AN appeal against a national park authority's decision to reject plans to create a new salmon farm is being lodged. Developers have revealed they submitted an appeal after proposals for a new site near Arrochar were turned down by the Board of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Loch Long Salmon said its project "demonstrates the commercial viability" of an aquaculture technology farming system. Full Story: Page 7

The Herald 7 **Salmon farm developer appeals against rejection of park project** DEVELOPERS behind a rejected bid to create a new salmon farm near Arrochar have announced plans to appeal the decision. Loch Long Salmon confirmed today that they have submitted an appeal for their proposed Beinn Reithe project. They will argue that the rejection of the plan in October 2022 by the Board of Loch Lomond

& The Trossachs National Park was "fundamentally flawed and based on fear and a misunderstanding"

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The Herald 20 **Legislators not 'working with people' to create solutions** TWO of Scotland's most successful entrepreneurs have expressed their deep concerns that both the UK and Scottish governments are not working with ordinary people to reach the right decisions about finance and the future of the economy. Speaking on the Go Radio Business Show With Hunter & Haughey, Lord Willie Haughey said: "Our friend Stuart Patrick, the chief executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, has been in the news, having

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Advertising ban will destroy our industry, drinks giants warn** Some of the largest whisky and beer companies have united to demand that a proposed ban on alcohol advertising is scrapped. They say the move will "destroy Scotland's drinks industry". Companies including Budweiser Brewing Group, Lanson Champagne, Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's Lager have signed an open letter to Holyrood ministers to urge them to abandon the plan, which at its most extreme would stop alcohol branding or

The Herald 1 **Moscow firm in bid to break boycott on whisky** A MOSCOW vodka maker has announced concrete plans to break the Scotch whisky boycott of Russia. The giant Beluga Group says it will import more than 300,000 bottles of Johnnie Walker this year - with the blessing of the Kremlin. The company has formally lodged its intention to bring the whisky into Russia without the permission of the brand's owner, Diageo. Vladimir Putin's government late last year announced it would

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Drinks deposit plan 'worst idea I've seen in 43 years in politics'** The recycling policy of the Scottish government, criticised as "unworkable" by 600 businesses, has been described by a former SNP minister as the "worst" in his 43 years in politics. Fergus Ewing said the deposit return scheme would "decimate" the drinks sector and he warned that tens of thousands of businesses would face "severe adverse consequences". The initiative is set to be launched in August. Ewing, 65, the MSP for

The Scotsman 20 **Ministers must heed drink sector concern** As a nation, Scotland drinks too much. According to Alcohol Focus Scotland, around one in four Scots drinks a hazardous or harmful amount, which has been defined as more than 14 units a week. The consequences of excess alcohol consumption are clear, both in terms of public health and alcohol-related crime. In response to this problem, the Scottish Government is consulting on a ban on alcohol sponsorship for sport

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The Scotsman 18 **Firm appeals ruling to block new salmon farm in national park** A company behind plans to build a salmon farm in Loch Long has said it will challenge a national park's decision to block the project. Loch Long Salmon wanted to build the farm in the loch at Beinn Reithe, near Arrochar. It would have been the first in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and the first farm in Scotland to use semi-closed aquaculture technology. But the firm

The Scotsman 5 **Brewers call for restrictions to be axed in letter to the Scottish Government** Leading drinks companies including Budweiser Brewing Group and Tennent's Lager have joined forces to challenge the Scottish Government to call time on moves which could restrict alcohol advertising and marketing. Firms including Lanson Champagne, Diageo and Whyte & Mackay have joined Budweiser and Tennent's in signing an open letter to Holyrood ministers, saying: "Don't destroy Scotland's drinks industry." The letter, described as being an unprecedented display of concern from the sector,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Calls for top landowners to be named in 'rich list'** The top 100 landowners in Scotland should be named in a "rich list" which shows how much public money they get, according to a former government minister. Peter Peacock's plan includes demands for an inquiry into the level of government handouts to already-wealthy estate owners. The land reform campaigner, who served as education minister in Jack McConnell's Holyrood administration, was one of the first prominent figures to call for action

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Protect health of vital industry** Clearly, there will be conflict when it comes to tackling the impact alcohol-related harm has on our underpressure NHS and the impact any changes in regulations could have on companies in the trade across Scotland. But now we have more than 100 drinks firms putting their names to a letter challenging the Scottish Government's plans. Their case is strong - an industry employing 88,700 people and contributing £6.1 billion gross

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Green lairds rich list 'can expose handouts culture'** A NORTH campaigner has demanded the Scottish Government publish a list of the country's top 100 richest landowners and how much cash they receive in public handouts. Former Labour MSP and Cabinet minister Peter Peacock is also calling for an inquiry into the level of subsidies being given to wealthy estate owners. Stepping up his action against so-called "green lairds", Mr Peacock said: "It is time for a full investigation

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 27 **Salmon farms not to blame for decline** The number of wild Atlantic salmon returning to rivers across

Scotland from their oceanic feeding grounds has been in decline since records began in 1971. Back then, the number was around 1.2 million fish, whereas now the estimate is about 360,000. The most worrying aspect of this decline is that we don't know why it is happening, a point made by the King when he spoke at the 50th anniversary

Daily Express (Scotland) 23 **Leap of faith as bosses fight ban on salmon farm** A COMPANY behind plans to build a salmon farm in a picturesque national park is fighting the decision to block the project. Loch Long Salmon wants to construct the farm in the loch at the foot of Beinn Reithe, near Arrochar. It would be the first in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park as well as the first farm in Scotland to use semi-closed aquaculture technology. However, in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **100 global drink giants challenge Nicola's ban on booze ads** DRINKS companies have demanded the SNP Government call time on proposals to outlaw alcohol advertising, warning it could 'destroy' the industry. Major firms including Budweiser, Lanson Champagne, Guinness producers Diageo, Whyte & Mackay and Tennent's have signed an open letter to ministers over fears of a blanket ban. The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on proposals to outlaw breweries and distilleries from selling any branded products and force pubs

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7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

The Courier (Main Edition) 14 **Land reformer pushes for limits on subsidies** The top 100 landowners in Scotland should be named in a "rich list" which shows how much public money they get, according to a former government minister. Peter

Peacock's plan includes demands for an inquiry into the level of government handouts to estate owners. The land reform campaigner, who served as education minister in Jack McConnell's Holyrood administration, was one of the first prominent figures to call for action over

Daily Record 8 **Brain tumour OAP denied energy help due to £6.50 debt** ENERGY companies are leaving vulnerable customers "in the cold and dark" amid the worst cost of living crisis in living memory. One Scots pensioner who had survived a brain tumour but was left with ongoing health problems was refused help when he was left with just £1 of emergency credit in his prepayment meter. His energy supplier said he wasn't entitled to any assistance - because his account was £6.50

The Herald 7 **Salmon farm developer appeals against rejection of park project** DEVELOPERS behind a rejected bid to create a new salmon farm near Arrochar have announced plans to appeal the decision. Loch Long Salmon confirmed today that they have submitted an appeal for their proposed Beinn Reithe project. They will argue that the rejection of the plan in October 2022 by the Board of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park was "fundamentally flawed and based on fear and a misunderstanding"

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The Herald 12 **We need real and radical change in way we run our utilities in Scotland** BRITISH Gas, EDF and other members of the Big Six have been breaking into homes, effectively disconnecting families and leaving them to freeze - use whatever variant of company-speak you like to describe it. So where is the outrage? For one day, anyway, there was some on the normally reserved Today Programme, where presenter Justin Webb asked: "What on earth were they thinking?" Actually, the real puzzle is what were

The Herald 1 **Anger as only one government building is using a heat pump** MINISTERS have come under fire as it is revealed that just one Scottish Government building is making use of eco-friendly heat pumps despite the SNP drive to ban fossil fuel boilers. The government accepted that the pathway to net zero for Scotland requires a rapid large-scale decarbonisation of heat. To facilitate this, the Heat In Buildings Strategy, launched in February 2021, set out the Scottish Government's ambition to double the

The Herald 15 **Meeting green building targets will impact on us all** HOLYROOD has ambitiously committed Scotland to becoming a net zero society by 2045 so, given that around 40% of current carbon emissions come from buildings, modernising them is paramount. Creating brand-new greener structures is one thing, but by far the bigger challenge is that 80% of buildings that will exist in 2045 are already here. Everything from our cherished Victorian tenements to beautiful old schools and landmark public buildings

The Herald 21 **Councils must weigh impact of tax rises on households** LAST spring, retailers thought the tough times were ending. The Omicron wave was set to give way to a consumer spending boost as we unlocked from pandemic-era restrictions. Yet the conflict in Ukraine intervened and turbocharged inflation, particularly the price of energy and ingredients used in food production. Soaring prices have shellacked household disposable incomes, with demand across consumer-facing sectors faltering. Scots have had little respite from the cost-of-living squeeze,

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Drinks deposit plan 'worst idea I've seen in 43 years in politics'** The recycling policy of the Scottish government, criticised as "unworkable" by 600 businesses, has been described by a former SNP minister as the "worst" in his 43 years in politics. Fergus Ewing said the deposit return scheme would "decimate" the drinks sector and he warned that tens of thousands of businesses would face "severe adverse consequences". The initiative is set to be launched in August. Ewing, 65, the MSP for

The Herald 20 **Legislators not 'working with people' to create solutions** TWO of Scotland's most successful entrepreneurs have expressed their deep concerns that both the UK and Scottish governments are not working with ordinary people to reach the right decisions about finance and the future of the economy. Speaking on the Go Radio Business Show With Hunter & Haughey, Lord Willie Haughey said: "Our friend Stuart Patrick, the chief executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, has been in the news, having

The Scotsman 40 **Bridging the knowledge gap** Scotland pioneered the oil and gas industry and is now helping drive the energy transition from creating cross-sector renewable supply chains to the world's deepest fixed-bottom wind farm. As an engineering student with a passion for change management, Scotland's energy transition presented me with an exciting opportunity to help traditional industries navigate digital transformation and decarbonisation. Legacy industries such as offshore oil and gas have lagged on digital transformation due

The Scotsman 18 **Firm appeals ruling to block new salmon farm in national park** A company behind plans to build a salmon farm in Loch Long has said it will challenge a national park's decision to block the project. Loch Long Salmon wanted to build the farm in the loch at Beinn Reithe, near Arrochar. It would have been the first in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and the first farm in Scotland to use semi-closed aquaculture technology. But the firm

The Scotsman 2 **MSPs to hear ferry woes far wider than just CalMac** What's Europe's busiest single-vessel ferry route? It might surprise you, as it did me, that it's the Corran ferry - across Loch Linnhe, south of Fort William, to the Ardgour peninsula. The service carries 270,000 cars annually and is growing at 2 per cent a year. However, what might appear to be a success story masks a chronic problem that's affecting this vital link just as much as the

The Scotsman 14 **UK government rail shake-up could see return tickets axed** Return rail tickets are to be scrapped for cross-Border and other English-based train operators under plans to be announced tomorrow, according to reports. They would be replaced by passengers buying two single journeys for round trips, as East

Coast operator London North Eastern Railway trialled in 2020. There could also be a renewed effort on shifting passengers from paper tickets to tickets stored on smartphones and other mobile devices. The

The Scotsman 1 **A9 dualling delay and over budget** MSPs are expected to hear this week that the cost of the delayed next stage of dualling the A9 has rocketed. Work on the six-mile section between Tomatin and Moy near Inverness was due to start months ago. 3 FULL STORY, PAGE 10

The Scotsman 24 **Scotland blasts off to the final frontier** In October 2021 the Scottish Government published its Space Strategy setting out Scotland's ambition to become Europe's leading space nation. Committing to the delivery of a dedicated launch capability by summer 2023, and with five spaceports in development across the country, it targets a £4 billion share of the global space market, generating 20,000 jobs by 2030. This target reflects a current 12 per cent year-on-year growth of the sector,

The Scotsman 10 **SNP slammed over latest A9 dualling delay** Ministers are poised to announce the fate of only the third section of the A9 to be dualled since they pledged to complete the upgrade of the route between Perth and Inverness 15 years ago, amid claims the costs have soared. MSPs are expected to receive an update at Holyrood on Wednesday, months after work on the six-mile Tomatin-Moy section near Inverness was due to start. Industry sources have told

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 25 **Geothermal's key role in the energy transition** Transitioning to a sustainable energy future requires the increased and widespread use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, wind, and bioenergy. While each renewable energy source competes for market share, a coordinated effort from all renewables is required to meet carbon neutrality objectives. The success of renewable energy technology is influenced by the adoption of beneficial laws and policies, funding, institutional and human capacity, and public acceptance. Due

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 2 **Oil downturns sink subsea capability** The renowned UK subsea industry has lost 20% of its capability due to recent oil downturns, according to a membership body - and there's an urgent need for joined-up thinking to deliver on the "tsunami" of energy transition opportunity ahead. Neil Gordon, CEO of the Global Underwater Hub (GUH), said opportunities across oil and gas, decommissioning, offshore wind and areas like carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) are expected to

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Green lairds rich list 'can expose handouts culture'** A NORTH campaigner has demanded the Scottish Government publish a list of the country's top 100 richest landowners and how much cash they receive in public handouts. Former Labour MSP and Cabinet minister Peter Peacock is also calling for an inquiry into the level of subsidies being given to wealthy estate owners. Stepping up his action against so-called "green lairds", Mr Peacock said: "It is time for a full investigation

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Who is going to stand up and fight for Aberdeen and the north-east?** The city of Aberdeen is on its knees and desperately needs quality leadership. Recently, it seems the political system has failed the citizens. Our council is led by the SNP, and our city SNP MSPs, Kevin Stewart, Jackie Dunbar and Audrey Nicoll represent us in Holyrood, although their combined influence has gone either unseen or ignored by their colleagues. We lost out on the Acorn carbon capture and storage project,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 24 **Autonomous subs key for independent navy** If the Russian invasion of Ukraine has taught us anything it's that war isn't now so much a matter of slugging it out hand to hand on the battlefield and firing big lumps of metal at each other, although sadly that still happens, but increasingly about making far greater use of remote controlled and autonomous or semi autonomous weaponry. It's also not just about using drones as observation platforms, target

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Energy strategy under spotlight in Holyrood** Energy policy and legislation has dominated the political agenda at Holyrood and Westminster since parliamentarians returned in January. At Holyrood, the Scottish Government published a draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, setting out a roadmap to deliver a fair and secure zerocarbon energy system for Scotland. The draft includes a Just Transition Plan for the energy sector, detailing the support being provided to grow Scotland's highly skilled energy workforce,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **Latest ESG report out** On December 15 2022, the North Sea Transition Authority ("NSTA") published its first ESG Disclosure Report (the "ESG Report") since the revised OGA Strategy came into force on February 11 2021. Pursuant to the Central Obligation of the OGA Strategy (as updated in 2021), relevant persons are required, in taking steps to achieve maximum economically recoverable petroleum in the UKCS, to "take appropriate steps to assist the secretary of state

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 32 **Swifter action needed over electricity market** While the country cries out for cheap electricity, it seems perverse to fork out hundreds of millions of pounds to pay wind farm operators not to generate electricity. And it is equally odd to allow renewables generators to make so much money from paying a price tied to the cost of gas that the government then imposes a windfall tax to claw back some of the surplus profits. For Scottish

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 17 **Residents say feral pigs are a horrid bore** Concerns have been raised about a marauding squad of wild boar on the shores of Loch Ness. Complaints range from the boar digging up fields, attacking people walking dogs and attacking other wild animals - and now Highlanders want something done about them. Free-ranging, breeding populations of pigs have established in the Highlands following recent escapes or deliberate releases from wild boar farms or collections. Wild boar interbreed with domestic

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Calls for top landowners to be named in 'rich list'** The top 100 landowners in Scotland should be named in a

"rich list" which shows how much public money they get, according to a former government minister. Peter Peacock's plan includes demands for an inquiry into the level of government handouts to already-wealthy estate owners. The land reform campaigner, who served as education minister in Jack McConnell's Holyrood administration, was one of the first prominent figures to call for action

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 20 **New subsea hub will 'accelerate transition'** The multi-millionpound National Subsea Centre opened its doors this year following a turbulent development process hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Dyce-based facility brought in collaboration between Robert Gordon University and Net Zero Technology Centre was launched by Scottish Government energy secretary Michael Matheson and UK Scotland Office minister Malcolm Offord. The National Subsea Centre (NSC) has hit the ground running with its work on the "SeaSense" project which will

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 27 **Salmon farms not to blame for decline** The number of wild Atlantic salmon returning to rivers across Scotland from their oceanic feeding grounds has been in decline since records began in 1971. Back then, the number was around 1.2 million fish, whereas now the estimate is about 360,000. The most worrying aspect of this decline is that we don't know why it is happening, a point made by the King when he spoke at the 50th anniversary

Daily Express (Scotland) 23 **Leap of faith as bosses fight ban on salmon farm** A COMPANY behind plans to build a salmon farm in a picturesque national park is fighting the decision to block the project. Loch Long Salmon wants to construct the farm in the loch at the foot of Beinn Reithe, near Arrochar. It would be the first in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park as well as the first farm in Scotland to use semi-closed aquaculture technology. However, in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 20 **The 'green' wind farms powered by...dirty diesel!** DIESEL was used to run scores of giant turbines on Scottish wind farms, it has been revealed. ScottishPower admits 71 turbines had to be hooked up to generators using the polluting fossil fuel due to a fault on the national grid. The firm said it was forced to intervene in order to keep the turbines warm when cold weather hit in December. Some 60 turbines at Arecleoch Wind Farm in

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **SNP minister is 'prolific pedlar of fake fact'** ONE of Nicola Sturgeon's senior ministers used fake figures to boast about Scotland's wind energy potential to foreign politicians even after he was warned they were inaccurate, it has emerged. Angus Robertson, the SNP's constitution secretary, is facing accusations that he has broken the ministerial code after he ignored warnings from officials and repeated the debunked claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. SNP politicians

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Eco-planning changes could sink retail park** Campaigners say new government guidelines could scupper plans for an "eco-disaster" retail park outside Banchory. Developers last month revealed proposals to build a Lidl, M&S Food store, Home Bargains, garden centre and Starbucks drivethru behind the town's Tesco. But just days later, the Scottish

Government rolled out changes that could hamper the scheme. Ministers passed new planning guidelines aimed at fighting the climate crisis, which are to be followed by

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

The Courier (Main Edition) 6 **'Nightmare' tax hikes and service cuts loom** Dundee leader John Alexander has warned taxpayers they face council tax rise and cuts to services to plug an £18 million budget blackhole. The council chief said there are "no quick fixes" with the council facing "huge challenges" to balance its budget. The SNP councillor added it is "not his job to sugar coat reality" as he laid bare the stark situation. He said that to minimise council tax increases

The Courier (Main Edition) 1 **Deer numbers threaten future of ancient forest** Soaring deer numbers are threatening to extinguish the last pockets of an ancient forest in Highland Perthshire, according to a new study. The Black Wood of Rannoch on the southern bank of Loch Rannoch contains some of the largest areas of ancient pine forest in Scotland. But the area is under threat as the deer population has doubled in the past 30 years, and old deer fences to protect the

Daily Record 8 **Brain tumour OAP denied energy help due to £6.50 debt** ENERGY companies are leaving vulnerable customers "in the cold and dark" amid the worst cost of living crisis in living memory. One Scots pensioner who had survived a brain tumour but was left with ongoing health problems was refused help when he was left with just £1 of emergency credit in his prepayment meter. His energy supplier said he wasn't entitled to any assistance - because his account was £6.50

Daily Record 6 **Labour rage over Nats' teacher plan** COUNCILS fear the Government will strongarm them into ditching cuts to teacher numbers by playing hardball on £145million of funding. Local authority chiefs believe the cash could be used as a "sanction" to prevent classroom savings. Labour MSP Michael Marra said: "Panicking SNP ministers are descending to fines instead of finance for hard-pressed councils. "These people are meant to be running Scotland's education. I wouldn't send them out for a

The Herald 4 **Councils and teaching unions 'still some way apart' on resolving pay dispute** COUNCILS and teachers remain "some way apart" in resolving a pay dispute that has led to widespread strike action, Scotland's Education Secretary has warned. Shirley-Anne Somerville insisted it was for teaching unions to suspend strike action ahead of the exam period to ensure no disruption for pupils. However, opponents accused the Scottish Government of "doing nothing to win back the lost trust of teachers and parents". The latest pay offer,

The Herald 20 **Roofing boss is taking industry to new heights** A GUEST caller on the Go Radio Business Show has been praised for his responsible stance on protecting customers. Darren McGhee, managing director of DMG Services Group roofing contractors, was seeking advice from Sir Tom and Lord Haughey on how to introduce accreditation to the roofing industry. Mr McGhee said: "I'd like to make it a requirement that roofers must hold specific certification in a similar way to gas certification.

The Herald 12 **We need real and radical change in way we run our utilities in Scotland** BRITISH Gas, EDF and other members of the Big Six have been breaking into homes, effectively disconnecting families and leaving them to freeze - use whatever variant of company-speak you like to describe it. So where is the outrage? For one day, anyway, there was some on the normally reserved Today Programme, where presenter Justin Webb asked: "What on earth were they thinking?" Actually, the real puzzle is what were

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The Times (Scotland) 6 **Call to halt school strikes for exams** Teaching unions must suspend strikes to ensure there is no disruption of the exam period in Scotland, the education secretary has said. A two-week rolling period of walkouts is due to end today in the teachers' dispute with councils and the Scottish government. More action is planned. Shirley-Anne Somerville confirmed that the two sides were still "some way apart". The latest offer amounts to a 5 per cent rise but

The Scotsman 2 **MSPs to hear ferry woes far wider than just CalMac** What's Europe's busiest single-vessel ferry route? It might surprise you, as it did me, that it's the Corran ferry - across Loch Linnhe, south of Fort William, to the Ardgour peninsula. The service carries 270,000 cars annually and is growing at 2 per cent a year. However, what might appear to be a success story masks a chronic problem that's affecting this vital link just as much as the

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The Scotsman 16 **Foodbanks for NHS staff in Lothians receive 'steady use'** Foodbanks operating in hospitals across the Lothians to help NHS staff, including nurses, cope with the spiralling cost-of-living crisis have been receiving "steady use". The trade union Unison said seven sites opened at the start of the year and will run for three months, in partnership with local charities. Tracy Anne Miller, Unison Lothian's health branch secretary, said the "food pantries" started after stories emerged on social media of staff

The Scotsman 14 **UK government rail shake-up could see return tickets axed** Return rail tickets are to be scrapped for cross-Border and other English-based train operators under plans to be announced tomorrow, according to reports. They would be replaced by passengers buying two single journeys for round trips, as East Coast operator London North Eastern Railway trialled in 2020. There could also be a renewed effort on shifting passengers from paper tickets to tickets stored on smartphones and other mobile devices. The

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Who is going to stand up and fight for Aberdeen and the north-east?** The city of Aberdeen is on its knees and desperately needs quality leadership. Recently, it seems the political system has failed the citizens. Our council is led by the SNP, and our city SNP MSPs, Kevin Stewart, Jackie Dunbar and Audrey Nicoll represent us in Holyrood, although their combined influence has gone either unseen or ignored by their colleagues. We lost out on the Acorn carbon capture and storage project,

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **PUT students first and rule exam strikes out** SCOTLAND'S Education Secretary insisted it is up to the teaching unions to suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been involved in a bitter pay dispute with councils and the Scottish Government in recent months. A two-week rolling period of walkouts is due to finish today but there are more strikes in the pipeline. Shirley-Anne Somerville insisted the Scottish Government does not have

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Strip the SNP of its sales patter and all you're left with is a chaotic mob** THE SNP is embroiled in so many rows these days it's hard to keep up. But there is one scandal ticking away in the background and set to explode in the very near future. That bombshell is council underfunding and when it detonates expect fiscal shrapnel to fly in every direction. We got another signal of the scale of the threat on Friday when the Institute for Fiscal Studies published

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **sturgeon's gender bill is tearing snp apart** THE SNP is embroiled in fresh infighting and has seen its support dwindle amid the fallout from Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms. As public rows rage over the issue in the SNP, the Education Secretary suggested colleagues should not stand for the party if they do not

support its stance in the gender debate. At the same time, a poll showed support for the SNP had fallen at Holyrood and Westminster,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Firefighter action looms** Public safety during strike action by firefighters is the responsibility of the Government and fire chiefs, not striking workers, the head of the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) has warned. The union is expected to announce strike dates which will affect the whole UK in the coming days after members voted for a nationwide strike for the first time since 2003. Its general secretary, Matt Wrack said: "The question about public

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Somerville urges teachers to avoid exam disruption** Scotland's Education Secretary has said that teaching unions should suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Government in recent months, and a two-week rolling period of walkouts was due to end today, although more action is planned. Speaking to BBC One Scotland's The Sunday Show, Shirley-Anne Somerville said that the parties were still "some way

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Somerville plea to scrap class strikes** TEACHERS should suspend their strike action while pay talks continue to keep Scotland's schools open, the education secretary said yesterday. Shirley-Anne Somerville stressed many pupils are soon to face exams and urged 'more compromise' from unions. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Scottish government, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today. Speaking to the BBC, the education secretary said the two sides were

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Let pupils sit exams in peace, Somerville urges unions** SCOTLAND's Education Secretary has called on teaching unions to "respect children's rights" and ensure exams are not disrupted by their strikes. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the SNP Government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today and more action planned. Strikes could continue into the exam period in the spring, which would make it the third out of the past

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Eco-planning changes could sink retail park** Campaigners say new government guidelines could scupper plans for an "eco-disaster" retail park outside Banchory. Developers last month revealed proposals to build a Lidl, M&S Food store, Home Bargains, garden centre and Starbucks drivethru behind the town's Tesco. But just days later, the Scottish Government rolled out changes that could hamper the scheme. Ministers passed new planning guidelines aimed at fighting the climate crisis, which are to be followed by

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 21 **Strike impact on exams 'up to unions' - minister** Scotland's education secretary has said it is for teaching unions to suspend strikes ahead of the exam period to ensure there is no disruption. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish today and more action planned. Speaking to the BBC on Sunday, Shirley-Anne Somerville said the two sides were still "some way apart", with

The Scotsman 4 **Plans to ensure no exams hitches** Ministers are working on contingency plans to ensure exams are not disrupted by teacher strikes, Scotland's education secretary has said. Shirley-Anne Somerville called on trade union leaders to suspend any action that would threaten the exam period. Teachers have been in dispute with councils and the Government in recent months, with a two-week rolling period of walkouts due to finish on Monday and more action planned. Des Morris, the salaries

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Nat plea for exam strike KO** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville yesterday refused to rule out teacher strikes impacting on pupils' exams. She said the SNP Government was putting "contingencies" in place in the event of walkouts during the crucial period. But she urged unions to suspend action if there is no pay deal by April. Ms Somerville told BBC Scotland's The Sunday Show: "I'd like to think it wouldn't be difficult for trade unions to say,

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Must do better** THERE appears to be no end in sight to the teacher strikes across Scotland. Holyrood Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has said that no fresh pay offer will be tabled. Unions are calling for a ten per cent rise — something which Ms Somerville and the Scottish Government have insisted is not affordable. When she was quizzed on the issue yesterday, the SNP minister was unable to rule out the prospect

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Courier (Main Edition) 2 **Hundreds protest over SNP's gender reform proposals** A controversial gender critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals. They were passed by a majority of MSPs in December but blocked by the UK

The Courier (Main Edition) 15 **£1.6m in funding to boost refugee strategy** The Scottish Government has announced a £1.6 million investment in refreshing the country's refugee integration strategy. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was announced in 2018, with a lifespan that was due to end last year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the funding will allow the Scottish Government to take account of the changes of the past few years - including displacement caused by the withdrawal of western forces

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 **Flynn: We must respect rebels' right to disagree** THE SNP's leader at Westminster has said the views of the party's gender rebels should be 'respected like any other conscience issue'. Stephen Flynn, 34, supports the Scottish Government's Bill to simplify how an individual changes their legal gender. However, commenting on the stance taken by party members opposed to the gender reforms, the Aberdeen South MP told The Guardian: 'Ultimately, they are a member of the Scottish National Party

Daily Record 6 **Gender rally battle cry** THE Scottish Government has been thanked for "waking up" Scotland after the row over a rapist being placed in a women's jail.

Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against gender recognition reform proposals, passed by MSPs in December but blocked by the UK Government. Speaking in George Square, she attacked the Scottish Government over the case

Daily Record 8 **Brain tumour OAP denied energy help due to £6.50 debt** ENERGY companies are leaving vulnerable customers "in the cold and dark" amid the worst cost of living crisis in living memory. One Scots pensioner who had survived a brain tumour but was left with ongoing health problems was refused help when he was left with just £1 of emergency credit in his prepayment meter. His energy supplier said he wasn't entitled to any assistance - because his account was £6.50

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The Herald 4 **Rally told SNP has woken up Scotland over gender issue** A CONTROVERSIAL gender critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December but then blocked by

The Herald 4 **Cherry tells Sturgeon to 'eat some humble pie' over gender reforms** JOANNA Cherry has told Nicola Sturgeon to "eat some humble pie" as the rift between the two SNP figures further escalated over the party's gender recognition reforms. The dig at the First Minister from one of her MPs comes as Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville told those opposing the SNP's reforms to think about whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" policies to support. Ms

The Herald 9 **Asylum system 'a danger', says student** A FATHER seeking asylum in Scotland with his young family has condemned the UK's "dystopian" immigration system as "dangerous" following a 12-hour cross-country ordeal in freezing temperatures. The Herald detailed last week how Dr Henry Okwo, his wife Ngozi and three children were forced to leave their rented flat in North Lanarkshire and were then picked up by police before being taken overnight to Newcastle, then York, by the Home

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Sturgeon must eat humble pie over gender policy, says Cherry** An SNP MP has insisted that Nicola Sturgeon must "eat some humble pie" over her transgender policies after support for the party at Holyrood slumped to a five-year low. Joanna Cherry is at odds with the SNP leadership over trans rights issues. She said that if the party failed to sort out the "mess" it would sustain more damage to its reputation and hurt the independence cause. A YouGov poll

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Trans rights row hits streets as rival rallies stay apart** Hundreds of feminist campaigners and pro-trans activists were kept apart by police yesterday at rival rallies in George Square, Glasgow (Mary Wright writes). A Let Women Speak event was arranged by Standing for Women, a group set up by Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull as a response to the Scottish government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The legislation was passed by MSPs in December but has been blocked by the UK government. Two pro-trans

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Has Sturgeon kept her Promise? In short, no** On February 5, 2020, the Independent Review of Care was published. Nicola Sturgeon declared that it was one of the most important moments of her tenure. She said the need for action was clear. The first minister said the Scottish government understood the extent of its obligations to the "care-experienced" community — people who spent some or all of their childhood in settings other than with their biological parents, from

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Rebels told they may no longer belong in SNP** A senior SNP figure has urged rebels opposed to gender reforms to "question" whether they want to be in the party at the next election. Shirley-Anne Somerville, the education secretary, weighed into a row started by Alyn Smith, the SNP MP for Stirling, who said that those unwilling to support party positions should "stand as an individual". In December, nine MSPs voted against gender recognition reforms championed by the Scottish

Daily Express 2 **Sturgeon's trans row hits support for independence** SUPPORT for Scottish independence is dwindling in a blow for Nicola Sturgeon as she suffers a backlash over "trans" biological males being held in women's prisons. The Scottish National Party is also losing popularity among voters north of the border. The YouGov survey shows backing for independence dropped from 53 per cent to 47 per cent

among decided voters. The findings boost the Daily Express Unite The Kingdom crusade, which

Daily Mail 14 **Teachers need answers** HOW illuminating that after the transgender prisoner row blew a hole in the logic of Nicola Sturgeon's shambolic gender reforms, support for her and Scottish independence has plummeted. The public, unlike the SNP and Labour, are concerned that self-ID puts women and girls at risk from predatory males. So this is the perfect moment for the Government to reiterate that teachers are under no legal obligation to refer to children

Daily Mail 8 **End delay to trans advice for teachers, urge MPs** MINISTERS were last night facing urgent calls to publish guidance for teachers which would help them block children from changing gender if they believe they are too young. Tory MPs and campaigners said 'foot dragging' by education officials was potentially failing to protect children from safeguarding risks. They also accused Whitehall of 'abandoning' teachers who want to delay children from starting on the path to transitioning too young, claiming that

i (The paper for today) 9 **Transgender row hits support for SNP and Sturgeon in poll** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped amid the row over transgender prisoners, a poll suggests. The YouGov survey for The Sunday Times of 1,088 Scottish voters shows support for the party dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 to 36 per cent in the regional list, when compared with the results of the same poll in December. Support

The Daily Telegraph 6 **Eat humble pie and ditch trans laws, Sturgeon told** NICOLA STURGEON has been told to "eat some humble pie" and abandon her gender reforms after she recorded her worst ever approval rating. A poll carried out after the controversial decision to place transgender rapist Isla Bryson in a female jail suggests that the nationalists are haemorrhaging support owing to the First Minister's position on transgender rights. Ms Sturgeon's personal approval rating has fallen to minus four, YouGov research found,

The Guardian 12 **SNP MPs' leader calls for respect in gender debate** Scottish National party politicians' opposition to legal changes on gender recognition should be "respected like any other conscience issue", according to the party's new Westminster leader Stephen Flynn. Discussing the issue that has convulsed the SNP since he was elected Westminster group leader in December, the Aberdeen South MP said: "Ultimately, they are a member of the Scottish National Party just as much as I am." This stands in contrast

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Who is going to stand up and fight for Aberdeen and the north-east?** The city of Aberdeen is on its knees and desperately needs quality leadership. Recently, it seems the political system has failed the citizens. Our council is led by the SNP, and our city SNP MSPs, Kevin Stewart, Jackie Dunbar and Audrey Nicoll represent us in Holyrood, although their combined influence has gone either unseen or ignored by their colleagues. We lost out on the Acorn carbon capture and storage project,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 21 **Sturgeon under fire at protest over gender bill** A controversial gender critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December but blocked by the

The Scotsman 6 **Support waning for Scotland to leave the UK, according to fresh poll** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for the Sunday Times of 1,088 voters in Scotland shows support for the party dropped from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list, when compared to the results of the same poll question in December.

The Scotsman 20 **SNP rebels should call Sturgeon's bluff to save their cause** The fate of Nicola Sturgeon's tenure as First Minister lies in the hands of SNP rebels. Sturgeon and her loyalists would have them stand down at the next election - instead they should call their bluff and force by-elections against her leadership now. Humility is not the only attribute absent from the First Minister's personal strengths, so too is a willingness to find consensus, show contrition or craft a

The Scotsman 1 **Minister urges SNP critics of gender reform to stand down** SNP politicians critical of Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms should consider whether to stand for the party at the next election, a senior Scottish Government minister has suggested. Shirley-Anne Somerville said opponents should question whether they are "comfortable" staying in a party where they "pick and choose" which policies to support. Her comments came as SNP MP Joanna Cherry insisted it is time for the party to "eat some humble pie"

The Scotsman 26 **Quotas for students from deprived backgrounds are reasonable but not perfect** I have to be honest: when someone told me that the University of Edinburgh had last year only admitted young Scots from deprived areas or from underperforming schools to nine courses, including English, history and law, I thought they were kidding, that they had misunderstood something. Then it turned out that it was true, and my feeling of puzzlement turned to anger and incredulity. How can this possibly be? To

The Scotsman 16 **Foodbanks for NHS staff in Lothians receive 'steady use'** Foodbanks operating in hospitals across the Lothians to help NHS staff, including nurses, cope with the spiralling cost-of-living crisis have been receiving "steady use". The trade union Unison said seven sites opened at the start of the year and will run for three months, in partnership with local charities. Tracy Anne Miller, Unison Lothian's health branch secretary, said the "food pantries" started after stories emerged on social media of staff

The Scotsman 7 **Hundreds join rally in Glasgow against gender recognition reform** A gender reform critic has thanked the Scottish Government for "waking up" the country after the row over the placement of a double rapist in a women's prison. Standing for Women, headed by Kellie-Jay Keen - also known as Posie Parker -

staged a protest in Glasgow on Sunday against the Scottish Government's gender recognition reform proposals, which were passed by a majority of MSPs in December, but blocked by

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **SNP in crisis as sturgeon loyalist rounds on rebels** A LOYAL supporter of NicSturgeon has launched a bitattack on the SNP's gender ba "comfortable" in the party. Nicola bitter bill rebels - questioning if they are "Internal splits over controversial TURN TO PAGE 4 controver FROM PAGE ONE reforms to gender self-ID law have thrown the party into crisis and seen support plummet. But Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said the law changes were in the SNP's election-winning manifesto -

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Sturgeon needs to admit defeat to save her party** THE division inside the SNP ranks is becoming more obvious by the day. Nicola Sturgeon has ruled her party with an iron fist, but now her hold on the ranks is slipping. The single issue of gender identity legislation has left her very possibly facing a fight for her own survival. Supporters are abandoning the party amid the controversial law, which has spectacularly backfired on the Holyrood administration.And if the

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Ex Nat MSP McAlpine hits out at First Minister over gender reform** A FORMER Nationalist MSP has warned that Nicola Sturgeon must accept "personal responsibility for her personal passion" after driving through laws making it easier to change gender. Joan McAlpine said the First Minister has risked the safety of women and the cause of independence by making the legislation a flagship issue for her government. Weeks after the legislation was pushed through just before Christmas, double rapist Isla Bryson - who

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Trans paedophile in sex attack on girl, 14** A TRANSGENDER paedophile carried out a sex attack on a teenage girl while living as a man. Ryan Scott, who was born female, lured the schoolgirl back to their home after meeting up on Valentine's Day last year. The 20-year-old, born Coral Scott, pounced on the girl, who was just 14 at the time, and tried to engage her in sexual activity.After being caught, Scott set up fake social media

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Support for SNP drops following tran** SUPPORT for the SNP and Scottish independence has dropped, a new poll has suggested. The YouGov survey of 1,088 Scottish voters showed the party has lost ground, with backing dropping from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list, compared to the results of the same poll in December. And Scots have lost

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Wings and fake breasts available to Bryson** TRANSGENDER rapist Isla Bryson will have access to make-up, wigs, women's underwear and even fake breasts while serving time in a male prison under Scottish Prison Service policy, it can be revealed. Bryson is at the centre of a political storm after it was revealed the rapist, once a man called Adam Graham, swapped gender after being charged with two rapes.The 31-year-old was sent to Cornton Vale women's prison near

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **FEMINIST AND PRO-TRANS GROUPS RALLY** FEMINIST campaigners and rival groups of pro-trans activists were kept apart by police at rallies in Glasgow's George Square yesterday. The Let Women Speak rally was organised by Standing For Women, founded by feminist Kellie-Jay Keen, in response to the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Police were braced for disorder after a counter protest was announced by the Cabaret Against the Hate Speech and Furies Against Fascism - "pro-trans

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Strip the SNP of its sales patter and all you're left with is a chaotic mob** THE SNP is embroiled in so many rows these days it's hard to keep up. But there is one scandal ticking away in the background and set to explode in the very near future. That bombshell is council underfunding and when it detonates expect fiscal shrapnel to fly in every direction. We got another signal of the scale of the threat on Friday when the Institute for Fiscal Studies published

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Even karaoke din of Dancing Queen failed to drown out women's anger** IT was billed as a potential powderkeg in the bitterly divisive gender war, and those with a dog in the fight came to bare their teeth. With flimsy sets of metal barriers keeping them at bay, hundreds of feminist campaigners confronted pro-trans rivals from opposite ends of George Square. The Let Women Speak event was a response to the SNP's contentious gender reforms, which were passed by a majority of

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **sturgeon's gender bill is tearing snp apart** THE SNP is embroiled in fresh infighting and has seen its support dwindle amid the fallout from Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms. As public rows rage over the issue in the SNP, the Education Secretary suggested colleagues should not stand for the party if they do not support its stance in the gender debate. At the same time, a poll showed support for the SNP had fallen at Holyrood and Westminster,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Sturgeon losing her grip in gender fiasco** FOR years, internal dissent has been effectively banned within the ranks of the SNP under Nicola Sturgeon's iron grip. Now, with her gender reforms in danger of unravelling, one of her top ministers has sent a clear message to would-be rebels. Shirley-Anne Somerville advised opponents of the shambolic gender Bill to question whether they are 'comfortable' retaining their party membership - and whether they should stand as candidates. It is

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 **Support for SNP, indyref and Nicola ALL down** SUPPORT for the SNP, Nicola Sturgeon and independence has fallen amid the row over gender laws. The furore - heightened by the scandal of trans rapist Isla Bryson being sent to a female prison - appears to have dealt a blow to the party, its leader and her cause. A survey shows SNP support has dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **War refugees 'may end up living rough'** WOMEN and children who escaped Ukraine to be housed on a ferry in Scotland could end up living rough, it has been warned. More than 1,100 people are in Glasgow on board the MS Ambition, which was chartered by the Scottish Government to accommodate refugees.

But the lease expires at the end of next month, triggering a scramble among Scottish local authorities to find alternative housing. A local government

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Gender Bill rebels should 'question' future in the SNP** A senior SNP figure has said that rebels in her party should "question" whether they want to remain in it at the next election. Shirley-Anne Somerville, a perennial cabinet member during the SNP's time in office and now serving as Education Secretary, weighed into the row started by MP Alyn Smith, who said that those unwilling to support party positions should "stand as an individual". The issue has been sparked

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Trans rapist case has 'woken up' Scotland, says activist** A SCANDAL over a double rapist being placed in a female jail has caused Scotland to "wake up" to the dangers of transgender ideology, a controversial gender-critical campaigner has claimed. Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull - also known as Posie Parker - staged a protest in Glasgow yesterday against the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, which was passed by a majority of MSPs in December but blocked by the UK Government. Despite

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Rebels tell Sturgeon to 'eat humble pie' in trans row** NICOLA STURGEON has been told to "eat some humble pie" and abandon her gender reforms after support for the SNP plummeted and she recorded her worst ever approval rating. A new poll, carried out in the wake of the scandal over transgender rapist Isla Bryson being placed in a female jail, suggests that the nationalists are hemorrhaging support due to the First Minister's controversial positions on transgender rights. Ms Sturgeon's

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Costly diversion** NICOLA Sturgeon would probably claim she doesn't pay much attention to her own polling numbers. She's been the First Minister and SNP leader since 2014 and in this time, her own standing and that of her party has fluctuated. However, the Nats chief does now appear to be facing a real challenge to pull back support for the SNP and the independence cause. Polling guru Sir John Curtice suggests that

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **POLLS THREE AND QUEASY FOR NICOLA** NICOLA Sturgeon faced a triple whammy of disappointment yesterday as a poll revealed a dip in her own popularity — plus a slump in support for the Nats and independence. The survey found the First Minister's personal approval rating had fallen from +7 to -4 since October last year. Backing for the SNP at the next Scottish Parliament election also dropped six points. Numbers planning to vote for the party

The Sun (Scotland) 19 **SQUARE TACTICS** THOUSANDS of rival protesters faced off yesterday at demos over Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID law. Two arrests were made amid tense scenes in Glasgow's George Square. Throngs of activists opposing the Nats' reform bid brandished posters bearing slogans such as "No men in women's refuges". An image of trans double rapist Isla Bryson, 31 — who was formerly Adam Graham — was displayed alongside pics of other transgender criminals. And

10. CORPORATE

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **SNP minister is 'prolific pedlar of fake fact'** ONE of Nicola Sturgeon's senior ministers used fake figures to boast about Scotland's wind energy potential to foreign politicians even after he was warned they were inaccurate, it has emerged. Angus Robertson, the SNP's constitution secretary, is facing accusations that he has broken the ministerial code after he ignored warnings from officials and repeated the debunked claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. SNP politicians

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The Herald 7 **Salmon farm developer appeals against rejection of park project** DEVELOPERS behind a rejected bid to create a new salmon farm near Arrochar have announced plans to appeal the decision. Loch Long Salmon confirmed today that they have submitted an appeal for their proposed Beinn Reithe project. They will argue that the rejection of the plan in October 2022 by the Board of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park was "fundamentally flawed and based on fear and a misunderstanding"

The Herald 7 **Tickets go on sale for 'Composeher' concert celebrating new works by international array of female composers** A GROUNDBREAKING musical project that challenges the lack of female representation in composing will hold its world premiere in Glasgow in May. Final rehearsals for Composeher are under way ahead of the concert at Glasgow City Halls on May 27 this year, with tickets now on sale. Composeher - which will debut seven 10-minute works of choral music by female composers from Scotland, England, Australia and the United States -

Daily Record 17 **Levelling Up is a letdown for cash strapped city after reckless Brexit** THE UK has now passed the third anniversary of leaving the European Union, with very little positive to show for it. Bloomberg has found that Brexit is costing the UK £100billion a year in lost output, with significant impact on investment and employment. The Bank of England has noted the effect on growth, stating this week that it's having a faster impact than they had anticipated. Glasgow has been the

The Herald 9 **Asylum system 'a danger', says student** A FATHER seeking asylum in Scotland with his young family has condemned the UK's "dystopian" immigration system as "dangerous" following a 12-hour cross-country ordeal in freezing temperatures. The Herald detailed last week how Dr Henry Okwo, his wife Ngozi and three children were forced to leave their rented flat in North Lanarkshire and were then picked up by police before being taken overnight to Newcastle, then York, by the Home

The Herald 11 **All that pain and effort from the SNP for two lousy points?** THINK of all the effort: the 2014 referendum, the rows over Brexit, the calls for a second independence vote in 2016 and every single year thereafter, the Supreme Court case, the briefing papers, the street rallies, the clenched fists and the gritted teeth. And for what exactly? The SNP is two points ahead of where it was in 2014. Two. Lousy. Points. I must say, even I'm a bit surprised

The Times (Scotland) 14 **Not on the Sabbath: Isle of Lewis festival to respect tradition** Britain's most remote music festival will end on a Saturday night to ensure that islanders can keep the Sabbath. The Pretenders, Spiritualized, Primal Scream

and Ocean Colour Scene are among the headliners at the first Midnight Sun Weekender in the castle grounds in Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis. They will be joined by John Fogerty, 77, the frontman of Creedence Clearwater Revival, one of the great US rock bands

Daily Express 2 **Sturgeon's trans row hits support for independence** SUPPORT for Scottish independence is dwindling in a blow for Nicola Sturgeon as she suffers a backlash over "trans" biological males being held in women's prisons. The Scottish National Party is also losing popularity among voters north of the border. The YouGov survey shows backing for independence dropped from 53 per cent to 47 per cent among decided voters. The findings boost the Daily Express Unite The Kingdom crusade, which

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The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **Slump in support for Scots independence** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for the Sunday Times of 1,088 Scottish voters shows support for the party dropped from 50% to 44% in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40% to 36% in the regional list, when compared to the results of the same poll in December. Support for independence also dropped substantially, from 53% to 47%

The Scotsman 6 **Support waning for Scotland to leave the UK, according to fresh poll** Support for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for the Sunday Times of 1,088 voters in Scotland shows support for the party dropped from 50 per cent to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 per cent to 36 per cent in the regional list, when compared to the results of the same poll question in December.

The Scotsman 20 **SNP rebels should call Sturgeon's bluff to save their cause** T he fate of Nicola Sturgeon's tenure as First Minister lies in the hands of SNP rebels. Sturgeon and her loyalists would have them stand down at the next election - instead they should call their bluff and force byelections against her leadership now. Humility is not the only attribute absent from the First Minister's personal strengths, so too is a willingness to find consensus, show contrition or craft a

The Sun 2 **SNP poll setbacks** SUPPORT for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a You- Gov poll suggests. Scottish voters' backing fell from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote, compared to December. The percentage of decided voters supporting Independence dropped from 53 to 47, the survey of 1,088 people found. SNP support at Westminster dipped marginally from 43 to 42 per cent.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 **Support for SNP, indyref and Nicola ALL down** SUPPORT for the SNP, Nicola Sturgeon and independence has fallen amid the row over gender laws. The furore - heightened by the scandal of trans rapist Isla Bryson being sent to a female prison - appears to have dealt a blow to the party, its leader and her cause. A survey shows SNP support has dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **War refugees 'may end up living rough'** WOMEN and children who escaped Ukraine to be housed on a ferry in Scotland could end up living rough, it has been warned. More than 1,100 people are in Glasgow on board the MS Ambition, which was chartered by the Scottish Government to accommodate refugees. But the lease expires at the end of next month, triggering a scramble among Scottish local authorities to find alternative housing. A local government

Metro (Scotland) 2 **SUPPORT for the SNP [...]** | SUPPORT for the SNP at Holyrood and Westminster has dropped, a new poll suggests. The YouGov survey for the Sunday Times of 1,088 Scottish voters shows backing for the party dropped from 50 to 44 per cent in the Holyrood constituency vote and from 40 to 36 per cent in the regional list, compared to December. SNP support at Westminster dropped marginally from 43 to 42 per cent.

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **SNP minister is 'prolific pedlar of fake fact'** ONE of Nicola Sturgeon's senior ministers used fake figures to boast about Scotland's wind energy potential to foreign politicians even after he was warned they were inaccurate, it has emerged. Angus Robertson, the SNP's constitution secretary, is facing accusations that he has broken the ministerial code after he ignored warnings from officials and repeated the debunked claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. SNP politicians

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **POLLS THREE AND QUEASY FOR NICOLA** NICOLA Sturgeon faced a triple whammy of disappointment yesterday as a poll revealed a dip in her own popularity — plus a slump in support for the Nats and independence. The survey found the First Minister's personal approval rating had fallen from +7 to -4 since October last year. Backing for the SNP at the next Scottish Parliament election also dropped six points. Numbers planning to vote for the party

Item 4:

From: [Redacted] Senior Media Manager

Sent: 05 February 2023 10:00

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk; Shirley-anne.somerville2@parliament.scot; Humza.Yousaf.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Subject: Media Digest - Sunday 5 February 2023

Press Summary For Scottish Government

05 February 2023

Compiled By Precise

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- [2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY](#)
- [3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS](#)
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- [10. CORPORATE](#)
- [11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE](#)

1. FIRST MINISTER

Scotland on Sunday 12 **Obstruction and denial in Scotland's offshore wind figures** Little more than two months ago, on 8 November, the Scottish Government was handed a dossier from pro-Union think tank These Islands debunking the much-used claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential. This claim had been repeated by senior SNP figures in the House of Commons, by MSPs in Holyrood, and by Cabinet secretaries in public and private discussions. It was a key pillar in the

The Herald 3 **Support for SNP slumps over trans rights debate** SUPPORT for the SNP, for First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and for independence has slumped amid the party's transgender rights crusade. Backing for the party for the Holyrood elections has fallen to its lowest for five years in the latest YouGov poll, reported in The Sunday Times, while voting intentions for Westminster were the worst since 2019. Senior allies of the first minister have spoken of a "meltdown" in the party

The Herald 53 **week that was** IN the world of entertainment, Glasgow audiences are known for their knack of sensing fakery. This stems from the days of the old Glasgow Empire when visiting English acts knew that an ordeal awaited them if they weren't on their game. The story of what once befell the famous English 1960s comedy duo, Mike and Bernie Winters in Glasgow, served as a warning to other emerging English comedians. Mike Winters,

Scotland on Sunday 8 **Sturgeon faces inevitable backlash over GRA reform** When scores of feminists criticised the Scottish Government's plan to make it easier for people to change their gender in law, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made no attempt to conceal her disdain. She was coldly dismissive of the suggestion some dangerous men might exploit the introduction of selfidentification in order to gain

access to spaces reserved for women. These fears were, said Sturgeon, "not valid". In a remarkable turn of

Sunday Express 13 **Ban pre-op trans women from female spaces - poll** NEARLY two-thirds of people believe trans women with male bodies should be barred from women's prisons, gyms and changing rooms. And there is widespread support for the decision by the UK Government to block Scottish legislation allowing anyone to change their gender by making a declaration. Do you **SUPPORT** the UK blocking parliamentary Polling shows 64 per cent believe trans women who have not undergone genital surgery should be prevented

The Herald 2 **First Minister accused of 'short-changing NHS Scotland by £17.6bn'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the First Minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula, which delivers cash to devolved governments based on public spending south of the Border. Pre-pandemic figures show that from 2008/09 to 2019/20, spending per head on

The Herald 21 **Tory zombies have Sunak in their sights** THE political past is catching up with Rishi Sunak and could help determine his future as Prime Minister. As he sits in his Downing Street bunker, the PM could be forgiven for thinking will he ever wake up from what he last week dubbed a "nightmare job". Having, early on, lost Cabinet ally Gavin Williamson, forced to resign over bullying allegations, the PM reappointed Suella Braverman as Home Secretary even

Sunday Express 13 **Sturgeon is wrong... shame on her for pushing a dangerous law** HAS Nicola Sturgeon effectively ended her political career by pushing forward the highly controversial reforms to the Gender Recognition Act, that would allow a man to change his legal sex to that of a woman without medical intervention or scrutiny? or **OPPOSE** Scottish legislation? At present, a transgender person is required to get opinions from two medical professionals to obtain a gender **SUPPORT** recognition certificate and must also prove they

Sunday Express (Scotland) 14 **SNP gender Bill plans spectacularly backfire** IT has been clear from the start that the Scottish Government's gender legislation was not going to go down well with the voting public. Now our exclusive poll shows just how wide of the mark Nicola Sturgeon's administration is. Her plans to help trans people has backfired and the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, already blocked by the UK Government, has been universally panned across the UK. Even her own SNP

The Herald 3 **Labour demands clarity on teacher number plans** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what the Government plans to do to maintain teacher numbers in the country. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed that Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville will lay out plans in the coming days to Parliament which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports that Glasgow City Council officials had drawn

The Herald 6 **'It's so unsettling' Scottish social workers prepare to quit over Scot Gov care reforms** NICOLA Sturgeon faces new pressure to drop her flagship policy for a National Care Service amid warnings that social workers are considering quitting the profession over the reforms. A report by the trade union Unison reveals fears among staff that the changes will lead to further strains on an already stretched service which would also have a knock-on effect on the health service as it struggles to recover in the

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **Teacher number fears as councils 'stare down barrel of savage cuts'** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what Holyrood ministers plan to do to maintain teacher numbers. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed her government will lay out plans which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports Glasgow City Council officials had drawn up speculative plans to cut 800 teacher posts. Although Cabinet members have

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **'£17.6bn for NHS spent'sewhere'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" the nation's NHS by an eye-watering £17.6 billion since 2008. "The Scottish Conservatives, who analysed health spending, claim that the First Minister had overseen the "staggering" underfunding as the health secretary before replacing Alex Salmond in Bute House. the Holyrood administration receives extra funding under the Barnett formula based on public spending in England - and the Tory research shows the so-called consequential

The Herald 22 **Spirit of free enterprise So how did Russia buy more Scottish whisky during a supposed boycott?** HE does not like whisky much. But Vadim Drobiz knows more about a core export market for our national drink than anyone in Scotland. The analyst has been monitoring Russia's alcohol sales day in, day out for 15 years. Before that he was a senior executive in his country's drinks industry. So, he prefers vodka to what he calls the "exotica" of foreign spirits. "I think it's a second-rate product,"

The Herald 4 **'A financial disaster' Ill wind blows over projected loss of £ £60bn over ScotWind leasing rights** Scotland is expected to miss out on £60 billion through the surrender of nearly two-thirds of the potential supply chain bonanza and the "underselling" of leasing rights for the offshore wind revolution, The Herald on Scotland can reveal. The 20 ScotWind projects, with a combined potential generating capacity of 27.6GW - estimated to be enough to power over 14 million homes - were offered new rights to develop offshore wind

Sunday Express (Scotland) 1 **UK VOTERS PAN TRANS SELF-ID GENDER SCHEME** THE controversial new Scots law that allows trans people to self-identify their gender has been panned by UK voters. An exclusive poll for the Sunday Express found almost half of those questioned oppose the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill which has been **TURN TO PAGE 4 FROM PAGE ONE** approved by Holyrood. Only around a fifth support the legislation which would also see 16-year-olds able to change their gender without

Sunday Mail 14 **FEEL THE BLUE WITH SINGING LEGENDS** How would you best describe the book? The authorised history of Deacon Blue, featuring interviews with

founder members, current members and associates from across four decades, charting emotional highs and lows. It also features never before seen photos from their personal archives, plus accounts from hundreds of fans including Alan Cumming, Sir Ian Rankin, Nicola Sturgeon, Craig Ferguson and Johnnie Walker. What's it about? From their beginnings in a Buchanan

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 24 **Virtue signalling over refugees** SCOTLAND has a proud history of welcoming refugees from war and civil unrest. When people have fled tyranny throughout the years, this country has provided safe harbour. It was right for the Scottish Government to announce that thousands of Ukrainians would be given sanctuary as despotic Russian president Vladimir Putin attacked their country. But while First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was happy to play the part of benevolent leader when she

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 2 **Support for SNP plummets amid gender 'disaster'** NICOLA Sturgeon's independence plans have suffered another hammer blow as a poll showed support for her leadership, the SNP and Scottish separation has plunged. A YouGov survey found backing for the SNP has slumped to its lowest level in five years as internal conflicts over transgender rights engulf the party. Insiders believe gender swap reforms passed before Christmas have eroded trust in the party, as well as its hopes for

Sunday Mail 20 **Pressure over teaching jobs** Labour has called for clarity on Government plans to protect teacher numbers. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville will lay out plans to effectively stop councils cutting teacher numbers. The announcement came in response to reports Glasgow City Council officials had drawn up speculative plans to cut 800 posts. Scottish Labour education spokesman Michael Marra said: "The situation could not be more urgent."

Sunday Mail 15 **Tories' fury over cash cut to NHS** Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the First Minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula. Figures show from 2008-09 to 2019-20, spending per head on health in Scotland, compared with England, decreased from being 15 per cent higher to just three per

The National (Scotland) 8 **'Cherry-picking of cases must be countered'** Fears raised after US far-right latches on to Bryson row THE case of transgender prisoner Isla Bryson has dominated Scottish headlines, with numerous American right-wing agitators and publications picking it up and running with it since. Fox News, Breitbart News, New York Post, InfoWars and fake news website Gateway Pundit all published articles, sometimes multiple, on the case, and alt-right talking heads Andy Ngo, Dr Jordan Peterson and Matt Walsh

The National (Scotland) 2 **Former Labour minister calls on Jack to reveal Section 35 legal advice** SCOTTISH Secretary Alister Jack should publish the legal advice which was used as the basis for the Section 35 order blocking gender recognition reform legislation because it is a matter of such "constitutional

significance", a former UK minister has said. Lord Falconer, who served as a Labour justice secretary, said the public had a right to know what the advice was. The former Lord Chancellor has previously criticised the UK

Sunday Mail 4 **FUNNY FARM** Dozens of giant turbines on Scotland's windfarms have been powered by diesel generators, the Sunday Mail can reveal. ScottishPower admitted 71 of its windmills were hooked up to the fossil fuel supply after a fault developed on the grid. The firm said it was forced to act in order to keep the turbines warm during very cold weather in December. But a whistleblower has told the Sunday Mail the incident

Sunday Mail 21 **There's still more asbestos.. and we have the evidence** Workmen who believe they were exposed to deadly asbestos on sites run by a housebuilder with links to the SNP have demanded investigations into the company are reopened. Springfield Properties paid a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, East Dunbartonshire. But subcontractors who worked there have claimed they passed evidence to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Health and Safety

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The National (Scotland) 6 **Government has allowed independence to slip down list of priorities** HALL we take our text from Humpty Dumpty in Alice in Wonderland: "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less"? Or maybe you're more a fan of the Red Queen: "Sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." We certainly seem to be trapped in Alice's looking-glass world

Sunday Mail 9 **Trauma of girl, 14, after sex attack by trans paedophile** A transgender paedophile carried out a sex attack on a teenage girl while living as a man. Ryan Scott - who was born female - lured the schoolgirl back to their home after meeting up on Valentine's Day last year. The 20-year-old, who uses the name Coral Scott, pounced on the girl, who was just 14 at the time, and tried to engage her in sexual activity. After being caught,

Sunday Mail 16 **Time for clarity** Scotland's criminal justice system has been plunged into crisis by the government's increasingly incoherent gender policy. Ministers appear unable to say whether dangerous sex criminals are men or women or be clear about which prison they should be incarcerated in. Having initially insisted "trans women are women", Nicola Sturgeon now appears to have shifted to believing "trans women are women unless they are rapists". This is heaping unacceptable pressure on

The Sunday Times 2 **Trans row 'will be Sturgeon's poll tax'** Support for the SNP and independence have slumped since Nicola Sturgeon's attempt to make it easier for Scots to change gender. The Scottish first minister's own rating has also slipped into negative territory, according to a YouGov poll for The Sunday Times. Last night a former deputy leader of the party said that the gender reform bill would be her "poll tax". Jim Sillars's attack was pitched to wound Sturgeon,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Voters cool on SNP after trans prisoner crisis** Support for the SNP, for Nicola Sturgeon and for Scottish independence has fallen sharply as the party's crisis over transgender rights deepens. Backing for the party for the devolved Holyrood elections slumped to its lowest for five years in the latest YouGov poll, and voting intentions for Westminster were the worst since 2019. Senior allies of the first minister have spoken of a "meltdown" in the party since a sex

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 25 **The SNP has failed the poor people of Ukraine in their time of need. They have shamed Scotland...** WE ARE now approaching the anniversary of Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and there is no sign of an imminent end to the war. Many tens of thousands - and probably hundreds of thousands - of people have been killed or seriously injured. The country's infrastructure and economy have been ravaged. The effects have been global: the conflict is a major factor in energy and food price spikes and the

The Sunday Telegraph 7 **Sorry, Nicola it turns out we're all 'Terfs' now** It's a funny one, gender ideology. The conviction that society must be reshaped to fit the interests of a small minority who claim that they are the sex they "affirm" has been wildly influential. Why? Because of the insistence of radical activists, some academics and an increasing number of bosses and politicians? Or because we - the public - want a world modelled around such ideas? There are increasing

The Sunday Telegraph 24 **Free societies can't survive the elevation of feelings into facts** The great Scottish question of the day - whether a trans rapist should be sent to a women's prison - has given rise to much triumphal hilarity. The obvious absurdity of the case, and the bizarre decision by Nicola Sturgeon to choose to defend what is clearly indefensible on grounds which are logically contradictory, has delivered what seems to be a fatal blow to both gender self-identification and to the

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Last night a former deputy leader of the party said the gender reform bill would be her "poll tax". Jim Sillars's attack was pitched to wound Sturgeon,

The Sunday Times 22 **SNP trans fiasco highlights the dangers of groupthink** In less than a fortnight the supposed logic behind Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-identification law has collapsed. The destabilising push came from the case of 31-year-old Isla Bryson, a convicted rapist who went by the name of Adam Graham at the time of his arrest. Pending sentencing, Bryson, a selfidentifying trans woman, was housed at Cornton Vale, a women's prison near Stirling. In response to public outrage Bryson was moved to

The Sunday Times 27 **Want Plod to turn up to a crime scene? Fire up the wood-burner** When you live in a world where right-on treehuggers buy electric cars that they know full well were made using child slaves, and convicted rapists are sent to a women's prison, and the people of America elect a president who can't string a sentence together, it's very hard to be shocked by anything. But last week I was, when I read a story about wood-burning stoves and learnt that in

The Sunday Times 25 **I used to love no-nonsense Sergeant Cawood. It's a shame Happy Valley has lost the plot** In any given episode of the documentary series Hospital, there is someone I call "Bed Woman". She is responsible for assigning beds — a difficult, gnarly job. She must for ever troll the hospital's long corridors, axe-faced, redoubtable, split ends fizzing: off to sort out other people's stupid, low-level bollocks — eyeroll to camera — before filling in her merciless chart. She ought to be awful on television — charmless,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 23 **Sturgeon's betrayal has killed confidence of loyalists** For the sake of national clarity, let's stop the pretence. The SNP, the Scottish government and the Edinburgh parliament are all diminished to the point of ridicule by Nicola Sturgeon's gender argument transitioning from black to white. This is not politics as normal. It is the betrayal of Scotland by its first minister. What was the settled will of SNP loyalists for years has been reversed within days. A constitutional

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **The rapist who triggered Sturgeon's 'poll tax moment'** It was a simple question: should a man convicted of raping two women be considered a woman simply because he has declared that he is one himself ? Simple, perhaps, but it caused Nicola Sturgeon real difficulties in the Scottish parliament: "I think that a rapist should be considered a rapist. That is what I think... I will not get into the individual circumstances of that particular individual's claims to

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 3 **Michael Glackin 'Battering Scottish families' begins at Holyrood** Sadly, my local settler on The Royal Mile shut up shop last year — another victim of the "tourist ghetto" that the capital's historic thoroughfare has become. Still, a quick phone call to William Hill told me that SNP justice secretary Keith Brown is now 3-1 to replace Nicola Sturgeon. The former economy minister is second favourite behind Angus Robertson, who is odds on. Kate Forbes is drifting — not

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Sarwar saved Labour but it's only half the job** Few people have ever accused Anas Sarwar of lacking self-confidence. It is nearly two years since the Labour leader took possession of the worst job in Scottish politics and as this anniversary approaches he can look back on the progress he and his party have made with some satisfaction. It is difficult to exaggerate the extent of the woes that afflicted Labour at the time. Numbed by repeated election humiliations,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **Nicola will pay price of deal with zealots** When passing the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the UK government sought and received legislative consent from the Scottish parliament on the desirable principle of having a single regime for the whole of the UK. I can find no record that the SNP, then in opposition, objected to the consent. The lord advocate would have a difficult task convincing the Supreme Court that the "desirability principle", based on common sense, is

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Cult of Green is slowly destroying the economy** What's not to love about the Scottish Greens, personified by that doughty seven-strong band of parliamentary eco-champions appointed to save us from ourselves and our penchant for the internal combustion engine? Quite a lot, as it turns out. The ecosystem at Holyrood has evolved dramatically since the days of Robin Harper, the UK's first elected green parliamentarian, who brightened up the initial Scottish parliament with his brightly knitted scarves, amiable

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

The National (Scotland) 3 **Walkout Wednesday is 'only the beginning'** THE coordinated strike action taken by members of various trade unions across the nations of Britain on Wednesday, February 1 was the biggest walkout in the current wave of industrial action. In Scotland, England and Wales, an estimated half-a-million workers joined the strikes. Here in Scotland, the groups of workers taking strike action ranged from civil servants in the PCS union, to members of the UCU university lecturers' union, Aslef

The Herald 6 **'It's so unsettling' Scottish social workers prepare to quit over Scot Gov care reforms** NICOLA Sturgeon faces new pressure to drop her flagship policy for a National Care Service amid warnings that social workers are considering quitting the profession over the reforms. A report by the trade union Unison reveals fears among staff that the changes will lead to further strains on an already stretched service which would also have a knock-on effect on the health service as it struggles to recover in the

The Herald 13 **Warning Scottish hospice services 'may be in jeopardy'** THE UK Government has been urged to extend help for hospices when the Energy Bill Relief scheme comes to an end next month. Charities providing end-of-life services face catastrophic rises in their bills from April with the new scheme from the government giving only a modest discount on prices, despite warnings that the sector is facing up to a fivefold increase in energy costs. One industry body warned that many

The Herald 2 **First Minister accused of 'short-changing NHS Scotland by £17.6bn'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS

by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the First Minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula, which delivers cash to devolved governments based on public spending south of the Border. Pre-pandemic figures show that from 2008/09 to 2019/20, spending per head on

The Herald 3 **Labour demands clarity on teacher number plans** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what the Government plans to do to maintain teacher numbers in the country. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed that Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville will lay out plans in the coming days to Parliament which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports that Glasgow City Council officials had drawn

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **Teacher number fears as councils 'stare down barrel of savage cuts'** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what Holyrood ministers plan to do to maintain teacher numbers. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed her government will lay out plans which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports Glasgow City Council officials had drawn up speculative plans to cut 800 teacher posts. Although Cabinet members have

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **'£17.6bn for NHS spent'sewhere'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" the nation's NHS by an eye-watering £17.6 billion since 2008. "The Scottish Conservatives, who analysed health spending, claim that the First Minister had overseen the "staggering" underfunding as the health secretary before replacing Alex Salmond in Bute House. the Holyrood administration receives extra funding under the Barnett formula based on public spending in England - and the Tory research shows the so-called consequential

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3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The National (Scotland) 6 **Solidarity between workers and students gives hope for a fairer future** ON Wednesday, as almost half a million workers across the UK took the difficult decision to take strike action and fight back against poverty pay and poor conditions, students from across Scotland took to rally outside the Scottish Parliament in demand of urgent action from the Scottish Government on the cost of living crisis. The rally, although organised by NUS Scotland long before Wednesday had been announced by the TUC

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The Herald 16 **Skills at historic low Scarcity of stonemasons threatens Scots heritage** THEIR skills built the nation, and for generations barely a town or village would have been without the essential talents of a stonemason. Now, as some of the most treasured examples of the master stonemasons of Scotland's work comes under threat from time and climate change, efforts are under way to gauge how many might be left - and how more can be encouraged to learn their trade. National agency

The Herald 3 **Labour demands clarity on teacher number plans** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what the Government plans to do to maintain teacher numbers in the country. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed that Education

Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville will lay out plans in the coming days to Parliament which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports that Glasgow City Council officials had drawn

Scotland on Sunday 14 **Refugee integration projects to get £1.6m funding boost** Refugees are to benefit from £1.6 million of government funding to help them integrate into life in Scotland. English lessons, help to apply for work and funding for Refugee Festival Scotland, will all be given a boost in an effort to ensure refugees and asylum seekers are supported to make their new communities their home as part of a refreshed New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy. Around a third of the

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Sunday Mail 2 **STARVED OF IDEAS** A government working group tasked with tackling hunger over a year ago is yet to come up with a definition of malnutrition. Papers seen by the Sunday Mail also reveal the committee is still debating whether to gather data on children despite fears thousands of pupils are attending school hungry. We revealed in October that the group had not met despite having been announced by ministers in 2021. Three weeks

The Sunday Telegraph 6 **Scottish discus champion fears for children over Sturgeon's trans policy on school sport** A LEADING Scottish athlete has criticised Nicola Sturgeon's school guidance for transgender pupils, saying it has led to girls feeling it is "almost pointless" competing. Kirsty Law, a 13-time Scottish discus champion, has spoken out about Scottish Government regulations which permit children to enter the competition of whichever gender they identify with. Her remarks come amid a Scottish National Party (SNP) civil war over trans rights. Ms Law is the

4. JUSTICE

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 19 **Trans rapist allowed wigs and make-up in jail** TRANSGENDER rapist Isla Bryson will have access to make-up, wigs, women's underwear and even fake breasts while serving her sentence in a male prison under Scottish Prison Service rules. Bryson, 31, is at the centre of a political storm after it

was revealed the rapist, once a man called Adam Graham, swapped gender after being charged with two rapes. According to a Scottish Prison Service (SPS) transgender policy, prisoners should

The Herald 3 **Support for SNP slumps over trans rights debate** SUPPORT for the SNP, for First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and for independence has slumped amid the party's transgender rights crusade. Backing for the party for the Holyrood elections has fallen to its lowest for five years in the latest YouGov poll, reported in The Sunday Times, while voting intentions for Westminster were the worst since 2019. Senior allies of the first minister have spoken of a "meltdown" in the party

The Herald 9 **Major spike in officers and staff failing Police Scotland vetting** THE number of individuals failing Police Scotland vetting more than doubled last year, according to figures obtained by The Herald on Sunday. In 2022, Scotland's Force Vetting Unit received 7,070 applications covering officers, special constables, staff, and contractors. Of those, 433 had their clearance refused. In 2021, when the unit processed 6,886 applications, 208 had their clearance refused and in 2019, when 5,950 people were vetted, just 110 were knocked

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The National (Scotland) 18 **Police reject claims lack of charging points has left electric vehicles parked AFLEET** OF 75 new electric vehicles bought by Police Scotland has been kept in storage for around eight months but the force has denied that a lack of charging stations has stopped them from being deployed. The news follows reports in August that police stations across Scotland were being given electric vehicles (EVs) despite having no charging points. Police Scotland awarded two contracts worth more than £25 million in 2020

The Sunday Times 2 **Trans row 'will be Sturgeon's poll tax'** Support for the SNP and independence have slumped since Nicola Sturgeon's attempt to make it easier for Scots to change gender. The Scottish first minister's own rating has also slipped into negative territory, according to a YouGov poll for The Sunday Times. Last night a former deputy leader of the party said that the gender reform bill would be her "poll tax". Jim Sillars's attack was pitched to wound Sturgeon,

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Scotland on Sunday 8 **Sturgeon faces inevitable backlash over GRA reform** When scores of feminists criticised the Scottish Government's plan to make it easier for people to change their gender in law, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made no attempt to conceal her disdain. She was coldly dismissive of the suggestion some dangerous men might exploit the introduction of selfidentification in order to gain access to spaces reserved for women. These fears were, said Sturgeon, "not valid". In a remarkable turn of

Sunday Express 13 **Sturgeon is wrong... shame on her for pushing a dangerous law** HAS Nicola Sturgeon effectively ended her political career by pushing forward the highly controversial reforms to the Gender Recognition Act, that would allow a man to change his legal sex to that of a woman without medical intervention or scrutiny? or OPPOSE Scottish legislation? At present, a transgender person is required to get opinions from two medical professionals to obtain a gender SUPPORT recognition certificate and must also prove they

Sunday Express 13 **Ban pre-op trans women from female spaces - poll** NEARLY two-thirds of people believe trans women with male bodies should be barred from women's prisons, gyms and changing rooms. And there is widespread support for the decision by the UK Government to block Scottish legislation allowing anyone to change their gender by making a declaration. Do you SUPPORT the UK blocking parliamentary Polling shows 64 per cent believe trans women who have not undergone genital surgery should be prevented

Sunday Express (Scotland) 14 **SNP gender Bill plans spectacularly backfire** IT has been clear from the start that the Scottish Government's gender legislation was not going to go down well with the voting public. Now our exclusive poll shows just how wide of the mark Nicola Sturgeon's administration is. Her plans to help trans

people has backfired and the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, already blocked by the UK Government, has been universally panned across the UK. Even her own SNP

Sunday Express (Scotland) 4 **Transgender prisoner's death set for fatal accident inquiry probe** THE death of a transgender knife attacker in a male Scots jail is to be probed in a fatal accident inquiry two years after the event. A date for the hearing into the sudden death of Sarah Jane Riley, in January 2019, has been listed by the Crown Office for Perth Sheriff Court on March 23. Riley was living as a woman at the maximum security prison, HMP Perth, a

Sunday Express (Scotland) 1 **UK VOTERS PAN TRANS SELF-ID GENDER SCHEME** THE controversial new Scots law that allows trans people to self-identify their gender has been panned by UK voters. An exclusive poll for the Sunday Express found almost half of those questioned oppose the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill which has been TURN TO PAGE 4 FROM PAGE ONE approved by Holyrood. Only around a fifth support the legislation which would also see 16-year-olds able to change their gender without

Sunday Mail 30 **Quotes of the week** He sort of threatened me at one point and said, 'Boris, I don't want to hurt you but with a missile, it would only take a minute' Then PM Boris Johnson reveals a chilling quip from Vladimir Putin on the days before Russia invaded Ukraine last February The sound of bagpipes always gives me a little tingle Dragons' Den star Touker Suleyman to entrepreneur Robbie MacIsaac, of Falkirk, who emerged

Sunday Mail 16 **Time for clarity** Scotland's criminal justice system has been plunged into crisis by the government's increasingly incoherent gender policy. Ministers appear unable to say whether dangerous sex criminals are men or women or be clear about which prison they should be incarcerated in. Having initially insisted "trans women are women", Nicola Sturgeon now appears to have shifted to believing "trans women are women unless they are rapists". This is heaping unacceptable pressure on

Sunday Mail 32 **8 years on, you've failed to take back control from a killer** A woman whose brother strangled their mother to death has criticised the Scottish Government for failing to close a legal loophole which has let him control his victim's £500,000 estate for eight years. Lorraine Taggart Bristow is calling on MSPs to change the law which allows Ross Taggart to legally remain in sole charge of their mum Carol-Anne's estate. Taggart, 38, attacked his 54-year-old mum at the home they shared

Sunday Mail 29 **The boys £2m in blew in six months** Cash-strapped Police Scotland has paid out more than £2million in compensation claims in the last six months. It follows a series of costly legal actions raised against it in the courts and employment tribunals from both staff and members of the public. The majority of the compensation - about £1.5million - was paid in out-of-court settlements. Twenty-three cases were brought by members of the public against Police Scotland. Ten involved

Sunday Mail 9 **Trauma of girl, 14, after sex attack by trans paedophile** A transgender paedophile carried out a sex attack on a teenage girl while living as a man. Ryan Scott - who was born female - lured the schoolgirl back to their home after meeting up on Valentine's Day last year. The 20-year-old, who uses the name Coral Scott, pounced on the girl, who was just 14 at the time, and tried to engage her in sexual activity. After being caught,

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The Sunday Times 22 **SNP trans fiasco highlights the dangers of groupthink** In less than a fortnight the supposed logic behind Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-identification law has collapsed. The destabilising push came from the case of 31-year-old Isla Bryson, a convicted rapist who went by the name of Adam Graham at the time of his arrest. Pending sentencing, Bryson, a selfidentifying trans woman, was housed at Cornton Vale, a women's prison near Stirling. In response to public outrage Bryson was moved to

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 19 **STILL PAYING FOR A CARDINAL'S SIN** Keith O'Brien's long fall into disgrace started from the highest point. On the morning of Tuesday, October 21, 2003, the aged and infirm Pope John Paul II presented the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh with the red silk biretta of a cardinal in a grand consistory inside St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. He was now a prince of the Catholic church. In the afternoon, O'Brien celebrated with hundreds

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **The rapist who triggered Sturgeon's 'poll tax moment'** It was a simple question: should a man convicted of raping two women be considered a woman simply because he has declared that he is one himself? Simple, perhaps, but it caused Nicola Sturgeon real difficulties in the Scottish parliament: "I think that a rapist should be considered a rapist. That is what I think... I will not get into the individual circumstances of that particular individual's claims to

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 23 **Sturgeon's betrayal has killed confidence of loyalists** For the sake of national clarity, let's stop the pretence. The SNP, the Scottish government and the Edinburgh parliament are all diminished to the point of ridicule by Nicola Sturgeon's gender argument transitioning from black to white. This is not politics as normal. It is the betrayal of Scotland by its first minister. What was the settled will of SNP loyalists for years has been reversed within days. A constitutional

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 3 **Michael Glackin 'Battering Scottish families' begins at Holyrood** Sadly, my local settler on The Royal Mile shut up shop last year — another victim of the "tourist ghetto" that the capital's historic thoroughfare has become. Still, a quick phone call to William Hill told me that SNP justice secretary Keith Brown is now 3-1 to replace Nicola Sturgeon. The former economy minister is second favourite behind Angus Robertson, who is odds on. Kate Forbes is drifting — not

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Police Scotland officers 'are not properly vetted'** Thousands of police officers in Scotland have never been subjected to full background checks since they were recruited more than a decade ago, it has emerged. The disclosure prompted criticism of the national force's vetting procedures in light of the disturbing case of David Carrick, who pleaded guilty last month to dozens of rape and sexual offences against women while he was a serving officer in the Metropolitan Police. Sir

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **Nicola will pay price of deal with zealots** When passing the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the UK government sought and received legislative consent from the Scottish parliament on the desirable principle of having a single regime for the whole of the UK. I can find no record that the SNP, then in opposition, objected to the consent. The lord advocate would have a difficult task convincing the Supreme Court that the "desirability principle", based on common sense, is

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Herald 2 **First Minister accused of 'short-changing NHS Scotland by £17.6bn'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the First Minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula, which delivers cash to devolved governments based on public spending south of the Border. Pre-pandemic figures show that from 2008/09 to 2019/20, spending per head on

The Herald 13 **Warning Scottish hospice services 'may be in jeopardy'** THE UK Government has been urged to extend help for hospices when the Energy Bill Relief scheme comes to an end next month. Charities providing end-of-life services face catastrophic rises in their bills from April with the new scheme from the government giving only a modest discount on prices, despite warnings that the sector is facing up to a fivefold increase in energy costs. One industry body warned that many

The Herald 6 **'It's so unsettling' Scottish social workers prepare to quit over Scot Gov care reforms** NICOLA Sturgeon faces new pressure to drop her flagship policy for a National Care Service amid warnings that social workers are considering quitting the profession over the reforms. A report by the trade union Unison reveals fears among staff that the changes will lead to further strains on an already stretched service which would also have a knock-on effect on the health service as it struggles to recover in the

The Herald 3 **Government urged to adopt cancer testing action plan** "The Scottish Government is being urged to adopt an action plan to improve cancer testing and diagnosis, which Liberal Democrats claim could provide a "lifeline" to patients and their families. The party has drawn up an "ambitious and dynamic" series of actions - including the rollout of home tests for cervical cancer for women who fail to attend for screening. The LibDems also want the current target of having 60 per

The National (Scotland) 6 **'Javid is wrong to back GP fees'** down this road in the UK. Charging in no way deters patients from turning up to their GP with minor illnesses so it won't help reduce waiting times to see your GP in the UK and there are other, more important ramifications." These include the potential for overuse of antibiotics as patients with viral infections, who might have paid 50 New Zealand dollars for a consultation, "quite naturally" expected a

The National (Scotland) 17 **A VERY HEALTHY INTEREST IN ART** ARTISTS and makers are playing a key role in healthcare in two innovative hospital projects in Scotland. Initiatives include sculptures designed to encourage therapeutic use of the grounds surrounding the new East Lothian Community Hospital and creative workshops for mental health outpatients and people living with dementia. Artists were also commissioned to support the mental well-being of staff and patients at the redesigned worldleading haematology centre at the Western General

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **BOOZE BAN BOOST** TWO-thirds of footie fans reckon it could be time to red card the sport's reliance on booze industry sponsorship, a poll shows. That number claimed a dependence on drink-related ads was a "bad thing". And 79 per cent admitted to being exposed to alcohol promos around the game. Some 287 members of the Scottish Football Supporters Association were quizzed over ministers' plans for hardline bans on booze ads. The survey,

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **WELCOME TO FALLYROOD** SLIPS, trips and falls into the parliamentary pond are among a host of Holyrood mishaps, we can reveal. Bosses revealed there were 22 accidents on the site last year — despite bosses insisting safety at Scotland's government hub is "a priority". In December, a contractor was hit on the head by a falling wall panel, causing "a sore head and shoulder". Days earlier, a piece of fibreboard hit another contractor

Scotland on Sunday 2 **Rail safety fears over ministers' meddling in track works** Scottish rail chiefs are alarmed at ministerial interference in seeking to postpone vital work which they fear will increase overall costs and disruption to passengers and could pose safety risks. Industry sources have told Scotland on Sunday there have been requests from several Scottish Government ministers to put off line closures to avoid inconveniencing travellers. They said the moves have added millions of pounds to the cost of the Network

Scotland on Sunday 3 **'All Scots know a life lost or blighted due to alcohol'** A leading alcohol charity boss has said drinking has not always been ingrained in Scottish culture as she stressed the country could reverse a trend to higher consumption that emerged in the late 20th century. Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, warned the normality of drinking had led all Scots to

"know somebody whose life has been lost or blighted due to alcohol". She warmly welcomed this week's

Sunday Express (Scotland) 10 **Missed appointment fines backed** PATIENTS who fail to turn up to an NHS appointment should face a £10 fine, according to nearly two-thirds of voters. Penalties for missing GP or hospital appointments are backed by 64 per cent of the public, an exclusive Sunday Express survey found. A majority of those who voted Labour or Lib Dem in 2019 support fines, as well as most Tory supporters. And, of SNP voters, 58 per cent agree. Prime

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **'£17.6bn for NHS spent' somewhere** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" the nation's NHS by an eye-watering £17.6 billion since 2008. "The Scottish Conservatives", who analysed health spending, claim that the First Minister had overseen the "staggering" underfunding as the health secretary before replacing Alex Salmond in Bute House. The Holyrood administration receives extra funding under the Barnett formula based on public spending in England - and the Tory research shows the so-called consequential

Sunday Mail 33 **We're proof £3.6million on mesh is sickening waste of money** The Scottish Government has spent more than £3.6million on surgical mesh products that campaigners claim have devastating effects on their health and bodies. Patients want an independent review into the products and procedures but Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has ruled it out. Paperwork reveals in January last year the Government spent £3,630,250 for a 24-month supply of hernia mesh products for use by NHS Scotland from six medical suppliers. The

Sunday Mail 35 **Lib Dems in cancer action plan** An action plan is urgently needed to improve cancer diagnosis and testing, according to the Scottish Lib Dems. The party has presented the Scottish Government with an "ambitious and dynamic" set of proposals - including the rollout of cervical cancer home tests for women who fail to attend a screening. The Lib Dems also want an increase in the current target of having 60 per cent of home test kits

Sunday Mail 2 **STARVED OF IDEAS** A government working group tasked with tackling hunger over a year ago is yet to come up with a definition of malnutrition. Papers seen by the Sunday Mail also reveal the committee is still debating whether to gather data on children despite fears thousands of pupils are attending school hungry. We revealed in October that the group had not met despite having been announced by ministers in 2021. Three weeks

Sunday Mail 15 **Tories' fury over cash cut to NHS** Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the First Minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula. Figures show from 2008-09 to 2019-20, spending per head on health in Scotland, compared with England, decreased from being 15 per cent higher to just three per

The Observer 7 **Nursing union makes eleventh-hour plea to PM to compromise on pay** The head of the UK's biggest nursing union has issued a last-ditch appeal to

Rishi Sunak to agree a compromise over pay, to prevent the worst strikes in the NHS's history from causing massive disruption to patients across England tomorrow. In a letter to the prime minister, Pat Cullen, the general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said she was "appealing directly" to Sunak for the first time as

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Sarwar saved Labour but it's only half the job** Few people have ever accused Anas Sarwar of lacking self-confidence. It is nearly two years since the Labour leader took possession of the worst job in Scottish politics and as this anniversary approaches he can look back on the progress he and his party have made with some satisfaction. It is difficult to exaggerate the extent of the woes that afflicted Labour at the time. Numbed by repeated election humiliations,

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 19 **VLADY CHEEK!** SCOTLAND'S multi-million pound whisky industry is under threat from record numbers of Russian counterfeits. In response to trade sanctions imposed after the invasion of Ukraine, Russian spirits firms have massively increased their production of whisky. Many of the drinks have Scottish-sounding names such as Scotch Terrier Blended Whisky, made in Kaliningrad, Blue Kilt whisky from Moscow, and the Glen Eagles blended malt from the Stavropol region. The Scotch Whisky Association

The Herald 26 **Revolution in the air Pedal power puts tourism sector on road to richies** COVERING 250 miles, it meanders from the shores of Loch Ryan in the west, sweeps upwards towards the historic town of Dumfries, and on to the pretty fishing boats in Eyemouth harbour. For cyclists who can cope with days in the saddle, the recently unveiled Coast to Coast cycling route is one of the longest in the UK. And if cyclists embrace it as they're expected to, it will lure

The Herald 22 **Spirit of free enterprise So how did Russia buy more Scottish whisky during a supposed boycott?** HE does not like whisky much. But Vadim Drobiz knows more about a core export market for our national drink than anyone in Scotland. The analyst has been monitoring Russia's alcohol sales day in, day out for 15 years. Before that he was a senior executive in his country's drinks industry. So, he prefers vodka to what he calls the "exotica" of foreign spirits. "I think it's a second-rate product,"

The Herald 12 **Scots landowners who don't register what they own escape fines for another year** LANDOWNERS who fail to sign up to a new public register declaring what they own have been given a further year to do before facing a fine. The extension has prompted the Labour MSP Mercedes Villalba to accuse ministers of "backtracking" on a commitment to deliver more transparency over land ownership. The register was designed to enable communities and individuals to have access to information enabling them to find out

The Herald 19 **Fury to the fore as Carnoustie is accused of failing to replace trees after mass felling** HUNDREDS of trees felled at a world-famous golf course and Open venue have not been replaced after more than two years, according to angry locals. Two hundred trees were cut down on the south side of Carnoustie Golf Links in 2020 so that underground cables could be laid connecting the nearby

Seagreen offshore wind farm to the electricity grid. One walker who frequents the area where the trees were cut

The National (Scotland) 1 **The Outlander effect** GENRE-CROSSING historical drama Outlander is coming to an end. Although the 10th and likely final book is still being written by author Diana Gabaldon, it has been announced that the TV rendition will conclude with its lead characters Claire, a 20th-century war

The National (Scotland) 12 **How can a small island turn the tides of depopulation?** IT is a pristine morning in North Ronaldsay, and as the sun shines, Malcolm Purvis is re-roofing his barn with giant sandstone and granite slabs, sourced from the nearby shore. After nearly a decade in Wester Ross, Malcolm and his wife June decided to seek out "another adventure", and after falling in love with the small Orcadian island while on holiday, the retired couple from London later made their home

Scotland on Sunday 6 **Deposit Return Scheme risks unravelling** It seems like such a simple idea, harking back to the days of children collecting fizzy drink bottles for extra pocket money. But Scotland's planned Deposit Return Scheme is anything but - and six months out from its launch, it is in serious risk of unravelling. The alarm bells have been sounding for a while now but reached a peak last week after the Scottish Retail Consortium held talks with

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Craft brewers call for delay to deposit plan** Craft brewers have demanded that the Scottish government give them an extra 18 months to comply with its controversial deposit return scheme or risk sharp job losses in the sector. It is yet another blow to the twice delayed scheme. Retailers earlier warned that the August launch date would be missed should ministers fail to provide them with an "operational blueprint" by the end of this month. The deposit return

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

The Herald 20 **Work, rest ... and play Inside Scottish vision for 21st-century schooling** IN days gone by, naughty children who dared to scrawl on classroom walls may have expected to face six of the belt. Meanwhile, their classrooms may not have been particularly cosy, with rows of desks, back-breaking chairs, blackboards, and the intimidating teacher's table. Now, however, a new generation of modern schools is emerging - a world away from the "children only" spaces of the past. Instead of simply being "schools",

The Herald 1 **SCOTLAND COULD LOSE £60BN IN SEABED SELL-OFF TO WIND FARM COMPANIES** FULL STORY INSIDE

The Herald 4 **'A financial disaster' Ill wind blows over projected loss of £ £60bn over ScotWind leasing rights** Scotland is expected to miss out on £60 billion through the surrender of nearly two-thirds of the potential supply chain bonanza and the "underselling" of leasing rights for the offshore wind revolution, The Herald on Scotland can reveal. The 20 ScotWind projects, with a combined potential

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The Herald 23 **Warning to stop burning plastics** SCOTLAND must stop burning plastics by 2030, an independent review has warned ministers. The report follows an earlier review into the role of incineration in Scotland, which recommended placing a cap on future capacity and led to ministers introducing restrictions on incinerator developments. Colin Church, the author of the report, has now added 12 new recommendations to help Scotland reduce the carbon impact of residual - or black bag -

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 30 **How ten cameras will push 1 million drivers off the road** A SCHEME which will ban a third of all cars in Scotland from the centre of the country's biggest city will be enforced by a network of 'Big Brother'-style spy cameras. From this summer, the creation of the country's first Low Emission Zone (LEZ) will see motorists in older diesel or petrol vehicles being fined for driving into central Glasgow. The scheme will be policed using automatic number plate recognition

The National (Scotland) 18 **Police reject claims lack of charging points has left electric vehicles parked** AFLEET OF 75 new electric vehicles bought by Police Scotland has been kept in storage for around eight months but the force has denied that a lack of charging stations has stopped them from being deployed. The news follows reports in August that police stations across Scotland were being given electric vehicles (EVs) despite having no charging points. Police Scotland awarded two contracts worth more than £25 million in 2020

The National (Scotland) 6 **SNP MP calls for huge overhaul to system of prepayment meters after forced install row** McLaughlin calls out 'outrageous' prices of electricity in energy-rich Scotland AN SNP MP has warned the "whole system" of prepayment meters needs to change in the wake of the scandal over forced installations of the pay-as-you-go devices. Anne McLaughlin, who represents Glasgow North East, said it was "outrageous" people who had to rely on meters had to face paying higher prices for their energy. She made the call following revelations

Scotland on Sunday 4 **Increasing windfall tax won't suddenly fix**

prices Increasing the windfall tax won't suddenly fix gas and oil prices despite calls from opposition parties, an academic has warned. Professor Alex Kemp claimed the situation was far more "complicated" than some politicians let on, and suggested oil and gas prices were already falling. The Professor of Petroleum Economics at the University of Aberdeen also questioned how much would be raised, given many companies were not investing in areas where

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Scotland on Sunday 12 **Obstruction and denial in Scotland's offshore wind figures** Little more than two months ago, on 8 November, the Scottish Government was handed a dossier from pro-Union think tank These Islands debunking the much-used claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential. This claim had been repeated by senior SNP figures in the House of Commons, by MSPs in Holyrood, and by Cabinet secretaries in public and private discussions. It was a key pillar in the

Scotland on Sunday 16 **Seagrass 'better than a rainforest' at eliminating carbon** More than 4,000 people have been involved in the first full year of a major marine restoration project to bring back seagrass habitats and native oyster populations to the Firth of Forth. And Kinghorn's beachscape is of particular importance in the £2.4 million Restoration Forth project as it is the major site in the firth for a larger seagrass, known as *Zostera marina*. It probably goes unnoticed by people walking

Sunday Express (Scotland) 11 **Patients flock to GPs as rising bills make them sick** MORE than one in five GP appointments are linked to the cost-of-living crisis, according to a survey. The study into the opinions of 1,000 GPs shows 22 per cent of consultations are for mental or physical issues caused by, or made worse by, bills worries. The research, which was conducted by primary care magazine Pulse, also showed that 16 per cent of GPs are putting in initiatives designed to help

Sunday Mail 5 **Airport boss fears light planes may be sucked out sky** Airport bosses fear small planes could be sucked out of the sky by giant turbines at a new wind farm. Cumbernauld Airport is only five miles from a green energy development that could produce enough electricity to power nearly 33,000 homes a year. Despite

safety concerns, councillors this week gave the wind farm the go-ahead to operate for 40 years. Greengairs East Wind Farm Limited is constructing eight 150m high

Sunday Mail 4 **FUNNY FARM** Dozens of giant turbines on Scotland's windfarms have been powered by diesel generators, the Sunday Mail can reveal. ScottishPower admitted 71 of its windmills were hooked up to the fossil fuel supply after a fault developed on the grid. The firm said it was forced to act in order to keep the turbines warm during very cold weather in December. But a whistleblower has told the Sunday Mail the incident

Sunday Mail 16 **Don't take us for fuels over green energy** Everyone wants a sustainable green energy future for Scotland and the world. But the transition to a low carbon economy has to be fair and managed competently. We reveal today that 71 giant turbines across a number of windfarms spent weeks hooked up to pollution-spewing diesel generators. A whistleblower claimed this is just one hidden example of our costly renewables industry not living up to its green credentials. The technician

Sunday Mail 21 **There's still more asbestos.. and we have the evidence** Workmen who believe they were exposed to deadly asbestos on sites run by a housebuilder with links to the SNP have demanded investigations into the company are reopened. Springfield Properties paid a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, East Dunbartonshire. But subcontractors who worked there have claimed they passed evidence to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Health and Safety

The Sunday Telegraph 7 **Sorry, Nicola it turns out we're all 'Terfs' now** t's a funny one, gender ideology. I The conviction that society must be reshaped to fit the interests of a small minority who claim that they are the sex they "affirm" has been wildly influential. Why? Because of the insistence of radical activists, some academics and an increasing number of bosses and politicians? Or because we - the public - want a world modelled around such ideas? There are increasing

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Craft brewers call for delay to deposit plan** Craft brewers have demanded that the Scottish government give them an extra 18 months to comply with its controversial deposit return scheme or risk sharp job losses in the sector. It is yet another blow to the twice delayed scheme. Retailers earlier warned that the August launch date would be missed should ministers fail to provide them with an "operational blueprint" by the end of this month. The deposit return

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Cult of Green is slowly destroying the economy** What's not to love about the Scottish Greens, personified by that doughty seven-strong band of parliamentary eco-champions appointed to save us from ourselves and our penchant for the internal combustion engine? Quite a lot, as it turns out. The ecosystem at Holyrood has evolved dramatically since the days of Robin Harper, the UK's first elected green parliamentarian, who brightened up the initial Scottish parliament with his brightly knitted scarves, amiable

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

The Herald 2 **Concerns over real-term cuts to Scottish councils** COUNCILS in Scotland would still be facing a real-terms cut to funding even if council tax is increased by 5 per cent, a think tank has said. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), published on Friday, said local authorities face a 0.8% real-terms cut in budgets for the next year if Government plans are given the go-ahead. Under the Scottish Government's budget proposals - which passed the first

The Herald 3 **Labour demands clarity on teacher number plans** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what the Government plans to do to maintain teacher numbers in the country. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed that Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville will lay out plans in the coming days to Parliament which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports that Glasgow City Council officials had drawn

The Herald 16 **Skills at historic low Scarcity of stonemasons threatens Scots heritage** THEIR skills built the nation, and for generations barely a town or village would have been without the essential talents of a stonemason. Now, as some of the most treasured examples of the master stonemasons of Scotland's work comes under threat from time and climate change, efforts are under way to gauge how many might be left - and how more can be encouraged to learn their trade. National agency

The Herald 1 **SCOTLAND COULD LOSE £60BN IN SEABED SELL-OFF TO WIND FARM COMPANIES** FULL STORY INSIDE

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The National (Scotland) 3 **The week in numbers** IWomen took part in Up HellyAa pre festival squads in Shetland for the first time this year after the Lerwick Up HellyAa Committee decided to relax the long-standing custom of only allowing males to take part in the procession. £7m The UK Government is accused of "wasting" public money after reports that it will spend £7 million to renovate the front door of the House of Lords. The massive bill

The National (Scotland) 12 **How can a small island turn the tides of depopulation?** IT is a pristine morning in North Ronaldsay, and as the sun shines, Malcolm Purvis is re-roofing his barn with giant sandstone and granite slabs, sourced from the nearby shore. After nearly a decade in Wester Ross, Malcolm and his wife June decided to seek out "another adventure", and after falling in love with the small Orcadian island while on holiday, the retired couple from London later made their home

The National (Scotland) 3 **Walkout Wednesday is 'only the beginning'** THE coordinated strike action taken by members of various trade unions across the nations of Britain on Wednesday, February 1 was the biggest walkout in the current wave of industrial action. In Scotland, England and Wales, an estimated half-a-million workers joined the strikes. Here in Scotland, the groups of workers taking strike action ranged from civil servants in the PCS union, to members of the UCU university lecturers' union, Aslef

The National (Scotland) 6 **Solidarity between workers and students gives hope for a fairer future** ON Wednesday, as almost half a million workers across the UK took the difficult decision to take strike action and fight back against poverty pay and poor conditions, students from across Scotland took to rally outside the Scottish Parliament in demand of urgent action from the Scottish Government on the cost of living crisis. The rally, although organised by NUS Scotland long before Wednesday had been announced by the TUC

The National (Scotland) 17 **Government to invest £1.6m in updated strategy for New Scots** THE Scottish Government has announced a £1.6 million investment in refreshing the country's refugee integration strategy. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was announced in 2018, with a lifespan that was due to end last year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the funding will allow the Scottish Government to take account of the changes of the past few years - including displacement caused by the withdrawal of western forces

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **ASYLUM CASH Schemes to help [...]** ASYLUM CASH Schemes to help refugees settle safely have received £1.6million from the Scottish Government.

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Scotland on Sunday 14 **Refugee integration projects to get £1.6m funding boost** Refugees are to benefit from £1.6 million of government funding to help them integrate into life in Scotland. English lessons, help to apply for work and funding for Refugee Festival Scotland, will all be given a boost in an effort to ensure refugees and asylum seekers are supported to make their new communities their home as part of a refreshed New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy. Around a third of the

Scotland on Sunday 12 **Obstruction and denial in Scotland's offshore wind figures** Little more than two months ago, on 8 November, the Scottish Government was handed a dossier from pro-Union think tank These Islands debunking the much-used claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential. This claim had been repeated by senior SNP figures in the House of Commons, by MSPs in Holyrood, and by Cabinet secretaries in public and private discussions. It was a key pillar in the

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **Teacher number fears as councils 'stare down barrel of savage cuts'** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what Holyrood ministers plan to do to maintain teacher numbers. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed her government will lay out plans which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports Glasgow City Council officials had drawn up speculative plans to cut 800 teacher posts. Although Cabinet members have

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **'£17.6bn for NHS spent'sewhere'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" the nation's NHS by an eye-watering £17.6 billion since 2008. "The Scottish Conservatives", who analysed health spending, claim that the First Minister had overseen the "staggering" underfunding as the

health secretary before replacing Alex Salmond in Bute House. the Holyrood administration receives extra funding under the Barnett formula based on public spending in England - and the Tory research shows the so-called consequential

Sunday Mail 35 **£1.6m for refugees support** The Scottish Government has announced a £1.6million investment to extend its refugee integration strategy. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was announced in 2018 and was due to end last year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the cash will help take account of changes - including displacement after troops left Afghanistan and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He said: "Our compassionate approach to support refugees and people seeking

Sunday Mail 29 **The boys £2m in blew in six months** Cash-strapped Police Scotland has paid out more than £2million in compensation claims in the last six months. It follows a series of costly legal actions raised against it in the courts and employment tribunals from both staff and members of the public. The majority of the compensation - about £1.5million - was paid in out-of-court settlements. Twenty-three cases were brought by members of the public against Police Scotland. Ten involved

Sunday Mail 20 **Pressure over teaching jobs** Labour has called for clarity on Government plans to protect teacher numbers. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville will lay out plans to effectively stop councils cutting teacher numbers. The announcement came in response to reports Glasgow City Council officials had drawn up speculative plans to cut 800 posts. Scottish Labour education spokesman Michael Marra said: "The situation could not be more urgent."

Sunday Mail 15 **Tories' fury over cash cut to NHS** Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the First Minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula. Figures show from 2008-09 to 2019-20, spending per head on health in Scotland, compared with England, decreased from being 15 per cent higher to just three per

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Cult of Green is slowly destroying the economy** What's not to love about the Scottish Greens, personified by that doughty seven-strong band of parliamentary eco-champions appointed to save us from ourselves and our penchant for the internal combustion engine? Quite a lot, as it turns out. The ecosystem at Holyrood has evolved dramatically since the days of Robin Harper, the UK's first elected green parliamentarian, who brightened up the initial Scottish parliament with his brightly knitted scarves, amiable

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Craft brewers call for delay to deposit plan** Craft brewers have demanded that the Scottish government give them an extra 18 months to comply with its controversial deposit return scheme or risk sharp job losses in the sector. It is yet another blow to the twice delayed scheme. Retailers earlier warned that the August launch date would be missed should ministers fail to provide them with an "operational blueprint" by the end of this month. The deposit return

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 3 **Michael Glackin 'Battering Scottish families' begins at Holyrood** Sadly, my local settler on The Royal Mile shut up shop last year — another victim of the "tourist ghetto" that the capital's historic thoroughfare has become. Still, a quick phone call to William Hill told me that SNP justice secretary Keith Brown is now 3-1 to replace Nicola Sturgeon. The former economy minister is second favourite behind Angus Robertson, who is odds on. Kate Forbes is drifting — not

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 19 **Trans rapist allowed wigs and make-up in jail** TRANSGENDER rapist Isla Bryson will have access to make-up, wigs, women's underwear and even fake breasts while serving her sentence in a male prison under Scottish Prison Service rules. Bryson, 31, is at the centre of a political storm after it was revealed the rapist, once a man called Adam Graham, swapped gender after being charged with two rapes. According to a Scottish Prison Service (SPS) transgender policy, prisoners should

The Herald 2 **First Minister accused of 'short-changing NHS Scotland by £17.6bn'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of "short-changing" Scotland's NHS by £17.6 billion since 2008. Analysis of health spending by the Scottish Conservatives has led the party to claim the First Minister oversaw the "staggering" underfunding. The party investigated Treasury funding under the Barnett formula, which delivers cash to devolved governments based on public spending south of the Border. Pre-pandemic figures show that from 2008/09 to 2019/20, spending per head on

The Herald 3 **Support for SNP slumps over trans rights debate** SUPPORT for the SNP, for First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and for independence has slumped amid the party's transgender rights crusade. Backing for the party for the Holyrood elections has fallen to its lowest for five years in the latest YouGov poll, reported in The Sunday Times, while voting intentions for Westminster were the worst since 2019. Senior allies of the first minister have spoken of a "meltdown" in the party

The Herald 2 **Concerns over real-term cuts to Scottish councils** COUNCILS in Scotland would still be facing a real-terms cut to funding even if council tax is increased by 5 per cent, a think tank has said. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), published on Friday, said local authorities face a 0.8% real-terms cut in budgets for the next year if Government plans are given the go-ahead. Under the Scottish Government's budget proposals - which passed the first

The Herald 13 **Warning Scottish hospice services 'may be in jeopardy'** THE UK Government has been urged to extend help for hospices when the Energy Bill Relief scheme comes to an end next month. Charities providing end-of-life services face catastrophic rises in their bills from April with the new scheme from the government giving only a modest discount on prices, despite warnings that the sector is facing up to a fivefold increase in energy costs. One industry body warned that many

The Herald 6 **'It's so unsettling' Scottish social workers prepare to quit over Scot Gov care reforms** NICOLA Sturgeon faces new pressure to drop her flagship

policy for a National Care Service amid warnings that social workers are considering quitting the profession over the reforms. A report by the trade union Unison reveals fears among staff that the changes will lead to further strains on an already stretched service which would also have a knock-on effect on the health service as it struggles to recover in the

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 24 **Virtue signalling over refugees** SCOTLAND has a proud history of welcoming refugees from war and civil unrest. When people have fled tyranny throughout the years, this country has provided safe harbour. It was right for the Scottish Government to announce that thousands of Ukrainians would be given sanctuary as despotic Russian president Vladimir Putin attacked their country. But while First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was happy to play the part of benevolent leader when she

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 2 **Support for SNP plummets amid gender 'disaster'** NICOLA Sturgeon's independence plans have suffered another hammer blow as a poll showed support for her leadership, the SNP and Scottish separation has plunged. A YouGov survey found backing for the SNP has slumped to its lowest level in five years as internal conflicts over transgender rights engulf the party. Insiders believe gender swap reforms passed before Christmas have eroded trust in the party, as well as its hopes for

The National (Scotland) 6 **Solidarity between workers and students gives hope for a fairer future** ON Wednesday, as almost half a million workers across the UK took the difficult decision to take strike action and fight back against poverty pay and poor conditions, students from across Scotland took to rally outside the Scottish Parliament in demand of urgent action from the Scottish Government on the cost of living crisis. The rally, although organised by NUS Scotland long before Wednesday had been announced by the TUC

The National (Scotland) 3 **MSP set to challenge BBC on trans rights debate** AN SNP MSP has said he will challenge the BBC over the trans rights debate on Thursday's Question Time after it was accused of broadcasting "vile hate speech". It comes after Ryan McNaughton, an activist with the Scottish Greens, wrote to parliamentarians asking them to intervene following the BBC show and raised concerns about the tone of the debate. Guest India Willoughby, a trans woman, said she felt as if

The National (Scotland) 2 **Former Labour minister calls on Jack to reveal Section 35 legal advice** SCOTTISH Secretary Alister Jack should publish the legal advice which was used as the basis for the Section 35 order blocking gender recognition reform legislation because it is a matter of such "constitutional significance", a former UK minister has said. Lord Falconer, who served as a Labour justice secretary, said the public had a right to know what the advice was. The former Lord Chancellor has previously criticised the UK

The National (Scotland) 17 **Government to invest £1.6m in updated strategy for New Scots** THE Scottish Government has announced a £1.6 million investment in refreshing the country's refugee integration strategy. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was announced in 2018, with a lifespan that was due to end last

year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the funding will allow the Scottish Government to take account of the changes of the past few years - including displacement caused by the withdrawal of western forces

The National (Scotland) 8 **'Cherry-picking of cases must be countered'** Fears raised after US far-right latches on to Bryson row THE case of transgender prisoner Isla Bryson has dominated Scottish headlines, with numerous American right-wing agitators and publications picking it up and running with it since. Fox News, Breitbart News, New York Post, InfoWars and fake news website Gateway Pundit all published articles, sometimes multiple, on the case, and alt-right talking heads Andy Ngo, Dr Jordan Peterson and Matt Walsh

The National (Scotland) 6 **Government has allowed independence to slip down list of priorities** HALL we take our text from Humpty Dumpty in Alice in Wonderland: "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less"? Or maybe you're more a fan of the Red Queen: "Sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." We certainly seem to be trapped in Alice's looking-glass world

The National (Scotland) 6 **SNP MP calls for huge overhaul to system of prepayment meters after forced install row** McLaughlin calls out 'outrageous' prices of electricity in energy-rich Scotland AN SNP MP has warned the "whole system" of prepayment meters needs to change in the wake of the scandal over forced installations of the pay-as-you-go devices. Anne McLaughlin, who represents Glasgow North East, said it was "outrageous" people who had to rely on meters had to face paying higher prices for their energy. She made the call following revelations

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **ASYLUM CASH Schemes to help [...]** ASYLUM CASH Schemes to help refugees settle safely have received £1.6million from the Scottish Government.

The Sunday Times 2 **Trans row 'will be Sturgeon's poll tax'** Support for the SNP and independence have slumped since Nicola Sturgeon's attempt to make it easier for Scots to change gender. The Scottish first minister's own rating has also slipped into negative territory, according to a YouGov poll for The Sunday Times. Last night a former deputy leader of the party said that the gender reform bill would be her "poll tax". Jim Sillars's attack was pitched to wound Sturgeon,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Voters cool on SNP after trans prisoner crisis** Support for the SNP, for Nicola Sturgeon and for Scottish independence has fallen sharply as the party's crisis over transgender rights deepens. Backing for the party for the devolved Holyrood elections slumped to its lowest for five years in the latest YouGov poll, and voting intentions for Westminster were the worst since 2019. Senior allies of the first minister have spoken of a "meltdown" in the party since a sex

Scotland on Sunday 8 **Sturgeon faces inevitable backlash over GRA reform** When scores of feminists criticised the Scottish Government's plan to make it easier for people to change their gender in law, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made no attempt to conceal her disdain. She was coldly dismissive of the suggestion some dangerous men might exploit the introduction of selfidentification in order to gain

access to spaces reserved for women. These fears were, said Sturgeon, "not valid". In a remarkable turn of

Scotland on Sunday 25 **IMMIGRATION POLICY: HOW DOES SCOTLAND AND THE UK COMPARE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD?** In a year when Europe has seen the biggest mass migration of refugees since the Second World War as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, countries' immigration policies have come under more scrutiny than ever. However, while most countries have opened their doors to Ukrainians fleeing conflict at home, the situation is not always as straightforward for people attempting to escape persecution and fighting in places such as

Scotland on Sunday 20 **Records to be searched for 'Tinker Experiment' evidence** State documents covering a period of 90 years are to be searched for evidence relating to a decades-long social experiment that "decimated" the lives of gypsy travellers. The Scottish Government wants to shed new light on the so-called "Tinker Experiment" by unearthing key documents covering its implementation and scale. Members of the gypsy traveller communities will be invited to share how the scheme - which some campaigners have likened to

Scotland on Sunday 14 **Refugee integration projects to get £1.6m funding boost** Refugees are to benefit from £1.6 million of government funding to help them integrate into life in Scotland. English lessons, help to apply for work and funding for Refugee Festival Scotland, will all be given a boost in an effort to ensure refugees and asylum seekers are supported to make their new communities their home as part of a refreshed New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy. Around a third of the

Sunday Express 13 **Ban pre-op trans women from female spaces - poll** NEARLY two-thirds of people believe trans women with male bodies should be barred from women's prisons, gyms and changing rooms. And there is widespread support for the decision by the UK Government to block Scottish legislation allowing anyone to change their gender by making a declaration. Do you **SUPPORT** the UK blocking parliamentary Polling shows 64 per cent believe trans women who have not undergone genital surgery should be prevented

Sunday Express 13 **Sturgeon is wrong... shame on her for pushing a dangerous law** HAS Nicola Sturgeon effectively ended her political career by pushing forward the highly controversial reforms to the Gender Recognition Act, that would allow a man to change his legal sex to that of a woman without medical intervention or scrutiny? or **OPPOSE** Scottish legislation? At present, a transgender person is required to get opinions from two medical professionals to obtain a gender **SUPPORT** recognition certificate and must also prove they

Sunday Express (Scotland) 5 **Teacher number fears as councils 'stare down barrel of savage cuts'** SCOTTISH Labour has called for clarity on what Holyrood ministers plan to do to maintain teacher numbers. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed her government will lay out plans which would effectively block councils from cutting teacher numbers in an attempt to save money. The announcement came in response to reports Glasgow City Council officials had drawn up speculative plans to cut 800 teacher posts. Although Cabinet members have

Sunday Express (Scotland) 14 **SNP gender Bill plans spectacularly backfire** IT has been clear from the start that the Scottish Government's gender legislation was not going to go down well with the voting public. Now our exclusive poll shows just how wide of the mark Nicola Sturgeon's administration is. Her plans to help trans people has backfired and the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, already blocked by the UK Government, has been universally panned across the UK. Even her own SNP

Sunday Express (Scotland) 4 **Transgender prisoner's death set for fatal accident inquiry probe** THE death of a transgender knife attacker in a male Scots jail is to be probed in a fatal accident inquiry two years after the event. A date for the hearing into the sudden death of Sarah Jane Riley, in January 2019, has been listed by the Crown Office for Perth Sheriff Court on March 23. Riley was living as a woman at the maximum security prison, HMP Perth, a

Sunday Express (Scotland) 1 **UK VOTERS PAN TRANS SELF-ID GENDER SCHEME** THE controversial new Scots law that allows trans people to self-identify their gender has been panned by UK voters. An exclusive poll for the Sunday Express found almost half of those questioned oppose the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill which has been TURN TO PAGE 4 FROM PAGE ONE approved by Holyrood. Only around a fifth support the legislation which would also see 16-year-olds able to change their gender without

Sunday Mail 9 **Trauma of girl, 14, after sex attack by trans paedophile** A transgender paedophile carried out a sex attack on a teenage girl while living as a man. Ryan Scott - who was born female - lured the schoolgirl back to their home after meeting up on Valentine's Day last year. The 20-year-old, who uses the name Coral Scott, pounced on the girl, who was just 14 at the time, and tried to engage her in sexual activity. After being caught,

Sunday Mail 9 **Cops to monitor women's protests** A policing operation will be launched in Glasgow tomorrow to deal with potential clashes at a women's rights protest. A group called Standing for Women - led by controversial anti-trans rights blogger Posie Parker - is behind the Let Women Speak event in the city's George Square. But officers are tracking two counter protests. One is from a group called Furries Against Fascism who, on social media, have vowed to

Sunday Mail 16 **Time for clarity** Scotland's criminal justice system has been plunged into crisis by the government's increasingly incoherent gender policy. Ministers appear unable to say whether dangerous sex criminals are men or women or be clear about which prison they should be incarcerated in. Having initially insisted "trans women are women", Nicola Sturgeon now appears to have shifted to believing "trans women are women unless they are rapists". This is heaping unacceptable pressure on

Sunday Mail 21 **There's still more asbestos.. and we have the evidence** Workmen who believe they were exposed to deadly asbestos on sites run by a housebuilder with links to the SNP have demanded investigations into the company are reopened. Springfield Properties paid a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, East Dunbartonshire. But

subcontractors who worked there have claimed they passed evidence to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Health and Safety

Sunday Mail 13 **Gran It was a stressful experience** A gran whose home was broken into by a power company over an unpaid electricity bill has welcomed calls to stop the practice. Energy firms have been asked by industry regulator Ofgem to halt the forced installation of pre-payment meters. It follows revelations that a debt firm acting for British Gas were raiding the homes of vulnerable customers. In September, Tracey Miller, 48, found her home in Macmerry, East Lothian,

Sunday Mail 2 **STARVED OF IDEAS** A government working group tasked with tackling hunger over a year ago is yet to come up with a definition of malnutrition. Papers seen by the Sunday Mail also reveal the committee is still debating whether to gather data on children despite fears thousands of pupils are attending school hungry. We revealed in October that the group had not met despite having been announced by ministers in 2021. Three weeks

Sunday Mail 35 **£1.6m for refugees support** The Scottish Government has announced a £1.6million investment to extend its refugee integration strategy. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was announced in 2018 and was due to end last year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the cash will help take account of changes - including displacement after troops left Afghanistan and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He said: "Our compassionate approach to support refugees and people seeking

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 25 **The SNP has failed the poor people of Ukraine in their time of need. They have shamed Scotland...** WE ARE now approaching the anniversary of Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and there is no sign of an imminent end to the war. Many tens of thousands - and probably hundreds of thousands - of people have been killed or seriously injured. The country's infrastructure and economy have been ravaged. The effects have been global: the conflict is a major factor in energy and food price spikes and the

The Sunday Telegraph 6 **Scottish discus champion fears for children over Sturgeon's trans policy on school sport** A LEADING Scottish athlete has criticised Nicola Sturgeon's school guidance for transgender pupils, saying it has led to girls feeling it is "almost pointless" competing. Kirsty Law, a 13-time Scottish discus champion, has spoken out about Scottish Government regulations which permit children to enter the competition of whichever gender they identify with. Her remarks come amid a Scottish National Party (SNP) civil war over trans rights. Ms Law is the

The Sunday Telegraph 24 **Free societies can't survive the elevation of feelings into facts** The great Scottish question of the day - whether a trans rapist should be sent to a women's prison - has given rise to much triumphal hilarity. The obvious absurdity of the case, and the bizarre decision by Nicola Sturgeon to choose to defend what is clearly indefensible on grounds which are logically contradictory, has delivered what seems to be a fatal blow to both gender self-identification and to the

The Sunday Telegraph 7 **Sorry, Nicola it turns out we're all 'Terfs' now** It's a funny one, gender ideology. The conviction that society must be reshaped to fit the interests of a small minority who claim that they are the sex they "affirm" has been wildly influential. Why? Because of the insistence of radical activists, some academics and an increasing number of bosses and politicians? Or because we - the public - want a world modelled around such ideas? There are increasing

The Sunday Times 1 **Trans row is Sturgeon's 'poll tax moment'** Support for the SNP and independence have slumped since Nicola Sturgeon's attempt to make it easier for Scots to change gender. The Scottish first minister's personal rating has also slid into negative territory, according to a YouGov poll for The Sunday Times. Last night a former deputy leader of the party said the gender reform bill would be her "poll tax". Jim Sillars's attack was pitched to wound Sturgeon,

The Sunday Times 22 **SNP trans fiasco highlights the dangers of groupthink** In less than a fortnight the supposed logic behind Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-identification law has collapsed. The destabilising push came from the case of 31-year-old Isla Bryson, a convicted rapist who went by the name of Adam Graham at the time of his arrest. Pending sentencing, Bryson, a self-identifying trans woman, was housed at Cornton Vale, a women's prison near Stirling. In response to public outrage Bryson was moved to

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **The rapist who triggered Sturgeon's 'poll tax moment'** It was a simple question: should a man convicted of raping two women be considered a woman simply because he has declared that he is one himself? Simple, perhaps, but it caused Nicola Sturgeon real difficulties in the Scottish parliament: "I think that a rapist should be considered a rapist. That is what I think... I will not get into the individual circumstances of that particular individual's claims to

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 19 **STILL PAYING FOR A CARDINAL'S SIN** Keith O'Brien's long fall into disgrace started from the highest point. On the morning of Tuesday, October 21, 2003, the aged and infirm Pope John Paul II presented the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh with the red silk biretta of a cardinal in a grand consistory inside St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. He was now a prince of the Catholic church. In the afternoon, O'Brien celebrated with hundreds

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 23 **Sturgeon's betrayal has killed confidence of loyalists** For the sake of national clarity, let's stop the pretence. The SNP, the Scottish government and the Edinburgh parliament are all diminished to the point of ridicule by Nicola Sturgeon's gender argument transitioning from black to white. This is not politics as normal. It is the betrayal of Scotland by its first minister. What was the settled will of SNP loyalists for years has been reversed within days. A constitutional

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **Nicola will pay price of deal with zealots** When passing the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the UK government sought and received legislative consent from the Scottish parliament on the desirable principle of having a single regime for the whole of the UK. I can find no record that the SNP, then in opposition, objected to the consent. The lord advocate would have a difficult task

convincing the Supreme Court that the "desirability principle", based on common sense, is

10. CORPORATE

Scotland on Sunday 12 **Obstruction and denial in Scotland's offshore wind figures** Little more than two months ago, on 8 November, the Scottish Government was handed a dossier from pro-Union think tank These Islands debunking the much-used claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential. This claim had been repeated by senior SNP figures in the House of Commons, by MSPs in Holyrood, and by Cabinet secretaries in public and private discussions. It was a key pillar in the

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The Herald 28 **Auntie everything BBC is struggling to be all things to all people** NORMALLY when you clock up a century you get a telegram from the monarch and a pink birthday cake with tonnes of candles on it. Oh, and a bunch of stupid questions from reporters. Like: "What's the secret to a long life?". To that one you answer "lunchtime drinking" or "multiple sexual partners" or "the failure by successive Tory governments to dismantle the NHS", depending on whether you want to

The Herald 16 **Skills at historic low Scarcity of stonemasons threatens Scots heritage** THEIR skills built the nation, and for generations barely a town or village would have been without the essential talents of a stonemason. Now, as some of the most treasured examples of the master stonemasons of Scotland's work comes under threat from time and climate change, efforts are under way to gauge how many might be left - and how more can be encouraged to learn their trade. National agency

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 24 **Virtue signalling over refugees** SCOTLAND has a proud history of welcoming refugees from war and civil unrest. When people have fled tyranny throughout the years, this country has provided safe harbour. It was right for the Scottish Government to announce that thousands of Ukrainians would be given sanctuary as despotic Russian president Vladimir Putin attacked their country. But while First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was happy to play the part of benevolent leader when she

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integration strategy was announced in 2018, with a lifespan that was due to end last year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the funding will allow the Scottish Government to take account of the changes of the past few years - including displacement caused by the withdrawal of western forces

The National (Scotland) 9 **Sleaze and scandal loom large over Sunak government** WHEN Rishi Sunak took over as Prime Minister, in his first speech he made much of a promise to lead a government with "integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level". After the scandal-ridden years of Boris Johnson and the utter chaos of Liz Truss, he probably felt it was the least he could do in an effort to win back public confidence. But after completing just 100 days in Downing

The National (Scotland) 14 **Hopes high over 'Very significant' South Sudan visit** IT'S the world's newest country, but South Sudan is also the poorest. Since it gained independence in 2011, many communities have suffered appalling acts of brutality carried out by rival factions and the civil unrest is compounded by consecutive years of flooding that have rotted crops, trees and bushes. Over the years, Scots have generously supported communities struggling to survive famine and violence - and now the Moderator of the

The National (Scotland) 3 **MSP set to challenge BBC on trans rights debate** AN SNP MSP has said he will challenge the BBC over the trans rights debate on Thursday's Question Time after it was accused of broadcasting "vile hate speech". It comes after Ryan McNaughton, an activist with the Scottish Greens, wrote to parliamentarians asking them to intervene following the BBC show and raised concerns about the tone of the debate. Guest India Willoughby, a trans woman, said she felt as if

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The National (Scotland) 20 **Concert will salute Ukraine's bold resistance** ASPECIAL concert is being planned to demonstrate solidarity with Ukraine on the first anniversary weekend of the Russian invasion. Salute Ukraine! starring Karine Polwart, Lau, Ross Ainslie, Su-a Lee and Hamish Napier will be staged at Edinburgh's Usher Hall on February 26. The Scots Makar Kathleen Jamie, Edinburgh Ukrainian Choir, writer James Robertson, Perthshire bard Jim Mackintosh, Crimean singing star Elzara Batalova, Ukrainian singer-songwriter Toma Butko, rising indie folk star

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **ASYLUM CASH Schemes to help [...]** ASYLUM CASH Schemes to help refugees settle safely have received £1.6million from the Scottish Government.

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Scotland on Sunday 21 **Appeal to help Malawi tackle cholera outbreak** A Scottish aid charity has launched a £160,000 fundraising appeal to tackle Malawi's worst ever cholera outbreak by installing clean water sources in health facilities. EMMS International, which was founded in Edinburgh in 1841, aims to supply 14 rural health centres with safe water and sanitation. Of the 20 rural health centres whose needs were assessed by the charity, 8 per cent have no access to water at all, 76 per

Scotland on Sunday 6 **Herring to boycott Fringe over 'expense and elitism'** One of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe's best-known comics will not perform at the event this year, blaming the costs involved and the stress. Richard Herring, a Fringe regular since 1987, said he had become sickened by its "expense and elitism". He suggested it was now only open to people "with a fair amount of wealth" to attend, both as performers or audience members. The comic said he repeatedly lost money

Scotland on Sunday 12 **Obstruction and denial in Scotland's offshore wind figures** Little more than two months ago, on 8 November, the Scottish Government was handed a dossier from pro-Union think tank These Islands debunking the much-used claim that Scotland has a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential. This claim had been repeated by senior SNP figures in the House of Commons, by MSPs in Holyrood, and by Cabinet secretaries in public and private discussions. It was a key pillar in the

Scotland on Sunday 11 **Scotland's biggest arts philanthropist poured £1m into doomed new home for Edinburgh Filmhouse and EIFF** The charity founded by Scotland's biggest arts philanthropist poured more than £1 million into Edinburgh's doomed "temple for film" project. Carol Colburn Grigor's Dunard Fund was bankrolling work on the proposed new home in Festival Square for the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) and the Filmhouse cinema. Two separate donations of £144,000 and £1m are listed in the accounts of the Centre for the Moving Image (CMI), the charity that

Sunday Mail 35 **£1.6m for refugees support** The Scottish Government has announced a £1.6million investment to extend its refugee integration strategy. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was announced in 2018 and was due to end last year. External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said the cash will help take account of changes - including displacement after troops left Afghanistan and the

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[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

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Item 5:

From: [Redacted] Senior Media Manager

Sent: 04 February 2023 10:02

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk; Shirley-anne.somerville2@parliament.scot; Humza.Yousaf.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Subject: Media Digest - Saturday 4 February 2023

Press Summary For Scottish Government

04 February 2023

Compiled By Precise

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[2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY](#)

[3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS](#)

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1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Sunak spells out views on row over female rights** RISHI Sunak has waded in to the trans prisoner row in Scotland as he highlighted the Isla Bryson scandal as a reason why he moved to block the Gender Reform Recognition Bill. The UK Government took the unprecedented step to veto the controversial legislation through

the use of Section 35 as they claimed it impacted on the reserved Equality Act. This has been blasted by the SNP who claim they are

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 51 **Net zero secretary in carbon capture project funds plea** Scottish politicians have again pressed the UK Government for certainty concerning the timeline for a major north-east carbon capture and storage project. Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson said it was "critical" Westminster provides further clarity on its plans for the Scottish Cluster project. Speaking on Thursday at DeCarbScotland in Edinburgh, the inaugural conference run by Scottish industrial emissions alliance NECCUS, he added the UK Government

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Guilty, pensioner who spoke of Sturgeon's 'assassination'** A POLITICALLY obsessed pensioner discussed the assassination of Nicola Sturgeon before helping to assault a sheriff during a violent 'citizen's arrest'. William Curtis directed the threatening online remarks to the First Minister - stating some people 'feel the abuse to the electorate by her criminal activities warrants assassination of her' - in 2019. The 71-year-old former fishing skipper continued a hate campaign against his then MSP Stewart Stevenson that year.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 10 **Cash-starved councils: we cannot meet SNP demands on teachers** COUNCILS are on a collision course with SNP ministers after declaring they cannot fulfil Nicola Sturgeon's demand to protect teacher numbers without more cash. The First Minister and her Education Secretary are attempting to force councils to hire more teachers after numbers dropped across Scotland last year. But council leaders have warned that their 'expectations cannot be met' unless the Scottish Government provides more funding. The number of teachers fell

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 16 **Flynn beat pain to reach top but Brexit 'is scary'** Stephen Flynn isn't your conventional MP, but then again, his path to becoming leader of the SNP at Westminster was anything but orthodox. Most teenagers aren't diagnosed with avascular necrosis - a painful condition where bone tissue dies because of a lack of blood supply - but this happened to Flynn after he jumped down a set of stairs and collapsed at just 14. In an instant, his world changed

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **Tories CALL ON SNP TO PUBLISH TRANS INMATE REVIEW** FROM PAGE ONE sent to Cornaton Vale. Yet within 36 hours, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon had been forced into a "screeching u-turn" and ordered a transfer to a male institution. Following this, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) then announced it was carrying out a full inquiry into where transgender inmates should be housed and until completed, all such moves were being suspended. That inquiry has now been completed and

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Man found guilty of Sturgeon death threat and attack on sheriff** A MAN has been found guilty of threatening to assassinate the First Minister and assaulting a sheriff. William Curtis directed threatening online remarks towards the First Minister that were discovered by her private office in Edinburgh in 2019. The 71-year-old ex-fishing skipper also continued a sinister hate campaign against his then local MSP Stewart Stevenson that year. He sent a YouTube video link relating to the murder of Labour MP

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Men who attempted to 'arrest' sheriff at court are guilty of abduction** Two men who assaulted a northeast sheriff by trying to carry out a "citizen's arrest" have been found guilty of abduction. "Politically-obsessed" William Curtis, from Aberchirder, and his friend Philip Mitchell, from Macduff, filmed themselves targeting Sheriff Robert McDonald outside Banff Sheriff Court in 2021. Both were convicted of assault and abduction after a trial at the High Court in Glasgow. Curtis, 71, was also found guilty of a further

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Admit your mistake, Nicola, and stop this ill-thought-out agenda** SO there it is. Nicola Sturgeon has finally admitted that double rapist Isla Bryson is 'almost certainly' faking being a transgender woman for an 'easy way out'. Many of us could have told the First Minister this quite some time ago, but there's no one quite like the FM for sticking her fingers in her ears and shouting 'la la la' when something is suggested that doesn't tally with her

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Minister booed after failing to say if rapist is a man or a woman** THE refusal of SNP ministers to say whether a convicted double rapist is a man or a woman is 'making a mockery' of the trans debate, it was claimed yesterday. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth repeatedly failed to answer the 'simplest possible question' about Isla Bryson, who was locked up in a female-only prison. The 'excruciating' failure of Miss Gilruth sparked boos and heckles from the audience watching BBC's Question Time

Daily Mail 10 **I'd get in lift with Keir or Nicola, he confesses** THE former Prime Minister has said he wouldn't mind getting stuck in a lift with Sir Keir Starmer or Nicola Sturgeon because both 'are actually far nicer and more amusing than you might otherwise imagine'. Boris Johnson locked horns during several heated exchanges with Sir Keir at the despatch box during his three years in Downing Street. The pair used Prime Minister's Questions repeatedly to attack each other, with Mr

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Call to stall social care reforms** THE Scottish Government's social care reform plan should not go forward in its current form, a Holyrood committee has said. The proposed National Care Service would bring adult social care, and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services, under a national body

similar to the NHS. Yesterday, a report from the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, backed by all opposition members of the panel, said:

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Violence fears at protest as Furies counter protest** POLICE are bracing themselves for potential disorder tomorrow when rival groups are set to confront each other over transgender issues. It is the subject of fierce debate across Scotland following several high-profile incidents. The case of plans to house two transgender prisoners in the country's only women's jail sparked a furious reaction from critics. That came weeks after Nicola Sturgeon's proposed Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was blocked by the

i (The paper for today) 8 **Pressure grows on Sunak over NHS strikes as Welsh nurses get pay offer** Rishi Sunak faces growing pressure to avoid the biggest NHS strike in history next week, after the Welsh Government gave nurses a fresh pay offer yesterday in a bid to call off industrial action. Welsh NHS staff announced they would suspend a walkout that had been due to take place on Monday, after ministers offered an extra 3 per cent pay rise on top of the £1,400 already promised. Welsh

The Herald 19 **Nicola Sturgeon wants 'a way back to Europe'. But when exactly? And how?** TRICKY things, anniversaries. Forget one - and trouble may ensue. However, it can also be an error to attach too much importance to the simple passage of time. In a co-ordinated effort this week, SNP leaders at both Holyrood and Westminster drew attention to the fact that it is three years since Brexit. Since the UK, Scotland included, left the European Union. The purpose of the endeavour, of course, was

The Herald 20 **Leisure could help Scotland out of its downturn** THE First Minister stands accused of throttling the life out of Scottish businesses who face going bust in a new post-pandemic financial crunch. Owners of restaurants, pubs, clubs, hotels and spas are among the worst hit and are laying the blame at the door of Nicola Sturgeon as they see their counterparts south of the Border benefit from hefty tax cuts. A 75 per cent reduction in business rates could

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 20 **Bullying in city schools revealed** The number of bullying complaints varies wildly between schools across Aberdeen, according to new figures, as council chiefs pledge to improve the way incidents are recorded and reviewed. Between 2018 and 2022 more than 650 incidents were recorded in primary and secondary schools across the city as a whole. In primaries, there appeared to be a spike in the first year of the pandemic when classrooms were closed for much

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **MSPs' verdict is 'final nail in coffin' for SNP care plan** PLANS for a Scotlandwide care service would 'hand too much power to SNP ministers', MSPs have said. Critics last night said a Holyrood committee's damning conclusion on the policy should be the 'final nail in the coffin' for the plans. Holyrood's law reform committee warned the SNP's flagship policy to reform social care should be immediately halted. Ministers want to strip councils of responsibility for social care and create a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 11 **'I'd get in a lift with Keir or Nicola'** THE former Prime Minister has said that he wouldn't mind getting stuck in a lift with Sir Keir Starmer or Nicola Sturgeon - because both of them 'are actually far nicer and more amusing than you might otherwise imagine'. Boris Johnson locked horns with Sir Keir many times at the despatch box during his three years in Downing Street. The pair used Prime Minister's Questions repeatedly to attack each other,

The Scotsman 7 **'No new offer' after talks with teachers** Scottish Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, who represent around 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday as part of their 10 per cent pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a

The Herald 19 **Could President Putin really kill off Scottish independence for good?** HE is, of course, the most dangerous man in the world. In his 20-odd years in the Kremlin, Vladimir Putin has trashed his own country, undermined the international order and left a trail of blood in Chechnya, Georgia, Syria and, especially, Ukraine. Russia's authoritarian leader is now routinely talked of in the same breath as the worst and most murderous despots of Europe's 20th century, Hitler and Stalin, Mussolini and

The Herald 6 **Johnson asked to choose Sturgeon or Starmer for stay in a stalled lift** BORIS Johnson says he has been enjoying life away from frontline politics by spending more time with the family and doing DIY. The former prime minister and MP for Uxbridge was speaking on TalkTV's Friday Night With Nadine, hosted by ex-culture secretary Nadine Dorries. Since he was ousted from office last July Mr Johnson has been the subject of speculation that he is planning a comeback. Mr Johnson has two

The Scotsman 21 **Sturgeon's gender bill is now a dead duck - and her own words prove it** Hanging Keith Brown out to dry is becoming a Thursday ritual. Asked if the persons identifying as Isla Bryson and Tiffany Scott 'are women in your view', the Justice Secretary was clear. "I think that is the case," Mr Brown told BBC Scotland's The Nine. "We have to accept people identify, as in this case, as women. I think that is commonly accepted and that is the starting point

Daily Mail (Scotland) 46 **Are Scotland's beloved red deer about to become the latest victims of the eco zealots?** IF the panicky messages left with Mallaig Community Council were to be believed, shocked residents had never seen the like before. The calm of their Highland fishing community and perhaps even the authors' own safety were, they suggested, being imperilled by the menacing actions of marauding trespassers. Some reported being followed and cornered in 'dangerous' and 'scary' situations, while others complained these aggressive interlopers had prevented them entering their homes.

Daily Record 19 **NICOLA DEATH THREAT TROLL GUILTY** A MAN has been found guilty of making a social media post threatening the assassination of Nicola Sturgeon. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to the First Minister between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at the High Court in Glasgow also ruled that Curtis

The Daily Telegraph 2 **SNP MSP heckled by audience over trans rapist's gender** AN SNP politician has been heckled by a Question Time audience after she followed Nicola Sturgeon's lead by refusing to say if a transgender rapist is a man or a woman. Jenny Gilruth, transport minister at Holyrood, provoked loud groans from a Glasgow BBC crowd after she repeatedly dodged questions over the sex of Isla Bryson, previously Adam Graham, who was initially placed in a female jail after being convicted

The Herald 4 **Justice secretary urged to publish review of trans prisoners' procedure** KEITH Brown has been urged to immediately publish the Scottish Government's "urgent lessons learned review" into how a double rapist was kept in a women's prison. The Scottish Government has come under scrutiny after Isla Bryson, who was convicted of two rapes carried out while she identified as a man, was sent to an all-female prison, albeit in isolation, ahead of her sentencing. Mr Brown, the justice secretary, initially defended

The Herald 4 **Greens call for more ambition from SNP ministers on climate** SNP ministers have been told to "ramp up ambition" in its next climate-change plan due to be published this year by the party's government partners - including cutting demand for aviation and potentially charging drivers for roads. The Scottish Greens, who entered into a co-operation agreement with Nicola Sturgeon's party at Holyrood, have called on the government to go further to cut aviation demand including reversing its position in supporting

The Daily Telegraph 3 **Laws on gender fail to protect women's sport, say athletics chiefs** THE Government was caught up in a row over transgender athletes last night after a sporting body claimed that the law failed to protect women's sport. UK Athletics (UKA) issued a statement calling for a "legislative change" to "ensure the women's category can be lawfully reserved for female [at birth] competitors". It made the comment after Rishi Sunak said "biological sex really matters" in relation to policy in sport

Daily Record 24 **Teachers told 'no new deal' to end strike** SCOTTISH Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government. The announcement follows talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the EIS union - which represents about 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland - is set to end 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday. Teachers have previously been offered a five per cent pay increase on four occasions,

Daily Record 5 **Pressure steps up on Scottish Government on placement of trans prisoners** NICOLA Sturgeon has come under huge pressure due to policies relating to trans prisoners since the Record revealed details of Tiffany Scott's case. The First Minister has also faced criticism after double rapist Isla Bryson was sent to women-only Compton Vale after their conviction. Bryson had only decided to be known as a woman after being charged with double rape, changing name from Adam Graham. After the Bryson row, we

Daily Express 20 **SNP minister refuses to say rapist is a man** AN SNP politician was shouted down by an angry Question Time audience for refusing to say if transgender rapist Isla Bryson is a man or a woman. Scottish transport minister Jenny Gilruth repeatedly described the sex attacker - formerly known as Adam Graham - as an "individual". Fellow panellist Ella Whelan asked her: "Most people will have noticed that you keep saying 'the individual'. Is Adam Graham a man or

The Herald 1 **Man, 70, guilty of online post about 'assassination' of Sturgeon** A 70-YEAR-OLD man who posted online about the "assassination" of First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been convicted of threatening and abusive behaviour. William Curtis sent threatening messages to Ms Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at the High Court in

The Herald 6 **Ministers urged to halt Bill for new Care Service** A SCOTTISH Parliament committee has urged ministers to halt plans to shake-up the country's care services, warning the vague legislation could set a "dangerous precedent". In a majority report opposed by the SNP, the Labour and Conservative members of the Delegated Powers Committee warned the National Care Service Bill could "undermine" parliament. The report said the Bill should not progress in its current form because of the "insufficient detail" on

The Scotsman 11 **Man guilty over Sturgeon messages** A man has been found guilty of making a social media post threatening the assassination of Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to Ms Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9 2019. Jurors at the High Court in

Daily Record 4 **FEMALE PRISON GUARDS ORDERED TO STRIP SEARCH TRANS CONVICT** FEMALE prison officers claim their human rights went "out of the window" when they were ordered to carry out intimate searches on dangerous trans prisoner Tiffany Scott. Full body searches of Scott began being carried out by women officers when Scott's gender identity changed from "male" to "female" on a prisons computer record system, the Daily Record can reveal. But one prison insider said "nothing else about Scott has changed"

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Committee rejects Care Service Bill as 'unacceptable'** The Scottish Government's planned reform of social care has been dealt another blow after a Holyrood committee described the legislation underpinning it as setting a "dangerous" and "unacceptable" precedent. MSPs on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee said that the Bill setting up the National Care Service (NCS) could undermine the Scottish Parliament, and demanded that it be redrafted. The NCS would bring adult social care - and potentially

The Scotsman 9 **Publish Isla Bryson case review in full, Scottish government urged** The Scottish Government has been urged to publish the urgent review into the Isla Bryson case in full. Bryson was last week convicted of raping two women while she was a man called Adam Graham and was initially housed in segregation in Cornton Vale prison near Stirling - the only all-female jail in Scotland - before being moved to the male estate. The case caused public outcry, leading Scottish Justice

The Herald 8 **Man found guilty of 'assassination' threats online towards Sturgeon** A MAN who posted online about the "assassination" of Nicola Sturgeon before helping to assault a sheriff has been convicted of threatening and abusive behaviour. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to Ms Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at

The Times (Scotland) 14 **We're helpless to stop our unique landscape being industrialised** Few people can be so rooted in the Upper Deveron Valley as Martin Sheed, a ninth-generation farmer at Aldunie. His family have lived in this remote and beautiful spot since the first Mrs Sheed and her seven sons arrived in the glen to found a dynasty in 1670. Their bones and those of many of their descendants lie in the graveyard of Upper Cabrach church. Sheed, 45, vows he will

The Scotsman 24 **Plan to allow 16-year-olds to become MSPs is just childish** There is only one reasonable response to the Scottish Government's latest wheeze to extend the right to become an MSP to 16- and 17-year-olds - and that is a resounding no. The parliament's business manager, George Adam, when outlining his government's plans for electoral reform earlier this week, told MSPs that an influx of teenagers could "possibly change the vibrancy of this place". He's right. A horde of giggling 16-year-olds,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Pressure grows on Sunak over NHS strikes as Welsh nurses get pay offer** Rishi Sunak faces growing pressure to avoid the biggest NHS strike in history next week, after the Welsh Government gave nurses a fresh pay offer yesterday in a bid to call off industrial action. Welsh NHS staff announced they would suspend a walkout that had been due to take place on Monday, after ministers offered an extra 3 per cent pay rise on top of the £1,400 already promised. Welsh

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Gilruth evades question on prisoner's gender** A Scottish Government minister has refused during a television debate to say if she regards transgender double rapist Isla Bryson as a man or a woman. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth was heckled by the audience during BBC One's Question Time on Thursday, with some of the crowd apparently unhappy with her answer. Asked by fellow panel member Ella Whelan whether she regarded Bryson as a man or a woman, she

The Daily Telegraph 32 **The exodus of landlords is a crisis of the Tories' own making** Landlords are greedy and exploitative. Speculators have been driving up prices. And tenants are getting ripped off and forced to pay extortionate prices for properties that are barely fit to live in. For the last decade, the Government has been engaged in an all-out war against buy-to-let landlords. It has imposed extra taxes that don't apply to any other form of commercial operation and made them responsible for everything from

The Times (Scotland) 34 **Pensioner in sheriff attack called for Sturgeon 'assassination'** A pensioner talked online about assassinating Nicola Sturgeon and later helped to assault a sheriff during what he claimed was a "citizen's arrest". Threatening remarks by William Curtis towards the first minister were found by her private office in 2019. The former fishing skipper, 71, also sent an internet link relating to the murder of Jo Cox, the Yorkshire MP, to Stewart Stevenson, then his MSP, with the message: "Your

The Times (Scotland) 15 **£28bn on the cards from wind** Scotland can generate £28 billion from the offshore wind supply chain if it "plays its cards right", the first minister has predicted (Greig Cameron writes). Nicola Sturgeon said the Scotwind leasing round for offshore wind could have a significant economic impact. The successful bids for that process were identified last year and could lead to more than 27 gigawatts of new generation being developed across 20 sites in the coming

The Daily Telegraph 23 **Nicola Sturgeon has failed the Scottish sisterhood** Can we still say that women wear knickers in these trans-ient times? Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's First Minister, has certainly got hers in a twist over the case of the transgender double rapist, whose biological sex she is still struggling to determine, despite the convicted sex offender now known as Isla Bryson being born Adam Graham. The SNP leader virtue-signalled headlong into yet another farce this week as she refused to

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Man guilty of sheriff assault and threats to First Minister** A man who posted online about the "assassination" of Nicola Sturgeon before helping to assault a sheriff has been convicted of threatening and abusive behaviour. William Curtis, 67, who is from Aberchirder, Aberdeenshire, also targeted his then local MSP, Stewart Stevenson. Along with another man, Philip Mitchell, he was also convicted of assaulting and abducting Sheriff Mc-Donald in a "citizen's arrest". The pair will be sentenced on 3 March.

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Town hall budgets slashed despite tax hikes** TOWN halls face having their budgets slashed even if they hit residents with record rises to council tax. Leading think tank the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) warned that if council tax bills rise by five per cent, overall local government funding would still fall in real terms as the increased income would not compensate for cuts imposed by the SNP government. Despite proposals to raise income tax rates further

The Daily Telegraph 17 **Labour's confusion on trans issues can't stand** Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish First Minister, continues to pay a political price for her ill-advised foray into social reform. Her Gender Recognition Reform Bill may have been vetoed by the UK Government, using its reserved powers under the Scotland Act, but the legal arguments surrounding this dispute have been superseded by the case of a rapist who, after claiming to be a transwoman, was initially sent to a female-only prison.

The Daily Telegraph 18 **MPs should not feel pressured into backing a bad law banning 'conversion therapy'** I apologise for starting with a confusion, especially because I am not sure I can resolve it. But it is a feature of the present, beleaguered Government that it often prefers not to make things clear. This is partly a political tactic. When Rishi Sunak and his ministers speak equivocally, or decline to speak out, they are pursuing a destination called "Boringsville". The Boris and Truss administrations said much too much

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 8 **Bill would let rapist become legally female, says lawyer** A DOUBLE rapist would have been able to become legally female under Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms despite the First Minister admitting the predator is "almost certainly" faking being trans, a leading lawyer has said. Ms Sturgeon this week refused three times to say whether she believed Isla Bryson, previously known as Adam Graham, was male or female but conceded that the 31-year-old was likely to be pretending to identify

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **SNP faces more pressure to ditch 'dangerous' social care reforms** THE SNP is under more pressure to scrap its social care reforms after a Holyrood committee warned the "dangerous and unacceptable" proposals would hand ministers too much power. Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that the creation of a the National Care Service, which would bring adult social care and potentially other services under one national body, would be comparable in scale to the NHS. However, major doubts have been raised about

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Fisherman guilty of threat to assassinate Sturgeon** A RETIRED fisherman was yesterday found guilty of threatening the assassination of Nicola Sturgeon after he accused her of "treason" and "criminal activities". William Curtis, 70, sent threatening online messages relating to the First Minister on various occasions between Feb 27 and Mar 6 2019. He also targeted Stewart Stevenson, then an SNP MSP, with an online threat that suggested he would suffer the same fate as murdered Labour MP

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **'SNP Bill would allow rapist be legal female'** A double rapist would have been able to become legally female under Nicola Sturgeon's gender reforms despite the First Minister admitting the predator is "almost certainly" faking being trans, a leading lawyer has said. Ms Sturgeon this week refused three times to say whether she believed Isla Bryson, previously known as Adam Graham, was male or female but conceded that the 31-year-old was likely to be pretending to identify as

The National (Scotland) 6 **BBC dismisses indyref debate complaint** THE BBC has dismissed a complaint about a Politics Live broadcast which saw the question of a second independence referendum discussed "without representation from the SNP". The corporation's Executive Complaints Unit (ECU) probed the issue after a viewer claimed that the panel on the BBC Two programme, broadcast on November 29, "lacked balance". Shown six days after the Supreme Court ruled that Holyrood did not have the power to hold

The National (Scotland) 7 **Man guilty of sending FM threatening messages** AMAN who made a social media post about the assassination of Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been found guilty of threatening behaviour. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at the High Court

The National (Scotland) 3 **Dorries attacks FM** NADINE Dorries called Nicola Sturgeon "chippy Nicky" in the debut of her Talk TV chat show. During the show, which featured an interview with Boris Johnson, Dorries asked who the former PM would rather be stuck in a lift with: Keir Starmer or Nicola Sturgeon. He replied: "Provided it wasn't 50 floors, I wouldn't mind either." In response, Dorries said: "Well one is very charming, one is super intelligent and

The National (Scotland) 6 **Where did the rumour come from of Sturgeon stepping down?** BY THE JOUKER DISINFORMATION doesn't always stem from carefully calculated and purposeful dishonesty. Indeed, while much of it is spread with specific aims in mind, there are many other instances where a person's desire for a claim to be true simply takes precedence over any factual justification. Take, for example, the recent rumours publicised by the Scottish Daily Express which alleged that Nicola Sturgeon would "shortly announce her decision to

The National (Scotland) 4 **BBC's Bruce in unfounded claim about Scottish trans prisoner** THE BBC was facing questions last night after Fiona Bruce wrongly claimed that "a trans woman with a history of extreme violence" had been placed in a female jail by the Scottish Prison Service - despite the First Minister having made clear it was not true just hours earlier. Bruce made the claim during a heated and controversial episode of the BBC's flagship show Question Time which focused on gender

The National (Scotland) 8 **Two months on, I have answer that's no answer on indyref** AS each day goes by, support for Scottish independence continues to grow. This week alone, your benefits of being part of the Union include interest rates reaching a 15-year high, record profits for Shell while the Tories charge on with raising the energy bill price cap in April - and, to top it off, the UK is tipped to be the only major economy expected to shrink in 2023. A

The National (Scotland) 6 **'I'd have expected suspension if I had voted against bill'** AN SNP MSP has said she would've expected disciplinary action to be taken against her if she had voted against the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill after nine of her colleagues rebelled against the party. SNP MP Alyn Smith said any of his party colleagues who oppose the bill should resign earlier this week and stand as Independents. The commitment to simplifying the gender

The National (Scotland) 14 **Current social care reform plan 'should not go forward'** THE Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its current form, a committee has said. SNP MSPs on the committee dissented against the report. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **Woman taken to hospital after A96 collision** A 55-year-old woman was taken to hospital yesterday following a car crash near Inch. The A96 Aberdeen to Inverness road was closed for almost three hours after the two vehicle accident. A silver Mini and another light-coloured vehicle collided near the Kellockbank junction at about 2pm. An 18-year-old woman was reported for a driving offence. Four police cars and two ambulances attended the scene. A police spokesman said: "Around 2pm on

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **Sheriff abduction duo found guilty** TWO men have been found guilty of assaulting and abducting a north-east sheriff. William Curtis, 71, from Aberchirder, and Philip Mitchell, 60, from Macduff, filmed themselves targeting Sheriff Robert McDonald in a Banff car park as they attempted to make a "citizen's arrest". Describing the bizarre confrontation, the lawman told the High Court in Glasgow: "Mr Mitchell wrestled me to the ground and then sat on top of me."

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Maniac, 71, guilty over Nic kill threat** A PENSIONER who assaulted a sheriff has been convicted of discussing the "assassination" of Nicola Sturgeon. William Curtis, 71, posted the menacing message online, accusing the First Minister of "criminal activities". He was found guilty of threatening and abusive behaviour against her plus ex-SNP MSP Stewart Stevenson and two other people in 2019 and 2020. The High Court in Glasgow heard he wrote: "People feel the abuse to the electorate

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **JENNY GETS A DRESSING DOWN** By CHRIS MUSSON NATS minister Jenny Gilruth parrots Nicola Sturgeon during a grilling on the trans rapist row — in an outfit just like one her boss wore in 2020. The MSP was heckled on BBC One's Question Time after refusing to say if rapist Isla Bryson, 31, is a man or a woman. She instead used Ms Sturgeon's line from First Minister's Questions, saying: "This individual is a rapist."

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP councils face sanctions for failing to hire enough teachers** Nicola Sturgeon is set to punish her own SNP councils after they said her demand to hire more teachers "cannot be met". The first minister last week threatened to impose legal or financial penalties on the local authorities that fail to deliver her pledge to hire 3,500

more teachers by 2026. Sturgeon was dismayed when teacher numbers dropped slightly last year after she gave councils £145 million for further recruitment.

The Times (Scotland) 2 **We don't just dream up policy, Sturgeon tells business chiefs** Nicola Sturgeon has insisted that her government is not "just dreaming up" policies to make life difficult for businesses after she was challenged about pending legislation. The first minister was accused of hampering entrepreneurship with a "barrage of government policies". This includes new laws on short-term lettings, the recycling deposit return scheme and planning regulations. The deposit return scheme is set to go live in August and will add 20p

The Times (Scotland) 4 **Unions' 10% pay rise demand is reasonable, says minister** An SNP minister has said teachers' demand for a 10 per cent pay rise is "a reasonable request" despite Treasury warnings that excessive pay growth will drive inflation even higher. Jenny Gilruth, the Scottish transport minister and a former teacher, said public sector workers were "rightly asking for higher increases" than the Scottish government has offered. Shirley-Anne Somerville, the Scottish education secretary, has said 10 per cent is "simply unaffordable"

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

Daily Mail (Scotland) 10 **Cash-starved councils: we cannot meet SNP demands on teachers** COUNCILS are on a collision course with SNP ministers after declaring they cannot fulfil Nicola Sturgeon's demand to protect teacher numbers without more cash. The First Minister and her Education Secretary are attempting to force councils to hire more teachers after numbers dropped across Scotland last year. But council leaders have warned that their 'expectations cannot be met' unless the Scottish Government provides more funding. The number of teachers fell

The Herald 20 **Let's blow the dust off the Christie Commission** I WANT to talk about a report that's mainly been gathering dust on the shelf for over a decade: the Christie Commission on public service reform. Not because it's irrelevant, far from it, but that implementing it is so challenging. However, with the pandemic and cost of living crisis catalysing huge digital changes in organisations there is an opportunity to use technology to deliver on the values and principles of

The Herald 6 **Ministers urged to halt Bill for new Care Service** A SCOTTISH Parliament committee has urged ministers to halt plans to shake-up the country's care services, warning the vague legislation could set a "dangerous precedent". In a majority report opposed by the SNP, the Labour and Conservative members of the Delegated Powers Committee warned the National Care Service Bill could "undermine" parliament. The report said the Bill should not progress in its current form because of the "insufficient detail" on

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **No new offers for teachers** Scottish Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish government following talks with education unions. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, which represents around 80% of teachers in Scotland, is to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday, as part of their 10% pay campaign. Teachers have been offered a 5% pay increase on four occasions,

The Scotsman 7 **'No new offer' after talks with teachers** Scottish Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, who represent around 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday as part of their 10 per cent pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a

The Herald 4 **Councils call for talks with ministers over threat to prevent them axing teachers** COUNCIL leaders have demanded urgent talks with ministers over their plans to prevent local authorities from cutting teacher numbers to balance their budgets. The SNP-led council umbrella body Cosla said the government's expectations "cannot be met" without more money. Leaders also stressed their "great disappointment" with the government's approach, saying it went against council autonomy and the "spirit of partnership working". Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville intervened in the issue after

The Scotsman 4 **Care service bill 'sets dangerous precedent and must be paused'** The Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its existing form, a Holyrood committee has said. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by opposition parties, trade unions and other groups about

The Scotsman 4 **Social care collapse threat to NHS** Senior care bosses have told the Scottish Government "social care is not the servant to the NHS", amid a warning to ministers that if "social care collapses, then the NHS will follow soon after". The warning from Scottish Care, a membership organisation representing the independent social care sector in Scotland, comes following new figures showing struggling health boards have taken up more than half of the additional care home beds

Daily Express (Scotland) 2 **Teachers: 'No new pay offer'** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following union talks yesterday. Her comment came as the Educational Institute of Scotland, who represent around 80 per cent of teachers north of the Border, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday as part of their 10 per cent pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a five per

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Call to stall social care reforms** THE Scottish Government's social care reform plan should not go forward in its current form, a Holyrood committee has said. The proposed National Care Service would bring adult social care, and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services, under a national body similar to the NHS. Yesterday, a report from the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, backed by all opposition members of the panel, said:

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **MSPs' verdict is 'final nail in coffin' for SNP care plan** PLANS for a Scotlandwide care service would 'hand too much power to SNP ministers', MSPs have said. Critics last night said a Holyrood committee's damning conclusion on the policy should be the 'final nail in the coffin' for the plans. Holyrood's law reform committee warned the SNP's flagship policy to reform social care should be immediately halted. Ministers want to strip councils of responsibility for social care and create a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Tax rises 'will still leave NHS short'** THE NHS will be starved of cash after it emerged SNP Government tax hikes are likely to raise much less than anticipated, it was claimed yesterday. Economic forecasters advising Nationalist ministers have said the amount generated by higher income tax in Scotland could be nearly £700million less than hoped for. In December, stand-in Finance Secretary John Swinney hiked income tax from 41p to 42p in the pound for people earning

Daily Record 24 **Teachers told 'no new deal' to end strike** SCOTTISH Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government. The announcement follows talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the EIS union - which represents about 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland - is set to end 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday. Teachers have previously been offered a five per cent pay increase on four occasions,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Committee rejects Care Service Bill as 'unacceptable'** The Scottish Government's planned reform of social care has been dealt another blow after a Holyrood committee described the legislation underpinning it as setting a "dangerous" and "unacceptable" precedent. MSPs on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee said that the Bill setting up the National Care Service (NCS) could undermine the Scottish Parliament, and demanded that it be redrafted. The NCS would bring adult social care - and potentially

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **SNP faces more pressure to ditch 'dangerous' social care reforms** THE SNP is under more pressure to scrap its social care reforms after a Holyrood committee warned the "dangerous and unacceptable" proposals would hand ministers too much power. Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that the creation of a the National Care Service, which would bring adult social care and potentially other services under one national body, would be comparable in scale to the NHS. However, major doubts have been raised about

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Town hall budgets slashed despite tax hikes** TOWN halls face having their budgets slashed even if they hit residents with record rises to council tax. Leading think tank the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) warned that if council tax bills rise by five per cent, overall local government funding would still fall in real terms as the increased income would not compensate for cuts imposed by the SNP government. Despite proposals to raise income tax rates further

The National (Scotland) 3 **'No new offer' for teachers ahead of strikes** SCOTTISH Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, who represent around 80% of teachers in Scotland, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday, February 6; as part of their 10% pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a 5% pay

The National (Scotland) 14 **Current social care reform plan 'should not go forward'** THE Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its current form, a committee has said. SNP MSPs on the committee dissented against the report. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **No new teachers pay offer** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville last night ruled out a new pay offer for striking teachers. Four have been tabled so far in a bid to resolve the dispute, which has already seen teachers walk out of classrooms across the country. The Scottish Government says a "fair" offer of 5 per cent, with up to 6.85 per cent for the lowest paid, has been tabled. Teaching unions have called for 10

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Axe care plan** ONE idea for saving cash is becoming increasingly clear. The SNP's plans for a National Care Service are an almighty mess and an expense we can do without right now. It's an eye-catching policy, mainly because of the name. The National Care Service, of course, sounds like the National Health Service. But despite what it says on the tin, it will not mean private care homes are absorbed into a

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **COUNCIL WHACKS** LOCAL authorities will be forced to slash services even if they hike council tax by five per cent, experts warned yesterday. Rising social care costs and a potential Scottish Government ban on dropping teacher numbers could hammer budgets for housing, bin collections and libraries. The Institute for Fiscal Studies think-tank report came days after the boss of councils umbrella body Cosla warned "all options are very much on the table"

The Times (Scotland) 4 **Unions' 10% pay rise demand is reasonable, says minister** An SNP minister has said teachers' demand for a 10 per cent pay rise is "a reasonable request" despite Treasury warnings that excessive pay growth will drive inflation even higher. Jenny Gilruth, the Scottish transport minister and a former teacher, said public sector workers were "rightly asking for higher increases" than the Scottish government has offered. Shirley-Anne Somerville, the Scottish education secretary, has said 10 per cent is "simply unaffordable"

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP councils face sanctions for failing to hire enough teachers** Nicola Sturgeon is set to punish her own SNP councils after they said her demand to hire more teachers "cannot be met". The first minister last week threatened to impose legal or financial penalties on the local authorities that fail to deliver her pledge to hire 3,500 more teachers by 2026. Sturgeon was dismayed when teacher numbers dropped slightly last year after she gave councils £145 million for further recruitment.

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Daily Mail (Scotland) 10 **Cash-starved councils: we cannot meet SNP demands on teachers** COUNCILS are on a collision course with SNP ministers after declaring they cannot fulfil Nicola Sturgeon's demand to protect teacher numbers without more cash. The First Minister and her Education Secretary are attempting to force councils to hire more teachers after numbers dropped across Scotland last year. But council leaders have warned that their 'expectations cannot be met' unless the Scottish Government provides more funding. The number of teachers fell

The Herald 7 **Libraries to share fund for projects amid fear of budget cuts** LIBRARIES across Scotland are to benefit from a share of £200,000 of Scottish Government funding. The announcement of the cash for eight innovative library projects announced by Culture Minister Neil Gray was welcomed but campaigners said it would have the largest impact alongside a core funding model. Eight public libraries will receive the investment as part of the Public Library Improvement Fund and the projects will be helped after their

The Herald 3 **Dragons fail to pay the piper but student's invention is already a hit** HE might not have walked away with a deal after piping his way into Dragon's Den, but a young entrepreneur could still be sitting on a fortune. Piper and student Robbie MacIsaac impressed the tycoons on the BBC show, where Deborah Meaden and Sara Davies even had a go getting a note out of the pipes. However, after his slick pitch for investment in a revolutionary piece of kit for

The Scotsman 38 **Scottish biotech centre's £25m milestone** Total investment in green skills led by the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC) has topped a "milestone" £25 million, new figures reveal, supporting Scotland's journey to net zero. The amount is based on the combined investment in the innovation centre's skills programmes including industry contributions completed since IBioIC's inception in 2014. In that time, more than 450 students have worked alongside some 80 biotechnology companies to support pioneering research across

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 20 **Bullying in city schools revealed** The number of bullying complaints varies wildly between schools across Aberdeen, according to new figures, as council chiefs pledge to improve the way incidents are recorded and reviewed. Between 2018 and 2022 more than 650 incidents were recorded in primary and secondary schools across the city as a whole. In primaries, there appeared to be a spike in the first year of the pandemic when classrooms were closed for much

The Herald 4 **Councils call for talks with ministers over threat to prevent them axing teachers** COUNCIL leaders have demanded urgent talks with ministers over their plans to prevent local authorities from cutting teacher numbers to balance their budgets. The SNP-led council umbrella body Cosla said the government's expectations "cannot be met" without more money. Leaders also stressed their "great disappointment" with the government's approach, saying it went against council autonomy and the "spirit of partnership working". Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville intervened in the issue after

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **No new offers for teachers** Scottish Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish government following talks with education unions. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, which represents around 80% of teachers in Scotland, is to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday, as part of their 10% pay campaign. Teachers have been offered a 5% pay increase on four occasions,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **Investigation after primary pupils exposed to porn on school laptop** Highland Council has launched an investigation after primary students were exposed to porn on a school-issued laptop. Pupils under the age of 10 were reportedly traumatised after seeing explicit images on their Chromebook while at a Highland primary school. It is understood the content was accessed through an advertisement displayed on a webpage. Highland Council officials say all the necessary precautions are in place to protect students while online, as

The Scotsman 7 **'No new offer' after talks with teachers** Scottish Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, who represent around 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday as part of their 10 per cent pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a

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Daily Record 24 **Teachers told 'no new deal' to end strike** SCOTTISH Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government. The announcement follows talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the EIS union - which represents about 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland - is set to end 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday. Teachers have previously been offered a five per cent pay increase on four occasions,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Are you standing comfortably?** Children from Danderhall Primary School join Culture Minister Neil Gray for story time at Danderhall Library, to the south-east of Edinburgh. Mr Gray was showing his support for Every Child a Library Member, a Scotland-wide initiative that encourages parents and carers to introduce children to library use from an early age. LESLEY MARTIN

The National (Scotland) 3 **'No new offer' for teachers ahead of strikes** SCOTTISH Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, who represent around 80% of teachers in Scotland, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday, February 6; as part of their 10% pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a 5% pay

The National (Scotland) 17 **Major boost for library initiatives** PUBLIC libraries across Scotland have received a £200,000 funding boost to support a series of projects. The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), which distributes funding on behalf of the Scottish Government, has selected eight initiatives to receive grants. Announcing the initiatives receiving Scottish Government grants during a visit to Danderhall Library in Edinburgh, Scottish Culture Minister Neil Gray took the opportunity to highlight the role libraries play in closing

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **No new teachers pay offer** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville last night ruled out a new pay offer for striking teachers. Four have been tabled so far in a bid to resolve the dispute, which has already seen teachers walk out of classrooms across the country. The Scottish Government says a "fair" offer of 5 per cent, with up to 6.85 per cent for the lowest paid, has been tabled. Teaching unions have called for 10

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP councils face sanctions for failing to hire enough teachers** Nicola Sturgeon is set to punish her own SNP councils after they said her demand to hire more teachers "cannot be met". The first minister last week threatened to impose legal or financial penalties on the local authorities that fail to deliver her pledge to hire 3,500 more teachers by 2026. Sturgeon was dismayed when teacher numbers dropped slightly last year after she gave councils £145 million for further recruitment.

The Times (Scotland) 4 **Unions' 10% pay rise demand is reasonable, says minister** An SNP minister has said teachers' demand for a 10 per cent pay rise is "a reasonable request" despite Treasury warnings that excessive pay growth will drive inflation even higher. Jenny Gilruth, the Scottish transport minister and a former teacher, said public sector workers were "rightly asking for higher increases" than the Scottish government has offered. Shirley-Anne Somerville, the Scottish education secretary, has said 10 per cent is "simply unaffordable"

4. JUSTICE

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Minister booed after failing to say if rapist is a man or a woman** THE refusal of SNP ministers to say whether a convicted double rapist is a man or a woman is 'making a mockery' of the trans debate, it was claimed yesterday. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth repeatedly failed to answer the 'simplest possible question' about Isla Bryson, who was locked up in a female-only prison. The 'excruciating' failure of Miss Gilruth sparked boos and heckles from the audience watching BBC's Question Time

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Admit your mistake, Nicola, and stop this ill-thought-out agenda** SO there it is. Nicola Sturgeon has finally admitted that double rapist Isla Bryson is 'almost certainly' faking being a transgender woman for an 'easy way out'. Many of us could have told the First Minister this quite some time ago, but there's no one quite like the FM for sticking her fingers in her ears and shouting 'la la la' when something is suggested that doesn't tally with her

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Guilty, pensioner who spoke of Sturgeon's 'assassination'** A POLITICALLY obsessed pensioner discussed the assassination of Nicola Sturgeon before helping to assault a sheriff during a violent 'citizen's arrest'. William Curtis directed the threatening online remarks to the First Minister - stating some people 'feel the abuse to the electorate by her criminal activities warrants assassination of her' - in 2019. The 71-year-old former fishing skipper continued a hate campaign against his then MSP Stewart Stevenson that year.

The Herald 8 **Man found guilty of 'assassination' threats online towards Sturgeon** A MAN who posted online about the "assassination" of Nicola Sturgeon before helping to assault a sheriff has been convicted of threatening and abusive behaviour. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to Ms Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at

The Daily Telegraph 3 **Laws on gender fail to protect women's sport, say athletics chiefs** THE Government was caught up in a row over transgender athletes last night after a sporting body claimed that the law failed to protect women's sport. UK Athletics (UKA) issued a statement calling for a "legislative change" to "ensure the women's category can be lawfully reserved for female [at birth] competitors". It made the comment after Rishi Sunak said "biological sex really matters" in relation to policy in sport

The Daily Telegraph 2 **SNP MSP heckled by audience over trans rapist's gender** AN SNP politician has been heckled by a Question Time audience after she followed Nicola Sturgeon's lead by refusing to say if a transgender rapist is a man or a woman. Jenny Gilruth, transport minister at Holyrood, provoked loud groans from a Glasgow BBC crowd after she repeatedly dodged questions over the sex of Isla Bryson, previously Adam Graham, who was initially placed in a female jail after being convicted

The Herald 1 **Man, 70, guilty of online post about 'assassination' of Sturgeon** A 70-YEAR-OLD man who posted online about the "assassination" of First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been convicted of threatening and abusive behaviour. William Curtis sent threatening messages to Ms Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at the High Court in

The Herald 4 **Justice secretary urged to publish review of trans prisoners' procedure** KEITH Brown has been urged to immediately publish the Scottish Government's "urgent lessons learned review" into how a double rapist was kept in a women's prison. The Scottish Government has come under scrutiny after Isla Bryson, who was convicted of two rapes carried out while she identified as a man, was sent to an all-female prison, albeit in isolation, ahead of her sentencing. Mr Brown, the justice secretary, initially defended

The Scotsman 9 **Publish Isla Bryson case review in full, Scottish government urged** The Scottish Government has been urged to publish the urgent review into the Isla Bryson case in full. Bryson was last week convicted of raping two women while she was a man called Adam Graham and was initially housed in segregation in Cornton Vale prison near Stirling - the only all-female jail in Scotland - before being moved to the male estate. The case caused public outcry, leading Scottish Justice

The Scotsman 11 **Man guilty over Sturgeon messages** A man has been found guilty of making a social media post threatening the assassination of Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to Ms Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9 2019. Jurors at the High Court in

The Times (Scotland) 34 **Pensioner in sheriff attack called for Sturgeon 'assassination'** A pensioner talked online about assassinating Nicola Sturgeon and later helped to assault a sheriff during what he claimed was a "citizen's arrest". Threatening remarks by William Curtis towards the first minister were found by her private office in 2019. The former fishing skipper, 71, also sent an internet link relating to the murder of Jo Cox, the Yorkshire MP, to Stewart Stevenson, then his MSP, with the message: "Your

Daily Express 20 **SNP minister refuses to say rapist is a man** AN SNP politician was shouted down by an angry Question Time audience for refusing to say if transgender rapist Isla Bryson is a man or a woman. Scottish transport minister Jenny Gilruth repeatedly described the sex attacker - formerly known as Adam Graham - as an "individual". Fellow panellist Ella Whelan asked her: "Most people will have noticed that you keep saying 'the individual'. Is Adam Graham a man or

The Scotsman 21 **Sturgeon's gender bill is now a dead duck - and her own words prove it** Hanging Keith Brown out to dry is becoming a Thursday ritual. Asked if the persons identifying as Isla Bryson and Tiffany Scott "are women in your view", the Justice Secretary was clear. "I think that is the case," Mr Brown told BBC Scotland's The Nine. "We have to accept people identify, as in this case, as women. I think that is commonly accepted and that is the starting point

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Violence fears at protest as Furies counter protest** POLICE are bracing themselves for potential disorder tomorrow when rival groups are set to confront each other over transgender issues. It is the subject of fierce debate across Scotland following several high-profile incidents. The case of plans to house two transgender prisoners in the country's only women's jail sparked a furious reaction from critics. That came weeks after Nicola Sturgeon's proposed Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was blocked by the

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Man found guilty of Sturgeon death threat and attack on sheriff** A MAN has been found guilty of threatening to assassinate the First Minister and assaulting a sheriff. William Curtis directed threatening online remarks towards the First Minister that were discovered by her private office in Edinburgh in 2019. The 71-year-old ex-fishing skipper also continued a sinister hate campaign against his then local MSP Stewart Stevenson that year. He sent a YouTube video link relating to the murder of Labour MP

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Man found guilty of Sturgeon death threat and attack on sheriff** A MAN has been found guilty of threatening to assassinate the First Minister and assaulting a sheriff. William Curtis directed threatening online remarks towards the First Minister that were discovered by her private office in Edinburgh in 2019. The 71-year-old ex-fishing skipper also continued a sinister hate campaign against his then local MSP Stewart Stevenson that year. He sent a YouTube video link relating to the murder of Labour MP

Daily Record 5 **Pressure steps up on Scottish Government on placement of trans prisoners** NICOLA Sturgeon has come under huge pressure due to policies relating to trans prisoners since the Record revealed details of Tiffany Scott's case. The First Minister has also faced criticism after double rapist Isla Bryson was sent to women-only Compton Vale after their conviction. Bryson had only decided to be known as a woman after being charged with double rape, changing name from Adam Graham. After the Bryson row, we

Daily Record 19 **NICOLA DEATH THREAT TROLL GUILTY** A MAN has been found guilty of making a social media post threatening the assassination of Nicola Sturgeon. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to the First Minister between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at the High Court in Glasgow also ruled that Curtis

Daily Record 4 **FEMALE PRISON GUARDS ORDERED TO STRIP SEARCH TRANS CONVICT** FEMALE prison officers claim their human rights went "out of the window" when they were ordered to carry out intimate searches on dangerous trans prisoner Tiffany Scott. Full body searches of Scott began being carried out by women officers when Scott's gender identity changed from "male" to "female" on a prisons computer record system, the Daily Record can reveal. But one prison insider said "nothing else about Scott has changed

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Gilruth evades question on prisoner's gender** A Scottish Government minister has refused during a television debate to say if she regards transgender double rapist Isla Bryson as a man or a woman. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth was heckled by the audience during BBC One's Question Time on Thursday, with some of the crowd apparently unhappy with her answer. Asked by fellow panel member Ella Whelan whether she regarded Bryson as a man or a woman, she

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Man guilty of sheriff assault and threats to First Minister** A man who posted online about the "assassination" of Nicola Sturgeon before helping to assault a sheriff has been convicted of threatening and abusive behaviour. William Curtis, 67, who is from Aberchirder, Aberdeenshire, also targeted his then local MSP, Stewart Stevenson. Along with another man, Philip Mitchell, he was also convicted of assaulting and abducting Sheriff Mc-Donald in a "citizen's arrest". The pair will be sentenced on 3 March.

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Fisherman guilty of threat to assassinate Sturgeon** A RETIRED fisherman was yesterday found guilty of threatening the assassination of Nicola Sturgeon after he accused her of "treason" and "criminal activities". William Curtis, 70, sent threatening online messages relating to the First Minister on various occasions between Feb 27 and Mar 6 2019. He also targeted Stewart Stevenson, then an SNP MSP, with an online threat that suggested he would suffer the same fate as murdered Labour MP

The National (Scotland) 5 **I was in audience and atmosphere was poisonous** AS a 29-year-old straight man brought up on the west coast of Scotland without any transgender friends, I would never claim to be the most enlightened trans ally. However as a member of the "woke" generation, I know the smell of bigotry. I was among 150 audience members packed into Strathclyde University for the filming of BBC Question Time on Thursday. Considering the current media storm on the Gender Recognition

The National (Scotland) 4 **BBC's Bruce in unfounded claim about Scottish trans prisoner** THE BBC was facing questions last night after Fiona Bruce wrongly claimed that "a trans woman with a history of extreme violence" had been placed in a female jail by the Scottish Prison Service - despite the First Minister having made clear it was not true just hours earlier. Bruce made the claim during a heated and controversial episode of the BBC's flagship show Question Time which focused on gender

The National (Scotland) 6 **'I'd have expected suspension if I had voted against bill'** AN SNP MSP has said she would've expected disciplinary action to be taken against her if she had voted against the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill after nine of her colleagues rebelled against the party. SNP MP Alyn Smith said any of his party colleagues who oppose the bill should resign earlier this week and stand as Independents. The commitment to simplifying the gender

The National (Scotland) 7 **Man guilty of sending FM threatening messages** AMAN who made a social media post about the assassination of Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been found guilty of threatening behaviour. William Curtis, 70, sent threatening messages to Sturgeon on various occasions between February 27 and March 6, 2019. Curtis was also found guilty of sending or causing a threatening message to be sent to former MSP Stewart Stevenson on March 9, 2019. Jurors at the High Court

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **Sheriff abduction duo found guilty** TWO men have been found guilty of assaulting and abducting a north-east sheriff. William Curtis, 71, from Aberchirder, and Philip Mitchell, 60, from Macduff, filmed themselves targeting Sheriff Robert McDonald in a Banff car park as they attempted to make a "citizen's arrest". Describing the bizarre confrontation, the lawman told the High Court in Glasgow: "Mr Mitchell wrestled me to the ground and then sat on top of me. "I

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Maniac, 71, guilty over Nic kill threat** A PENSIONER who assaulted a sheriff has been convicted of discussing the "assassination" of Nicola Sturgeon. William Curtis, 71, posted the menacing message online, accusing the First Minister of "criminal activities". He was found guilty of threatening and abusive behaviour against her plus ex-SNP MSP Stewart Stevenson and two other people in 2019 and 2020. The High Court in Glasgow heard he wrote: "People feel the abuse to the electorate

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **JENNY GETS A DRESSING DOWN** By CHRIS MUSSON NATS minister Jenny Gilruth parrots Nicola Sturgeon during a grilling on the trans rapist row — in an outfit just like one her boss wore in 2020. The MSP was heckled on BBC One's Question Time after refusing to say if rapist Isla Bryson, 31, is a man or a woman. She instead used Ms Sturgeon's line from First Minister's Questions, saying: "This individual is a rapist."

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Herald 10 **'It is the most vulnerable in society who are being caught in the net'** WHEN privileged groups impose bespoke ethics to remove humanity's unsightly wrinkles, it's usually the powerless and the marginalised who suffer the unintended consequences. Professor Leonie Herx is one of the world's leading health experts in palliative care and bears witness to the horrific effects of the Assisted Dying programme introduced in her native Canada. "In Canada, we've been living in a regime of assisted dying for six and a half

The Herald 6 **Ministers urged to halt Bill for new Care Service** A SCOTTISH Parliament committee has urged ministers to halt plans to shake-up the country's care services, warning the vague legislation could set a "dangerous precedent". In a majority report opposed by the SNP, the Labour and Conservative members of the Delegated Powers Committee warned the National Care Service Bill could "undermine" parliament. The report said the Bill should not progress in its current form because of the "insufficient detail" on

The Herald 6 **LibDems reveal 'ambitious' plan to improve cancer testing and diagnosis** THE Scottish Government is being urged to adopt a plan to improve cancer testing and diagnosis, which Liberal Democrats claim could provide a "lifeline" to patients and their families. The party has drawn up an "ambitious and dynamic" series of actions - including the introduction of home tests for cervical cancer for women who fail to attend for screening. The LibDems also want the current target of having 60 per

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 29 **Groups to share £1m funding to help tackle isolation** "Lifeline" funding of almost £1 million is going to groups working to tackle social isolation and loneliness. Equalities and older people minister Christina McKelvie said both the coronavirus pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis has "increased isolation" for some. Eighteen projects and organisations will receive a share of £971,019, and Ms McKelvie said the cash will help "keep people connected during this challenging time". The money will help to provide warm

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Men who attempted to 'arrest' sheriff at court are guilty of abduction** Two men who assaulted a northeast sheriff by trying to carry out a "citizen's arrest" have been found guilty of abduction. "Politically-obsessed" William Curtis, from Aberchirder, and his friend Philip Mitchell, from Macduff,

filmed themselves targeting Sheriff Robert McDonald outside Banff Sheriff Court in 2021. Both were convicted of assault and abduction after a trial at the High Court in Glasgow. Curtis, 71, was also found guilty of a further

i (The paper for today) 8 **Pressure grows on Sunak over NHS strikes as Welsh nurses get pay offer** Rishi Sunak faces growing pressure to avoid the biggest NHS strike in history next week, after the Welsh Government gave nurses a fresh pay offer yesterday in a bid to call off industrial action. Welsh NHS staff announced they would suspend a walkout that had been due to take place on Monday, after ministers offered an extra 3 per cent pay rise on top of the £1,400 already promised. Welsh

The Scotsman 4 **Social care collapse threat to NHS** Senior care bosses have told the Scottish Government "social care is not the servant to the NHS", amid a warning to ministers that if "social care collapses, then the NHS will follow soon after". The warning from Scottish Care, a membership organisation representing the independent social care sector in Scotland, comes following new figures showing struggling health boards have taken up more than half of the additional care home beds

The Scotsman 4 **Care service bill 'sets dangerous precedent and must be paused'** The Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its existing form, a Holyrood committee has said. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by opposition parties, trade unions and other groups about

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Cash help to battle isolation** MINISTERS have pledged close to £1million to groups working to tackle social isolation and loneliness. The funding is aimed at easing issues brought on by the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Equalities and older people minister Christina McKelvie said 18 projects and groups would get a share of the £971,019 pot. The money will help provide warm spaces, hot meals, group activities and fuel payments to those most

Daily Express (Scotland) 31 **Plan of action for cancer could save thousands of lives** THE Scottish Government is being urged to adopt an action plan to improve cancer testing and diagnosis. According to the Liberal Democrats such a move could provide a "lifeline" to patients and their families. The idea has been mooted on World Cancer Day and the party has drawn up a series of actions, including home tests for cervical cancer for women who fail to attend for screening. The Lib Dems

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Call to stall social care reforms** THE Scottish Government's social care reform plan should not go forward in its current form, a Holyrood committee has said. The proposed National Care Service would bring adult social care, and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services, under a national body similar to the NHS. Yesterday, a report from the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, backed by all opposition members of the panel, said:

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Tax rises 'will still leave NHS short'** THE NHS will be starved of cash after it emerged SNP Government tax hikes are likely to raise much less than anticipated, it was claimed yesterday. Economic forecasters advising Nationalist ministers have said the amount generated by higher income tax in Scotland could be nearly £700million less than hoped for. In December, stand-in Finance Secretary John Swinney hiked income tax from 41p to 42p in the pound for people earning

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **MSPs' verdict is 'final nail in coffin' for SNP care plan** PLANS for a Scotlandwide care service would 'hand too much power to SNP ministers', MSPs have said. Critics last night said a Holyrood committee's damning conclusion on the policy should be the 'final nail in the coffin' for the plans. Holyrood's law reform committee warned the SNP's flagship policy to reform social care should be immediately halted. Ministers want to strip councils of responsibility for social care and create a

Daily Record 18 **Cash lifeline for charities** ESSENTIAL funding has been awarded to groups working to tackle social isolation and loneliness. Equalities and older people minister Christina McKelvie said both the coronavirus pandemic and the spiralling cost-of-living crisis has "increased isolation" for some. She added: "Social isolation and loneliness can affect anyone." Eighteen charities and projects, including Age Scotland, will share about £1million.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Pressure grows on Sunak over NHS strikes as Welsh nurses get pay offer** Rishi Sunak faces growing pressure to avoid the biggest NHS strike in history next week, after the Welsh Government gave nurses a fresh pay offer yesterday in a bid to call off industrial action. Welsh NHS staff announced they would suspend a walkout that had been due to take place on Monday, after ministers offered an extra 3 per cent pay rise on top of the £1,400 already promised. Welsh

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Committee rejects Care Service Bill as 'unacceptable'** The Scottish Government's planned reform of social care has been dealt another blow after a Holyrood committee described the legislation underpinning it as setting a "dangerous" and "unacceptable" precedent. MSPs on the Delegated Powers and

Law Reform Committee said that the Bill setting up the National Care Service (NCS) could undermine the Scottish Parliament, and demanded that it be redrafted. The NCS would bring adult social care - and potentially

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **SNP faces more pressure to ditch 'dangerous' social care reforms** THE SNP is under more pressure to scrap its social care reforms after a Holyrood committee warned the "dangerous and unacceptable" proposals would hand ministers too much power. Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that the creation of a the National Care Service, which would bring adult social care and potentially other services under one national body, would be comparable in scale to the NHS. However, major doubts have been raised about

The National (Scotland) 14 **Current social care reform plan 'should not go forward'** THE Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its current form, a committee has said. SNP MSPs on the committee dissented against the report. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by

The National (Scotland) 17 **£1 m fund to help tackle loneliness and isolation** <lifeline"></lifeline">

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Axe care plan** ONE idea for saving cash is becoming increasingly clear. The SNP's plans for a National Care Service are an almighty mess and an expense we can do without right now. It's an eye-catching policy, mainly because of the name. The National Care Service, of course, sounds like the National Health Service. But despite what it says on the tin, it will not mean private care homes are absorbed into a

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

The Herald 20 **Leisure could help Scotland out of its downturn** THE First Minister stands accused of throttling the life out of Scottish businesses who face going bust in a new post-pandemic financial crunch. Owners of restaurants, pubs, clubs, hotels and spas are among the worst hit and are laying the blame at the door of Nicola Sturgeon as they see their counterparts south of the Border benefit from hefty tax cuts. A 75 per cent reduction in business rates could

The Herald 1 **Sales fears for Scotch over fakes in Russia** RUSSIA is ratcheting up output of "fake" Scotch whisky as its giant spirits industry responds to Western sanctions, The Herald can reveal. The nation's vodka distilleries have dramatically increased production of whisky since Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine almost a year ago. Many of their new brands are designed to mimic Scottish, Irish and American imports hit by a partial international boycott sparked by the war. As

The Herald 28 **Glasgow pub fears as last orders come early** THE night-time economy in Glasgow is being undermined by inadequate transport provision and consumer trends that gained traction in the wake of the pandemic, city publicans have told The Herald. And the owner of one long established pub in the east end has warned the current cost-of-doing-business crisis may force the independents who create the character which the city is renowned for to exit the industry. The Scottish hospitality industry has

The Scotsman 38 **Scottish biotech centre's £25m milestone** Total investment in green skills led by the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC) has topped a "milestone" £25 million, new figures reveal, supporting Scotland's journey to net zero. The amount is based on the combined investment in the innovation centre's skills programmes including industry contributions completed since IBioIC's inception in 2014. In that time, more than 450 students have worked alongside some 80 biotechnology companies to support pioneering research across

The Scotsman 21 **Nobody is ready for this scheme** The Scottish hospitality industry is the latest to express alarm over the deposit return scheme, following on the heels of the Scottish Retail Consortium. At this point, the question should not be whether the Scottish Government will announce a delay and a rethink, but when. With money scarce for consumers, businesses, local councils and governments, gaily proceeding is madness. UK Hospitality Scotland includes members who have "a great deal

The Scotsman 20 **Lib Dem leader sets out new cancer action plan for Scotland** The Scottish Government is being urged to adopt an action plan to improve cancer testing and diagnosis, which Liberal Democrats claim could provide a "lifeline" to patients and their families. The party has drawn up an "ambitious and dynamic" series of actions - including the rollout of home tests for cervical cancer for women who fail to attend for screening. The Lib Dems also want the current target of having

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Community's outrage over tree-planting on farmland** A group of farmers and house owners from the Glass and Drummur areas have expressed their outrage at the potential planting of woodland on neighbouring farmland which was recently sold to a global investment company. More than 30 locals gathered at the village hall this week to attend a meeting which was supposed to include representatives from Foresight Sustainable Forestry - the buyers of the land, who hope to begin

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Whisky firms face costs challenges** Many people will look back on 2022 as a year that should have been towed out to sea and sunk without trace. Unfortunately, it can't be and the shadows it has cast will be with us for years. The war in Ukraine, the Tory government's upheavals, rampant inflation, spiralling price of fuel and power, a winter of discontent with strikes in countless public services and the ongoing economic damage caused

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 3 **Cash concerns for Barley Hub project** The International Barley Hub, the flagship project of the Tay Cities Deal, is facing a £10-£12 million shortfall in funds that threatens to compromise future farm-related research at the James Hutton Institute (JHI). The Invergowrie-based institute received £62m from the Tay Cities Deal, and while construction of some buildings is complete and work on the key £44m scientific block has begun, construction prices have risen by 25% since funds were

Daily Mail (Scotland) 46 **Are Scotland's beloved red deer about to become the latest victims of the eco zealots?** IF the panicky messages left with Mallaig Community Council were to be believed, shocked residents had never seen the like before. The calm of their Highland fishing community and perhaps even the authors' own safety were, they suggested, being imperilled by the menacing actions of marauding trespassers. Some reported being followed and cornered in 'dangerous' and 'scary' situations, while others complained these aggressive interlopers had prevented them entering their homes.

The Times (Scotland) 2 **We don't just dream up policy, Sturgeon tells business chiefs** Nicola Sturgeon has insisted that her government is not "just dreaming up" policies to make life difficult for businesses after she was challenged about pending legislation. The first minister was accused of hampering entrepreneurship with a "barrage of government policies". This includes new laws on short-term lettings, the recycling deposit return scheme and planning regulations. The deposit return scheme is set to go live in August and will add 20p

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Driven to distraction by the blinkered SNP** SCOTLAND'S crumbling roads are in a disgraceful condition after years of neglect and poor maintenance. The bill for repairs is £2 billion - illustrating the dire impact of chronic underfunding. Motorists are having to pay out large sums after falling foul of potholes, with half of respondents to an AA survey describing the state of residential roads as 'terrible'. When compensation claims for damage are made, only one in six is

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Minister booed after failing to say if rapist is a man or a woman** THE refusal of SNP ministers to say whether a convicted double rapist is a man or a woman is 'making a mockery' of the trans debate, it was claimed yesterday. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth repeatedly failed to answer the 'simplest possible question' about Isla Bryson, who was locked up in a female-only prison. The 'excruciating' failure of Miss Gilruth sparked boos and heckles from the audience watching BBC's Question Time

The Herald 28 **Glasgow pub fears as last orders come early** THE night-time economy in Glasgow is being undermined by inadequate transport provision and consumer trends that gained traction in the wake of the pandemic, city publicans have told The Herald. And the owner of one long established pub in the east end has warned the current cost-of-doing-business crisis may force the independents who create the character which the city is renowned for to exit the industry. The Scottish hospitality industry has

The Herald 15 **In the firing line: CalMac crew take brunt of public frustration over 'ferry fiasco'** IF you were to give a snap summary of the position of Robbie Drummond, it would be that things, fingers crossed, can only get better. Certainly, if you look at the headlines on Scotland's ferry network, things seem to have only been getting worse month by month, year by year. The word "ferry" is rarely used in isolation, usually coupled with the word "fiasco". For Mr Drummond, chief executive of

The Herald 4 **Greens call for more ambition from SNP ministers on climate** SNP ministers have been told to "ramp up ambition" in its next climate-change plan due to be published this year by the party's government partners - including cutting demand for aviation and potentially charging drivers for roads. The Scottish Greens, who entered into a co-operation agreement with Nicola Sturgeon's party at Holyrood, have called on the government to go further to cut aviation demand including reversing its position in supporting

The Herald 1 **Shortage of taxis hitting city's night-time economy** A SHORTAGE of taxi drivers in Glasgow and the ongoing rail strikes are impacting on the city's night-time economy, publicans have said. The Scottish hospitality industry has come under intense pressure as energy bills have rocketed and surging inflation has driven up the cost of food, drink and labour. Business owners say the difficulties have been exacerbated by a shortage of taxi drivers after the number of licence renewals fell

The Times (Scotland) 15 **£28bn on the cards from wind** Scotland can generate £28 billion from the offshore wind supply chain if it "plays its cards right", the first minister has predicted (Greig Cameron writes). Nicola Sturgeon said the Scotwind leasing round for offshore wind could have a significant economic impact. The successful bids for that process

were identified last year and could lead to more than 27 gigawatts of new generation being developed across 20 sites in the coming

The Times (Scotland) 14 **We're helpless to stop our unique landscape being industrialised** Few people can be so rooted in the Upper Deveron Valley as Martin Sheed, a ninth-generation farmer at Aldunie. His family have lived in this remote and beautiful spot since the first Mrs Sheed and her seven sons arrived in the glen to found a dynasty in 1670. Their bones and those of many of their descendants lie in the graveyard of Upper Cabrach church. Sheed, 45, vows he will

The Scotsman 17 **Burning of plastic must stop by 2030** Scotland must stop burning plastics by 2030, an independent review has warned ministers. The report follows an earlier review into the role of incineration in Scotland, which recommended placing a cap on future capacity and led to ministers introducing restrictions on incinerator developments. Colin Church, the author of the report, has now added 12 new recommendations to help Scotland reduce the carbon impact of residual - or black bag -

The Scotsman 21 **Nobody is ready for this scheme** The Scottish hospitality industry is the latest to express alarm over the deposit return scheme, following on the heels of the Scottish Retail Consortium. At this point, the question should not be whether the Scottish Government will announce a delay and a rethink, but when. With money scarce for consumers, businesses, local councils and governments, gaily proceeding is madness. UK Hospitality Scotland includes members who have "a great deal

The Times (Scotland) 15 **Technology invented by a Scot has been trouble from the off** James Blyth, a professor at Anderson's College, Glasgow, is believed to have created the first wind turbine to generate electricity in 1887. His device was installed at his holiday cottage at Marykirk, Kincardineshire. The electricity that Blyth produced was used to charge accumulators - storage devices that could supply lighting to a home. The academic is said to have offered to give excess power from his system to light the

The Herald 11 **Fears Scots puffin numbers have been decimated by lack of food** SCOTLAND'S puffin population is feared to have been decimated as post mortems on hundreds of birds washed up in Spain have confirmed they died from starvation. Experts are now warning that puffin numbers during this year's migration onshore will have collapsed and even threaten the future survival of the species. More than 1,000 dead puffins have been discovered on the shores of the Canary Islands and the regions of Cantabria

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 3 **Cash concerns for Barley Hub project** The International Barley Hub, the flagship project of the Tay Cities Deal, is facing a £10-£12 million shortfall in funds that threatens to compromise future farm-related research at the James Hutton Institute (JHI). The Invergowrie-based institute received £62m from the Tay Cities Deal, and while construction of some buildings is complete and work on the key £44m scientific block has begun, construction prices have risen by 25% since funds were

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 16 **Flynn beat pain to reach top but Brexit 'is scary'** Stephen Flynn isn't your conventional MP, but then again, his path to becoming leader of the SNP at Westminster was anything but orthodox. Most teenagers aren't diagnosed with avascular necrosis - a painful condition where bone tissue dies because of a lack of blood supply - but this happened to Flynn after he jumped down a set of stairs and collapsed at just 14. In an instant, his world changed

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 46 **Pictures of the week**

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Council's optimism as ferries task force convenes** The first meeting of a special task force set up to look at how Orkney could get new interisland ferries took place in Edinburgh this week. The Scottish Government kept its promise that the first meeting of the task force would take place last month - but only just: the meeting took place in Edinburgh on Tuesday January 31. Orkney Islands Council leader James Stockan and deputy leader Heather Woodbridge

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Community's outrage over tree-planting on farmland** A group of farmers and house owners from the Glass and Drummair areas have expressed their outrage at the potential planting of woodland on neighbouring farmland which was recently sold to a global investment company. More than 30 locals gathered at the village hall this week to attend a meeting which was supposed to include representatives from Foresight Sustainable Forestry - the buyers of the land, who hope to begin

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 22 **RMT call to nationalise sleeper** The Caledonian Sleeper train service should be brought into public ownership, trade unionists have argued. The service is a key link between Scotland and England, taking passengers between London, and Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen and Fort William. Jenny Gilruth, the Transport Minister for the Scottish Government, confirmed in October the service's current operator Serco will have its contract terminated in June. She said that Serco's proposal for continuing to run

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 51 **Net zero secretary in carbon capture project funds plea** Scottish politicians have again pressed the UK Government for certainty concerning the timeline for a major north-east carbon capture and storage project. Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson said it was "critical" Westminster provides further clarity on its plans for the Scottish Cluster project. Speaking on Thursday at DeCarbScotland in Edinburgh, the inaugural conference run by Scottish industrial emissions alliance NECCUS, he added the UK Government

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **Tories CALL ON SNP TO PUBLISH TRANS INMATE REVIEW** FROM PAGE ONE sent to Cornaton Vale. Yet within 36 hours, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon had been forced into a "screeching u-turn" and ordered a transfer to a male institution. Following this, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) then announced it was carrying out a full inquiry into where transgender inmates should be housed and until completed, all such moves were being suspended. That inquiry has now been completed and

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **Misery of the pothole pandemic** Continued from Page One Graham Simpson said: 'After years of the SNP Government systematically starving councils of funds, far too many of Scotland's roads are scarred with potholes which damage vehicles and can lead to crashes. 'If the Government had committed to the pothole action funds that the Scottish Conservatives called for, we wouldn't now be in this dire position. 'But this SNP Government, with its blinkered focus on its

Daily Mail (Scotland) 46 **Are Scotland's beloved red deer about to become the latest victims of the eco zealots?** IF the panicky messages left with Mallaig Community Council were to be believed, shocked residents had never seen the like before. The calm of their Highland fishing community and perhaps even the authors' own safety were, they suggested, being imperilled by the menacing actions of marauding trespassers. Some reported being followed and cornered in 'dangerous' and 'scary' situations, while others complained these aggressive interlopers had prevented them entering their homes.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 22 **Why ARE Scotland's roads the worst in Britain?** IT looked to Jamie Canavan like a large surface puddle. Even if it was something worse, there was no avoiding it now. A truck was thundering past on the other side the road. There was a violent jolt and the nearside tyre blew. Getting out to survey the damage, Mr Canavan, 31, found the alloy wheel totalled. A garage later told him the suspension needed replaced and the steering had

Daily Record 29 **Plastic burning stops in 2030 Scots warned** SCOTLAND must stop burning plastics by 2030, an independent review has warned ministers. The report follows an earlier review into the role of incineration, which recommended placing a cap on future capacity and led to ministers bringing in restrictions on incinerator developments. The report has added 12 recommendations to help Scotland reduce the carbon impact of residual waste treatment infrastructure. Campaigners have welcomed the suggestions, which include urging the Scottish

Daily Record 6 **Off gas grid homes suffer** SCOTS homes off the gas grid are facing higher fuel poverty, say campaigners. The UK Government estimates 19 per cent of dwellings in Scotland are off the gas grid, higher than in the rest of the UK. They rely on electricity, oil, LPG or biomass for power. Energy Action Scotland said their bills are often higher because the price of alternative fuels is not regulated or capped.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Gilruth evades question on prisoner's gender** A Scottish Government minister has refused during a television debate to say if she regards transgender double rapist Isla Bryson as a man or a woman. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth was heckled by the audience during BBC One's Question Time on Thursday, with some of the crowd apparently unhappy with her answer. Asked by fellow panel member Ella Whelan whether she regarded Bryson as a man or a woman, she

The National (Scotland) 5 **Was Tory MP sneaking a look at Bruce's notes?** BY THE JOUKER TORY MP John Lamont has been accused of taking a sneak peek at Question Time presenter Fiona Bruce's notes during Thursday night's show. The former MSP appeared on last night's panel show alongside Jenny Gilruth, India Willoughby, Ella Whelan and Ian Murray. A video posted on social media appeared to show Lamont taking a glance at something in Bruce's direction. We've all been there. We've all looked

The National (Scotland) 20 **Breathtaking profits of oil giants should spur us to action on sustainable energy** Prying open the fetid contents of fossil-fuel companies' hideous behaviour makes you realise the danger they pose to us all if we just leave them to their own avaricious devices. IT draws the breath from your lungs. A few days ago, what was in effect a general strike took to the streets, demanding public sector pay rises to cope with the cost of living crisis. In the same news window, Shell announced the biggest yearly profit in

The National (Scotland) 5 **I was in audience and atmosphere was poisonous** AS a 29-year-old straight man brought up on the west coast of Scotland without any transgender friends, I would never claim to be the most enlightened trans ally. However as a member of the "woke" generation, I know the smell of bigotry. I was among 150 audience members packed into Strathclyde University for the filming of BBC Question Time on Thursday. Considering the current media storm on the Gender Recognition

The National (Scotland) 4 **Trans news presenter says Question Time was like 'a hanging'** THE UK'S first transgender news presenter has said she felt like she was at her own "hanging" during her appearance on Thursday night's Question Time. India Willoughby appeared on the programme alongside SNP MSP Jenny Gilruth, Tory MP John Lamont, Labour's Ian Murray and journalist Ella Whelan. During the show in Glasgow, Willoughby clashed with a member of the audience as they discussed the recent debate around trans prisoners. A woman

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **Woman taken to hospital after A96 collision** A 55-year-old woman was taken to hospital yesterday following a car crash near Inverurie. The A96 Aberdeen to Inverurie road was closed for almost three hours after the two vehicle accident. A silver Mini and another light-coloured vehicle collided near the Kellockbank junction at about 2pm. An 18-year-old woman was reported for a driving offence. Four police cars and two ambulances attended the scene. A police spokesman said: "Around 2pm on

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 14 **Curb burning plastic by 2030 to ease carbon impact: Report** Scotland must stop burning plastics by 2030, an independent review has warned ministers. The report follows an earlier examination into the role of incineration in Scotland, which recommended placing a cap on future capacity and led to ministers introducing restrictions on incinerator developments. Report author Colin Church has now added 12 new recommendations to help Scotland reduce the carbon impact of residual - or black bag - waste treatment infrastructure.

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **JENNY GETS A DRESSING DOWN** By CHRIS MUSSON NATS minister Jenny Gilruth parrots Nicola Sturgeon during a grilling on the trans rapist row — in an outfit just like one her boss wore in 2020. The MSP was heckled on BBC One's Question Time after refusing to say if rapist Isla Bryson, 31, is a man or a woman. She instead used Ms Sturgeon's line from First Minister's Questions, saying: "This individual is a rapist."

The Times (Scotland) 2 **We don't just dream up policy, Sturgeon tells business chiefs** Nicola Sturgeon has insisted that her government is not "just dreaming up" policies to make life difficult for businesses after she was challenged about pending legislation. The first minister was accused of hampering entrepreneurship with a "barrage of government policies". This includes new laws on short-term lettings, the recycling deposit return scheme and planning regulations. The deposit return scheme is set to go live in August and will add 20p

The Times (Scotland) 4 **Unions' 10% pay rise demand is reasonable, says minister** An SNP minister has said teachers' demand for a 10 per cent pay rise is "a reasonable request" despite Treasury warnings that excessive pay growth will drive inflation even higher. Jenny Gilruth, the Scottish transport minister and a former teacher, said public sector workers were "rightly asking for higher increases" than the Scottish government has offered. Shirley-Anne Somerville, the Scottish education secretary, has said 10 per cent is "simply unaffordable"

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Driven to distraction by the blinkered SNP** SCOTLAND'S crumbling roads are in a disgraceful condition after years of neglect and poor maintenance. The bill for repairs is £2 billion - illustrating the dire impact of chronic underfunding. Motorists are having to pay out large sums after falling foul of potholes, with half of respondents to an AA survey describing the state of residential roads as 'terrible'. When compensation claims for damage are made, only one in six is

Daily Mail (Scotland) 10 **Cash-starved councils: we cannot meet SNP demands on teachers** COUNCILS are on a collision course with SNP ministers after declaring they cannot fulfil Nicola Sturgeon's demand to protect teacher numbers without more cash. The First Minister and her Education Secretary are attempting to force councils to hire more teachers after numbers dropped across Scotland last year. But council leaders have warned that their 'expectations cannot be met' unless the Scottish Government provides more funding. The number of teachers fell

The Herald 20 **Let's blow the dust off the Christie Commission** I WANT to talk about a report that's mainly been gathering dust on the shelf for over a decade: the Christie Commission on public service reform. Not because it's irrelevant, far from it, but that implementing it is so challenging. However, with the pandemic and cost of living crisis catalysing huge digital changes in organisations there is an opportunity to use technology to deliver on the values and principles of

The Herald 7 **Libraries to share fund for projects amid fear of budget cuts** LIBRARIES across Scotland are to benefit from a share of £200,000 of Scottish Government funding. The announcement of the cash for eight innovative library projects announced by Culture Minister Neil Gray was welcomed but campaigners said it would have the largest impact alongside a core funding model. Eight public libraries will receive the investment as part of the Public Library Improvement Fund and the projects will be helped after their

The Herald 20 **Leisure could help Scotland out of its downturn** THE First Minister stands accused of throttling the life out of Scottish businesses who face going bust in a new post-pandemic financial crunch. Owners of restaurants, pubs, clubs, hotels and spas are among the worst hit and are laying the blame at the door of Nicola Sturgeon as they see their counterparts south of the Border benefit from hefty tax cuts. A 75 per cent reduction in business rates could

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The Scotsman 38 **Scottish biotech centre's £25m milestone** Total investment in green skills led by the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC) has topped a "milestone" £25 million, new figures reveal, supporting Scotland's journey to net zero. The amount is based on the combined investment in the innovation centre's skills programmes including industry contributions completed since IBioIC's inception in 2014. In that time, more than 450 students have worked alongside some 80 biotechnology companies to support pioneering research across

The Scotsman 7 **'No new offer' after talks with teachers** Scottish Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, who represent around 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday as part of their 10 per cent pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a

The Herald 4 **Greens call for more ambition from SNP ministers on climate** SNP ministers have been told to "ramp up ambition" in its next climate-change plan due to be published this year by the party's government partners - including cutting demand for aviation and potentially charging drivers for roads. The Scottish Greens, who entered into a co-operation agreement with Nicola Sturgeon's party at Holyrood, have called on the government to go further to cut aviation demand including reversing its position in supporting

The Herald 6 **Ministers urged to halt Bill for new Care Service** A SCOTTISH Parliament committee has urged ministers to halt plans to shake-up the country's care services, warning the vague legislation could set a "dangerous precedent". In a majority report opposed by the SNP, the Labour and Conservative members of the Delegated Powers Committee warned the National Care Service Bill could "undermine" parliament. The report said the Bill should not progress in its current form because of the "insufficient detail" on

The Scotsman 4 **Care service bill 'sets dangerous precedent and must be paused'** The Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its existing form, a Holyrood committee has said. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by opposition parties, trade unions and other groups about

The Scotsman 14 **Second homes tax rise 'makes no sense'** A tax rise for people buying second homes in Scotland "makes no financial sense" and risks damaging the housing market, a senior property lawyer has said. Andrew Diamond, partner and head of residential property at solicitors and estate agents Lindsays, questioned the Scottish Government's motive for increasing the Additional Dwelling Supplement (ADS). Ministers announced the additional rate of tax paid by those with more than one property would increase from

The Herald 4 **Hiking council tax bills by £140 won't be enough to save services from axe** SCOTLAND'S cash-strapped local authorities will be forced to cut services even if they raise council tax by 5 per cent for the next two years, a top think-tank has warned. The respected Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said adding £140 to the average Band D bill was unlikely to avoid cuts to libraries, leisure centres, roads and waste services. It said the next two years could see "a reversal of

The Herald 4 **Councils call for talks with ministers over threat to prevent them axing teachers** COUNCIL leaders have demanded urgent talks with ministers over their plans to prevent local authorities from cutting teacher numbers to balance their budgets. The SNP-led council umbrella body Cosla said the government's expectations "cannot be met" without more money. Leaders also stressed their "great disappointment" with the government's approach, saying it went against council autonomy and the "spirit of partnership working". Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville intervened in the issue after

The Scotsman 6 **Councils face cuts even if they hike council tax by 5 per cent, IFS warns** Local authorities face funding cuts even if they hike council tax by 5 per cent in each of the next two years, new analysis has found. Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said areas such as housing support, libraries, leisure centres, road maintenance and waste collection could all feel the squeeze. It comes after a leaked document revealed councils estimate around 7,100 full-time equivalent jobs could be lost

The Scotsman 39 **Wins come thick and fast for Scottish tech scene** The power of the Glasgow tech scene has been brought into focus in recent weeks and months with success for Glasgow-based company Novosound, reports that the Glasgow ecosystem is worth £2.6 billion and subsequent media interest - including a recent column in this newspaper by Nick Freer (Startup growth potential is heading west - The Scotsman, January 14). My own business, Krucial, which harnesses space technology to connect Internet

The Herald 15 **In the firing line: CalMac crew take brunt of public frustration over 'ferry fiasco'** IF you were to give a snap summary of the position of Robbie Drummond, it would be that things, fingers crossed, can only get better. Certainly, if you look at the headlines on Scotland's ferry network, things seem to have only been getting worse month by month, year by year. The word "ferry" is rarely used in isolation, usually coupled with the word "fiasco". For Mr Drummond, chief executive of

The Herald 24 **THE VOICE OF PROPERTY** THE Scottish Government's revenues from Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) rose 62.4 per cent in the 12 months to December last year compared to the same period in 2019 - up from £395.6m to £642.6m, according to analysis by property firm DJ Alexander. The last six months alone have raised £380.4m and include the six highest totals since LBTT was introduced in 2015. The data also reveals that over

The Scotsman 22 **The crisis of capitalism is real** Martin Wolf, the Financial Times columnist and high priest of globalisation, published his new book this week to rave reviews from Ben Bernanke, former chair of the US Federal Reserve, and Sir Angus Deaton, winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Economics. These men are not firebrand radicals, they are made and moulded by the economic establishment. And yet they have all come together to nail their colours to

The Scotsman 21 **Nobody is ready for this scheme** The Scottish hospitality industry is the latest to express alarm over the deposit return scheme, following on the heels of the Scottish Retail Consortium. At this point, the question should not be whether the Scottish Government will announce a delay and a rethink, but when. With money scarce for consumers, businesses, local councils and governments, gaily proceeding is madness. UK Hospitality Scotland includes members who have "a great deal

The Times (Scotland) 14 **We're helpless to stop our unique landscape being industrialised** Few people can be so rooted in the Upper Deveron Valley as Martin Sheed, a ninth-generation farmer at Aldunie. His family have lived in this remote and beautiful spot since the first Mrs Sheed and her seven sons arrived in the glen to found a dynasty in 1670. Their bones and those of many of their descendants lie in the graveyard of Upper Cabrach church. Sheed, 45, vows he will

The Times (Scotland) 15 **£28bn on the cards from wind** Scotland can generate £28 billion from the offshore wind supply chain if it "plays its cards right", the first minister has predicted (Greig Cameron writes). Nicola Sturgeon said the Scotwind leasing round for offshore wind could have a significant economic impact. The successful bids for that process were identified last year and could lead to more than 27 gigawatts of new generation being developed across 20 sites in the coming

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **Councils 'set for struggle despite rises'** Councils in Scotland would still face a real-terms cut to funding even if council tax is increased by 5%, a thinktank has said. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), published yesterday, said local authorities face a 0.8% real-terms cut in budgets for the next year if Government plans are given the go-ahead. Under the Scottish Government's budget proposals - which passed the first parliamentary hurdle on Thursday -

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 22 **RMT call to nationalise sleeper** The Caledonian Sleeper train service should be brought into public ownership, trade unionists have argued. The service is a key link between Scotland and England, taking passengers between London, and Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen and Fort William. Jenny Gilruth, the Transport Minister for the Scottish Government, confirmed in October the service's current operator Serco will have its contract terminated in June. She said that Serco's proposal for continuing to run

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 12 **Government's 'anti-strike' bill stirring up fury** It's a bill which has sparked fury among trade unionists and even been the catalyst for concerns over its legality from some Conservative MPs. Last week, Westminster MPs backed controversial government plans to impose minimum service levels for some sectors during industrial action, but the proposals have been criticised by opponents as being an "anti-strike" charter. The legislation would enforce minimum service levels during strike days across sectors, including health,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Traffic lights at store are broken after fix** Traffic lights outside the Tesco supermarket in Keith have broken again after being reportedly fixed last month. Frustrated motorists have been caught in major tailbacks on the A96 Aberdeen to Inverness road due to the faulty signals. Replacement detectors were fitted in December in an attempt to fix the problem. However, Moray MSP Richard Lochhead has warned that despite months of conversations with Amey, the traffic lights at the town's

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **No new offers for teachers** Scottish Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish government following talks with

education unions. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, which represents around 80% of teachers in Scotland, is to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday, as part of their 10% pay campaign. Teachers have been offered a 5% pay increase on four occasions,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Council's optimism as ferries task force convenes** The first meeting of a special task force set up to look at how Orkney could get new interisland ferries took place in Edinburgh this week. The Scottish Government kept its promise that the first meeting of the task force would take place last month - but only just: the meeting took place in Edinburgh on Tuesday January 31. Orkney Islands Council leader James Stockan and deputy leader Heather Woodbridge

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 3 **Cash concerns for Barley Hub project** The International Barley Hub, the flagship project of the Tay Cities Deal, is facing a £10-£12 million shortfall in funds that threatens to compromise future farm-related research at the James Hutton Institute (JHI). The Invergowrie-based institute received £62m from the Tay Cities Deal, and while construction of some buildings is complete and work on the key £44m scientific block has begun, construction prices have risen by 25% since funds were

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 51 **Net zero secretary in carbon capture project funds plea** Scottish politicians have again pressed the UK Government for certainty concerning the timeline for a major north-east carbon capture and storage project. Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson said it was "critical" Westminster provides further clarity on its plans for the Scottish Cluster project. Speaking on Thursday at DeCarb Scotland in Edinburgh, the inaugural conference run by Scottish industrial emissions alliance NECCUS, he added the UK Government

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Call to stall social care reforms** THE Scottish Government's social care reform plan should not go forward in its current form, a Holyrood committee has said. The proposed National Care Service would bring adult social care, and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services, under a national body similar to the NHS. Yesterday, a report from the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, backed by all opposition members of the panel, said:

Daily Express (Scotland) 2 **Teachers: 'No new pay offer'** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following union talks yesterday. Her comment came as the Educational Institute of Scotland, who represent around 80 per cent of teachers north of the Border, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday as part of their 10 per cent pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a five per

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **Misery of the pothole pandemic** Continued from Page One Graham Simpson said: 'After years of the SNP Government systematically starving councils of funds, far too many of Scotland's roads are scarred with potholes which damage vehicles and can lead to crashes. 'If the Government had committed to the pothole action funds that the Scottish Conservatives called for, we wouldn't now be in this dire position. 'But this SNP Government, with its blinkered focus on its

Daily Mail (Scotland) 22 **Why ARE Scotland's roads the worst in Britain?** IT looked to Jamie Canavan like a large surface puddle. Even if it was something worse, there was no avoiding it now. A truck was thundering past on the other side of the road. There was a violent jolt and the nearside tyre blew. Getting out to survey the damage, Mr Canavan, 31, found the alloy wheel to be dented. A garage later told him the suspension needed replacing and the steering had

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **MSPs' verdict is 'final nail in coffin' for SNP care plan** PLANS for a Scotlandwide care service would 'hand too much power to SNP ministers', MSPs have said. Critics last night said a Holyrood committee's damning conclusion on the policy should be the 'final nail in the coffin' for the plans. Holyrood's law reform committee warned the SNP's flagship policy to reform social care should be immediately halted. Ministers want to strip councils of responsibility for social care and create a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Tax rises 'will still leave NHS short'** THE NHS will be starved of cash after it emerged SNP Government tax hikes are likely to raise much less than anticipated, it was claimed yesterday. Economic forecasters advising Nationalist ministers have said the amount generated by higher income tax in Scotland could be nearly £700million less than hoped for. In December, stand-in Finance Secretary John Swinney hiked income tax from 41p to 42p in the pound for people earning

Daily Record 24 **Teachers told 'no new deal' to end strike** SCOTTISH Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government. The announcement follows talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the EIS union - which represents about 80 per cent of teachers in Scotland - is set to end 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday. Teachers have previously been offered a five per cent pay increase on four occasions,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Councils face shortfall even if local taxes go up by 5%** Councils in Scotland may still have to make cuts to public services over the next two years even if they raise taxes by 5 per cent, analysis has

suggested. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that even tax rises of this level - working out at around £140 for the average band D property - would not be enough to avoid real-terms budget cuts. It also warned that cuts

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Committee rejects Care Service Bill as 'unacceptable'** The Scottish Government's planned reform of social care has been dealt another blow after a Holyrood committee described the legislation underpinning it as setting a "dangerous" and "unacceptable" precedent. MSPs on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee said that the Bill setting up the National Care Service (NCS) could undermine the Scottish Parliament, and demanded that it be redrafted. The NCS would bring adult social care - and potentially

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **SNP faces more pressure to ditch 'dangerous' social care reforms** THE SNP is under more pressure to scrap its social care reforms after a Holyrood committee warned the "dangerous and unacceptable" proposals would hand ministers too much power. Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that the creation of a the National Care Service, which would bring adult social care and potentially other services under one national body, would be comparable in scale to the NHS. However, major doubts have been raised about

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Town hall budgets slashed despite tax hikes** TOWN halls face having their budgets slashed even if they hit residents with record rises to council tax. Leading think tank the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) warned that if council tax bills rise by five per cent, overall local government funding would still fall in real terms as the increased income would not compensate for cuts imposed by the SNP government. Despite proposals to raise income tax rates further

The National (Scotland) 14 **Current social care reform plan 'should not go forward'** THE Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its current form, a committee has said. SNP MSPs on the committee dissented against the report. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by

The National (Scotland) 12 **Truth is the only way to tackle the corruption that poisons UK society** itself edging into the top 10 for the first time. The UK is still a comparatively clean country in the classic definition of corruption (it still ranks fairly highly, at 20) but it is moving in the wrong direction in terms of reputation and performance - yet it remains without the willingness to acknowledge the difficulty. Indeed, we still hear regular braying calls from Westminster politicians regarding their "world-beating" status

The National (Scotland) 10 **Council tax rise of 5% 'would mean real-terms funding cut'** COUNCILS in Scotland would still be facing a real terms cut to funding even if council tax is increased by 5%, a think tank has said. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said local authorities face a 0.8% real terms cut in next year's Budget if government plans are given the go-ahead. Under the Scottish Government's Budget proposals - which passed the first parliamentary hurdle on Thursday -

The National (Scotland) 3 **'No new offer' for teachers ahead of strikes** SCOTTISH Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said "no new offer" for teachers would come from the Scottish Government following talks with education unions yesterday. It comes as the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union, who represent around 80% of teachers in Scotland, is set to conclude 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday, February 6; as part of their 10% pay campaign. Teachers have previously been offered a 5% pay

The National (Scotland) 20 **Breathtaking profits of oil giants should spur us to action on sustainable energy** Prying open the fetid contents of fossil-fuel companies' hideous behaviour makes you realise the danger they pose to us all if we just leave them to their own avaricious devices. It draws the breath from your lungs. A few days ago, what was in effect a general strike took to the streets, demanding public sector pay rises to cope with the cost of living crisis. In the same news window, Shell announced the biggest yearly profit in

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **COUNCIL WHACKS** LOCAL authorities will be forced to slash services even if they hike council tax by five per cent, experts warned yesterday. Rising social care costs and a potential Scottish Government ban on dropping teacher numbers could hammer budgets for housing, bin collections and libraries. The Institute for Fiscal Studies think-tank report came days after the boss of councils umbrella body Cosla warned "all options are very much on the table"

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Tax dread** IT is the time of year again when local politicians set council tax rates Â— and householders brace themselves for another hit. Unfortunately, it's looking inevitable that when the bills land in the coming weeks, there will be bad news. As we report today, authorities face cuts, forcing them to slash services like bin collections, libraries and housing budgets, given the settlement from the Scottish Government. That will be the

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Axe care plan** ONE idea for saving cash is becoming increasingly clear. The SNP's plans for a National Care Service are an almighty mess and an expense we can do without right now. It's an eye-catching policy, mainly because of the name. The National Care Service, of course, sounds like the National Health Service. But despite what it says on the tin, it will not mean private care homes are absorbed into a

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **No new teachers pay offer** EDUCATION Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville last night ruled out a new pay offer for striking teachers. Four have been tabled so far in a bid to resolve the dispute, which has already seen teachers walk out of classrooms across the country. The Scottish Government says a "fair" offer of 5 per cent, with up to 6.85 per cent for the lowest paid, has been tabled. Teaching unions have called for 10

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP councils face sanctions for failing to hire enough teachers** Nicola Sturgeon is set to punish her own SNP councils after they said her demand to hire more teachers "cannot be met". The first minister last week threatened to impose legal or financial penalties on the local authorities that fail to deliver her pledge to hire 3,500 more teachers by 2026. Sturgeon was dismayed when teacher numbers dropped slightly last year after she gave councils £145 million for further recruitment.

The Times (Scotland) 4 **Unions' 10% pay rise demand is reasonable, says minister** An SNP minister has said teachers' demand for a 10 per cent pay rise is "a reasonable request" despite Treasury warnings that excessive pay growth will drive inflation even higher. Jenny Gilruth, the Scottish transport minister and a former teacher, said public sector workers were "rightly asking for higher increases" than the Scottish government has offered. Shirley-Anne Somerville, the Scottish education secretary, has said 10 per cent is "simply unaffordable"

The Times (Scotland) 2 **We don't just dream up policy, Sturgeon tells business chiefs** Nicola Sturgeon has insisted that her government is not "just dreaming up" policies to make life difficult for businesses after she was challenged about pending legislation. The first minister was accused of hampering entrepreneurship with a "barrage of government policies". This includes new laws on short-term lettings, the recycling deposit return scheme and planning regulations. The deposit return scheme is set to go live in August and will add 20p

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Admit your mistake, Nicola, and stop this ill-thought-out agenda** SO there it is. Nicola Sturgeon has finally admitted that double rapist Isla Bryson is 'almost certainly' faking being a transgender woman for an 'easy way out'. Many of us could have told the First Minister this quite some time ago, but there's no one quite like the FM for sticking her fingers in her ears and shouting 'la la la' when something is suggested that doesn't tally with her

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Minister booed after failing to say if rapist is a man or a woman** THE refusal of SNP ministers to say whether a convicted double rapist is a man or a woman is 'making a mockery' of the trans debate, it was claimed yesterday. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth repeatedly failed to answer the 'simplest possible question' about Isla Bryson, who was locked up in a female-only prison. The 'excruciating' failure of Miss Gilruth sparked boos and heckles from the audience watching BBC's Question Time

The Herald 6 **Ministers urged to halt Bill for new Care Service** A SCOTTISH Parliament committee has urged ministers to halt plans to shake-up the country's care services, warning the vague legislation could set a "dangerous precedent". In a majority report opposed by the SNP, the Labour and Conservative members of the Delegated Powers Committee warned the National Care Service Bill could "undermine" parliament. The report said the Bill should not progress in its current form because of the "insufficient detail" on

The Herald 4 **Justice secretary urged to publish review of trans prisoners' procedure** KEITH Brown has been urged to immediately publish the Scottish Government's "urgent lessons learned review" into how a double rapist was kept in a women's prison. The Scottish Government has come under scrutiny after Isla Bryson, who was convicted of two rapes carried out while she identified as a man, was sent to an all-female prison, albeit in isolation, ahead of her sentencing. Mr Brown, the justice secretary, initially defended

The Herald 4 **Hiking council tax bills by £140 won't be enough to save services from axe** SCOTLAND'S cash-strapped local authorities will be forced to cut services even if they raise council tax by 5 per cent for the next two years, a top think-tank has warned. The respected Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said adding £140 to the average Band D bill was unlikely to avoid cuts to libraries, leisure centres, roads and waste services. It said the next two years could see "a reversal of

The Herald 20 **Streets in the sky: is there still a future for high-rise living?** IT was known as the Tower of Terror but flats in a once notorious London high rise now sell for upwards of £600,000. Commissioned by Greater London Council, Trelick Tower in North Kensington was designed in the Brutalist style by architect Erno Goldfinger. Such was his aversion to the style of the building, writer Ian Fleming named a Bond villain after the architect. Designed as social housing and completed in

Daily Express 20 **SNP minister refuses to say rapist is a man** AN SNP politician was shouted down by an angry Question Time audience for refusing to say if transgender rapist Isla Bryson is a man or a woman. Scottish transport minister Jenny Gilruth repeatedly described the sex attacker - formerly known as Adam Graham - as an "individual". Fellow panellist Ella Whelan asked her: "Most people will have noticed that you keep saying 'the individual'. Is Adam Graham a man or

The Daily Telegraph 18 **MPs should not feel pressured into backing a bad law banning 'conversion therapy'** I apologise for starting with a confusion, especially because I am not sure I can resolve it. But it is a feature of the present, beleaguered Government that it often prefers not to make things clear. This is partly a political tactic. When Rishi Sunak and his ministers speak equivocally, or decline to speak out, they are pursuing a destination called "Boringsville". The Boris and Truss administrations said much too much

The Daily Telegraph 23 **Nicola Sturgeon has failed the Scottish sisterhood** Can we still say that women wear knickers in these trans-ient times? Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's First Minister, has certainly got hers in a twist over the case of the transgender double rapist, whose biological sex she is still struggling to determine, despite the convicted sex offender now known as Isla Bryson being born Adam Graham. The SNP leader virtue-signalled headlong into yet another farce this week as she refused to

The Daily Telegraph 17 **Labour's confusion on trans issues can't stand** Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish First Minister, continues to pay a political price for her ill-advised foray into social reform. Her Gender Recognition Reform Bill may have been vetoed by the UK Government, using its reserved powers under the Scotland Act, but the legal arguments surrounding this dispute have been superseded by the case of a rapist who, after claiming to be a transwoman, was initially sent to a female-only prison.

The Daily Telegraph 3 **Laws on gender fail to protect women's sport, say athletics chiefs** THE Government was caught up in a row over transgender athletes last night after a sporting body claimed that the law failed to protect women's sport. UK Athletics (UKA) issued a statement calling for a "legislative change" to "ensure the women's category can be lawfully reserved for female [at birth] competitors". It made the comment after Rishi Sunak said "biological sex really matters" in relation to policy in sport

The Daily Telegraph 2 **SNP MSP heckled by audience over trans rapist's gender** AN SNP politician has been heckled by a Question Time audience after she followed Nicola Sturgeon's lead by refusing to say if a transgender rapist is a man or a woman. Jenny Gilruth, transport minister at Holyrood, provoked loud groans from a Glasgow BBC crowd after she repeatedly dodged questions over the sex of Isla Bryson, previously Adam Graham, who was initially placed in a female jail after being convicted

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 29 **Groups to share £1m funding to help tackle isolation** "Lifeline" funding of almost £1 million is going to groups working to tackle social isolation and loneliness. Equalities and older people minister Christina McKelvie said both the coronavirus pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis has "increased isolation" for some. Eighteen projects and organisations will receive a share of £971,019, and Ms McKelvie said the cash will help "keep people connected during this challenging time". The money will help to provide warm

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Outgoing chief praises Orkney folk and says his role was 'privilege'** In the past two weeks, Orkney Islands Council has seen a changing of the guard in its chief executive role. With Oliver Reid coming into post last week, the council finally found itself a new permanent chief executive. This change sees the interim chief executive John Mundell stepping away from the isles' council. Mr Mundell's time at the council was hugely extended past the four-to-six months he was brought into

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **Councils 'set for struggle despite rises'** Councils in Scotland would still face a real-terms cut to funding even if council tax is increased by 5%, a thinktank has said. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), published yesterday, said local authorities face a 0.8% real-terms cut in budgets for the next year if Government plans are given the go-ahead. Under the Scottish Government's budget proposals - which passed the first parliamentary hurdle on Thursday -

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **10-year retail park dispute nearing end** Decision day is looming over controversial plans to build a 50,000sq ft retail park in Inverness following 10 years of wrangling. Final submissions over the proposal at Dell of Inshes are due later this month as the Scottish Government considers an appeal made by developers Aberdeen Standard Investments. Highland Council last year kicked out the plans for one large shop, eight smaller units, a pub and 13 allotments amid fears

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 7 **Retail park planning saga could be near end** A 10-year planning wrangle in Inverness could finally be about to come to an end. Developers have been trying to build a new retail park at Dell of Inshes since December 2012. Since then, variations of the idea have been making their way through the planning and appeal processes of Highland Council and the Scottish Government. Highland councillors rejected the most recent proposal from Aberdeen Standard Investments in June 2022. That

The Scotsman 21 **Sturgeon's gender bill is now a dead duck - and her own words prove it** Hanging Keith Brown out to dry is becoming a Thursday ritual. Asked if the persons identifying as Isla Bryson and Tiffany Scott "are women in your view", the Justice Secretary was clear. "I think that is the case," Mr Brown told BBC Scotland's The Nine. "We have to accept people identify, as in this case, as women. I think that is commonly accepted and that is the starting point

The Scotsman 22 **Politicians must help festival, not hinder it** It is true that there have been well-founded concerns about the effects of the rise in Airbnb-style lettings on the housing market in Edinburgh and beyond. It is also true that, at least before the pandemic, there was a degree of public unhappiness about the size of the city's famous festivals. However, Covid and the current economic crisis have dramatically altered the context of both debates and politicians need

The Scotsman 9 **Publish Isla Bryson case review in full, Scottish government urged** The Scottish Government has been urged to publish the urgent review into the Isla Bryson case in full. Bryson was last week convicted of raping two women while she was a man called Adam Graham and was initially housed in segregation in Cornton Vale prison near Stirling - the only all-female jail in Scotland - before being moved to the male estate. The case caused public outcry, leading Scottish Justice

The Scotsman 4 **Care service bill 'sets dangerous precedent and must be paused'** The Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its existing form, a Holyrood committee has said. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by opposition parties, trade unions and other groups about

The Scotsman 14 **Second homes tax rise 'makes no sense'** A tax rise for people buying second homes in Scotland "makes no financial sense" and risks damaging the housing market, a senior property lawyer has said. Andrew Diamond, partner and head of residential property at solicitors and estate agents Lindsays, questioned the Scottish Government's motive for increasing the Additional Dwelling Supplement (ADS). Ministers announced the additional rate of tax paid by those with more than one property would increase from

The Scotsman 24 **Plan to allow 16-year-olds to become MSPs is just childish** There is only one reasonable response to the Scottish Government's latest wheeze to extend the right to become an MSP to 16- and 17-year-olds - and that is a resounding no. The parliament's business manager, George Adam, when outlining his government's plans for electoral reform earlier this week, told MSPs that an influx of teenagers could "possibly change the vibrancy of this place". He's right. A horde of giggling 16-year-olds,

The Scotsman 6 **Councils face cuts even if they hike council tax by 5 per cent, IFS warns** Local authorities face funding cuts even if they hike council tax by 5 per cent in each of the next two years, new analysis has found. Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said areas such as housing support, libraries, leisure centres, road maintenance and waste collection could all feel the squeeze. It comes after a leaked document revealed councils estimate around 7,100 full-time equivalent jobs could be lost

The Scotsman 1 **Clampdown on rentals will cost millions, warns Fringe** Organisers of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe have warned the event may shrink by a third by 2024 unless there is a rethink on a clampdown over renting out spare rooms and flats to artists, performers and other workers. MSPs are being told Edinburgh's economy is facing the loss of £30 million in economic benefit from the Fringe and more than 700 jobs will go over plans by the city council to impose strict new rules over the

The Scotsman 4 **Social care collapse threat to NHS** Senior care bosses have told the Scottish Government "social care is not the servant to the NHS", amid a warning to ministers that if "social care collapses, then the NHS will follow soon after". The warning from Scottish Care, a membership organisation representing the independent social care sector in Scotland, comes following new figures showing struggling health boards have taken up more than half of the additional care home beds

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Violence fears at protest as Furies counter protest** POLICE are bracing themselves for potential disorder tomorrow when rival groups are set to confront each other over transgender issues. It is the subject of fierce debate across Scotland following several high-profile incidents. The case of plans to house two transgender prisoners in the country's only women's jail sparked a furious reaction from critics. That came weeks after Nicola Sturgeon's proposed Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was blocked by the

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Cash help to battle isolation** MINISTERS have pledged close to £1 million to groups working to tackle social isolation and loneliness. The funding is aimed at easing issues brought on by the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Equalities and older people minister Christina McKelvie said 18 projects and groups would get a share of the £971,019 pot. The money will help provide warm spaces, hot meals, group activities and fuel payments to those most

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Call to stall social care reforms** THE Scottish Government's social care reform plan should not go forward in its current form, a Holyrood committee has said. The proposed National Care Service would bring adult social care, and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services, under a national body similar to the NHS. Yesterday, a report from the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, backed by all opposition members of the panel, said:

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **MSPs' verdict is 'final nail in coffin' for SNP care plan** PLANS for a Scotlandwide care service would 'hand too much power to SNP ministers', MSPs have said. Critics last night said a Holyrood committee's damning conclusion on the policy should be the 'final nail in the coffin' for the plans. Holyrood's law reform committee warned the SNP's flagship policy to reform social care should be immediately halted. Ministers want to strip councils of responsibility for social care and create a

Daily Record 5 **Pressure steps up on Scottish Government on placement of trans prisoners** NICOLA Sturgeon has come under huge pressure due to policies relating to trans prisoners since the Record revealed details of Tiffany Scott's case. The First Minister has also faced criticism after double rapist Isla Bryson was sent to women-only Compton Vale after their conviction. Bryson had only decided to be known as a woman after being charged with double rape, changing name from Adam Graham. After the Bryson row, we

Daily Record 6 **Off gas grid homes suffer** SCOTS homes off the gas grid are facing higher fuel poverty, say campaigners. The UK Government estimates 19 per cent of dwellings in Scotland are off the gas grid, higher than in the rest of the UK. They rely on electricity, oil, LPG or biomass for power. Energy Action Scotland said their bills are often higher because the price of alternative fuels is not regulated or capped.

Daily Record 4 **FEMALE PRISON GUARDS ORDERED TO STRIP SEARCH TRANS CONVICT** FEMALE prison officers claim their human rights went "out of the window" when they were ordered to carry out intimate searches on dangerous trans prisoner Tiffany Scott. Full body searches of Scott began being carried out by women officers when Scott's gender identity changed from "male" to "female" on a prisons computer record system, the Daily Record can reveal. But one prison insider said "nothing else about Scott has changed"

Daily Record 18 **Cash lifeline for charities** ESSENTIAL funding has been awarded to groups working to tackle social isolation and loneliness. Equalities and older people minister Christina McKelvie said both the coronavirus pandemic and the spiralling cost-of-living crisis has "increased isolation" for some. She added: "Social isolation and loneliness can affect anyone." Eighteen charities and projects, including Age Scotland, will share about £1million.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Committee rejects Care Service Bill as 'unacceptable'** The Scottish Government's planned reform of social care has been dealt another blow after a Holyrood committee described the legislation underpinning it as setting a "dangerous" and "unacceptable" precedent. MSPs on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee said that the Bill setting up the National Care Service (NCS) could undermine the Scottish Parliament, and demanded that it be redrafted. The NCS would bring adult social care - and potentially

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Gilruth evades question on prisoner's gender** A Scottish Government minister has refused during a television debate to say if she regards transgender double rapist Isla Bryson as a man or a woman. Transport minister Jenny Gilruth was heckled by the audience during BBC One's Question Time on Thursday, with some of the crowd apparently unhappy with her answer. Asked by fellow panel member Ella Whelan whether she regarded Bryson as a man or a woman, she

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 19 **Fringe fears short-term letting rules** Organisers of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe have warned the event may shrink unless there is a rethink on the licensing of letting spare rooms and flats to artists, performers and other workers. MSPs have been told that Edinburgh's economy is facing the loss of £30m in economic benefit from the Fringe and more than 700 jobs will go over plans by the Edinburgh City Council to impose new rules over

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Councils face shortfall even if local taxes go up by 5%** Councils in Scotland may still have to make cuts to public services over the next two years even if they raise taxes by 5 per cent, analysis has suggested. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that even tax rises of this level - working out at around £140 for the average band D property - would not be enough to avoid real-terms budget cuts. It also warned that cuts

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Town hall budgets slashed despite tax hikes** TOWN halls face having their budgets slashed even if they hit residents with record rises to council tax. Leading think tank the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) warned that if council tax bills rise by five per cent, overall local government funding would still fall in real terms as the increased income would not compensate for cuts imposed by the SNP government. Despite proposals to raise income tax rates further

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **SNP faces more pressure to ditch 'dangerous' social care reforms** THE SNP is under more pressure to scrap its social care reforms after a Holyrood committee warned the "dangerous and unacceptable" proposals would hand ministers too much power. Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that the creation of a National Care Service, which would bring adult social care and potentially other services under one national body, would be comparable in scale to the NHS. However, major doubts have been raised about

The National (Scotland) 4 **BBC's Bruce in unfounded claim about Scottish trans prisoner** THE BBC was facing questions last night after Fiona Bruce wrongly claimed that "a trans woman with a history of extreme violence" had been placed in a female jail by the Scottish Prison Service - despite the First Minister having made clear it was not true just

hours earlier. Bruce made the claim during a heated and controversial episode of the BBC's flagship show Question Time which focused on gender

The National (Scotland) 17 **£1 m fund to help tackle loneliness and isolation** <lifeline"></lifeline">

The National (Scotland) 14 **Current social care reform plan 'should not go forward'** THE Scottish Government's flagship social care reform should not go forward in its current form, a committee has said. SNP MSPs on the committee dissented against the report. The National Care Service (NCS) would bring adult social care - and potentially other areas such as children's and drug and alcohol services - under one national body set up in a similar way to the NHS. Concerns have been raised by

The National (Scotland) 6 **'I'd have expected suspension if I had voted against bill'** AN SNP MSP has said she would've expected disciplinary action to be taken against her if she had voted against the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill after nine of her colleagues rebelled against the party. SNP MP Alyn Smith said any of his party colleagues who oppose the bill should resign earlier this week and stand as Independents. The commitment to simplifying the gender

The National (Scotland) 5 **I was in audience and atmosphere was poisonous** AS a 29-year-old straight man brought up on the west coast of Scotland without any transgender friends, I would never claim to be the most enlightened trans ally. However as a member of the "woke" generation, I know the smell of bigotry. I was among 150 audience members packed into Strathclyde University for the filming of BBC Question Time on Thursday. Considering the current media storm on the Gender Recognition

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Axe care plan** ONE idea for saving cash is becoming increasingly clear. The SNP's plans for a National Care Service are an almighty mess and an expense we can do without right now. It's an eye-catching policy, mainly because of the name. The National Care Service, of course, sounds like the National Health Service. But despite what it says on the tin, it will not mean private care homes are absorbed into a

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Tax dread** IT is the time of year again when local politicians set council tax rates Â— and householders brace themselves for another hit. Unfortunately, it's looking inevitable that when the bills land in the coming weeks, there will be bad news. As we report today, authorities face cuts, forcing them to slash services like bin collections, libraries and housing budgets, given the settlement from the Scottish Government. That will be the

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **JENNY GETS A DRESSING DOWN** By CHRIS MUSSON NATS minister Jenny Gilruth parrots Nicola Sturgeon during a grilling on the trans rapist row Â— in an outfit just like one her boss wore in 2020. The MSP was heckled on BBC One's Question Time after refusing to say if rapist Isla Bryson, 31, is a man or a woman. She instead used Ms Sturgeon's line from First Minister's Questions, saying: "This individual is a rapist."

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **COUNCIL WHACKS** LOCAL authorities will be forced to slash services even if they hike council tax by five per cent, experts warned yesterday. Rising social care costs and a potential Scottish Government ban on dropping teacher numbers could hammer budgets for housing, bin collections and libraries. The Institute for Fiscal Studies think-tank report came days after the boss of councils umbrella body Cosla warned "all options are very much on the table"

10. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The Herald 7 **Libraries to share fund for projects amid fear of budget cuts** LIBRARIES across Scotland are to benefit from a share of £200,000 of Scottish Government funding. The announcement of the cash for eight innovative library projects announced by Culture Minister Neil Gray was welcomed but campaigners said it would have the largest impact alongside a core funding model. Eight public libraries will receive the investment as part of the Public Library Improvement Fund and the projects will be helped after their

The Herald 19 **Could President Putin really kill off Scottish independence for good?** HE is, of course, the most dangerous man in the world. In his 20-odd years in the Kremlin, Vladimir Putin has trashed his own country, undermined the international order and left a trail of blood in Chechnya, Georgia, Syria and, especially, Ukraine. Russia's authoritarian leader is now routinely talked of in the same breath as the worst and most murderous despots of Europe's 20th century, Hitler and Stalin, Mussolini and

The Herald 19 **Nicola Sturgeon wants 'a way back to Europe'. But when exactly? And how?** TRICKY things, anniversaries. Forget one - and trouble may ensue. However, it can also be an error to attach too much importance to the simple passage of time. In a co-ordinated effort this week, SNP leaders at both Holyrood and Westminster drew attention to the fact that it is three years since Brexit. Since the UK, Scotland included, left the European Union. The purpose of the endeavour, of course, was

The Scotsman 24 **Plan to allow 16-year-olds to become MSPs is just childish** There is only one reasonable response to the Scottish Government's latest wheeze to extend the right to become an MSP to 16- and 17-year-olds - and that is a resounding no. The parliament's business manager, George Adam, when outlining his government's plans for electoral reform earlier this week, told MSPs that an influx of teenagers could "possibly change the vibrancy of this place". He's right. A horde of giggling 16-year-olds,

The Scotsman 1 **Clampdown on rentals will cost millions, warns Fringe** Organisers of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe have warned the event may shrink by a third by 2024 unless there is a rethink on a clampdown over renting out spare rooms and flats to artists, performers and other workers. MSPs are being told Edinburgh's economy is facing the loss of £30 million in economic benefit from the Fringe and more than 700 jobs will go over plans by the city council to impose strict new rules over the

The Scotsman 22 **Politicians must help festival, not hinder it** It is true that there have been well-founded concerns about the effects of the rise in Airbnb-style lettings on the housing market in Edinburgh and beyond. It is also true that, at least before the pandemic, there was a degree of public unhappiness about the size of the city's famous festivals. However, Covid and the current economic crisis have dramatically altered the context of both debates and politicians need

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 16 **Flynn beat pain to reach top but Brexit 'is scary'** Stephen Flynn isn't your conventional MP, but then again, his path to becoming leader of the SNP at Westminster was anything but orthodox. Most teenagers aren't diagnosed with avascular necrosis - a painful condition where bone tissue dies because of a lack of blood supply - but this happened to Flynn after he jumped down a set of stairs and collapsed at just 14. In an instant, his world changed

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Are you standing comfortably?** Children from Danderhall Primary School join Culture Minister Neil Gray for story time at Danderhall Library, to the south-east of Edinburgh. Mr Gray was showing his support for Every Child a Library Member, a Scotland-wide initiative that encourages parents and carers to introduce children to library use from an early age. LESLEY MARTIN

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 19 **Fringe fears short-term letting rules** Organisers of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe have warned the event may shrink unless there is a rethink on the licensing of letting spare rooms and flats to artists, performers and other workers. MSPs have been told that Edinburgh's economy is facing the loss of £30m in economic benefit from the Fringe and more than 700 jobs will go over plans by the Edinburgh City Council to impose new rules over

The National (Scotland) 17 **Major boost for library initiatives** PUBLIC libraries across Scotland have received a £200,000 funding boost to support a series of projects. The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), which distributes funding on behalf of the Scottish Government, has selected eight initiatives to receive grants. Announcing the initiatives receiving Scottish Government grants during a visit to Danderhall Library in Edinburgh, Scottish Culture Minister Neil Gray took the opportunity to highlight the role libraries play in closing

The National (Scotland) 8 **Two months on, I have answer that's no answer on indyref** AS each day goes by, support for Scottish independence continues to grow. This week alone, your benefits of being part of the Union include interest rates reaching a 15-year high, record profits for Shell while the Tories charge on with raising the energy bill price cap in April - and, to top it off, the UK is tipped to be the only major economy expected to shrink in 2023. A

The National (Scotland) 4 **Trans news presenter says Question Time was like 'a hanging'** THE UK'S first transgender news presenter has said she felt like she was at her own "hanging" during her appearance on Thursday night's Question Time. India Willoughby appeared on the programme alongside SNP MSP Jenny Gilruth, Tory MP John Lamont, Labour's Ian Murray and journalist Ella Whelan. During the show in Glasgow, Willoughby clashed with a member of the audience as they discussed the recent debate around trans prisoners. A woman

The National (Scotland) 6 **BBC dismisses indyref debate complaint** THE BBC has dismissed a complaint about a Politics Live broadcast which saw the question of a second independence referendum discussed "without representation from the SNP". The corporation's Executive Complaints Unit (ECU) probed the issue after a viewer claimed that the panel on the BBC Two programme, broadcast on November 29, "lacked balance". Shown six days after the Supreme Court ruled that Holyrood did not have the power to hold

The National (Scotland) 12 **Truth is the only way to tackle the corruption that poisons UK society** itself edging into the top 10 for the first time. The UK is still a comparatively clean country in the classic definition of corruption (it still ranks fairly highly, at 20) but it is moving in the wrong direction in terms of reputation and performance - yet it remains without the willingness to acknowledge the difficulty. Indeed, we still hear regular braying calls from Westminster politicians regarding their "world-beating" status

The National (Scotland) 9 **Coffee, cake and indy: Yes Canick's weekly quiz** EVERY Sunday at 11am, a group of Straiton locals head to Arno's cafe for coffee and cake. They discuss their week, recent news, sport and then do the

quiz in the Sunday National. The group of 14 take up three tables, rearrange the furniture and fervently keep scores throughout the quiz - half points too. The only way you would have known they were committed independence activists was by Ally

[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

[Redacted]

Item 6:

From: Scottish Enterprise [Redacted]

Sent: 30 January 2023 15:53

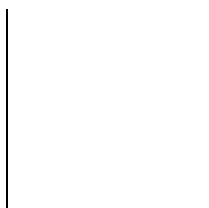
To: Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]

Subject: Company news - 30 January 2023

A weekly round up of company news covering topical areas.

Your weekly update of company news from the Economic Research Team.

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Weekly News Alert

30 January 2023

Automotive

Ford to cut 3,200 jobs in Europe and move some work to US

Most of roles are in Germany but others could fall at sites in Belgium and UK, say reports. Most of the 2,500 jobs in product development and up to 700 in administrative roles the automaker is hoping to cut are located in Germany, said IG Metall. The union, which represents 2.2 million members in the metal, electrical, iron, steel and automotive industries, said other cuts could fall at sites in Belgium and the UK, the Financial Times reported.

Energy

Job risk as Shell considers quitting energy market

Up to 2,000 UK jobs are at risk at **Shell** Energy after it announced it was considering quitting the energy sector. The firm said it was conducting a "strategic review" to its operations in the UK, Netherlands and Germany amid "tough market conditions". The Coventry-based company provides energy to 1.4 million homes in the UK and broadband to around 500,000 people. A spokesperson said: "No decisions have yet been taken on the way forward" and added the review could take months.

Drax energy workers balloted over strike action

Workers employed by **Drax Hydro**, who operate power stations across Scotland, are to be balloted for strike action in a dispute over pay. Around 50 Unite union members will take part in the ballot covering Stonebyre (Lanark), Cruachan (Loch Awe) and Glenlee (Castle Douglas) power stations. The ballot, which opens on 1 February and closes on 22 February, follows the rejection of an 8% pay rise - significantly below the current rate of inflation - 13.4% (RPI).

Scots offshore wind farm celebrates opening of new maintenance base

A Scots offshore wind farm has reached a significant milestone today with the opening of its new maintenance base. **Neart na Gaoithe's** (NnG) new Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base is located in the seaside town of Eyemouth, Berwickshire. The base aims to bring up to 50 jobs to Eyemouth Harbour throughout the wind farm's 25-year lifespan. The three-storey base houses a high-tech control room which will see staff from NnG and its subcontractor Siemens Gamensa monitor the 450MW wind farm when it is commissioned in 2024.

Food and Drink

Food firm creates 20 new roles at expanded factory

One of Scotland's largest food ingredient manufacturers is on the hunt for new staff at its newly-refurbished factory. **Macphie's** Tannochside facility, which restarted full scale production last year after a £4m refit and layout change, initially created more than 40 new job roles in the area. Now, it is looking for a further 20 staff members to join the production team.

Brewers reveal train strikes are costing them £1million per month

BrewDog co-founder James Watt said the industrial action cost his business over £1million in December alone and has urged governments to "cut a deal" to end the chaos. And **Fuller's** - the makers of London Pride - said the dispute had cost it £4million between October and the end of 2022.

Jump Ship sets sight on new Midlothian brewery

Scotland's only woman-owned non-alcoholic brewing company, **Jump Ship**, is planning to

open a 20 hectolitre brewery, allowing it to quadruple the amount of the 0.5% ABV beer brewed. Managing director Sonja Mitchell is about to secure the new site at Rosemain Steadings in Midlothian, launching a Seedrs crowdfunding campaign to raise the final £300,000 required for the move. The funding should also see an additional three full time equivalent jobs created at the site this year, with the team set to expand by a further 10 over the next three years.

Diageo sales and profits surge past expectations

Diageo has beaten expectations, with surging sales and boosted profits, as consumers splashed out on premium tipples. The group - which owns brands like Johnnie Walker, Smirnoff and Guinness - stated that its sales grew 9.4% organically to £9.4bn over the second half of 2022, from £8 billion during the same period in 2021. Its organic operating profit also grew nearly a 10th to £3.2bn over the period, surpassing analysts' expectations.

Retail

Primark enjoys bumper festive UK sales as shoppers head to city centres

Primark's sales rose ahead of expectations over Christmas as shoppers returned to city centres and consumer spending was more resilient than anticipated. Sales at the cut-price fashion chain's established stores rose by 11% in the four months to 17 January, compared with the same period a year before, as owner Associated British Foods (ABF) said it had sold more items of clothing while prices had also risen.

Poundland to open and relocate at least 50 stores - creating up to 800 jobs

Poundland has unveiled plans to open and relocate at least 50 new stores over the next nine months. The discount store chain said that around half of the planned store changes would be new openings - in cities including Glasgow and London - while the remainder would be relocations from smaller and outdated sites, or extensions to existing shops. Around 750 to 800 jobs will be created on a net basis, according to Poundland, as part of the store overhaul programme.

Almost 300 jobs at risk at Asda and 4,100 staff face pay cut

Asda has unveiled a major shake-up of store operations, which will put close to 300 roles at risk and reduce pay for more than 4,000 night workers. The supermarket chain has proposed that some overnight restocking shifts at 184 stores are moved to the daytime, putting 211 night shift manager roles at risk. It said the changes will also affect 4,137 hourly paid workers, who will see shift patterns move to the daytime and lose their night shift pay premium of at least £2.52 per hour.

Technology

[Over 6,000 more jobs cut as IBM and SAP follow tech giants in mass layoffs](#)

Tech firms **IBM** and **SAP** have today both announced mass layoffs set to affect over 6,000 jobs, joining the tech downturn of 2023. IBM Corp, an American multinational technology corporation, today announced 3,900 layoffs while European tech firm SAP said it planned to cut 3,000 staff. News of the layoff sent IBM's share price two per cent lower in extended trading.

[20 new jobs created as IT firm picks Glasgow for Scottish HQ](#)

TransACT Technology Solutions is set to create 20 new jobs in Glasgow, after establishing its Scottish headquarters in the city. The move comes as part of an international expansion for the London-based IT firm, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The digital transformation specialist is now located on West George Street, with recently-appointed director Duncan Girvan running the Scottish operation.

Tourism

[Aberdeen's port expansion boosts regional cruise tourism](#)

The expanded Port of Aberdeen will welcome a wide range of new cruise vessels to the city in 2023, which could boost the regional economy by more than £1.5 million. More than 25 cruise calls are currently scheduled from April and September*, with up to 12,000 tourists visiting the North East of Scotland. The benefit to local businesses this year and beyond could be significant with cruise calls to Scotland generating an average spend of £134 per passenger per call. The first cruise call to the new £400 million Aberdeen South Harbour is the eye-catching, 202m long AIDAaura on 28 April, which can carry more than 1,200 guests.

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Scottish Enterprise, Atrium Court, 50 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6HQ

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Item 7:

From: [Redacted] Media Manager

Sent: 29 January 2023 10:02

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk; Shirley-anne.somerville2@parliament.scot; Humza.Yousaf.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Subject: Media Digest - Sunday 29 January

Press Summary For Scottish Government

29 January 2023

Compiled By Precise

[1. FIRST MINISTER](#)

[2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY](#)

[3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS](#)

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[11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE](#)

1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Left to count the cost** IT IS all well and good for Shirley-Anne Somerville to threaten fines for councils that cut teacher numbers. No one wants to see the quality of children's education slip any further after 15 dismal years under the SNP. But Nicola Sturgeon's education secretary might reflect on why local authorities find themselves so strapped for cash. Might it be because a First Minister who calls education her 'number one priority' has

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Slurs, not solutions** IN THE week her government was forced to U-turn and block a double rapist from being housed in a women's prison, you might expect Nicola Sturgeon to show an ounce of contrition, or at least self-reflection. Neither comes easily to the First Minister. So instead she went with her strengths. She went on the attack. The SNP leader declared that 'some' opponents of her reckless, dangerous Gender Recognition Reform Bill

Scotland on Sunday 3 **Tributes continue to pour in for dead fireman** The firefighting community across the UK has continued to pay tribute to Barry Martin, who died after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh. Many showing their respects to the Edinburghbased firefighter

have posted an image of a black circle with a red line through it on social media - a symbol used by fire departments to show respect for firefighters injured and

Scotland on Sunday 5 **Wife of Wales's First Minister dies** The wife of Wales's First Minister Mark Drakeford has died suddenly, the Welsh Government said. A spokesman said yesterday: "It is with deep sadness that we confirm the sudden passing of Clare Drakeford, wife of the First Minister. The thoughts of everyone in the Welsh Government are with the family at this time." Drakeford became First Minister of Wales in 2018 and was reappointed to the post in May 2021.

Sunday Express (Scotland) 4 **Tories demand that new women's prison never houses rapists** THE proposed replacement for Scotland's only women's prison is millions of pounds over budget and way behind schedule, it was claimed last night. CorntonVale was mired in controversy last week over the decision to send a transgender rapist there despite their crimes occurring when he was a man. Isla Bryson spent less than 36 hours in the prison before First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made a "screeching U-turn" and ordered the

Sunday Express (Scotland) 14 **Rapist in women's jail is direct result of gender fantasy** THEY say the best way to keep a secret is to make a speech on the floor of the House of Commons. But last week, a speech I made in Parliament unexpectedly received widespread attention across the mainstream news and social media. The reason for this was not that I had delivered some noteworthy oration, but rather because of the remarkable response that my speech evoked from another MP.

Sunday Express (Scotland) 14 **Puddin'-race upset** THE claim by food historians that haggis was invented in England will give us all something to chew on...especially coming just days after Burns Night. It has emerged that the iconic delicacy hailed as Scotland's national dish may actually have been munched on in Richard II's court in London'sWestminster Hall. If true, this is a powerful reminder of how the peoples of this country's different nations are intimately intertwined. It

Sunday Express (Scotland) 1 **new trans row erupts as stalker moves jail** NICOLA Sturgeon has been warned that she risks the safety of some of Scotland's "most vulnerable women" unless she blocks the proposed transfer of a second transgender prisoner. The comment came after it was revealed an inmate who, as a man, stalked an underage girl, has now been given permission to be moved from a men's jail to a female facility. In 2013, Andrew Burns was sentenced to 14 months

Sunday Mail 4 **Sturgeon's serving up women to predators on rainbow platter** A former prisoner has told how she went through hell after being forced to share a shower block with violent trans inmates. Amanda Benson, 41, revealed she was so terrified of being raped and ending up pregnant that she felt compelled to have a contraceptive coil fitted while behind bars. The mum of four, locked up with two trans prisoners, one convicted of murder, the other for domestic violence, accused

Sunday Mail 5 **FM faces pressure in trans con case** Nicola Sturgeon is facing demands to step in and prevent the transfer of a transgender prisoner to a female prison. Tiffany Scott, who stalked a 13-year-old girl while known as Andrew Burns, is understood to have had a request for a transfer to a women's jail rubber stamped.

But Scottish Conservative equalities spokeswoman Rachael Hamilton said Scott, who has attacked female staff while in a men's prison, should not be moved. She

Sunday Mail 1 **MY JAIL HELL WITH TRANS CONS** PAGES 4&5, 6&7 A woman locked up with violent trans inmates has accused the Scottish Government of "serving up women to predators on a rainbow platter". Amanda Benson said she lived in fear of being raped. Nicola Sturgeon did a U-turn after the furious row over transgender double rapist Isla Bryson being put in a women's prison. And the mum of one of Bryson's three kids said: "He shouldn't have

Sunday Mail 23 **Sudden death of Welsh FM's wife** The wife of the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, has died. A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "It is with deep sadness that we confirm the sudden passing of Clare Drakeford, wife of the First Minister. "The thoughts of everyone in the Welsh Government are with the family at this time and we ask that their privacy is respected." Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon paid her respects at the news.

Sunday Mail 16 **The reality of transgender prisoners** Nicola Sturgeon would do well to read Amanda Benson's account of her time with two transgender inmates in a women's prison. While the First Minister's plans to reform gender recognition may come from a good place, the ramifications of such a change in the law are clear to see when reading Amanda's story. She has given a first-hand account of what it's like being in a confined place with malebodied

Sunday Mail 27 **Height of ignorance** Mesh campaigners claim Health Secretary Humza Yousaf refused to meet them to hear their concerns. Patients blame surgical mesh products for leaving them disabled and in chronic pain and want the Scottish Government to hold an independent review into the use of the products. However, following a debate in the Scottish Parliament earlier this month, the Health Secretary denied their request. Campaigner Roseanna Clarkin, of the Scottish Global Mesh Alliance,

Sunday Mail 9 **SNP chief's right-hand man made lockdown wedding trip** The right-hand man of the SNP's new leader at Westminster travelled across two council areas and flew to Northern Ireland at the height of the Covid pandemic, it has emerged. Coatbridge MP Steven Bonnar -parliamentary private secretary to Stephen Flynn - went on a four-day trip to Belfast days after Nicola Sturgeon increased restrictions amid fears that the virus was getting out of control. Shamed sex pest MP Patrick Grady, the party's

Sunday Mail 2 **Private ops soar as NHS crisis deepens** A rocketing number of desperate patients are paying for private operations rather than wait in agony for NHS appointments, the Sunday Mail can reveal. In just three years there has been a 69 per cent increase in the number of people opting to self-fund routine procedures including hip and knee replacements. Figures show that over three months - April to June 2022 - a shocking 4905 patients shelled out for

Sunday Mirror 13 **A controversial case** BRYSON'S case caused a political storm after it was revealed she had been incarcerated with female inmates in Scotland's Cornton Vale prison. Justice Secretary Keith Brown initially backed the Scottish

Prison Service's decision, but SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon revealed the decision would be reversed on Thursday following a public outcry. The controversy has highlighted Ms Sturgeon's Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, which would allow anyone over the age of 16

Sunday Mirror 12 **There is no way man who raped me is trans. It's easy way out** THE first victim of trans rapist Isla Bryson says it is "impossible" her attacker is no longer a man. It is the first time a survivor has spoken out since the political row over the case exploded five days ago. Bryson - born Adam Graham - raped two women, was arrested as a man and appeared at early court hearings under his birth name. But the fiend went on to

The Herald 5 **Tributes pour in for Scottish firefighter** THE firefighting community across the UK has continued to pay tribute to Barry Martin, who died after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at the Jenners building in Edinburgh. Many showing their respects to the Edinburgh-based firefighter have taken to social media to post an image of a black circle with a red line through it - a symbol used by fire departments to show respect for firefighters injured

The Herald 2 **Rowling's fury over First Minister's 'misogynist' claim** JK ROWLING launched an attack on Nicola Sturgeon yesterday, expressing outrage at the First Minister accusing critics of her transgender bill of being misogynistic and homophobic. Ms Rowling tweeted: "Delighted to announce that after a surprise visit to the real world, where she reluctantly admitted a hulking great rapist doesn't become a woman by putting on a wig, our illustrious leader has made it safely home to You're All Just

The Herald 22 **Top academic brands Scotland 'as un-European as the rest of the UK' in fiery new Brexit essay** SCOTLAND is as "un-European" as the rest of the UK despite pro-EU "sentiment" expressed among its leaders and voters, according to a leading scholar. Writing to mark the third Brexit anniversary on Tuesday, Anthony Salamone argued that while Scots were removed by the UK from membership of the bloc despite voting to remain, ministers in Edinburgh have done little to maintain close relations. He described "substantial disconnects" between Scotland and

The Herald 21 **Hunt's speech proves Tories are doomed** OCTOBER 24, 2024. Mark the date in your diary because it could well be when the next General Election - and possibly Nicola Sturgeon's "de facto" referendum on Scottish independence - take place. While Rishi Sunak could stretch out Westminster's parliamentary session until January 2025, no politician or voter really wants a campaign that runs into the cold, dark winter months - especially in Scotland. The "Brexit election" in December

The Herald 30 **'Someone will end up killed unless things calm down'** INDIA Willoughby is sitting at her kitchen table in Newcastle wearing the Versace top she bought as a treat after appearing on Celebrity Big Brother. It's a reminder of very different times. Just a few years ago, nobody gave much thought to trans people. Today, trans women like Willoughby are at the centre of a national firestorm. Not long ago, Willoughby - Britain's most prominent trans campaigner - was the

The Herald 4 **'It's not fit for purpose' Plans for Scotland's new 'National Care Service' stall as union refuses to back bill** PLANS for Scotland's National Care Service is in disarray after the UK's second-biggest union which looks after 10,000 social care staff moved to boycott any further involvement in its evolution, saying it is "not fit for purpose". The Herald on Sunday can reveal that the union, whose members will be expected to deliver the new service, has taken the action after nine months of engagement to fight for what

The Herald 3 **Sudden death of wife of Wales's First Minister** THE wife of Wales's First Minister, Mark Drakeford, has died suddenly, the Welsh Government said. A spokesman said: "It is with deep sadness that we confirm the sudden passing of Clare Drakeford, wife of the First Minister. The thoughts of everyone in the Welsh Government are with the family at this time and we ask that their privacy is respected." Mr Drakeford became First Minister of Wales in 2018 and

The Herald 6 **Campaigners call for 'Italian style' prison for Scotland's trans inmates** CALLS are being made for Scotland to follow Italy and open a jail for transgender prisoners as concerns mount over male-born sexual and violent offenders being held in female facilities. The demand follows a public outcry after a transgender woman, Isla Bryson, was sent to Cornton Vale women's prison in Stirling after being convicted of two rapes. A report published in 2012 found that many of Cornton Vale's prisoners are

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **The trans rapist is my daughter's father, but he is evil and dangerous ...he should NEVER have been allowed in a women's jail** FORMER girlfriend of the man who became transgender rapist Isla Bryson has revealed the sex offender is the father of her five-year-old child. The woman first met Bryson online while the offender was known as Adam Graham, but ended their relationship after she found out her lover was having flings with other women behind her back. It was then that she discovered she was pregnant, but her partner of

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 1 **now sturgeon faces second trans storm** NICOLA Sturgeon was at the centre of a second transgender storm last night after it was revealed another dangerous offender is to be moved to a women's prison. Amid a huge public backlash, the First Minister was last week forced into an embarrassing U-turn to remove double rapist Isla Bryson from Cornton Vale women's prison. Now she is under intense pressure to block all transgender offenders from women's prisons after

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 29 **NICOLA STURGEON has doubled [...]** NICOLA STURGEON has doubled down on her self-identification bill by claiming that opponents of the new law are using women's rights as a cover for transphobia. But what about all those using trans rights to cover for rapists?

The National (Scotland) 8 **Tories give 'pro-Nat' dossier to BBC** SCOTTISH Tory party officials met with BBC Scotland to discuss coverage, the Sunday National can reveal. Party staff met with editors at the corporation's Glasgow headquarters at Pacific Quay on the morning of Monday, January 23. A source told the Sunday National the party had prepared a "dossier" of evidence of "what they see as 'pro-

Nat' coverage". The party confirmed the meeting took place but refused, along with the BBC,

The Observer 17 **First minister's wife dies** Clare Drakeford, the wife of Wales's first minister, Mark Drakeford, has died suddenly, the Welsh government announced yesterday. A spokesperson said: "It is with deep sadness that we confirm the sudden passing of Clare Drakeford, wife of the first minister. The thoughts of everyone in the Welsh government are with the family at this time and we ask that their privacy is respected." Others including the Scottish first minister, Nicola

The Observer 36 **This week's issue Self-ID made me a proud woman** I read in "Stoking a culture war? No, Nicola Sturgeon, this is about balancing conflicting rights" (Comment, last week) the argument against using self-identified gender as the basis for issuing gender recognition certificates in the UK. I read with interest as this is exactly how mine was issued, here in Ireland in 2022. I remember arriving at the notary with my family and the solemnity of signing that declaration -

The Sun 6 **Rapist £5k bid for name error compo** TRANS double rapist Isla Bryson once sought £5,000 from BT for being labelled a man. The company used the fiend's former name Adam Graham in correspondence. Bryson, 31, wrote a letter from jail early last year to The Sun's Scottish office saying: "I keep getting letters with my 'dead name' on it. "I eventually got an apology. They've tried to buy me off with £140 but I said I wanted

The Sun 13 **When will Labour self-ID as a party for real women?** NICOLA STURGEON has staked her political reputation on her controversial gender self-ID law. So imagine her discomfort as she confirmed that transgender rapist Isla Bryson won't now be kept in an all-female jail after all — and admitted it would not have been safe to do so. It's hard to conceive of a case more damaging to the Scottish First Minister's beloved Bill. Even more so as Bryson's estranged wife,

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **AT LAST.. HUMZA IS TOP OF THE LEAGUE** HUMZA Yousaf tops a league table of the worst SNP Health Secretaries in history, rivals claimed last night. Labour measured the record of the top Nats who have held the post since 2007 including Nicola Sturgeon, Alex Neil, Shona Robison, and Jeane Freeman. And under six measures used to compare the five SNP big-hitters, Mr Yousaf fared worst in all but one. Highlighting the ongoing NHS crisis, Scottish Labour deputy

The Sun (Scotland) 7 **I'm a "second class citizen** TRANSGENDER double rapist Isla Bryson whinged about being treated like a "second class citizen" during a self-pitying interview with The Scottish Sun. The predator, 31, revealed she had written to Nicola Sturgeon over trans rights concerns and claimed the First Minister needed to "pull her finger out". And speaking days before the SNP's now blocked gender self-ID Bill was lodged at Holyrood, she bizarrely suggested Ms Sturgeon was not a

The Sunday Telegraph 2 **Welsh First Minister's wife dies suddenly aged 66** THE wife of Mark Drakeford, Wales's First Minister, has died suddenly aged 66, the Welsh Government announced yesterday. A spokesman said: "It is with deep sadness that we confirm the sudden passing of Clare Drakeford, wife of the First Minister. The

thoughts of everyone in the Welsh Government are with the family at this time and we ask that their privacy is respected." The Prince and Princess of Wales sent

The Sunday Telegraph 1 **Sturgeon under fire as second trans inmate sent to women's jail** NICOLA STURGEON was last night engulfed in a fresh transgender row after it emerged another biologically male prisoner was approved for a move to a women's prison. Tiffany Scott, formerly known as Andrew Burns, stalked a 13-year-old girl, attacked female staff while held in a men's prison and has been described as "one of the most menacing people" inside Scottish jails. The Scottish Tories said last night the decision to

The Sunday Times 14 **'They said Labour's anti-Semitism row was overblown. Now women are being told to shut up too'** In the privacy of a committee room on the parliamentary estate, Labour MPs gather for "top-secret" meetings to discuss the erosion of sexbased rights — and their numbers are growing. They are part of a crossparty group of "gendercritical" MPs and peers often too frightened to express their views on trans matters publicly for fear of a backlash. Some have taken to wearing a badge with a dinosaur emblazoned on

The Sunday Times 26 **Our leaders do policies, but they can't do human** Will someone break it to Keir Starmer that the policy at the heart of Labour's promise of a "fairer, greener future" will achieve neither of those goals? He has declared: "It will be Labour's national mission over the next decade to fit out every home ... to make sure it is warm and well insulated and costs less to heat." The Conservative government has already spent billions paying for people's

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 8 **Bottle deposits 'will hurt industry'** A former SNP minister has said that the Scottish government's deposit return scheme to recycle plastic, metal and glass containers may damage the economy, drive up prices and lead to products being pulled from the market. Writing for The Sunday Times, Fergus Ewing, the former business minister, urges Nicola Sturgeon's administration to change course before implementing a scheme he suggests may do more harm than good. The scheme will require

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 26 **Starmer is no Blair but he doesn't have to be** Eighty years ago this month, a sonorous voiceover set the scene for one of the greatest movies ever made. "With the coming of the Second World War," it began, "many eyes in imprisoned Europe turned hopefully, or desperately, toward the freedom of the Americas." Lisbon was the preferred destination for those seeking the liberty of the new world. "But not everybody could get to Lisbon directly and so ... the

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 28 **Our politicians just can't do human** Will someone break it to Sir Keir Starmer that the policy at the heart of Labour's promise of a "fairer, greener future" will achieve neither of those goals? He has declared: "It will be Labour's national mission over the next decade to fit out every home ... to make sure it is warm and well insulated and costs less to heat." The Conservative government has already spent billions paying for

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 26 **Sturgeon is not the only one with scores to settle** Nicola Sturgeon is planning her memoir — not that she is vacating Bute

House any time soon, you understand. But with a parliamentary career spanning almost a quarter of a century, and a decade as leader, it is likely to be a weighty tome. Political junkies expecting a measured and considered autobiography commensurate with the role may be in for a surprise. On Women's Hour on Radio 4 last week,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 13 **Firefighters pay tribute to comrade who died after Jenners building blaze** Fire brigades across the UK have paid tribute to Barry Martin, the firefighter who died after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh. Many of those honouring the Edinburgh firefighter took to social media to post an image of a black circle with a red line through it, a symbol used by fire departments to show respect for those injured and killed in

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Pressure on Sturgeon over trans prisoners** Nicola Sturgeon is under renewed pressure over housing transgender sex offenders in the women's prison estate after it emerged that she will stop short of banning people convicted for stalking or sexual assault. After an outcry, the first minister said last week that the double rapist Isla Bryson, who began transitioning to a woman while awaiting trial, would not be allowed to remain at Cornton Vale. However, although Sturgeon agreed

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Fall in construction starts 'threatens housing target'** Builders and landlords have warned that the Scottish government will miss its target to build affordable homes, after a sharp fall in construction starts. Official figures, published by the government, reveal that new build social sector housing starts fell 16 per cent over the year ending September 2022. Within that, local authority starts increased by 1 per cent, but housing association approvals plunged 26 per cent. Private sector new build

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 8 **Under-fire ethics quango handed budget boost as frontline services face black holes** SCOTLAND'S under-fire ethics body, which was censured for failing to properly investigate complaints about MSPs, has been awarded a 40 per cent budget increase - as frontline services struggle to fill financial black holes. The office of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland (CESPLS) is responsible for probing complaints made against MSPs, councillors and quangos. Yet it was at the centre of a transparency row when

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Left to count the cost** IT IS all well and good for Shirley-Anne Somerville to threaten fines for councils that cut teacher numbers. No one wants to see the quality of children's education slip any further after 15 dismal years under the SNP. But Nicola Sturgeon's education secretary might reflect on why local authorities find themselves so strapped for cash. Might it be because a First Minister who calls education her 'number one priority' has

4. JUSTICE

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 7 **At last, people see the reality of gender reform - and don't like it** Having gazed dutifully at the ground for so long, last week most of Scotland finally looked up — and it did not like what it saw. Despite the brow-beating to deny the reality of what our eyes have been telling us, the inherent logic of what so many have always instinctively known to be true was there before us, in all its Lycra-clad glory. There this person was — half

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 26 **Sturgeon is not the only one with scores to settle** Nicola Sturgeon is planning her memoir — not that she is vacating Bute House any time soon, you understand. But with a parliamentary career spanning almost a quarter of a century, and a decade as leader, it is likely to be a weighty tome. Political junkies expecting a measured and considered autobiography commensurate with the role may be in for a surprise. On Women's Hour on Radio 4 last week,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 28 **Trans witch-hunt misses the real threat to women** How refreshing to see an article from a trans perspective ("The trans bill won't affect your life but it will make mine a bit easier", News, last week). Ellie Gomersall is to be congratulated for showing so clearly that the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill does not threaten women and is solely about self-respect for those of us who happen to be transgender. On the very next page an article

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 7 **Police open inquiry into claims of child abuse by lawyers** Officers from Police Scotland's major investigations unit have been instructed to look into claims that senior members of the legal establishment were linked to the sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse of children. The Sunday Times understands that at the request of the Crown Office, police have begun their inquiries and will shortly take evidence from John Halley, an advocate who detailed concerns about historical sex abuse against children in a

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Pressure on Sturgeon over trans prisoners** Nicola Sturgeon is under renewed pressure over housing transgender sex offenders in the women's prison estate after it emerged that she will stop short of banning people convicted for stalking or sexual assault. After an outcry, the first minister said last week that the double rapist Isla Bryson, who began transitioning to a woman while awaiting trial, would not be allowed to remain at Cornton Vale. However, although Sturgeon agreed

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Watch the fanatics** THE criticism of the Scottish Prison Service for failing to segregate inmates with extremist views is understandable. Radicalisation in jails is a well-known phenomenon. Figures we reveal today show at least six inmates in Scotland have been referred to the UK-wide Prevent anti-terror scheme since 2015. The actual number could be far higher — but the prison service won't say. Yet the SPS has said there is no "specific regime"

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **TEARS FOR TRAGIC FIRE HERO BARRY SHATTERED** fire crews from across Scotland gathered to lay flowers and cards yesterday in tribute to fallen blaze hero Barry Martin. Colleagues wiped away tears as they paid their respects to Barry, 38, left — the first Scots firefighter killed in the line of duty for 14

years. He died in hospital on Friday after being critically injured battling an inferno at the former Jenners department store in Edinburgh on

The Sun (Scotland) 7 **Bryson 'in perv wing after jibes'** BRYSON has been moved to the beasts' wing at HMP Edinburgh after other inmates began picking on her, insiders claim. An insider told how cons were calling the trans double rapist, 31, a man, adding: "He got moved to another section. "It's full of sex offenders and a bit more quiet. "The other prisoners are slagging him and all shouting 'You're a man you f***** w*****r'. "You can't really see

The Sun (Scotland) 7 **JK's fury over lag's 'switch' to female jail** JK Rowling has hit out at claims another trans lag is being considered for transfer to a women's jail. The Harry Potter author, 57, rounded on critics following reports that Tiffany Scott, formerly a man called Andrew Burns, is due to be moved to an all-female prison. It comes after repeated requests for a move were blocked by bosses. Referencing criticism of her on Twitter, JK wrote: "Deeply amused by

The Sun (Scotland) 7 **I'm a "second class citizen** TRANSGENDER double rapist Isla Bryson whinged about being treated like a "second class citizen" during a self-pitying interview with The Scottish Sun. The predator, 31, revealed she had written to Nicola Sturgeon over trans rights concerns and claimed the First Minister needed to "pull her finger out". And speaking days before the SNP's now blocked gender self-ID Bill was lodged at Holyrood, she bizarrely suggested Ms Sturgeon was not a

The National (Scotland) 13 **Outrage as footage of US beating released** station's custody suite where an Edinburgh-based officer accompanying a prisoner of Middle Eastern origin joked with PC Brian Geddes about "ISIS in the station". Initially, he said he didn't remember the incident. He later clarified in a written statement to police that he had raised it with his superiors. Regardless of whether the inquiry finds that racism may have played a role in Sheku's death, Police Scotland has acknowledged its

The National (Scotland) 12 **A family's search for answers: What the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry has told us about what really happened** IT'S December in Edinburgh - the penultimate day of the first hearing of the Sheku Bayoh inquiry - and Kadi Johnson and Kosna Bayoh, Sheku's older sisters, are exhausted. Nearby, Princes Street's Christmas markets are bustling. But outside the anonymous-looking Capital House - where the inquiry into Sheku Bayoh's death in police custody in 2015 is being held - there is only a solitary camera crew. Two police officers stand

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 21 **Firefighters mourn death of heroic colleague** FIREFIGHTERS yesterday returned to the scene of a horrific blaze to honour a brave colleague who died in the line of duty. Visibly upset and with heads bowed, staff from Red Watch at McDonald Road fire station in Edinburgh stood beside the site of the fire at the city's historic Jenners building to pay their respects to Barry Martin. Mr Martin, 38, from Fife, was responding to a fire at

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **The trans rapist is my daughter's father, but he is evil and dangerous ...he should NEVER have been allowed in a women's jail** FORMER girlfriend of the man who became transgender rapist Isla Bryson has

revealed the sex offender is the father A of her five-year-old child. The woman first met Bryson online while the offender was known as Adam Graham, but ended their relationship after she found out her lover was having flings with other women behind her back. It was then that she discovered she was pregnant, but her partner of

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 49 **£1.3m off icers' training deal 'a disgrace'** THE award of a £1.3 million police leadership training contract to an outside firm has been branded a 'disgrace' by the organisation representing rank and file officers. Cash-strapped Police Scotland paid the sum to global consultancy EY despite a warning from the Chief Constable that he will have to cut a quarter of his force if Ministers do not boost funding. Calum Steele, general secretary of the Scottish Police Federation,

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 30 **Silent assassins: Terrorist threat to Iranians who fled to start new life in Scotland** A NETWORK of Iranian terrorists is secretly operating in Scotland - issuing threats and intimidation to dissidents of the Middle Eastern country living here. At least 100 agents of the feared Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) are believed to be living and operating in Scotland and enforcing the hardline doctrine of their country's leaders. Police Scotland has confirmed that officers are aware of a 'potential threat', with safety plans in

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 43 **Prison off icer faces jail for smuggling cocaine into cell for convicted murderer** A PRISON officer is facing time behind bars after helping to smuggle cocaine into one of Scotland's most notorious maximum-security jails. Heather McKenzie was working at HMP Shotts - home to some of the country's most hardened criminals - when she teamed up with convicted murderer Zak Malavin to supply drugs to inmates. Prison officials and police started an investigation after noticing a significant rise in the quantities of drugs

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 49 **Police watchdog to probe case of 'royal' rev in £400k con on 3 elderly brothers** A FURIOUS relative of three elderly brothers who were tricked out of their home by a Church minister has complained to the police watchdog over officers' handling of the case. Hugh, David and Roderick McCulloch were defrauded out of their family farm after the Reverend Ivan Warwick befriended them. Warwick, 69, who once preached to King Charles, and another man gained power of attorney for the brothers and tricked them

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 1 **now sturgeon faces second trans storm** NICOLA Sturgeon was at the centre of a second transgender storm last night after it was revealed another dangerous offender is to be moved to a women's prison. Amid a huge public backlash, the First Minister was last week forced into an embarrassing U-turn to remove double rapist Isla Bryson from Cornton Vale women's prison. Now she is under intense pressure to block all transgender offenders from women's prisons after

The Herald 6 **Campaigners call for 'Italian style' prison for Scotland's trans inmates** CALLS are being made for Scotland to follow Italy and open a jail for transgender prisoners as concerns mount over male-born sexual and violent offenders being held in female facilities. The demand follows a public outcry after a transgender woman, Isla Bryson, was sent to Cornton Vale women's prison in

Stirling after being convicted of two rapes. A report published in 2012 found that many of Cornton Vale's prisoners are

The Herald 10 **Scots Law is out of step on anonymity rights of sex crime victims** MANY of you will have heard the story of Ellie Wilson on Scottish television and radio in recent weeks. The former University of Glasgow student is a rape survivor and justice reform campaigner. She has challenged the legal system on her experiences in the witness box and challenged universities about their admissions policies after the man ultimately convicted of sexually assaulting her was able to transfer out of his degree

The Herald 12 **Tories urge Sturgeon to 'step in to prevent' trans prisoner transfer** THE First Minister should step in to prevent the transfer of a transgender prisoner to the female prison estate, the Conservatives have said. Tiffany Scott, who stalked a 13-year-old girl while known as Andrew Burns, reportedly requested a transfer to a women's prison. The Daily Record newspaper reported this request has been rubber-stamped after previously being refused. Any transfer would likely not be to HMP Cornton Vale as it is

The Herald 30 **'Someone will end up killed unless things calm down'** INDIA Willoughby is sitting at her kitchen table in Newcastle wearing the Versace top she bought as a treat after appearing on Celebrity Big Brother. It's a reminder of very different times. Just a few years ago, nobody gave much thought to trans people. Today, trans women like Willoughby are at the centre of a national firestorm. Not long ago, Willoughby - Britain's most prominent trans campaigner - was the

Sunday Mirror 13 **A controversial case** BRYSON'S case caused a political storm after it was revealed she had been incarcerated with female inmates in Scotland's Cornton Vale prison. Justice Secretary Keith Brown initially backed the Scottish Prison Service's decision, but SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon revealed the decision would be reversed on Thursday following a public outcry. The controversy has highlighted Ms Sturgeon's Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, which would allow anyone over the age of 16

Sunday Mirror 12 **There is no way man who raped me is trans. It's easy way out** THE first victim of trans rapist Isla Bryson says it is "impossible" her attacker is no longer a man. It is the first time a survivor has spoken out since the political row over the case exploded five days ago. Bryson - born Adam Graham - raped two women, was arrested as a man and appeared at early court hearings under his birth name. But the fiend went on to

Sunday Mail 1 **MY JAIL HELL WITH TRANS CONS** PAGES 4&5, 6&7 A woman locked up with violent trans inmates has accused the Scottish Government of "serving up women to predators on a rainbow platter". Amanda Benson said she lived in fear of being raped. Nicola Sturgeon did a U-turn after the furious row over transgender double rapist Isla Bryson being put in a women's prison. And the mum of one of Bryson's three kids said: "He shouldn't have

Sunday Mail 4 **Sturgeon's serving up women to predators on rainbow platter** A former prisoner has told how she went through hell after being forced to share a

shower block with violent trans inmates. Amanda Benson, 41, revealed she was so terrified of being raped and ending up pregnant that she felt compelled to have a contraceptive coil fitted while behind bars. The mum of four, locked up with two trans prisoners, one convicted of murder, the other for domestic violence, accused

Sunday Mail 16 **The reality of transgender prisoners** Nicola Sturgeon would do well to read Amanda Benson's account of her time with two transgender inmates in a women's prison. While the First Minister's plans to reform gender recognition may come from a good place, the ramifications of such a change in the law are clear to see when reading Amanda's story. She has given a first-hand account of what it's like being in a confined place with malebodied

Sunday Mail 6 **Women's new jail bill over by £7m** The bill for replacing HMP Cornton Vale has gone millions of pounds over budget, according to newly released figures. Scotland's all-women prison made headlines last week when transgender double rapist Isla Bryson was briefly sent there before being moved to a men's facility. Now it has emerged that its planned replacement was, in October, £7million over its initial £74million budget. The £81.8million estimated final total was revealed after a freedom

Sunday Mail 5 **FM faces pressure in trans con case** Nicola Sturgeon is facing demands to step in and prevent the transfer of a transgender prisoner to a female prison. Tiffany Scott, who stalked a 13-year-old girl while known as Andrew Burns, is understood to have had a request for a transfer to a women's jail rubber stamped. But Scottish Conservative equalities spokeswoman Rachael Hamilton said Scott, who has attacked female staff while in a men's prison, should not be moved. She

Sunday Express (Scotland) 9 **Government told to meet bail crime victims face to face** THE First Minister has been told her government should take responsibility for offenders who commit crimes while on bail. The call was made by the family of a man stabbed to death by someone walking the streets of Perth despite being out on three different bail orders. Barry Dixon was knifed in the heart by Robbie Smullen on June 4, 2019. Smullen was later jailed for nine years and three

Sunday Express (Scotland) 1 **new trans row erupts as stalker moves jail** NICOLA Sturgeon has been warned that she risks the safety of some of Scotland's "most vulnerable women" unless she blocks the proposed transfer of a second transgender prisoner. The comment came after it was revealed an inmate who, as a man, stalked an underage girl, has now been given permission to be moved from a men's jail to a female facility. In 2013, Andrew Burns was sentenced to 14 months

Sunday Express (Scotland) 4 **Tories demand that new women's prison never houses rapists** THE proposed replacement for Scotland's only women's prison is millions of pounds over budget and way behind schedule, it was claimed last night. Cornton Vale was mired in controversy last week over the decision to send a transgender rapist there despite their crimes occurring when he was a man. Isla Bryson spent less than 36 hours in the prison before First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made a "screeching U-turn" and ordered the

Sunday Express (Scotland) 14 **Rapist in women's jail is direct result of gender fantasy** THEY say the best way to keep a secret is to make a speech on the floor of the House of Commons. But last week, a speech I made in Parliament unexpectedly received widespread attention across the mainstream news and social media. The reason for this was not that I had delivered some noteworthy oration, but rather because of the remarkable response that my speech evoked from another MP.

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Scotland on Sunday 16 **Healthcare gaps contributing to drug deaths, says charity** The head of a Scottish drugs charity says there is an "implementation gap" between what the Scottish Government says and what is being provided to users and their loved ones amid a sharp rise in drug deaths. Justina Murray, chief executive of Glasgow-based Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAAD), said the availability and quality of statutory healthcare provision "is no doubt a factor in drug deaths". "There's this

Scotland on Sunday 3 **Tributes continue to pour in for dead fireman** The firefighting community across the UK has continued to pay tribute to Barry Martin, who died after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh. Many showing their respects to the Edinburgh-based firefighter have posted an image of a black circle with a red line through it on social media - a symbol used by fire departments to show respect for firefighters injured and

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **Alcohol-related deaths soared 27% since Covid** DEATHS from alcohol-related disease soared by 27 per cent after the pandemic struck, analysis reveals. The research, based on Office for National Statistics data, shows the number of people who died directly due to the effects of alcohol, including liver disease, hit 9,641 in 2021. In 2019 the number was 7,565. Oxford University scientists Professor Carl Heneghan and Dr Tom Jefferson believe cuts to health services played a part in

Sunday Mail 2 **Private ops soar as NHS crisis deepens** A rocketing number of desperate patients are paying for private operations rather than wait in agony for NHS appointments, the Sunday Mail can reveal. In just three years there has been a 69 per cent increase in the number of people opting to self-fund routine procedures including hip and knee replacements. Figures show that over three months - April to June 2022 - a shocking 4905 patients shelled out for

Sunday Mail 27 **Height of ignorance** Mesh campaigners claim Health Secretary Humza Yousaf refused to meet them to hear their concerns. Patients blame surgical mesh products for leaving them disabled and in chronic pain and want the Scottish Government to hold an independent review into the use of the products. However, following a debate in the Scottish Parliament earlier this month, the Health Secretary denied their request. Campaigner Roseanna Clarkin, of the Scottish Global Mesh Alliance,

The Herald 5 **Tributes pour in for Scottish firefighter** THE firefighting community across the UK has continued to pay tribute to Barry Martin, who died after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at the Jenners building in Edinburgh. Many showing

their respects to the Edinburgh-based firefighter have taken to social media to post an image of a black circle with a red line through it - a symbol used by fire departments to show respect for firefighters injured

The Herald 4 **'It's not fit for purpose' Plans for Scotland's new 'National Care Service' stall as union refuses to back bill** PLANS for Scotland's National Care Service is in disarray after the UK's second-biggest union which looks after 10,000 social care staff moved to boycott any further involvement in its evolution, saying it is "not fit for purpose". The Herald on Sunday can reveal that the union, whose members will be expected to deliver the new service, has taken the action after nine months of engagement to fight for what

The National (Scotland) 8 **Government using 'placebo policies' over drugs deaths** THE Scottish Government opted for "placebo policies" in its multimillion-pound response to the drug deaths crisis rather than tackling the issue's root causes, academics have said. A new report by academics at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) has accused ministers of preferring a "managerial response" to the crisis instead of tackling it on a fundamental level. The report painted a picture of a close relationship between the

The National (Scotland) 12 **A family's search for answers: What the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry has told us about what really happened** IT'S December in Edinburgh - the penultimate day of the first hearing of the Sheku Bayoh inquiry - and Kadi Johnson and Kosna Bayoh, Sheku's older sisters, are exhausted. Nearby, Princes Street's Christmas markets are bustling. But outside the anonymous-looking Capital House - where the inquiry into Sheku Bayoh's death in police custody in 2015 is being held - there is only a solitary camera crew. Two police officers stand

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **AT LAST.. HUMZA IS TOP OF THE LEAGUE** HUMZA Yousaf tops a league table of the worst SNP Health Secretaries in history, rivals claimed last night. Labour measured the record of the top Nats who have held the post since 2007 including Nicola Sturgeon, Alex Neil, Shona Robison, and Jeane Freeman. And under six measures used to compare the five SNP big-hitters, Mr Yousaf fared worst in all but one. Highlighting the ongoing NHS crisis, Scottish Labour deputy

The Sun (Scotland) 18 **ACIG JOKE** SMOKERS are stubbornly flouting the SNP's ban on lighting up outside hospitals — but not one was fined in the law's first three months. Staff, visitors and patients in gowns continue to brazenly puff on ciggies on NHS grounds, which should carry a penalty of £50 on the spot or £1,000 if the matter goes to court. But a Scottish Sun on Sunday investigation has revealed that nobody was ordered

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Humza heads up leagues of pain** HUMZA Yousaf hasn't been topple of the league since he famously fell off a kneescooter while rushing through parliament after a sports injury op. Now he's No1 for all the wrong reasons once again — in league tables of how the SNP's health ministers, past and present, measure up on performance. Frankly, this is unlikely to come as much of a surprise. Since Mr Yousaf took over as Health Secretary,

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

Scotland on Sunday 6 **Mountain railway to scale Cairngorm once again** Scotland's only mountain railway will re-open at Cairngorm Mountain Resort, more than four years after it was shut down due to safety issues. The return of the railway, which climbs to 1,065 metres, comes after more than £25 million was spent on bringing it back into operation. Snowsports enthusiasts will be transported to the upper slopes along two kilometres of track, with the newly refurbished Ptarmigan building, which houses the country's

Scotland on Sunday 2 **'The future is very bleak': Food and drink business owners on the continuing impacts of Brexit** As we approach the threeyear anniversary of Brexit, big changes have included supply chain delays and lack of staff as people left the UK. One of the more notable impacts on specifically drinks industries such as whisky, was shipping to the European Union. Greg Dillon, co-founder of GreatDrams.com, has felt this keenly. He said: "GreatDrams.com had a thriving European business with great repeat customers and ambitions to grow. That all

Scotland on Sunday 14 **Locals fuming at rotten-egg stink and sealife killed as 'toxic' wreck remains beached in Highland beauty spot** The "toxic" and potentially "explosive" wreckage of a salmon farm feeding barge which sank during a storm more than a year ago is still lying dumped in a scenic Highland bay, despite assurances it would be taken away. The barge, which served a fish farm off Portree on the Isle of Skye, was damaged during Storm Arwen in November 2021 and lay underwater there for more than 12 months. It

Scotland on Sunday 21 **New Hunting With Dogs Bill will finally close exploited loopholes** It has now been more than 20 years since Scotland became the first part of the UK to ban foxhunting. Since then, a whole generation has been born and grown up in a country where the archaic practice of using a dog to chase and kill wild mammals has been illegal. Why then, many may wonder, has the Scottish Parliament recently passed a new Hunting With Dogs Bill? There is

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 21 **Nine in ten drinks makers pour scorn on SNP's flagship bottle returns plan** THE SNP's flagship deposit return scheme has been served a fresh blow after researchers warned the eco plans could cripple 92 per cent of drink producers. The vast majority of Scottish business owners fear the introduction of the bottle recycling scheme could threaten the 'viability' of their companies, research from Scotland Food and Drink shows. The findings, which were presented to Ministers and obtained under freedom of information, warn that

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 46 **Could SNP pull the rug on selling your country home?** ANYONE buying or selling a house in the countryside could soon have to go through an official vetting process under radical plans being considered by the Scottish Government. A proposal being examined by the SNP-Green coalition could give the authorities the power to veto the sale or purchase of any rural property if it fails to meet a strict 'public interest' test. That could open the door to a crackdown

The National (Scotland) 10 **High hopes and loophole fears as** (np! 11 | HE result of the motion 7600 in the name of Mairi McAllan is Yes, 90, and No, 30. There were no abstentions. The motion is therefore agreed and the Hunting with Dogs Scotland Bill

is passed." That was the announcement of Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone as a round of applause rang out across the oak and sycamore desks of the Scottish Parliament's debating chamber, 20 years

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Scotland on Sunday 21 **New Hunting With Dogs Bill will finally close exploited loopholes** It has now been more than 20 years since Scotland became the first part of the UK to ban foxhunting. Since then, a whole generation has been born and grown up in a country where the archaic practice of using a dog to chase and kill wild mammals has been illegal. Why then, many may wonder, has the Scottish Parliament recently passed a new Hunting With Dogs Bill? There is

Scotland on Sunday 17 **Call to make offshore wind technology even greener** A Scottish boat builder wants to make offshore wind farms even greener by supplying them with recyclable turbine blades serviced by hydrogenpowered craft. Clydebank-based Ultimate Boats' vision comes months after it unveiled what it described as the world's first fullyrecyclable boat which was built for Police Scotland's dive and marine unit. Shane Mugan, founder and chief executive of ExoTechnologies, which owns the firm, said the composite material it invented was

The Herald 9 **Oil firm handed £4.9m of Scottish taxpayers' cash sent equipment to Russia after Ukraine invasion** A US oil multinational which received Scottish Government funding exported oil and gas drilling equipment from Montrose to Russia three months after ministers called on businesses in Scotland to cease trading with the country. Baker Hughes - which has received £4.9 million of taxpayers' money in grants from Scottish Enterprise - is one of the world's largest oil field services firms. It has 4,000 staff in the UK, including at

The Herald 20 **'We were horrified' Filthy river is branded a health hazard** THE Edinburgh river that starred in BBC's recent Winterwatch is, as it reaches the port, a "health hazard" - not only littered with plastic waste but also an accumulation point for silt and sewage, say campaigners. Groups are now calling for full monitoring of the sewage overflows in this stretch of the Water of Leith as well as an increase in monitoring across Scotland. Spokesperson for Save Our Shore Leith

The National (Scotland) 10 **High hopes and loophole fears as** (np! | | HE result of the motion 7600 in the name of Mairi McAllan is Yes, 90, and No, 30. There were no abstentions. The motion is therefore agreed and the Hunting with Dogs Scotland Bill is passed." That was the announcement of Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone as a round of applause rang out across the oak and sycamore desks of the Scottish Parliament's debating chamber, 20 years

The National (Scotland) 11 **Scots hunting legislation updated** tions on the use of packs of dogs could compromise fox control and put both farmers' livelihoods and threatened wildlife at risk." The Scottish Greens are in government with the SNP, but concerned emerges from those quarters, too. Greens MSP Arianne Burgess said: "The licensing system could become a smokescreen for hunt packs to apply for a licence to take care of a problem on a farm but just use

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **Puffins risk alert** FEARS were raised for Scotland's puffin population after dozens washed up dead or in poor condition on the shores of the Canary Islands. As many as 140 dead birds have been recovered from beaches in Tenerife in the past few days. More had been ringed in Scotland than other locations. We're home to more than 80 per cent of the UK puffin population. Ornithologists called for urgent research.

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 8 **Bottle deposits 'will hurt industry'** A former SNP minister has said that the Scottish government's deposit return scheme to recycle plastic, metal and glass containers may damage the economy, drive up prices and lead to products being pulled from the market. Writing for The Sunday Times, Fergus Ewing, the former business minister, urges Nicola Sturgeon's administration to change course before implementing a scheme he suggests may do more harm than good. The scheme will require

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 27 **You can take the tram to Leith but the locals won't thank you** The local kids call her Gassy Maggie. She sits on a traffic bollard, yelling lunacy at passers-by, her face lit red by the lighter fuel she openly inhales. She is just one of the characters that populate Leith Walk, a neighbourhood undergoing radical change. Leith Walk stretches top to bottom, like this column. The street runs from the new shopping centre at the top to a Wetherspoons at the bottom

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

The Herald 1 **'MORALLY BANKRUPT' Oil firm given £4.9m of Scots taxpayers' cash sent drilling equipment to Russia after invasion of Ukraine** AN oil multinational which received Scottish Government funding exported oil and gas drilling equipment from Montrose to Russia three months after ministers called on businesses in Scotland to cease trading with the country. Baker Hughes - which has received £4.9 million of taxpayers' money in grants from Scottish Enterprise - has sites in Montrose and Aberdeen. NEWS

The Herald 25 **Scot Gov stands to lose most of £52m paid out to stop collapse of BiFab** MINISTERS stand to lose the vast majority of the £52.4 million it pumped into part state-owned renewables manufacturer Burntisland Fabrication (BiFab) despite putting up £300,000 in taxpayers money to support legal action to regain some back. The Scottish Government has agreed to the litigation funding facility in a £17.8m claim in a contractual dispute over Bifab's involvement with the construction of wind-turbine pin piles for use in the Moray Firth

The Herald 9 **Oil firm handed £4.9m of Scottish taxpayers' cash sent equipment to Russia after Ukraine invasion** A US oil multinational which received Scottish Government funding exported oil and gas drilling equipment from Montrose to Russia three months after ministers called on businesses in Scotland to cease trading with the country. Baker Hughes - which has received £4.9 million of taxpayers' money in grants from Scottish Enterprise - is one of the world's largest oil field services firms. It has 4,000 staff in the UK, including at

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 8 **Bottle deposits 'will hurt industry'** A former SNP minister has said that the Scottish government's deposit return scheme to recycle

plastic, metal and glass containers may damage the economy, drive up prices and lead to products being pulled from the market. Writing for The Sunday Times, Fergus Ewing, the former business minister, urges Nicola Sturgeon's administration to change course before implementing a scheme he suggests may do more harm than good. The scheme will require

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Pressure on Sturgeon over trans prisoners** Nicola Sturgeon is under renewed pressure over housing transgender sex offenders in the women's prison estate after it emerged that she will stop short of banning people convicted for stalking or sexual assault. After an outcry, the first minister said last week that the double rapist Isla Bryson, who began transitioning to a woman while awaiting trial, would not be allowed to remain at Cornton Vale. However, although Sturgeon agreed

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 1 **Fall in construction starts 'threatens housing target'** Builders and landlords have warned that the Scottish government will miss its target to build affordable homes, after a sharp fall in construction starts. Official figures, published by the government, reveal that new build social sector housing starts fell 16 per cent over the year ending September 2022. Within that, local authority starts increased by 1 per cent, but housing association approvals plunged 26 per cent. Private sector new build

The Sunday Times 14 **'They said Labour's anti-Semitism row was overblown. Now women are being told to shut up too'** In the privacy of a committee room on the parliamentary estate, Labour MPs gather for "top-secret" meetings to discuss the erosion of sexbased rights — and their numbers are growing. They are part of a crossparty group of "gendercritical" MPs and peers often too frightened to express their views on trans matters publicly for fear of a backlash. Some have taken to wearing a badge with a dinosaur emblazoned on

The Sunday Telegraph 1 **Sturgeon under fire as second trans inmate sent to women's jail** NICOLA STURGEON was last night engulfed in a fresh transgender row after it emerged another biologically male prisoner was approved for a move to a women's prison. Tiffany Scott, formerly known as Andrew Burns, stalked a 13-year-old girl, attacked female staff while held in a men's prison and has been described as "one of the most menacing people" inside Scottish jails. The Scottish Tories said last night the decision to

The Sun (Scotland) 7 **I'm a "second class citizen"** TRANSGENDER double rapist Isla Bryson whinged about being treated like a "second class citizen" during a self-pitying interview with The Scottish Sun. The predator, 31, revealed she had written to Nicola Sturgeon over trans rights concerns and claimed the First Minister needed to "pull her finger out". And speaking days before the SNP's now blocked gender self-ID Bill was lodged at Holyrood, she bizarrely suggested Ms Sturgeon was not a

The Sun (Scotland) 15 **43K HOMES EMPTY** NEARLY 43,000 homes have lain empty for at least six months, stats reveal. Scottish Government quarterly figures show the number of properties eligible for council tax which are lying derelict. Lib

Dem MSP Willie Rennie called for homeless people to be given priority access to unoccupied stock. He said: "There's a calamitous mismatch when a country can have tens of thousands of people desperate for a roof and have tens of

The Sun 6 **Rapist £5k bid for name error compo** TRANS double rapist Isla Bryson once sought £5,000 from BT for being labelled a man. The company used the fiend's former name Adam Graham in correspondence. Bryson, 31, wrote a letter from jail early last year to The Sun's Scottish office saying: "I keep getting letters with my 'dead name' on it. "I eventually got an apology. They've tried to buy me off with £140 but I said I wanted

The Observer 36 **This week's issue Self-ID made me a proud woman** I read in "Stoking a culture war? No, Nicola Sturgeon, this is about balancing conflicting rights" (Comment, last week) the argument against using self-identified gender as the basis for issuing gender recognition certificates in the UK. I read with interest as this is exactly how mine was issued, here in Ireland in 2022. I remember arriving at the notary with my family and the solemnity of signing that declaration -

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 1 **now sturgeon faces second trans storm** NICOLA Sturgeon was at the centre of a second transgender storm last night after it was revealed another dangerous offender is to be moved to a women's prison. Amid a huge public backlash, the First Minister was last week forced into an embarrassing U-turn to remove double rapist Isla Bryson from Cornton Vale women's prison. Now she is under intense pressure to block all transgender offenders from women's prisons after

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 29 **NICOLA STURGEON has doubled [...]** NICOLA STURGEON has doubled down on her self-identification bill by claiming that opponents of the new law are using women's rights as a cover for transphobia. But what about all those using trans rights to cover for rapists?

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **The trans rapist is my daughter's father, but he is evil and dangerous ...he should NEVER have been allowed in a women's jail** FORMER girlfriend of the man who became transgender rapist Isla Bryson has revealed the sex offender is the father A of her five-year-old child. The woman first met Bryson online while the offender was known as Adam Graham, but ended their relationship after she found out her lover was having flings with other women behind her back. It was then that she discovered she was pregnant, but her partner of

The Herald 6 **Campaigners call for 'Italian style' prison for Scotland's trans inmates** CALLS are being made for Scotland to follow Italy and open a jail for transgender prisoners as concerns mount over male-born sexual and violent offenders being held in female facilities. The demand follows a public outcry after a transgender woman, Isla Bryson, was sent to Cornton Vale women's prison in Stirling after being convicted of two rapes. A report published in 2012 found that many of Cornton Vale's prisoners are

The Herald 30 **'Someone will end up killed unless things calm down'** INDIA Willoughby is sitting at her kitchen table in Newcastle wearing the Versace top she bought as a treat after appearing on Celebrity Big Brother. It's a reminder of very

different times. Just a few years ago, nobody gave much thought to trans people. Today, trans women like Willoughby are at the centre of a national firestorm. Not long ago, Willoughby - Britain's most prominent trans campaigner - was the

The Herald 2 **Rowling's fury over First Minister's 'misogynist' claim** JK ROWLING launched an attack on Nicola Sturgeon yesterday, expressing outrage at the First Minister accusing critics of her transgender bill of being misogynistic and homophobic. Ms Rowling tweeted: "Delighted to announce that after a surprise visit to the real world, where she reluctantly admitted a hulking great rapist doesn't become a woman by putting on a wig, our illustrious leader has made it safely home to You're All Just

The Herald 11 **Concern over cost-of-living's impact on beloved animals** An estimated 220,000 adults in Scotland are reducing how much they spend on their pets because of the added cost of heating their homes, analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) has found. Research by the charity estimates that, of the 48 per cent of adults in Scotland who have had to cut household spending, 10 per cent are cutting back on things like dog grooming and vet visits because of

Sunday Mirror 13 **A controversial case** BRYSON'S case caused a political storm after it was revealed she had been incarcerated with female inmates in Scotland's Cornton Vale prison. Justice Secretary Keith Brown initially backed the Scottish Prison Service's decision, but SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon revealed the decision would be reversed on Thursday following a public outcry. The controversy has highlighted Ms Sturgeon's Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, which would allow anyone over the age of 16

Sunday Mirror 12 **There is no way man who raped me is trans. It's easy way out** THE first victim of trans rapist Isla Bryson says it is "impossible" her attacker is no longer a man. It is the first time a survivor has spoken out since the political row over the case exploded five days ago. Bryson - born Adam Graham - raped two women, was arrested as a man and appeared at early court hearings under his birth name. But the fiend went on to

Sunday Mail 16 **The reality of transgender prisoners** Nicola Sturgeon would do well to read Amanda Benson's account of her time with two transgender inmates in a women's prison. While the First Minister's plans to reform gender recognition may come from a good place, the ramifications of such a change in the law are clear to see when reading Amanda's story. She has given a first-hand account of what it's like being in a confined place with malebodied

Sunday Mail 4 **Sturgeon's serving up women to predators on rainbow platter** A former prisoner has told how she went through hell after being forced to share a shower block with violent trans inmates. Amanda Benson, 41, revealed she was so terrified of being raped and ending up pregnant that she felt compelled to have a contraceptive coil fitted while behind bars. The mum of four, locked up with two trans prisoners, one convicted of murder, the other for domestic violence, accused

Sunday Mail 5 **FM faces pressure in trans con case** Nicola Sturgeon is facing demands to step in and prevent the transfer of a transgender prisoner to a female

prison. Tiffany Scott, who stalked a 13-year-old girl while known as Andrew Burns, is understood to have had a request for a transfer to a women's jail rubber stamped. But Scottish Conservative equalities spokeswoman Rachael Hamilton said Scott, who has attacked female staff while in a men's prison, should not be moved. She

Sunday Mail 1 **MY JAIL HELL WITH TRANS CONS** PAGES 4&5, 6&7 A woman locked up with violent trans inmates has accused the Scottish Government of "serving up women to predators on a rainbow platter". Amanda Benson said she lived in fear of being raped. Nicola Sturgeon did a U-turn after the furious row over transgender double rapist Isla Bryson being put in a women's prison. And the mum of one of Bryson's three kids said: "He shouldn't have

Sunday Mail 19 **Homeless charity's row with council** Scotland's biggest council has been accused of attacking a charity for highlighting the plight of impoverished children. Homeless Project Scotland, which runs a soup kitchen every night in Glasgow, was contacted by social work bosses after posting pixelated photos of children who visited its services. The organisation usually helps adults but manager Colin McInnes said more parents with babies and children have been turning up in recent weeks. After highlighting

Sunday Express (Scotland) 1 **new trans row erupts as stalker moves jail** NICOLA Sturgeon has been warned that she risks the safety of some of Scotland's "most vulnerable women" unless she blocks the proposed transfer of a second transgender prisoner. The comment came after it was revealed an inmate who, as a man, stalked an underage girl, has now been given permission to be moved from a men's jail to a female facility. In 2013, Andrew Burns was sentenced to 14 months

Sunday Express (Scotland) 14 **Rapist in women's jail is direct result of gender fantasy** THEY say the best way to keep a secret is to make a speech on the floor of the House of Commons. But last week, a speech I made in Parliament unexpectedly received widespread attention across the mainstream news and social media. The reason for this was not that I had delivered some noteworthy oration, but rather because of the remarkable response that my speech evoked from another MP.

Sunday Express (Scotland) 25 **Hard-pressed Scots cut back spending on pets** HUNDREDS of thousands of pet owners across Scotland are cutting back spending on their beloved pets because of the cost-of-living crisis, it has been revealed. The Scottish SPCA has said more than 4,000 people contacted its animal helpline in 2022 to give up their pet. That number has more than trebled from 2021, with many citing financial circumstances as the main factor in being unable to care for their pet

Sunday Express (Scotland) 57 **Trans rapist U-turn yet another SNP debacle** THE U-turn forced on the SNP by public outrage at the Scottish Government's insane decision to place transgender rapist Adam Graham, now known as Isla Bryson, in a women's prison while awaiting sentence highlights the latest piece of incompetence exacted by the SNP and is just one example in a long line of appalling episodes of mis-government by Nicola Sturgeon's administration. The shambolic situation in the NHS, the mess in

Sunday Express (Scotland) 4 **Tories demand that new women's prison never houses rapists** THE proposed replacement for Scotland's only women's prison is millions of pounds over budget and way behind schedule, it was claimed last night. CorntonVale was mired in controversy last week over the decision to send a transgender rapist there despite their crimes occurring when he was a man. Isla Bryson spent less than 36 hours in the prison before First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made a "screeching U-turn" and ordered the

Sunday Express (Scotland) 4 **SNP MP: ID laws : Loopholes in gender s a danger to women** A LEADING SNP MP has called for the scrapping of a self-identification system for people who want to change their legal gender. Angus MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, wants the Scottish Parliament to "quickly" axe - or change - the bill. He says the decision should not be left to Westminster or the European Court as it is a problem "made in Scotland - and should be sorted

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Slurs, not solutions** IN THE week her government was forced to U-turn and block a double rapist from being housed in a women's prison, you might expect Nicola Sturgeon to show an ounce of contrition, or at least self-reflection. Neither comes easily to the First Minister. So instead she went with her strengths. She went on the attack. The SNP leader declared that 'some' opponents of her reckless, dangerous Gender Recognition Reform Bill

10. CORPORATE

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 8 **Under-fire ethics quango handed budget boost as frontline services face black holes** SCOTLAND'S under-fire ethics body, which was censured for failing to properly investigate complaints about MSPs, has been awarded a 40 per cent budget increase - as frontline services struggle to fill financial black holes. The office of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland (CESPLS) is responsible for probing complaints made against MSPs, councillors and quangos. Yet it was at the centre of a transparency row when

The National (Scotland) 7 **Rule change to enable Holyrood snap election could face legal battle** INDEPENDENCE supporting MSPs must change Holyrood's rules and call an early election to be used as a de facto vote, an SNP MP has urged. Angus MacNeil, who represents Na h-Eileanan an Iar in Westminster, said forcing an early Scottish Parliament election was "risk-free" - even if the UK Government tried to stop it from going ahead. But Aileen McHarg, professor of public law at Durham University, said the tactic

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

Scotland on Sunday 1 **Arts industry faces massive job losses in cash squeeze** Mass redundancies and closures of companies are inevitable within months unless a 10 per cent funding cut proposed for the Scottish culture sector is reversed, trade union leaders have warned. Union bosses and arts industry leaders also warned of an escalating "talent drain" out of the country unless significant new resources are secured for the arts. There are predictions of a "dire" and "bleak" future for the cultural sector, and

Scotland on Sunday 6 **Arts institutions may disappear for good** Scotland's arts and culture sector is in crisis. Perhaps understandably at times of national emergency, it is rarely top of the agenda for politicians. Funding is never prioritised when other urgent needs demand attention - how can you justify saving a cinema when the NHS is under so much horrendous pressure? But treating our culture sector like this is too simplistic, and the warnings which we carry today must not

The Herald 9 **Oil firm handed £4.9m of Scottish taxpayers' cash sent equipment to Russia after Ukraine invasion** A US oil multinational which received Scottish Government funding exported oil and gas drilling equipment from Montrose to Russia three months after ministers called on businesses in Scotland to cease trading with the country. Baker Hughes - which has received £4.9 million of taxpayers' money in grants from Scottish Enterprise - is one of the world's largest oil field services firms. It has 4,000 staff in the UK, including at

The Herald 22 **Top academic brands Scotland 'as un-European as the rest of the UK' in fiery new Brexit essay** SCOTLAND is as "un-European" as the rest of the UK despite pro-EU "sentiment" expressed among its leaders and voters, according to a leading scholar. Writing to mark the third Brexit anniversary on Tuesday, Anthony Salamone argued that while Scots were removed by the UK from membership of the bloc despite voting to remain, ministers in Edinburgh have done little to maintain close relations. He described "substantial disconnects" between Scotland and

The National (Scotland) 9 **Referendum powers bid to be made in Commons this week** ALBA'S Westminster leader will attempt to bring forward a bill this week to give powers for a Scottish independence referendum to Holyrood. Neale Hanvey MP has secured the opportunity to introduce the Scotland (Self Determination) Bill in the House of Commons on Wednesday. It is being brought under a rule which allows a backbench MP to make a case for a new bill in a speech lasting up to 10

The National (Scotland) 18 **Tron funding cut raises wider fears** ONE of Scotland's most important theatre companies is in danger of becoming much diminished following the decision of Glasgow City Council not to award it municipal funding. The 2023-24 funding round will be the first in more than 30 years in which the council hasn't given financial support to the famous Tron Theatre. The decision follows a series of recent announcements that signal a significant decline in

[Redacted] **Media Manager | First Minister, Deputy First Minister & COVID Recovery**
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
[Redacted]

Item 8:

From: [Redacted] Media Manager

Sent: 28 January 2023 10:04

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk; Ash.Regan.msp@parliament.scot; Shirley-anne.somerville2@parliament.scot;

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Subject: Media Digest - Saturday 28 January

Press Summary For Scottish Government 28 January 2023

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1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express 15 **Women's rights are at risk** INWHAT maniacal world would you have people vigorously defending the rights of a transgender double rapist - a biological man who'd savagely raped two women yet had been put in a women's prison, posing a danger to every woman there? The Scottish parliament, that's where! Yep, Nicola Sturgeon and many of her loony SNP compatriots - whose minds have been so warped by the fanatical pro-trans lobby that it's rendered

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Anger at Sturgeon's gender laws outburst** A FURIOUS row erupted last night after the First Minister labelled some critics of her controversial gender reform plans "misogynistic, homophobic and racist". The astonishing outburst came as the fall-out from the decision to send a "transitioning" rapist to a women's prison deepened. As well as facing widespread criticism over the case, Nicola Sturgeon has been under fire for weeks for her proposed plans to allow anyone over 16 in

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **RAPES WILL BE RECORDED AS COMMITTED BY MAN** THE rapes committed by transgender Isla Bryson will officially be recorded as having been carried out by a man. As the row over the Scottish Government's handling of the case deepens, Police Scotland categorically stated how they will log his offences. Bryson was known as Adam Graham when he carried out his two rapes. But, after being charged and appearing in court, the 31-year-old from Clydebank revealed he was "transitioning"

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Police need 'unequivocal guidance' over trans sex offender cases, say Scottish Tories** POLICE Scotland must be given "unequivocal direction" by the Scottish Government in light of the chaos surrounding the Isla Bryson case, it was claimed yesterday. Following the conviction of Bryson, 31 - known as Adam Graham when he raped two vulnerable mothers in separate attacks three years apart - a decision "taken at the highest level" was made to send Bryson to Scotland's only women's prison, Cornton Vale near Stirling.

Daily Express (Scotland) 14 **Nicola's crown is slipping** AFTER announcing she "despises" Tories, it shouldn't come as any surprise to hear the First Minister saying critics of her gender plans are probably "misogynistic", "homophobic" and even "racist". But Nicola Sturgeon should be aware that her honesty about loathing large parts of the Scottish public will not do her chances of remaining in post much good. Her mantle is slipping further and many people will seize on this as an

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **hero fireman dies after battling jenners**

blaze TRIBUTES have been paid from across the UK to a firefighter who died yesterday, four days after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at an iconic Scottish building. Barry Martin was one of five hurt after being called to the Jenners building in TURN TO PAGE 2 FROM PAGE ONE Edinburgh on Monday morning. The 38-year-old, above, from Fife had been in a critical condition at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

Daily Mail 19 **++Westminster wars++** ENTERING the Celebrity jungle for his £320,000 fee while taking his £84,000 MP salary, Matt Hancock vowed he'd pay a substantial sum to charity. This turns out to be £10,000. Guessing that having dumped his wife and kids, the rest is to pay his alimony bills. ARCH Remainer Jeremy Hunt vows that scrapping EU red tape will be core to his new growth plan. Given that we voted to Leave

Daily Mail 6 **Labour needs us, claims Sturgeon** LABOUR would 'bite the hand off' Nicola Sturgeon to form a coalition if the SNP held the balance of power after the next general election, the Scottish First Minister has claimed. Taking aim at Sir Keir Starmer's 'unprincipled' U-turn on Brexit, Nicola Sturgeon labelled his party a 'pale imitation' of the Conservatives rather than a real alternative. The head of the pro-independence party said Sir Keir 'needs to talk' to

Daily Mail 19 **How dare woke young women try to cancel us feminists** THERE was almost universal outrage over the trans double rapist 'Isla Bryson' — formerly Adam Graham — being sent to a Scottish woman's prison. Yes, this individual claims to have begun hormone replacement therapy as part of his 'transition' to living as a woman — but only after being arrested. He — I will not be calling him 'she' out of respect to his victims — remains in full possession

Daily Mail 46 **My fears for trans teenagers** deeply disturbed by aggressive 'trans' activism, especially Nicola Sturgeon's determination that 16-year-olds should be considered old enough to address the complex issue and make mature decisions. In my view, that single-minded obsession is the polar opposite of 'kind' — because it could ruin many a young life. Your letter suggests just one reason why. Nowadays you would be pressured to call yourself a 'trans woman' and perhaps even take the Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **FM refuses to guarantee more trans rapists won't end up in women's jails** THE First Minister yesterday admitted there should be a

'presumption' that transgender rapists do not end up in women's prisons - but refused to guarantee it will never happen again. Nicola Sturgeon said it should be presumed 'somebody who is convicted of rape is not in a women's prison' but insisted there should not be a 'blanket' approach. She said there needs to be a risk assessment in individual cases.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 36 **Sturgeon's madhouse** SHE turned up at Cornton Vale prison in a burst of pink: pink jacket, pink leggings, and a pink suitcase on wheels. Surely there could never have been a more controversial arrival at the women's jail. Many readers will probably be aware, given the extensive coverage, that before this remarkable transformation, Isla Bryson was none other than muscular, shaven-headed, tattooed double rapist Adam Graham. Let me, though, briefly recap the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Truth that drives a coach and horses through the middle of trans ideology** WE were assured this would never happen. Time and time again, as the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill made its way through Holyrood, ministers dismissed fears that by making it easier for Scots to change their legal gender, they were also making it easier for male sex offenders to occupy women's spaces. Women would not suffer any reduction in their levels of safety, the Bill's critics were told, because there

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **SNP accused of attack on democracy** NATIONALIST councillors have accused SNP ministers of an attack on democracy by trying to block them from cutting teacher numbers. Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville came under fire from SNP councillors yesterday after she confirmed she could impose financial penalties on authorities that cut teachers or reduce the school day. Council umbrella group Cosla is considering legal action over the threat. It comes after SNP ministers themselves accused the UK Government

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **NICOLA Sturgeon has revealed she [...]** NICOLA Sturgeon has revealed she plans to write a memoir after she steps down from frontline politics 'to get it all out there'. What will she call it, I wonder? We've had Prince Harry's Spare, perhaps this should be titled Despair

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Another embarrassing U-turn in Sturgeon's Orwellian Scotland** WELL, they can't say we didn't warn them. Because, frankly, the ghastly mess the SNP Government and the Scottish Prison Service found themselves in over the imprisonment of transgender double rapist Isla Bryson this week will come as little surprise to women across Scotland. Did they really think that sending a convicted - and at the time of the attacks male - sex offender to a women's prison would wash?

Daily Mail (Scotland) 10 **Labour needs us, s, claims Sturgeon** LABOUR would 'bite the hand off' Nicola Sturgeon to form a coalition if the SNP held the balance of power after the next general election, the First Minister has claimed. Taking aim at Sir Keir Starmer's 'unprincipled' U-turn on Brexit, Nicola Sturgeon labelled his party a 'pale imitation' of the Conservatives rather than a real alternative. The head of the pro-independence party said Sir Keir 'needs to talk' to the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 21 **Nicola 'dishonest over A&E waits'** NICOLA Sturgeon was branded 'dishonest' last night after claiming the latest A&E waiting times were 'encouraging'. Figures on Tuesday showed emergency waiting times have improved in Scotland, but less than two-thirds of patients were treated within four hours. Miss Sturgeon made her comment after a meeting of the Scottish Government's resilience committee yesterday. Scottish Labour health spokesman Jackie Baillie said to paint the 'small' improvement in wait times 'as some

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Fury as Sturgeon brands critics of gender law 'racist and homophobic'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been condemned for a 'disgusting and desperate' attack on her gender reform critics after she called them homophobic and racist. The First Minister claimed some politicians have used the issue of women's rights as a 'cloak' to cover up their transphobia and claimed they are also misogynistic, often homophobic and sometimes racist. Opponents accused her of using 'baseless' attacks rather than engaging with those who oppose her

Daily Record 7 **Violent trans convict moves to women's jail** NICOLA Sturgeon is facing another trans storm after a decision was made to house one of Scotland's most violent prisoners in a women's jail. The Record can reveal that volatile Tiffany Scott - who stalked a 13-year-old girl while called Andrew Burns - has been rubber-

stamped for transfer to a jail that aligns with her chosen gender. Scott, 31, has been repeatedly refused the switch over several years but senior

Daily Record 7 **FM: TRANSPHOBES USING ISSUE** NICOLA Sturgeon has claimed some opponents of her gender reforms are using women's rights to mask their transphobia. The First Minister stressed not all opponents of the blocked Gender Recognition Reform Bill hold this view. But she told The News Agents podcast:

"There are some people' that I think have decided to use women's rights as a sort of cloak of acceptability to cover up what is transphobia "There are

Daily Record 6 **Cops: Bryson's rapes 'by man'** THE crimes carried out by Isla Bryson will be recorded as having been committed by a man, Police Scotland has confirmed. The transgender rapist from Clydebank attacked two women in 2016 and 2019 while she was a man called Adam Graham. The 31-year-old was transferred from Cornton Vale to a male prison in Edinburgh on Thursday night following uproar at the original decision to send the sex offender to a

Daily Record 4 **Firefighter loses life after Jenners blaze** A FIREFIGHTER has died after a blaze at the Jenners building in Edinburgh. Barry Martin was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary with serious injuries after the fire broke out on Rose Street after 11.30am on Monday. The 38-year-old Fifer was one of five firefighters who were hurt while attending the incident at the former department store. Officers confirmed that he passed away yesterday. Four other firefighters were also taken to

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon rejects total ban on sending rapists to female prisons** Nicola Sturgeon has rejected the idea of Scotland introducing a blanket ban on rapists being held in women's prisons, despite her views on the Isla Bryson case. The First Minister said the "general principle" should be that someone who rapes a woman should not be held in a female prison, but that there may be exceptions to this rule. She was speaking after a public outcry over the decision to i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 6 **Opponents 'using cloak of**

acceptability' Some opponents of Scotland's gender reforms are using women's rights as a "cloak" to hide their own transphobia, homophobia, misogyny and racism, Nicola Sturgeon has claimed. The First Minister's comments triggered an angry reaction from her opponents, who accused her of using "disgusting" tactics to discredit people who opposed the changes. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill is in a state of limbo after being blocked from becoming law by The Daily Telegraph 5 **Women's rights used as cloak to be transphobic, claims Sturgeon** NICOLA STURGEON has accused some opponents of her gender reforms of using women's rights as a "cloak" for their transphobia, misogyny, homophobia and racism. Shortly after announcing a transgender rapist would be moved out of a women's prison, she said some critics of her self-ID plans were "deeply misogynist, often homophobic, possibly some of them racist as well". She also told Global's The News Agents podcast that as a "general

The Daily Telegraph 4 **Scottish landlords buy English property** Scottish landlords are buying up record levels of property in England and Wales as they seek refuge from Nicola Sturgeon's tax crackdown. The proportion of Scottish investors buying properties in other parts of Britain has more than doubled since 2019, from 2.5pc to 5.3pc this year, said Hamptons estate agents. Scottish landlords' purchases in England and Wales are now at the highest level since records began in 2009. John Blackwood,

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Roads and libraries at risk under council cuts** Scottish council chiefs have threatened to cut roads spending and shut libraries after Nicola Sturgeon blocked them reducing teacher numbers. Local authority

leaders said they were taking legal advice on the First Minister's decision to stop them cutting teaching positions and the school week to deal with a funding black hole. They accused the SNP government of "an unnecessary and unwanted attack and intervention on our democratic mandate". Page 2

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Jack: trans rapist case shows self-ID flaws** THE Scottish Secretary has said the Isla Bryson trans rapist case demonstrates the flaws with Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID plan as she accused some of its opponents of racism and transphobia. Alister Jack told The Daily Telegraph that the decision to move Bryson to a women's jail, despite two rape convictions, had arisen from a Scottish Prison Service (SPS) policy "based on self-ID without objective checks and balances". Mr Jack,

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 5 **Poles apart Nicola Sturgeon tells [...]** Poles apart Nicola Sturgeon tells The News Agents podcast: "It was impossible, really, to do business [with Boris Johnson] - it was bluff and bluster and anything difficult got passed off to somebody else." Asked if the former prime minister had damaged British politics, the Scottish First Minister replied: "In a general sense, yes."

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Library and road funding at risk as councils tackle hole in budget** SCOTLAND'S council chiefs have threatened to cut roads spending and shut libraries after Nicola Sturgeon blocked them reducing teacher numbers. Local authority leaders said they were taking legal advice on the First Minister's decision to prevent them cutting teaching positions and reducing the school week to deal with a funding black hole. In a joint statement after a meeting in Edinburgh, they accused the SNP government of "an unnecessary and

The Herald 4 **Poster boys** IN last week's Unspun, we reported the new SNP political broadcast had raised eyebrows over at Indy rivals the Alba Party. "Enough is enough," said the SNP ad, exactly like the poster campaign Alba ran last autumn. Now Alba has taken revenge with its new spring line in billboards, which declare "It's time". This was the SNP's winning slogan in the 2007 Holyrood election. It was usually accompanied by a

The Herald 14 **Radical scholar who redirected Scots nationalism from romantic pipedream to credible credo** Tom Nairn Born: June 2, 1932; Died: January 21, 2023. TOM NAIRN, who has died aged 90, was a titan of the independence movement, a prolific and at times radical scholar who confidently and consistently predicted the end of the United Kingdom. Upon his passing, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called him "one of the greatest thinkers, political theorists and intellectuals that Scotland has ever produced" while Alex Salmond credited him

The Herald 6 **Starmer: Labour needs to show voters it is not the party they rejected in 2019** SIR Keir Starmer is to urge his members to show voters Labour is "different to the party Britain rejected in 2019." When speaking to delegates at the party's London conference, he will attempt to put more distance between his leadership and that of his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn. He is expected to say: "We must point to the changes we've made... must say, never again will Labour be a party of

The Herald 2 **Firefighter dies of injuries** FIREFIGHTER Barry Martin has died after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at the Jenners department store building in Edinburgh. Mr Martin, 38, from Fife, sustained serious injuries in the burning Princes Street building after a fire broke out on Monday. He was one of five firefighters taken to hospital as crews fought the citycentre blaze. The firefighter, who was based in Edinburgh, had been in a critical condition

The National (Scotland) 4 **FM no longer '100% sure Tories wouldn't try to abolish Holyrood'** THE First Minister has said she is no longer "100% sure" that the Tories wouldn't go as far as attempting to abolish the Scottish Parliament. Speaking to The News Agents podcast, Nicola Sturgeon told of a "concerted effort" in Westminster to weaken Holyrood and delegitimise it. It comes after the UK Government used a Section 35 order to block Scotland's gender reforms from becoming law, and shortly after the first

The National (Scotland) 4 **'Some gender reform critics using bill to cloak transphobia'** NICOLA Sturgeon has accused some critics of Holyrood's gender reforms of using the debates to "cloak" their transphobia, misogyny and racism. The First Minister made the comments on The News Agents podcast, which is released this afternoon. Speaking to journalist Lewis Goodall, the FM spoke on a wide range of topics, including the debate around the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Last week, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack used the provision in

The National (Scotland) 8 **UK Government doesn't give a damn about 'levelling up'** REMEMBER Boris Johnson standing on the steps of 10 Downing Street promising that he was going to "level up" the UK? We had no idea what it meant then and know less now. That said, meaningless soundbites are the bread and butter of Westminster politics these days. Two prime ministers later and we have just had the announcement of the second phase of the Levelling- Up Fund. Glasgow submitted seven

The National (Scotland) 2 **Councils 'seek legal advice' over cuts** SCOTTISH council leaders have said they will be seeking legal advice after the SNP government said it would intervene to prevent teacher numbers being cut. The extraordinary move comes as the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) warns that there is a "crisis in local government funding like never before" and cuts will have to be made somewhere. On Thursday, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced that her Government would act

The National (Scotland) 5 **Starmer reacts to 'pale imitation' dig** LABOUR leader Keir Starmer has hit back at First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's suggestion his party is a "pale imitation" of the Tories and told her to focus on domestic issues. Speaking on Global's News Agents podcast, the FM attacked Starmer over Brexit, saying it is "inexplicable" to voters north of the Border that the party has ruled out rejoining the EU. She told the podcast: "People don't want a pale

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 46 **Who said it?** "I've got one leg, I've got no feet, I see through one eye, one workable hand. I was burned all over, and I feel strong, I feel more confident than I ever have" - Fox News correspondent Benjamin Hall in his first live television appearance since being seriously injured in Ukraine. "What's the point of building HS2 just to get to Birmingham?" - Labour peer Lord Berkeley, who in 2019

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **SNP's Westminster chief 'hiding' after gender reform row** SNP Westminster chief Stephen Flynn is facing a backlash after one of his party colleagues wrote directly to the Tories over concerns with Nicola Sturgeon's gender law reforms. Dr Lisa Cameron suggested Tory Scottish Secretary Alister Jack could "intervene" despite leading SNP figures - including the first minister - insisting the UK Government's intervention undermined devolution. Mr Flynn, the MP for Aberdeen South, supports his party's reforms which aim

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **Firefighter, 38, injured in Jenners blaze dies** Firefighter Barry Martin has died after he was critically injured

tackling a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh. Martin, 38, from Fife, sustained serious injuries during the blaze at the former department store which started on Monday and was one of five firefighters taken to hospital during the city centre blaze. The firefighter, who was based in Edinburgh, had been in a critical condition at the Royal Infirmary

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **'Stars in Their Eyes' for charity** Inverness will host its own take on iconic TV talent show Stars in Their Eyes this spring. The charity event will see 10 contestants showcase their talents as they impersonate singing superstars. It will be a fun-filled evening of glitz and glamour in aid of Snap. The charity runs events, clubs and activities for youngsters with additional support needs. The event is being organised by host venue The Kingsmills Hotel,

The Scotsman 25 **Where's the public outrage over Brexit?** It's hard to believe it is fast approaching the seventh anniversary of the Brexit vote. It's three years since we formally left the EU on January 31, 2020, but just two since the end of the "transition period", when the UK continued to be in the single market and observe Brussels laws, on December 31, 2020. A Panelbase survey for the Times last August found that if the Brexit

The Scotsman 21 **Rape case's relevance is undeniable** It is quite an achievement to have 95 per cent of the Scottish population nodding in agreement with Douglas Ross. However, the Scottish Conservative leader surely spoke for the nation, however transiently, when he told the First Minister: "We think it is wrong that a rapist is sent to a women's prison." Amidst the fall-out from Adam Graham's conviction, one aspect speaks to a wider truth - the moral

The Scotsman 22 **Sturgeon sounds like she's lost the plot** Nicola Sturgeon's claim that there are people opposed to the Gender Recognition Reform Bill who are "transphobic deeply misogynist, often homophobic, possibly some of them racist as well" was a deeply cynical attempt to tar her political opponents with the worst kind of brush. Humiliated over the case of the transgender rapist sent initially to a women's prison then, following public uproar, moved to a men's one, the First

The Scotsman 22 **Labour view of EU is a problem** What is Labour's foreign policy? This was the question that was put to their Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy at Chatham House on Tuesday. It was billed as a speech "packed with policy", and as befitting of a thoughtful politician like Lammy - who I hold in high regard - it was quick to make a correct diagnosis of a Britain "lost and disconnected" from the rest of the

The Scotsman 12 **Conservatives say Police Scotland must record all rapists as men - no questions** Police Scotland must record anyone charged or convicted of rape as male regardless of whether they subsequently seek to change gender, the Scottish Conservatives have said. The party made the call following the high-profile case of a double rapist who decided to transition from a man to a woman while awaiting trial. Isla Bryson, previously known as Adam Graham, was found guilty of raping one woman in Clydebank in 2016

The Scotsman 8 **Councils begin to wield the axe as unprecedented cuts come into focus** Take care of the pennies, the old saying has it, and the pounds will take care of themselves. Never has a proverb rung quite so true for Scotland's local authorities, which are facing up to some of the most difficult economic decisions they have had to make in years. Across the country, councillors and local authority officers are preparing to dot the Is and cross the Ts on a range

The Scotsman 24 **Case of trans rapist must spell the end for self-ID** The end, when it came, was swift. Within ten minutes of rising to her feet in the parliament chamber on Thursday for First Minister's Questions, Nicola Sturgeon had killed off her controversial policy of self-ID. Pushed by Tory leader Douglas Ross, she admitted, after his fourth question on the subject, that double rapist Adam Graham, now known as Isla Bryson, would be removed from Scotland's all-female prison immediately. It

The Scotsman 9 **First Minister urged to stop pool closures** Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to fund councils properly to stop the closure of swimming pools in Falkirk. Conservative MSP Graham Simpson raised at First Minister's Questions on Thursday the considered closure of four school and one public swimming pool in Falkirk "to make ends meet". He said: "I've had numerous emails about this and it boils down to council funding cuts from this Government. Does the First Minister agree

The Scotsman 6 **Governments don't agree on indyref but can still work together, says Hunt** Jeremy Hunt has insisted disagreements over independence does not mean the UK and Scottish governments cannot work together more. The Chancellor claimed relations between the two administrations were far better than the "rhetoric", saying that politicians were campaigners so their words were not representative. His assertion comes in the wake of the UK government triggering a Section 35 order to block the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, sparking a

The Scotsman 1 **Councils in legal threat after teacher cuts blocked** Steps to safeguard teaching posts from council cuts amount to an "unwanted attack and intervention" on the democratic mandate of local authorities, the umbrella body Cosla has warned. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said her government would "act to protect teacher numbers" in the face of widespread saving drives by councils trying to balance their budgets for the year ahead. But the local government body, which is seeking legal advice on

The Scotsman 5 **Firefighter critically injured tackling Jenners store blaze dies in hospital** Firefighter Barry Martin has died after he was critically injured tackling a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh. Mr Martin, 38, from Fife, sustained serious injuries during the blaze at the former department store which started on Monday and was one of five firefighters taken to hospital during the city centre blaze. The firefighter, who was based in Edinburgh, had been in a critical condition at the Royal

The Scotsman 4 **A&E still faces challenges** There are still "significant challenges" for the NHS despite waiting times improvements, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The First Minister chaired the fourth meeting of the Scottish Government's resilience committee (SGORR) yesterday, set up to deal with the pressures facing the health service. This week, figures showed A&E waiting times sharply improved, off the back of the lowest number of attendances in more than a year, but less than two thirds

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **CHEW LABOUR SIR** Keir Starmer would be "biting the SNP's hand off" for help getting in to No10 if there was a hung parliament, Nicola Sturgeon says. The First Minister yesterday rubbished repeated claims from the Labour chief that he would not do a deal with her party "under any circumstances". Ms Sturgeon waved off Sir Keir's claims and said that he'd be desperate to join forces if it would block the

The Sun (Scotland) 9 **Fury as critics of Bill dubbed 'racist' by FM** FURIOUS Tories last night accused Nicola Sturgeon of launching a "disgusting and desperate"

attack on opponents of her gender self-ID laws. The First Minister claimed some critics were transphobic, misogynistic, homophobic and "possibly some of them racist". Her comments came in an interview for Global's News Agents podcast. She said: "I've heard people, politicians, claiming to be defenders of women's rights who I had never heard defend women's rights in

The Sun (Scotland) 7 **TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN LINE OF DUTY** TRIBUTES poured in last night to the hero firefighter who lost his life battling the Jenners inferno. Nicola Sturgeon described brave Barry Martin's death in the line of duty as a "terrible tragedy". Colleagues said the 38-year-old was a "dedicated firefighter". Barry, from Rosyth, Fife, died after helping tackle the blaze at the former Edinburgh department store building on Monday. He passed away yesterday at the city's Royal Infirmary. Scottish

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **No blanket ban on rape beasts in female nicks** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday refused to rule out other rapists being locked up in women's prisons — despite outrage forcing trans fiend Isla Bryson to be removed from Cornton Vale. The First Minister warned against a "blanket" ban on biological males going to female jails — saying there should be a "presumption" against it, but with each case "risk assessed". Her comments sparked fresh fury a day after prison chiefs moved

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **JK CAGED PAEDO BLAST** JK Rowling took a fresh swipe at Nicola Sturgeon yesterday over the trans rapist row. The Harry Potter author, 57, hit out after Isla Bryson — who committed two rapes while living as Adam Graham — was removed from Cornton Vale By PAUL RODGER women's jail amid a backlash. But she highlighted that trans perv Katie Dolatowski is allowed to be held at the nick near Stirling. In Twitter posts,

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Nicola's riddles** NICOLA Sturgeon is a master of leaving people with the impression she's said something — when she hasn't actually done so. The First Minister displayed this prowess at Holyrood on Thursday when talking about whether biological males convicted of rape — regardless of whether they are trans — should ever be placed in women's prisons. She was put on the spot, of course, due to double-rapist Isla Bryson — or

The Times 27 **There's a better way to treat trans prisoners** Mark it in your diary: the bicentenary of the Gaols Act 1823. The work of the social reformer Elizabeth Fry, this landmark law mandated sexsegregated prisons with female inmates guarded by female wardens. When women were incarcerated among men, Fry observed, they were exploited, terrified and raped. She established a principle which became enshrined in international law, from UN protocols to the Geneva conventions. How, then, was history rewound, 200

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Trans rapist prison ban leaves governors open to legal action** Nicola Sturgeon has exposed prison bosses to legal action with her "off the hoof" prohibition on rapists going to women's jails, according to a former governor. Rhona Hotchkiss said the first minister had effectively created a new category of trans woman by intervening to remove Isla Bryson, a rapist, from Cornton Vale women's prison. The first minister said she agreed with the head of Rape Crisis Scotland, who said: "I

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Ringfenced teacher spending will force us to close libraries, local councils warn** Council bosses have threatened to cut money from vital children's services in response to an "unnecessary and unwanted attack" on their autonomy over teacher numbers. Cosla, the council negotiating body led by the SNP, is considering taking the Scottish government to court over Nicola Sturgeon's

threat of legal or financial penalties for any council that fails to contribute towards her manifesto pledge of 3,500 more teachers. The first minister gave

The Times (Scotland) 2 **SCOTLAND AND THE WORLD TODAY'S**

EDITION Jenners blaze firefighter dies Tributes have been paid to Barry Martin, a fireman who died four days after he was injured tackling a blaze at the former Jenners department store in Edinburgh. Page 5 Trump ally in the running Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the new Republican governor of Arkansas and an ally of Donald Trump, is being lined up as a potential presidential running mate. Page 40 Legal action risk of

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Feminism 'used to cloak transphobia'** Some opponents of gender recognition reform are using women's rights as a "cloak of acceptability" for transphobia, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The UK government has blocked the bill from becoming law, citing its impact on UK-wide equalities legislation and triggering a constitutional dispute that is likely to reach the courts. In an interview with Global's The News Agents podcast, Sturgeon said: "I have heard people, politicians, claiming to be defenders

The Times (Scotland) 5 **Firefighter dies days after Jenners blaze** Tributes have been paid to a fireman who died four days after he was injured tackling a blaze at the former Jenners department store in Edinburgh. The death of Barry Martin, 38, was announced with "profound sadness" by Ross Haggart, the interim chief officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, who said that Martin's family and all his colleagues were devastated. Martin, from Rosyth, Fife, is the first Scottish

The Times (Scotland) 9 **I was hounded out for raising concerns in 2019, says ex-MSP** A former SNP MP has said he was hounded out of the party for raising concerns about transgender sex offenders three years ago. Neale Harvey, now Westminster leader of Alex Salmond's Alba Party, said he had raised the case of Katie Dolatowski with Shirley-Anne Somerville, then the equalities minister, in 2019 when he was the SNP candidate for Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath. Dolatowski, who is trans, committed sexual offences against two

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

The Herald 22 **Why did this bill pass?** IN the aftermath of the passing of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill in the Scottish Parliament just before Christmas, I wrote to my MSP, John Swinney, asking him why on earth he supported such an ill-thought-out and totally flawed piece of legislation. To date Mr Swinney has not replied. During the Stage 3 debates on this bill, Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison told us that it was ridiculous to suggest

The Herald 4 **Decile dysfunction** JOHN Swinney has been forced to correct the record at Holyrood after muddling his deciles and quartiles. He originally denied taxing the "two top quartiles" too much, but has now told the party he meant the "top two deciles", confusing half the population with a mere fifth of it. He's the Acting Finance Secretary, you know. We could mention imbeciles at this point, but that would be infantile, puerile, juvenile,

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **SNP accused of attack on democracy** NATIONALIST councillors have accused SNP ministers of an attack on democracy by trying to block them from cutting teacher numbers. Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville came under fire from SNP councillors yesterday after she confirmed she could impose financial penalties on authorities that cut teachers or reduce the school day. Council umbrella group Cosla is considering legal action over the threat. It comes after SNP ministers themselves accused the UK Government

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Roads and libraries at risk under council cuts** Scottish council chiefs have threatened to cut roads spending and shut libraries after Nicola Sturgeon blocked them reducing teacher numbers. Local authority leaders said they were taking legal advice on the First Minister's decision to stop them cutting teaching positions and the school week to deal with a funding black hole. They accused the SNP government of "an unnecessary and unwanted attack and intervention on our democratic mandate". Page 2

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Library and road funding at risk as councils tackle hole in budget** SCOTLAND'S council chiefs have threatened to cut roads spending and shut libraries after Nicola Sturgeon blocked them reducing teacher numbers. Local authority leaders said they were taking legal advice on the First Minister's decision to prevent them cutting teaching positions and reducing the school week to deal with a funding black hole. In a joint statement after a meeting in Edinburgh, they accused the SNP government of "an unnecessary and

The Herald 12 **Legal move over block on cuts** COUNCILS are seeking legal advice over Scottish Government plans to penalise local authorities for cutting teacher numbers. They have warned that any ministerial direction on how to spend their money could ultimately lead to councils being forced to reduce the number of pupil support staff, close libraries and "other vital services that support the attainment, health and wellbeing of children and young people". They accused SNP ministers of attacking the

The National (Scotland) 10 **How US litter box conspiracy spread to a Scottish school** A SCHOOL in Aberdeenshire was this week forced to dismiss claims that pupils were identifying as cats and defecating on the floor after a conspiracy theory spread rapidly on social media. The rumour alleged that numerous children at Banff Academy had requested litter boxes be provided in the school's bathrooms. It then claimed that when this request was denied, children had taken to defecating on the floor of the toilet. But

The National (Scotland) 9 **Number of EU students coming to Scotland has HALVED since Brexit** THE number of students from the EU coming to study in Scotland has almost halved since Brexit, according to the latest official figures. Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency shows that during the 2017/18 academic year, there were 9010 students from the EU enrolled in Scottish universities. But between 2021-22 that number dropped dramatically to 4515. It is believed that Brexit is the main deterring factor as EU students

The National (Scotland) 2 **Councils 'seek legal advice' over cuts** SCOTTISH council leaders have said they will be seeking legal advice after the SNP government said it would intervene to prevent teacher numbers being cut. The extraordinary move comes as the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) warns that there is a "crisis in local government funding like never before" and cuts will have to be made somewhere. On Thursday, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced that her Government would act

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 29 **Council to discuss severing links to bequest** Moray Council will debate severing ties with the controversial Dick Bequest next week. The £1.8 million fund was established almost 200 years ago after the death of Forres-born merchant James Dick to give grants to north-east teachers and schools. But the fund and its grants have recently drawn controversy as the money can be traced to the Caribbean slave trade, prompting calls to return the cash to Jamaica. Research found

The Scotsman 1 **Councils in legal threat after teacher cuts blocked** Steps to safeguard teaching posts from council cuts amount to an "unwanted attack and intervention" on the democratic mandate of local authorities, the umbrella body Cosla has warned. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said her government would "act to protect teacher numbers" in the face of widespread saving drives by councils trying to balance their budgets for the year ahead. But the local government body, which is seeking legal advice on

The Scotsman 8 **Councils begin to wield the axe as unprecedented cuts come into focus** Take care of the pennies, the old saying has it, and the pounds will take care of themselves. Never has a proverb rung quite so true for Scotland's local authorities, which are facing up to some of the most difficult economic decisions they have had to make in years. Across the country, councillors and local authority officers are preparing to dot the Is and cross the Ts on a range

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **NO END IN SIGHT** UNION chiefs have warned that there is no end in sight to a bitter dispute with SNP ministers over teacher pay. The EIS yesterday claimed no more formal talks were scheduled with negotiators following strikes over the past two weeks. And Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville admitted it would be "exceptionally difficult" to move forward as the government can't afford to meet the demands for a 10 per cent rise. EIS

The Sun (Scotland) 35 **It's not school for cats** A SCHOOL has had to deny claims pupils are pooing on floors — after identifying as cats. Worried relatives even feared kids were using litter trays instead of loos. The wacky rumours were sparked after a sickening video was shared online of excrement lying on a cubicle floor at Banff Academy, Aberdeenshire. Locals then shared concerns on a community Facebook page. One man asked others in the area who had

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Teacher job cuts block rap** COUNCIL chiefs yesterday claimed that SNP ministers' bid to block them from cutting teacher jobs was an "unnecessary and unwanted attack" on their powers. They will seek legal advice on the "unworkable proposals", confirmed by Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville. Ministers will seek to protect the number of teaching posts in Scotland from cuts as local authorities struggle to balance their books after the Holyrood Budget. Umbrella body Cosla insists it

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Ringfenced teacher spending will force us to close libraries, local councils warn** Council bosses have threatened to cut money from vital children's services in response to an "unnecessary and unwanted attack" on their autonomy over teacher numbers. Cosla, the council negotiating body led by the SNP, is considering taking the Scottish government to court over Nicola Sturgeon's threat of legal or financial penalties for any council that fails to contribute towards her manifesto pledge of 3,500 more teachers. The first minister gave

The Times (Scotland) 9 **I was hounded out for raising concerns in 2019, says ex-MSP** A former SNP MP has said he was hounded out of the party for raising concerns about transgender sex offenders three years ago. Neale Harvey, now Westminster leader of Alex Salmond's Alba Party, said he had raised the case of Katie Dolatowski with Shirley-Anne Somerville, then the equalities minister, in 2019 when he was the SNP candidate for Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath. Dolatowski, who is trans, committed sexual offences against two

4. JUSTICE

Daily Express 15 **Women's rights are at risk** INWHAT maniacal world would you have people vigorously defending the rights of a transgender double rapist - a biological man who'd savagely raped two women yet had been put in a women's

prison, posing a danger to every woman there? The Scottish parliament, that's where! Yep, Nicola Sturgeon and many of her loony SNP compatriots - whose minds have been so warped by the fanatical pro-trans lobby that it's rendered

Daily Express 16 **Trans rapist is moved to male prison** TRANSGENDER rapist Isla Bryson was last night settling into a fresh, all-male, prison awaiting sentence. Bryson - known as Adam Graham until 2020 - began to switch gender after being charged with raping two women. There was outrage when Bryson was remanded to Scotland's women's prison Cornton Vale in Stirling following conviction. The 31-year-old, who still has male genitalia, was moved to HMP Edinburgh men's prison on Thursday. It has

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Police need 'unequivocal guidance' over trans sex offender cases, say Scottish Tories** POLICE Scotland must be given "unequivocal direction" by the Scottish Government in light of the chaos surrounding the Isla Bryson case, it was claimed yesterday. Following the conviction of Bryson, 31 - known as Adam Graham when he raped two vulnerable mothers in separate attacks three years apart - a decision "taken at the highest level" was made to send Bryson to Scotland's only women's prison, Cornton Vale near Stirling.

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **RAPES WILL BE RECORDED AS COMMITTED BY MAN** THE rapes committed by transgender Isla Bryson will officially be recorded as having been carried out by a man. As the row over the Scottish Government's handling of the case deepens, Police Scotland categorically stated how they will log his offences. Bryson was known as Adam Graham when he carried out his two rapes. But, after being charged and appearing in court, the 31-year-old from Clydebank revealed he was "transitioning"

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Bryson jailing slated as 'shambles'** THE former governor of Scotland's only women's jail has described the decision to send transgender rapist Isla Bryson there as an "unnecessary shambles". Speaking yesterday about the case, Rhona Hotchkiss said the decision to send Isla Bryson to a women's prison had been wrong. She said: "I would have refused to have this person in Cornton Vale, I'm afraid. It just goes against all natural justice." She added: "I'd have insisted

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **SHOCKED COLLEGE STUDENTS 'PRACTICALLY NAKED' IN FRONT OF TRANSGENDER RAPIST** STUDENTS who attended college with transgender rapist Isla Bryson have revealed how they stripped off in front of their classmate unaware of the charges she was facing. The incident came when the would-be beauticians were practising spray tanning in class. As part of their training, the students, some just teenagers, were "practically naked" as they learned the basics of their course. But they have since discovered that Bryson, whom they

Daily Mail 19 **How dare woke young women try to cancel us feminists** THERE was almost universal outrage over the trans double rapist 'Isla Bryson' — formerly Adam Graham — being sent to a Scottish woman's prison. Yes, this individual claims to have begun hormone replacement therapy as part of his 'transition' to living as a woman — but only after being arrested. He — I will not be calling him 'she' out of respect to his victims — remains in full possession

Daily Mail (Scotland) 36 **Sturgeon's madhouse** SHE turned up at Cornton Vale prison in a burst of pink: pink jacket, pink leggings, and a pink suitcase on wheels. Surely there could never have been a more controversial arrival at the women's jail. Many readers will probably be aware, given the extensive coverage, that before this

remarkable transformation, Isla Bryson was none other than muscular, shaven-headed, tattooed double rapist Adam Graham. Let me, though, briefly recap the Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Another embarrassing U-turn in Sturgeon's Orwellian Scotland** WELL, they can't say we didn't warn them. Because, frankly, the ghastly mess the SNP Government and the Scottish Prison Service found themselves in over the imprisonment of transgender double rapist Isla Bryson this week will come as little surprise to women across Scotland. Did they really think that sending a convicted - and at the time of the attacks male - sex offender to a women's prison would wash?

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **FM refuses to guarantee more trans rapists won't end up in women's jails** THE First Minister yesterday admitted there should be a 'presumption' that transgender rapists do not end up in women's prisons - but refused to guarantee it will never happen again. Nicola Sturgeon said it should be presumed 'somebody who is convicted of rape is not in a women's prison' but insisted there should not be a 'blanket' approach. She said there needs to be a risk assessment in individual cases.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Truth that drives a coach and horses through the middle of trans ideology** WE were assured this would never happen. Time and time again, as the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill made its way through Holyrood, ministers dismissed fears that by making it easier for Scots to change their legal gender, they were also making it easier for male sex offenders to occupy women's spaces. Women would not suffer any reduction in their levels of safety, the Bill's critics were told, because there

Daily Mail (Scotland) 21 **Death of a hero** A FIREMAN has lost his fight for life after being injured in a blaze at Edinburgh's historic Jenners department store. Barry Martin, 38, was critically injured while tackling the flames in Rose Street on Monday and was taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Yesterday the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service [SFRS] announced that he had died. Interim chief officer Ross Haggart said: 'It is with profound sadness that I

Daily Record 6 **Cops: Bryson's rapes 'by man'** THE crimes carried out by Isla Bryson will be recorded as having been committed by a man, Police Scotland has confirmed. The transgender rapist from Clydebank attacked two women in 2016 and 2019 while she was a man called Adam Graham. The 31-year-old was transferred from Cornton Vale to a male prison in Edinburgh on Thursday night following uproar at the original decision to send the sex offender to a

Daily Record 2 **10% are gangsters in mob-handed jails** PRISON bosses have claimed keeping feuding gangs apart in jail was a "challenge" amid new stats showing nearly 10 per cent of inmates were linked to mobs. Some 589 prisoners - eight per cent of inmates - are linked to serious organised crime groups, while 176 are believed to be linked to 54 different active serious organised crime groups (SOCG), some on a global scale. There are 23 inmates who

Daily Record 7 **Violent trans convict moves to women's jail** NICOLA Sturgeon is facing another trans storm after a decision was made to house one of Scotland's most violent prisoners in a women's jail. The Record can reveal that volatile Tiffany Scott - who stalked a 13-year-old girl while called Andrew Burns - has been rubber-stamped for transfer to a jail that aligns with her chosen gender. Scott, 31, has been repeatedly refused the switch over several years but senior

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Jenners blaze claims life** A firefighter who was critically injured while fighting a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh has died. Police Scotland said Barry Martin, 38, died yesterday at the Royal Infirmary

of Edinburgh. Emergency services were called to the former department store in Princes Street on Monday morning. At its height, 22 fire appliances were sent to the scene, with more than 100 firefighters battling the blaze. Mr Martin (inset)

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon rejects total ban on sending rapists to female prisons** Nicola Sturgeon has rejected the idea of Scotland introducing a blanket ban on rapists being held in women's prisons, despite her views on the Isla Bryson case. The First Minister said the "general principle" should be that someone who rapes a woman should not be held in a female prison, but that there may be exceptions to this rule. She was speaking after a public outcry over the decision to The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Jack: trans rapist case shows self-ID flaws** THE Scottish Secretary has said the Isla Bryson trans rapist case demonstrates the flaws with Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID plan as she accused some of its opponents of racism and transphobia. Alister Jack told The Daily Telegraph that the decision to move Bryson to a women's jail, despite two rape convictions, had arisen from a Scottish Prison Service (SPS) policy "based on self-ID without objective checks and balances". Mr Jack,

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Firefighter dies after blaze at former department store** A FIREFIGHTER who was critically injured while fighting a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh has died. Police Scotland said Barry Martin, 38, passed away yesterday afternoon at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Emergency services were called to the former department store, in the Scottish capital's Princes Street, on Monday morning. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) sent 22 engines to extinguish the blaze and said the building was

The National (Scotland) 15 **Firefighter injured in Jenners blaze dies** A FIREFIGHTER who was critically injured while fighting a blaze at the historic Jenners building in Edinburgh has died. Police Scotland said Barry Martin, 38, died at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh yesterday. Emergency services were called to the former department store, in the Scottish capital's Princes Street, on Monday morning. Martin, 38, from Fife, was

The Scotsman 12 **Conservatives say Police Scotland must record all rapists as men - no questions** Police Scotland must record anyone charged or convicted of rape as male regardless of whether they subsequently seek to change gender, the Scottish Conservatives have said. The party made the call following the high-profile case of a double rapist who decided to transition from a man to a woman while awaiting trial. Isla Bryson, previously known as Adam Graham, was found guilty of raping one woman in Clydebank in 2016

The Scotsman 21 **Rape case's relevance is undeniable** I t is quite an achievement to have 95 per cent of the Scottish population nodding in agreement with Douglas Ross. However, the Scottish Conservative leader surely spoke for the nation, however transiently, when he told the First Minister: "We think it is wrong that a rapist is sent to a women's prison." Amidst the fall-out from Adam Graham's conviction, one aspect speaks to a wider truth - the moral

The Scotsman 24 **Case of trans rapist must spell the end for self-ID** T he end, when it came, was swift. Within ten minutes of rising to her feet in the parliament chamber on Thursday for First Minister's Questions, Nicola Sturgeon had killed off her controversial policy of self-ID. Pushed by Tory leader Douglas Ross, she admitted, after his fourth question on the subject, that double rapist Adam Graham, now known as Isla Bryson, would be removed from Scotland's all-female prison immediately. It

The Scotsman 12 **'If you can get a GR within three months lots of prisoners will do it'** The decision to send a transgender rapist to a women's prison was an "unnecessary shambles", its former governor has said. Rhona Hotchkiss said she would have refused to have Isla Bryson at Cornton Vale, which she ran until 2017. Bryson, 31, previously known as Adam Graham, was found guilty of raping one woman in Clydebank in 2016 and another in Drumchapel, Glasgow, in 2019, following a trial at the High

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **No blanket ban on rape beasts in female nicks** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday refused to rule out other rapists being locked up in women's prisons — despite outrage forcing trans fiend Isla Bryson to be removed from Cornton Vale. The First Minister warned against a "blanket" ban on biological males going to female jails — saying there should be a "presumption" against it, but with each case "risk assessed". Her comments sparked fresh fury a day after prison chiefs moved

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **JK CAGED PAEDO BLAST** JK Rowling took a fresh swipe at Nicola Sturgeon yesterday over the trans rapist row. The Harry Potter author, 57, hit out after Isla Bryson — who committed two rapes while living as Adam Graham — was removed from Cornton Vale By PAUL RODGER women's jail amid a backlash. But she highlighted that trans perv Katie Dolatowski is allowed to be held at the nick near Stirling. In Twitter posts,

The Times 27 **There's a better way to treat trans prisoners** Mark it in your diary: the bicentenary of the Gaols Act 1823. The work of the social reformer Elizabeth Fry, this landmark law mandated sexsegregated prisons with female inmates guarded by female wardens. When women were incarcerated among men, Fry observed, they were exploited, terrified and raped. She established a principle which became enshrined in international law, from UN protocols to the Geneva conventions. How, then, was history rewound, 200

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Trans rapist prison ban leaves governors open to legal action** Nicola Sturgeon has exposed prison bosses to legal action with her "off the hoof" prohibition on rapists going to women's jails, according to a former governor. Rhona Hotchkiss said the first minister had effectively created a new category of trans woman by intervening to remove Isla Bryson, a rapist, from Cornton Vale women's prison. The first minister said she agreed with the head of Rape Crisis Scotland, who said: "I

The Times (Scotland) 13 **Rail police chief is determined to fast-track bad officers out of force** Lucy D'Orsi has been at the helm of British Transport Police for less than two years and has sacked more officers than some chief constables in twice that time. She quickly developed a no-nonsense reputation in breaking apart what some saw as an old boys' network at the force, which is responsible for policing the railways in England, Wales and Scotland. The number of gross misconduct hearings tripled in her

The Times (Scotland) 9 **I was hounded out for raising concerns in 2019, says ex-MSP** A former SNP MP has said he was hounded out of the party for raising concerns about transgender sex offenders three years ago. Neale Hanvey, now Westminster leader of Alex Salmond's Alba Party, said he had raised the case of Katie Dolatowski with Shirley-Anne Somerville, then the equalities minister, in 2019 when he was the SNP candidate for Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath. Dolatowski, who is trans, committed sexual offences against two

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Daily Mail (Scotland) 21 **Death of a hero** A FIREMAN has lost his fight for life after being injured in a blaze at Edinburgh's historic Jenners department store. Barry Martin, 38, was critically injured while tackling the flames in Rose Street on Monday and was taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Yesterday the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service [SFRS] announced that he had died. Interim chief officer Ross Haggart said: 'It is with profound sadness that I

Daily Mail (Scotland) 21 **Nicola 'dishonest over A&E waits'** NICOLA Sturgeon was branded 'dishonest' last night after claiming the latest A&E waiting times were 'encouraging'. Figures on Tuesday showed emergency waiting times have improved in Scotland, but less than two-thirds of patients were treated within four hours. Miss Sturgeon made her comment after a meeting of the Scottish Government's resilience committee yesterday. Scottish Labour health spokesman Jackie Baillie said to paint the 'small' improvement in wait times 'as some

Daily Record 10 **Health delays are mental torture** NO ONE should have to wait almost a year to find out if they have cancer. But that's the appalling state of affairs facing one mum who underwent a smear test in February last year. She's been waiting ever since for a follow-up appointment for a colposcopy to determine whether there are early stages of cancer. The average wait for the procedure across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is 19

Daily Record 10 **APPALLING Mum waits for almost a year to find out if she has cancer** A MUM is suffering mental torment after waiting almost a year for a test to see if she has cancer. The woman, who asked not to be identified, had a smear test in February last year which showed she had abnormal cells. But she has waited ever since for a follow-up appointment for a colposcopy - a test to take a closer look at the cervix - to see if

The National (Scotland) 17 **IPs time to terminate all PFI contracts in our NHS** THE NHS is facing its greatest crisis yet. Everyone is agreed on that. Public confidence in, and satisfaction with, the service has never been weaker. Waiting times and waiting lists have never been longer, vacancies for staff never higher and morale never lower. Where there is no unanimity, however, is on how the crisis emerged and how best to solve it. It has been long in the making, due to

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 9 **Cancer research is boost for patients and staffing hopes** Clinical trials by NHS Grampian are helping improve the lives of cancer patients while curtailing the disease across the north-east and attempting to attract staff to the region. With NHS figures showing one in two people will develop some sort of cancer, research and collaboration is vital in not only treating people with the disease, but also as a preventative measure. NHS Grampian has traditionally been involved in clinical research

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 42 **Don't overlook vital research role of the NHS** As medical research resumes in earnest after Covid brought much of life to a standstill, it is wonderful to see NHS Grampian continue with its clinical trials, aiming to improve the lives of cancer patients both locally and across the globe. While the day-to-day care provided by hardworking NHS frontline staff is vitally important, medicine cannot progress without the thorough studies carried out by researchers. Though their work may not

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 9 **NHS boss says 'action plan' in place to prevent long ambulance waits** NHS Grampian's chief executive has said steps have been taken to prevent ambulances queuing up outside Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin. Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross wrote to the health board looking for answers after as many as eight ambulances were queued

up on January 3. Staff shortages and an increase in patients with respiratory illnesses such as flu and Covid were blamed for mounting pressure on the health service.

The Scotsman 4 **A&E still faces challenges** There are still "significant challenges" for the NHS despite waiting times improvements, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The First Minister chaired the fourth meeting of the Scottish Government's resilience committee (SGORR) yesterday, set up to deal with the pressures facing the health service. This week, figures showed A&E waiting times sharply improved, off the back of the lowest number of attendances in more than a year, but less than two thirds The Sun (Scotland) 7 **TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN LINE OF DUTY** TRIBUTES poured in last night to the hero firefighter who lost his life battling the Jenners inferno. Nicola Sturgeon described brave Barry Martin's death in the line of duty as a "terrible tragedy". Colleagues said the 38-year-old was a "dedicated firefighter". Barry, from Rosyth, Fife, died after helping tackle the blaze at the former Edinburgh department store building on Monday. He passed away yesterday at the city's Royal Infirmary. Scottish

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

The Herald 15 **Why farmers and rural groups have fears over plans for plant-based sustainable future** AS the impact of climate change grows more severe, the push for sustainability is crucial but recent moves by Edinburgh City Council have prompted concern among industry leaders. This month, the local authority became the first European capital to endorse the Plant Based Treaty, launched during COP26, which calls for a shift towards less meat and dairy consumption. However, Scottish rural groups have voiced concern that the decision did not

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **Row at claim injured stag left to suffer** Police have received complaints that a deer was left to suffer unnecessarily for five days after being shot. The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) claims the stag was found near the Quinag Estate in Sutherland with its jaw "hanging off". The John Muir Trust-owned estate has a licence from NatureScot for out-of-season and night shooting until late March for culling purposes, to protect woodland from grazing deer. Last night the estate

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Whisky tourism 'crippled' if alcohol promotion is banned** Scottish government plans to ban alcohol advertising and marketing would "cripple" whisky tourism and large parts of the economy, industry bosses have said. The proposals suggest the complete removal of alcohol promotion from public and online spaces as a way to help reduce consumption. As well as banning advertising on television, radio, billboards and in print, it could necessitate the removal of branding from the exteriors of pubs, distilleries and

The Times (Scotland) 12 **Last orders for alcohol advertising** Imagine arriving in the home of Scotch whisky and not being able to see any bottles of it on shop shelves, or buy a glass carrying the logo of your favourite brand. Craft beer or gin enthusiasts in Scotland would face the same issues if Holyrood's proposals on banning the marketing and advertising of alcohol come to fruition. Pubs, restaurants, delicatessens, off-licences, upmarket wine shops and single malt specialists could

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Daily Express (Scotland) 34 **Ferry good day after bookings break record** A RECORD-BREAKING day for ferry bookings has raised hopes of a summer tourism bonanza for Scotland's west coast islands. Yesterday, Caledonian MacBrayne announced it had processed 15,102 bookings in the first 24 hours since its summer schedule was announced - more than the operator has ever previously done in a

single day. Summer bookings - from Friday, March 31 to Sunday, October 15 - opened for all but three routes

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 20 **Scotland's avalanche risk heightened by climate change, claim experts** Climate change is bringing a greater risk of avalanches in the Scottish Highlands, according to the agency that forecasts the natural events The Scottish Avalanche Information Service (SAIS) told the BBC that avalanches are occurring more frequently, with storms playing a part in the increased risk. SAIS warned that even with less snow the risks could remain high, often further up towards the mountain summit. SAIS co-ordinator Mark Diggins said: The Herald 3 **Couple 'thankful' for the A83 closures saving their business** THE A83 at the Rest And Be Thankful has caused years of relentless misery for businesses, motorists and holidaymakers, despite almost £100 million being spent on temporary fixes that have failed to prevent it becoming blocked by landslips. However, the owners of a self-catering business in Argyll say that far from being an inconvenience, the problems that have hit the road have saved them from going under. When bookings ground

The Herald 9 **Fears for Scotland's puffins as hundreds wash up in Canaries** HUNDREDS of puffins have washed up dead or have been found in poor condition on the shores of the Canary Islands, which has raised serious concerns for Scotland's population of the birds. The discovery of a "massive" number of dead or dying Atlantic puffins has been reported by ornithologists and bird watchers on the beaches of the Spanish archipelago as well as on the coastlines of mainland regions such as

The Herald 11 **4,500 apply for 116 train driver jobs** MORE than 4,000 people applied for just over 100 train driver jobs with Scotland's newly nationalised rail firm. The lure of a starting pay packet of more than £31,000 rising to over £55,000 after three years, a final salary pension scheme, free travel and the thrill of driving at 100mph through the countryside attracted 4,500 applicants for 116 jobs with ScotRail. The company was transferred to public ownership on April

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 49 **Most Scots against gas imports** Aberdonians are having their say on the future of the North Sea, including producing oil and gas in "better" ways and "supporting our own economy". Advisory firm True North has released a study showing 76% of Scots want the UK to meet its own oil and gas demands than rely on overseas imports. However, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has confirmed a Labour government would block fresh investment in UK

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 12 **Industry leaders urging rethink on windfall tax** Rishi Sunak unveiled the new move when he was still chancellor of the exchequer last summer, describing it as a 25% Energy Profits Levy. A few months later, once he had replaced Liz Truss as PM in Downing Street, the new chancellor, Jeremy Hunt revealed this would increase to 35% and stay in place until March 2028. However, these steps have sparked concerns from industry bodies and warnings of large-scale

The Scotsman 11 **SNP asked for clarity on wind figures** Scotland's energy minister has been told to "set the record straight" on when Scottish Government ministers first became aware they were using an inaccurate wind statistic that was not "properly sourced". Ministers were forced to admit the much-used claim Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind energy potential was incorrect and inaccurate following the publication of a report by the pro-Union thinktank These Islands. When ministers were first

The Scotsman 14 **Climate change increasing avalanche risk** Climate change is bringing a greater risk of avalanches in the Scottish Highlands, according to the agency that forecasts the natural events. The Scottish Avalanche Information Service (SAIS) says avalanches are occurring more frequently, with storms playing a part in the increased risk. Speaking to the BBC, the forecaster warned even with less snow the risks could remain high, often further up towards the mountain summit. SAIS co-ordinator Mark Diggins

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Council tax may have to increase to protect services, warns leader** The leader of Argyll and Bute Council has warned that a rise in council tax may be unavoidable if services are to be saved. Councillor Robin Currie said that without more support, the authority will face major problems with job losses and fewer opportunities for businesses on the horizon. Argyll and Bute Council faces a budget gap of more than £12.2 million in 2023-24 alone, and of more than £54.5m

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Daily Express 15 **Women's rights are at risk** INWHAT maniacal world would you have people vigorously defending the rights of a transgender double rapist - a biological man who'd savagely raped two women yet had been put in a women's prison, posing a danger to every woman there? The Scottish parliament, that's where! Yep, Nicola Sturgeon and many of her loony SNP compatriots - whose minds have been so warped by the fanatical pro-trans lobby that it's rendered

Daily Express (Scotland) 14 **Nicola's crown is slipping** AFTER announcing she "despises" Tories, it shouldn't come as any surprise to hear the First Minister saying critics of her gender plans are probably "misogynistic", "homophobic" and even "racist". But Nicola Sturgeon should be aware that her honesty about loathing large parts of the Scottish public will not do her chances of remaining in post much good.

Her mantle is slipping further and many people will seize on this as an

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Police need 'unequivocal guidance' over trans sex offender cases, say Scottish Tories** POLICE Scotland must be given "unequivocal direction" by the Scottish Government in light of the chaos surrounding the Isla Bryson case, it was claimed yesterday. Following the conviction of Bryson, 31 - known as Adam Graham when he raped two vulnerable mothers in separate attacks three years apart - a decision "taken at the highest level" was made to send Bryson to Scotland's only women's prison, Cornton Vale near Stirling.

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **RAPES WILL BE RECORDED AS COMMITTED BY MAN** THE rapes committed by transgender Isla Bryson will officially be recorded as having been carried out by a man. As the row over the Scottish Government's handling of the case deepens, Police Scotland categorically stated how they will log his offences. Bryson was known as Adam Graham when he carried out his two rapes. But, after being charged and appearing in court, the 31-year-old from Clydebank revealed he was "transitioning"

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Anger at Sturgeon's gender laws outburst** A FURIOUS row erupted last night after the First Minister labelled some critics of her controversial gender reform plans "misogynistic, homophobic and racist". The astonishing outburst came as the fall-out from the decision to send a "transitioning" rapist to a women's prison deepened. As well as facing widespread criticism over the case, Nicola Sturgeon has been under fire for weeks for her proposed plans to allow anyone over 16 in

Daily Mail 46 **My fears for trans teenagers** deeply disturbed by aggressive 'trans' activism, especially Nicola Sturgeon's determination that 16-year-olds should be considered old enough to address the complex issue and make mature decisions. In my view, that single-minded obsession is the polar opposite of 'kind' — because it could ruin many a young life. Your letter suggests just one reason why. Nowadays you would be pressured to call yourself a 'trans woman' and perhaps even take the Daily Mail 19 **How dare woke young women try to cancel us feminists** THERE was almost universal outrage over the trans double rapist 'Isla Bryson' — formerly Adam Graham — being sent to a Scottish woman's prison. Yes, this individual claims to have begun hormone replacement therapy as part of his 'transition' to living as a woman — but only after being arrested. He — I will not be calling him 'she' out of respect to his victims — remains in full possession

Daily Mail (Scotland) 36 **Sturgeon's madhouse** SHE turned up at Cornton Vale prison in a burst of pink: pink jacket, pink leggings, and a pink suitcase on wheels. Surely there could never have been a more controversial arrival at the women's jail. Many readers will probably be aware, given the extensive coverage, that before this remarkable transformation, Isla Bryson was none other than muscular, shaven-headed, tattooed double rapist Adam Graham. Let me, though, briefly recap the Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Truth that drives a coach and horses through the middle of trans ideology** WE were assured this would never happen. Time and time again, as the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill made its way through Holyrood, ministers dismissed fears that by making it easier for Scots to change their legal gender, they were also making it easier for male sex offenders to occupy women's spaces. Women would not suffer any reduction in their levels of safety, the Bill's critics were told, because there

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **SNP accused of attack on democracy** NATIONALIST councillors have accused SNP ministers of an attack on democracy by trying to block them from cutting teacher numbers. Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville came under fire from SNP councillors yesterday after she confirmed she could impose financial penalties on authorities that cut teachers or reduce the school day. Council umbrella group Cosla is considering legal action over the threat. It comes after SNP ministers themselves accused the UK Government

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Fury as Sturgeon brands critics of gender law 'racist and homophobic'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been condemned for a 'disgusting and desperate' attack on her gender reform critics after she called them homophobic and racist. The First Minister claimed some politicians have used the issue of women's rights as a 'cloak' to cover up their transphobia and claimed they are also misogynistic, often homophobic and sometimes racist. Opponents accused her of using 'baseless' attacks rather than engaging with those who oppose her

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **FM refuses to guarantee more trans rapists won't end up in women's jails** THE First Minister yesterday admitted there should be a 'presumption' that transgender rapists do not end up in women's prisons - but refused to guarantee it will never happen again. Nicola Sturgeon said it should be presumed 'somebody who is convicted of rape is not in a women's prison' but insisted there should not be a 'blanket' approach. She said there needs to be a risk assessment in individual cases.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Another embarrassing U-turn in Sturgeon's Orwellian Scotland** WELL, they can't say we didn't warn them. Because, frankly, the ghastly mess the SNP Government and the Scottish Prison Service found themselves in over the imprisonment of transgender double rapist Isla Bryson this week will come

as little surprise to women across Scotland. Did they really think that sending a convicted - and at the time of the attacks male - sex offender to a women's prison would wash?

Daily Record 7 **FM: TRANSPHOBES USING ISSUE** NICOLA Sturgeon has claimed some opponents of her gender reforms are using women's rights to mask their transphobia. The First Minister stressed not all opponents of the blocked Gender Recognition Reform Bill hold this view. But she told The News Agents podcast: "There are some people' that I think have decided to use women's rights as a sort of cloak of acceptability to cover up what is transphobia "There are

Daily Record 7 **Violent trans convict moves to women's jail** NICOLA Sturgeon is facing another trans storm after a decision was made to house one of Scotland's most violent prisoners in a women's jail. The Record can reveal that volatile Tiffany Scott - who stalked a 13-year-old girl while called Andrew Burns - has been rubber-stamped for transfer to a jail that aligns with her chosen gender. Scott, 31, has been repeatedly refused the switch over several years but senior

Daily Record 6 **Cops: Bryson's rapes 'by man'** THE crimes carried out by Isla Bryson will be recorded as having been committed by a man, Police Scotland has confirmed. The transgender rapist from Clydebank attacked two women in 2016 and 2019 while she was a man called Adam Graham. The 31-year-old was transferred from Cornton Vale to a male prison in Edinburgh on Thursday night following uproar at the original decision to send the sex offender to a

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 6 **Opponents 'using cloak of acceptability'** Some opponents of Scotland's gender reforms are using women's rights as a "cloak" to hide their own transphobia, homophobia, misogyny and racism, Nicola Sturgeon has claimed. The First Minister's comments triggered an angry reaction from her opponents, who accused her of using "disgusting" tactics to discredit people who opposed the changes. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill is in a state of limbo after being blocked from becoming law by i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 6

Sturgeon rejects total ban on sending rapists to female prisons Nicola Sturgeon has rejected the idea of Scotland introducing a blanket ban on rapists being held in women's prisons, despite her views on the Isla Bryson case. The First Minister said the "general principle" should be that someone who rapes a woman should not be held in a female prison, but that there may be exceptions to this rule. She was speaking after a public outcry over the decision to The Daily Telegraph 5 **Women's rights used as cloak to be transphobic, claims**

Sturgeon NICOLA STURGEON has accused some opponents of her gender reforms of using women's rights as a "cloak" for their transphobia, misogyny, homophobia and racism. Shortly after announcing a transgender rapist would be moved out of a women's prison, she said some critics of her self-ID plans were "deeply misogynist, often homophobic, possibly some of them racist as well". She also told Global's The News Agents podcast that as a "general

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Library and road funding at risk as councils tackle hole in budget** SCOTLAND'S council chiefs have threatened to cut roads spending and shut libraries after Nicola Sturgeon blocked them reducing teacher numbers. Local authority leaders said they were taking legal advice on the First Minister's decision to prevent them cutting teaching positions and reducing the school week to deal with a funding black hole. In a joint statement after a meeting in Edinburgh, they accused the SNP government of "an unnecessary and

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Jack: trans rapist case shows self-ID flaws** THE Scottish Secretary has said the Isla Bryson trans rapist case demonstrates the flaws

with Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID plan as she accused some of its opponents of racism and transphobia. Alister Jack told The Daily Telegraph that the decision to move Bryson to a women's jail, despite two rape convictions, had arisen from a Scottish Prison Service (SPS) policy "based on self-ID without objective checks and balances". Mr Jack,

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Roads and libraries at risk under council cuts** Scottish council chiefs have threatened to cut roads spending and shut libraries after Nicola Sturgeon blocked them reducing teacher numbers. Local authority leaders said they were taking legal advice on the First Minister's decision to stop them cutting teaching positions and the school week to deal with a funding black hole. They accused the SNP government of "an unnecessary and unwanted attack and intervention on our democratic mandate". Page 2

The National (Scotland) 2 **Councils 'seek legal advice' over cuts** SCOTTISH council leaders have said they will be seeking legal advice after the SNP government said it would intervene to prevent teacher numbers being cut. The extraordinary move comes as the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) warns that there is a "crisis in local government funding like never before" and cuts will have to be made somewhere. On Thursday, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced that her Government would act

The National (Scotland) 4 **'Some gender reform critics using bill to cloak transphobia'** NICOLA Sturgeon has accused some critics of Holyrood's gender reforms of using the debates to "cloak" their transphobia, misogyny and racism. The First Minister made the comments on The News Agents podcast, which is released this afternoon. Speaking to journalist Lewis Goodall, the FM spoke on a wide range of topics, including the debate around the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Last week, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack used the provision in

The National (Scotland) 9 **Poorest pails of Scotland snubbed for Tory funding** THE UK Government has been slated for disregarding Levelling Up bids from Scotland's poorest areas in the latest round of levelling up funding. It has emerged five of the least well-off districts in Scotland - according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) - received no grants at all in the second tranche of the scheme that

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **SNP's Westminster chief 'hiding' after gender reform row** SNP Westminster chief Stephen Flynn is facing a backlash after one of his party colleagues wrote directly to the Tories over concerns with Nicola Sturgeon's gender law reforms. Dr Lisa Cameron suggested Tory Scottish Secretary Alister Jack could "intervene" despite leading SNP figures - including the first minister - insisting the UK Government's intervention undermined devolution. Mr Flynn, the MP for Aberdeen South, supports his party's reforms which aim

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 46 **Who said it?** "I've got one leg, I've got no feet, I see through one eye, one workable hand. I was burned all over, and I feel strong, I feel more confident than I ever have" - Fox News correspondent Benjamin Hall in his first live television appearance since being seriously injured in Ukraine. "What's the point of building HS2 just to get to Birmingham?" - Labour peer Lord Berkeley, who in 2019

The Scotsman 21 **Rape case's relevance is undeniable** It is quite an achievement to have 95 per cent of the Scottish population nodding in agreement with Douglas Ross. However, the Scottish Conservative leader surely spoke for the nation, however transiently, when he told the First Minister: "We think it is wrong that a rapist

is sent to a women's prison." Amidst the fall-out from Adam Graham's conviction, one aspect speaks to a wider truth - the moral

The Scotsman 22 **Sturgeon sounds like she's lost the plot** Nicola Sturgeon's claim that there are people opposed to the Gender Recognition Reform Bill who are "transphobic deeply misogynist, often homophobic, possibly some of them racist as well" was a deeply cynical attempt to tar her political opponents with the worst kind of brush. Humiliated over the case of the transgender rapist sent initially to a women's prison then, following public uproar, moved to a men's one, the First

The Scotsman 2 **Gender reform row opens up a new front in the SNP** Nicola Sturgeon continues to fight the public battle against opponents of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, passed cross-party overwhelmingly days before Christmas. But as this battle rages, most recently with the case of the rapist Isla Bryson, there is a potential new front opening within the SNP. In an interview with The Scotsman's political podcast The Steamie, the SNP's youngest MSP, Emma Roddick, hits out at what she labels

The Scotsman 9 **First Minister urged to stop pool closures** Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to fund councils properly to stop the closure of swimming pools in Falkirk. Conservative MSP Graham Simpson raised at First Minister's Questions on Thursday the considered closure of four school and one public swimming pool in Falkirk "to make ends meet". He said: "I've had numerous emails about this and it boils down to council funding cuts from this Government. Does the First Minister agree

The Scotsman 24 **Case of trans rapist must spell the end for self-ID** The end, when it came, was swift. Within ten minutes of rising to her feet in the parliament chamber on Thursday for First Minister's Questions, Nicola Sturgeon had killed off her controversial policy of self-ID. Pushed by Tory leader Douglas Ross, she admitted, after his fourth question on the subject, that double rapist Adam Graham, now known as Isla Bryson, would be removed from Scotland's all-female prison immediately. It

The Scotsman 1 **Councils in legal threat after teacher cuts blocked** Steps to safeguard teaching posts from council cuts amount to an "unwanted attack and intervention" on the democratic mandate of local authorities, the umbrella body Cosla has warned. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said her government would "act to protect teacher numbers" in the face of widespread saving drives by councils trying to balance their budgets for the year ahead. But the local government body, which is seeking legal advice on

The Scotsman 12 **Conservatives say Police Scotland must record all rapists as men - no questions** Police Scotland must record anyone charged or convicted of rape as male regardless of whether they subsequently seek to change gender, the Scottish Conservatives have said. The party made the call following the high-profile case of a double rapist who decided to transition from a man to a woman while awaiting trial. Isla Bryson, previously known as Adam Graham, was found guilty of raping one woman in Clydebank in 2016

The Scotsman 8 **Councils begin to wield the axe as unprecedented cuts come into focus** Take care of the pennies, the old saying has it, and the pounds will take care of themselves. Never has a proverb rung quite so true for Scotland's local authorities, which are facing up to some of the most difficult economic decisions they have had to make in years. Across the country, councillors and local authority officers are preparing to dot the Is and cross the Ts on a range

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **JK CAGED PAEDO BLAST** JK Rowling took a fresh swipe at Nicola Sturgeon yesterday over the trans rapist row. The Harry Potter author, 57, hit out after Isla Bryson — who committed two rapes while living as Adam Graham — was removed from Cornton Vale By PAUL RODGER women's jail amid a backlash. But she highlighted that trans perv Katie Dolatowski is allowed to be held at the nick near Stirling. In Twitter posts,

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **No blanket ban on rape beasts in female nicks** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday refused to rule out other rapists being locked up in women's prisons — despite outrage forcing trans fiend Isla Bryson to be removed from Cornton Vale. The First Minister warned against a "blanket" ban on biological males going to female jails — saying there should be a "presumption" against it, but with each case "risk assessed". Her comments sparked fresh fury a day after prison chiefs moved

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Nicola's riddles** NICOLA Sturgeon is a master of leaving people with the impression she's said something — when she hasn't actually done so. The First Minister displayed this prowess at Holyrood on Thursday when talking about whether biological males convicted of rape — regardless of whether they are trans — should ever be placed in women's prisons. She was put on the spot, of course, due to double-rapist Isla Bryson — or

The Sun (Scotland) 9 **Fury as critics of Bill dubbed 'racist' by FM** FURIOUS Tories last night accused Nicola Sturgeon of launching a "disgusting and desperate" attack on opponents of her gender self-ID laws. The First Minister claimed some critics were transphobic, misogynistic, homophobic and "possibly some of them racist". Her comments came in an interview for Global's News Agents podcast. She said: "I've heard people, politicians, claiming to be defenders of women's rights who I had never heard defend women's rights in

The Times 27 **There's a better way to treat trans prisoners** Mark it in your diary: the bicentenary of the Gaols Act 1823. The work of the social reformer Elizabeth Fry, this landmark law mandated sexsegregated prisons with female inmates guarded by female wardens. When women were incarcerated among men, Fry observed, they were exploited, terrified and raped. She established a principle which became enshrined in international law, from UN protocols to the Geneva conventions. How, then, was history rewound, 200

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Ringfenced teacher spending will force us to close libraries, local councils warn** Council bosses have threatened to cut money from vital children's services in response to an "unnecessary and unwanted attack" on their autonomy over teacher numbers. Cosla, the council negotiating body led by the SNP, is considering taking the Scottish government to court over Nicola Sturgeon's threat of legal or financial penalties for any council that fails to contribute towards her manifesto pledge of 3,500 more teachers. The first minister gave

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Trans rapist prison ban leaves governors open to legal action** Nicola Sturgeon has exposed prison bosses to legal action with her "off the hoof" prohibition on rapists going to women's jails, according to a former governor. Rhona Hotchkiss said the first minister had effectively created a new category of trans woman by intervening to remove Isla Bryson, a rapist, from Cornton Vale women's prison. The first minister said she agreed with the head of Rape Crisis Scotland, who said: "I

The Times (Scotland) 9 **I was hounded out for raising concerns in 2019, says ex-MSP** A former SNP MP has said he was hounded out of the party for raising concerns about transgender sex offenders three years ago. Neale Hanvey, now

Westminster leader of Alex Salmond's Alba Party, said he had raised the case of Katie Dolatowski with Shirley-Anne Somerville, then the equalities minister, in 2019 when he was the SNP candidate for Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath. Dolatowski, who is trans, committed sexual offences against two

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Feminism 'used to cloak transphobia'** Some opponents of gender recognition reform are using women's rights as a "cloak of acceptability" for transphobia, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The UK government has blocked the bill from becoming law, citing its impact on UK-wide equalities legislation and triggering a constitutional dispute that is likely to reach the courts. In an interview with Global's The News Agents podcast, Sturgeon said: "I have heard people, politicians, claiming to be defenders

10. CORPORATE

The Scotsman 4 **Youngest MSP says colleagues have removed Twitter** SNP MSPs have taken to removing social media apps from their mobile phones in a bid to protect themselves from online abuse, Scotland's youngest MSP has said. Emma Roddick, the SNP MSP for the Highlands and Islands, told The Scotsman's political podcast The Steamie that abuse received by politicians online had led to some shunning the technology. She also accused pro-independence bloggers of stoking the abuse through their posts and

The Scotsman 9 **MSPs set to cross Holyrood picket lines** MSPs are set to cross the picket line of the strike by Holyrood civil servants next week, with all SNP, Liberal Democrat and Conservative members expected to attend. Scottish Green MSPs, however, are understood to not be expected to attend for ordinary business. Scottish Labour is yet to settle on a position, which could put them at odds with their trade union supporters. Members of the PCS union are taking

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The National (Scotland) 4 **FM no longer '100% sure Tories wouldn't try to abolish Holyrood'** THE First Minister has said she is no longer "100% sure" that the Tories wouldn't go as far as attempting to abolish the Scottish Parliament. Speaking to The News Agents podcast, Nicola Sturgeon told of a "concerted effort" in Westminster to weaken Holyrood and delegitimise it. It comes after the UK Government used a Section 35 order to block Scotland's gender reforms from becoming law, and shortly after the first

The Scotsman 6 **Governments don't agree on indyref but can still work together, says Hunt** Jeremy Hunt has insisted disagreements over independence does not mean the UK and Scottish governments cannot work together more. The Chancellor claimed relations between the two administrations were far better than the "rhetoric", saying that politicians were campaigners so their words were not representative. His assertion comes in the wake of the UK government triggering a Section 35 order to block the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, sparking a

The Scotsman 25 **Where's the public outrage over Brexit?** It's hard to believe it is fast approaching the seventh anniversary of the Brexit vote. It's three years since we formally left the EU on January 31, 2020, but just two since the end of the "transition period", when the UK continued to be in the single market and observe Brussels laws, on December 31, 2020. A Panelbase survey for the Times last August found that if the Brexit

Item 9:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitoring Unit Manager

Sent: 26 January 2023 10:31

To: Media Summaries [Redacted]; keith.brown.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: This Morning's News and Events - Thursday 26 January 2023

Broadcast summaries

BBC Scotland

Minister to intervene over teacher cuts The BBC understands the Education Secretary is preparing to stop local councils cutting teacher numbers. Shirley-Anne Somerville is considering a range of options and is likely to announce action within days. She's also expected to prevent local authorities from cutting the number of school hours. The move is likely to trigger a major row between Scottish and local government over funding levels and where power lies.

Rep Scotland

GMS0700	<i>Report</i>	Glenn Campbell
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GMS0730

GMS0747

GMS0800

GMS0806	<i>Report</i>	Glenn Campbell
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Clip

First Minister

GMS0830	<i>Clip</i>	First Minister
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GMS0848

Experimental cancer trials receive funding An experimental cancer treatment that helped to cure a Paisley man of his lymphoma is receiving a £4 million boost. The funding will be used to further clinical trials in Edinburgh and Glasgow of a special type of cell therapy.

GMS0700

GMS0730	<i>Report</i>	Joanne Macaulay
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GMS0800	<i>Clip</i>	Professor Jeff Evans (University of
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Glasgow)

GMS0848

Public spending in Scotland 'faces huge cuts' The Scottish Government faces stark funding challenges over the coming years according to a thinktank. The Institute for Fiscal Studies issued the warning ahead of a debate at Holyrood where MSPs will hear further concerns about long-term planning.

Rep Scotland

GMS0706	<i>Interview</i>	David Phillips (Institute for Fiscal Studies)
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GMS0730	<i>Clip</i>	David Phillips (Institute for Fiscal Studies)
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GMS0800	<i>Report</i>	Phil Sim
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GMS0830

Gangland contracts put on Scottish prisoners The Prison Officers Association in Scotland says its members are under massive pressure because of a huge increase

in the number of inmates linked to serious and organised crime. Figures released to the BBC reveal it's more than doubled in the last six years with jails currently holding more than 500 individuals linked to crime groups. Last year, more than 50 serious prisoner on prisoner assaults were linked to the gangs.

Rep Scotland Service)	<i>Clip</i>	Fiona Cruickshanks (Scottish Prison
GMS0700	<i>Clip</i>	Phil Fairlie (Prison Officers Association)
GMS0730 Service)	<i>Clip</i>	Fiona Cruickshanks (Scottish Prison
GMS0750	<i>Report</i>	David Cowan
	<i>Clip</i>	Fiona Cruickshanks (Scottish Prison
Service)	<i>Clip</i>	Phil Fairlie (Prison Officers Association)
	<i>Clip</i>	Keith Brown MSP
GMS0830 Association)	<i>Clip</i>	Phil Fairlie (Prison Officers

Scottish business monitor report published The latest Addleshaw Goddard Scottish Business Monitor report is out this morning. It's put together in conjunction with Strathclyde University's Fraser of Allander Institute.

GMS0736	<i>Interview</i>	Mairi Spowage (Fraser of Allander Institute)
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Mountain railway reopens after four-year shutdown The Cairngorm funicular railway, which has been out of action for more than four years, is reopening to the public today. It comes after £25 million worth of major remedial work was done amid concerns about the infrastructure.

GMS0754	<i>Interview</i>	Dave Macleod (Highlands and Island Enterprise)
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Good Morning Britain

Public spending in Scotland 'faces huge cuts' Public services in Scotland must be cut by more than 10 per cent if there is to be increased funding to tackle climate change and for the NHS. That is according to analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The Scottish Government says it highlights the urgent need for additional financial powers for Scotland, such as those that would come with independence.

Strikes by teachers continue across Scotland Teachers in Midlothian and West Dunbartonshire are the latest to go on strike. EIS union members are taking the action as part of a pay dispute.

Clyde One

Strikes by teachers continue across Scotland Teachers in West Dunbartonshire are walking out today as the pay dispute with the Scottish Government and Cosla rumbles on. There will be a rally outside Clydebanks town hall. The EIS union is halfway through the three-week campaign of rolling strikes. Tomorrow, lessons will be cancelled in Renfrewshire.

Radio 4

No further stories

Kaye Adams

- How much littering is there in your area? What should we do about it?

The Nine

- An urgent debate has been held in the Scottish Parliament after the conviction of a trans woman who committed rape before starting transition.

<i>Report</i>	Catriona Renton
<i>Clip</i>	Keith Brown MSP
<i>Clip</i>	Fiona Cruickshanks (Scottish Prison Service)
<i>Clip</i>	Joanna Cherry MP (SNP)
<i>Interview</i>	Russell Findlay MSP (Scottish Conservative)
<i>Interview</i>	Karen Adam MSP (SNP)

- Ambulance response times in Scotland have improved, but turnaround times at hospitals are still an issue, and staff say more people are becoming sick because they can't afford to heat their homes.

<i>Report</i>	Lisa Summers
<i>Clip</i>	Tanya Hoffman (Student technician)
<i>Clip</i>	Wil Green (Paramedic)

- Cairngorm funicular railway, which has been out of action for more than four years, is to reopen to the public from tomorrow.

<i>Report</i>	Iain McInnes
<i>Clip</i>	Ken Brown (Balfour Beatty)
<i>Clip</i>	David Macleod (Highlands and Islands Enterprise)
<i>Clip</i>	Susan Smith (Cairngorm Mountain Ltd)

Scotland Tonight

- The Scottish Conservatives have tabled an urgent question at Holyrood over a trans woman convicted of rape before she transitioned.

<i>Clip</i>	Russell Findlay MSP (Scottish Conservative)
<i>Clip</i>	Keith Brown MSP
<i>Interview</i>	Fiona Cruickshanks (Scottish Prison Service)

Press coverage

First Minister

Sturgeon hails 'essential' role of offshore wind as new base opens Nicola Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future - at the same time as a major new green power development passed a "significant milestone". The operations and maintenance base for the new £2 billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. It will see turbines located about 9.6 miles (15.5km) off the Fife coast, and when up and... SM8; H4; DR6; Nat2

SNP legal team ran up eye-watering £14k hotel bill in 'futile' indyref case Nearly £14,000 of taxpayers' money was spent on hotel rooms for lawyers fighting the SNP's doomed Supreme Court independence case. The delegation, led by Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain and made up of lawyers, officials and one of Nicola Sturgeon's special advisers, ran up the eye-watering bill during the November hearing in London. Miss Bain and some of her top officials stayed in £460-a-night hotel rooms, while others in the Scottish... DMail13

Sturgeon will block council moves to cut teaching staff Nicola Sturgeon will stamp her authority on councils to prevent them from cutting teacher numbers and school hours to balance the books. The first minister is understood to be preparing penalties for local authorities that stand in the way of her manifesto pledge to recruit 3,500 teachers by 2026. She has been alerted to a risk of a four-figure reduction in the classroom workforce if she does not step in... Times1

Brown passes the buck on transgender rapist jailing *See Justice*

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Finance and the Economy

IFS: Spend on health and net zero will harm future The Scottish Government could be forced to make cuts of 13 per cent to public services in the next four years if it wants to boost spending on the health service and net zero policies, a leading financial think-tank has said. An analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has compounded worries of funding issues in Edinburgh, saying that future non-benefit spending could be "tight". SM1; H6; DTel6; DTel17; Nat4

Mountain railway scales Cairngorm once more following £25 million repair job Today Scotland's only mountain railway will re-open at Cairngorm Mountain Resort, more than four years after it was shut down due to safety issues. The return of the railway, which climbs to 1,065 metres, comes after more than £25 million was spent on bringing it back into operation. Snowsports enthusiasts will be transported to the upper slopes along two kilometres of track, with the newly refurbished Ptarmigan building, which houses the... SM3; H10; Sun25; DTel3; Nat19

Taxpayer unlikely to see all of £16.4m tied up in BiFab despite legal action Ministers have commenced legal action in an attempt to wrestle back £16.4 million from the Scottish Government's doomed investment into BiFab. A progress report from the company's administrators

states, however, the prospect of the taxpayer being repaid in full is "unlikely". The firm, which had plants in Fife and Lewis, received £52m from the Scottish Government, including a £16.4m loan, which remains unpaid and was viewed as the best option... SM12

Level down The UK Government has been accused of handing Levelling Up funding to wealthy areas in England at the expense of the poorest communities in Scotland. Tory ministers were criticised after millions in taxpayers' cash was last week awarded to projects in well-off local authority areas south of the Border. It has now emerged that five of the least well-off council areas in Scotland received no grants from the Levelling Up... DR6; PJ7

Scotland's public sector more bloated than pre-Covid Scotland's bloated public sector is employing 30,000 more people than before the pandemic, according to a Holyrood inquiry that lambasted SNP ministers for having no plans for reform or to reduce the payroll. The Scottish Parliament's cross-party finance committee warned that high inflation means the public sector requires staffing reductions "over and above that figure" to meet an SNP pledge to hold the state's wage bill to 2022/23 levels. DTel6

Weaker growth in Scotland costs £700m in lost tax The Scottish government may be losing out on almost £700 million of income tax revenue because of weaker economic growth north of the border. The Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC), which as part of its remit forecasts how much tax policies will raise for ministers, believes that differences between Scotland and the rest of the UK should contribute about an extra £1 billion to the income tax revenues in this financial... Times8

Comment This is no game DR12

Comment Money troubles Sun12

Scotland can power UK energy revolution See *Net Zero, Energy and Transport*

Health and Social Care

Yousaf welcomes booster campaign Scotland's Health Secretary has welcomed a move to target those most vulnerable to the ill-effects of Covid with a booster shot this autumn, and some Scots could get one within a matter of weeks. The joint committee on vaccination and immunisation (JCVI) yesterday said plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe Covid-19 to be offered a booster in autumn, and for a smaller group... SM4; H4; PJ14; Nat5

Scots urged to consider career in social care A Scottish Government campaign which aims to boost recruitment in the social care sector has been launched. The £500,000 drive aims to encourage more Scots to consider a career in the sector, with social care minister Kevin Stewart saying while the work can be "challenging", staff can have a "hugely positive impact". The government has been working to increase recruitment after staffing was impacted by Brexit, and ministers have pledged... SM8; DR14; PJ10; Nat20

Scot who is cancer free after experimental treatment welcomes £3.6m funding boost A man who is cancer free after experimental treatment has welcomed £3.9 million in funding to help further

developments to treat the disease. Jim McCallum, 76, from Paisley, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2017 after going to the doctor and hoping he would be told it was a "harmless lump". Mr McCallum's cancer did not respond well to treatment but, in 2020, he was able to take part in... SM20; H5; DExp21; Nat17

Asthma concern in pyro use Joseph Carter, the Head of Asthma and Lung UK Scotland, has called for the greater enforcement of the ban on pyrotechnics at sporting events following a spate of alarming incidents this season. Kick-off in the Edinburgh derby match at Easter Road on Sunday was delayed because smoke bombs had been thrown onto the pitch by both sets of supporters. More smoke bombs were then set off by fans of the... H7; Nat35

'Volunteer for health study' call Thousands of volunteers are being sought to take part in a huge study looking at Scotland's health. Participants will be asked to submit saliva samples and allow access to medical records. The Generation Scotland study has run since 2006 and has helped to develop potentially lifesaving treatments. More than 24,000 people already take part but researchers want another 20,000. H8

Miracle cure to save NHS Exercise and healthy living is the "miracle treatment" which could go a long way to easing the pressure on Scotland's crippled NHS. With a growing number of elderly people and a Scottish lifestyle plagued by obesity, alcohol, drug and smoking addiction, hospitals and GP surgeries are facing record demand. And experts believe that a healthier lifestyle as the population ages is vital to the survival of the NHS in its... DR8

Cancer tests call Two cervical cancer survivors have teamed up to campaign for home test kits to be rolled out across the country. Emma Keyes and Lauren McNulty want women to be given swab kits as soon as they become sexually active rather than waiting until 25, which is when cervical screening currently begins. Emma, from Uddingston in Lanarkshire, received her shock diagnosis in July 2021 after admittedly "ignoring" smear test letters. DR27

National care service may be halted as calls for rethink grow Ministers are to consider delaying the SNP's trumpeted plans for a national care service as criticism of the flagship policy grows. In an apparent U-turn, Kevin Stewart, the social care minister, said the party would weigh up views and reflect on whether more time should be taken to formulate the plans. Councils, carers' charities, unions and MSPs, including SNP politicians, have called for the Scottish government to suspend or rethink... Times2

Locums cover plan for hospital staff shortage Locums could be paid to work at the new National Treatment Centre in Inverness when it opens because there's a shortage of staff. A new report reveals that NHS Highland still needs to recruit around 20% of the workforce required to fully run the facility. The hospital is part of a network of 10 national treatment centres across the country funded by the Scottish Government to keep up with increased... PJ4

Man renews fight to end secret meds An Aberdeen man is making another push to protect care home residents like his late mother from being given concealed antipsychotic drugs. Hunter Watson, 87, has been trying to outlaw hidden medication in patients' food and drink ever since Helen Watson died in January 2000. Antipsychotic drugs were

concealed in her food while she had dementia and was living in a care home. Mr Watson wants the Scottish Government to... PJ10

Comment We can't keep just chucking cash at problem DR9

Comment Rural health services are on life support - and need action now PJ27

Comment Brexit, austerity, Covid: Why is Scotland's NHS gripped by crisis? Nat5

Education and Skills

Teachers mark halfway point in strike action with Burns-style recital A poem about teachers and written in Scots was recited at a rally in Edinburgh to mark the anniversary of Robert Burns' birth and the halfway point of 16 days of rolling strike action. Hundreds of educators braved the cold yesterday as the EIS union held a rally outside the Scottish National Gallery on The Mound, echoing their previous calls for a 10 per cent pay rise. SM14; DExp4; PJ13

Health board to promote Gaelic connections with language plan A new English and Gaelic identity for NHS Highland is to be rolled out "shortly". The health board is one of 57 Scottish organisations required to have a Gaelic plan aimed at supporting the language and making it "increasingly visible and audible". Around half of Scotland's 87,000 Gaelic speakers are based in the region. NHS Highland says digital versions of the new branding can be rolled out at no cost... PJ5

Sturgeon will block council moves to cut teaching staff *See First Minister*

Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Network Rail faces charges over fatal Stonehaven crash Network Rail is set to be prosecuted for failings over the Carmont rail crash in which three people were killed, The Scotsman has learned. The infrastructure body will face charges over health and safety shortcomings that led to the fatal ScotRail train derailment near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire in 2020, it is understood. However, it is believed no corporate homicide charges will be brought. SM1

Engineers work through the night on water main Engineers have been work through the night as they repair the burst water main which left hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland's largest city without water for hours. A 36ins water main burst in Milngavie, East Dunbartonshire, on Tuesday afternoon and led to flooding in the area - as well as interrupting supplies for around 250,000 customers in parts of Glasgow. The force of the mains bursting split Auchenhowie... SM18; DExp10

Scotland can power UK energy revolution Scotland's vast financial services sector can help power the UK to become the lead country in achieving net zero targets, according to one of the most prominent figures in London's Square Mile. Chris Hayward, policy chairman at the City of London Corporation, said green finance as a tool to drive net zero was of "fundamental importance" as he highlighted the strengths of the banking and financial services sectors on both... SM46

Council members firm over wind farm objection Highland councillors have refused to drop their opposition to a controversial wind farm proposed for Strath Oykel. The Scottish

Government had invited the council's north planning committee to review its previous decisions in light of the new national planning framework. But members reacted angrily, accusing the Scottish Government - and the council's own planning officers - of not respecting their decision. The controversy centred on two wind farm applications which... PJ6

Call for Toll of Birness U-turn Calls have been made for urgent upgrades to a collision blackspot on the A90 after data revealed seven people have died on the road in the last three years. Figures, obtained from police by the Scottish Conservatives, showed a further 49 people were injured in crashes at the Toll of Birness junction, on the A90 north of Ellon. The notorious junction has been at the centre of heated discussions at... PJ7

Sturgeon hails 'essential' role of offshore wind as new base opens *See First Minister*

Justice

Brown passes the buck on transgender rapist jailing Scotland's Justice Secretary has refused to intervene to ensure a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man is not held in a women's prison. Keith Brown said he trusted the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to make the best decision and insisted their track record was "exemplary". Earlier this week, following a trial at the High Court in Glasgow, Isla Bryson was found guilty of raping... SM5; H1; H4; DR13; Sun10; DMail4; DMail6; DExp1; DExp4; DTel1; Times9; Guard15; PJ17; Nat8

Comment Gender certificates don't place prisoners, so why are MSPs rowing? H4

Comment The rights of women must trump those of a rapist DMail6

Comment Ditch gender bill now DMail14

Comment The smirking rapist now sitting in a female prison proves our legal system has sacrificed vulnerable women at the shrine of trans rights DMail14

Comment Women left in danger DExp12

Comment Mad days when rapist sent to women's jail DExp13

Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

Robison blasts Jack's 'flat refusal to engage' after gender reforms meeting Shona Robison has hit out at Alister Jack's "flat refusal to engage" with SNP ministers to resolve the constitutional standoff over Scotland's gender recognition reforms. The Scottish Government's Social Justice Secretary has criticised the Scottish Secretary over an "inadequate approach to finding a constructive way of working together". The war of words comes after Mr Jack and Ms Robison spoke on Tuesday to discuss a way forward to resolve the... H4

Minister insists action to fight homelessness 'national priority' SNP ministers have been warned that more action is needed to "save lives" from homelessness, amid claims policy choices were exacerbating problems. The Scottish Housing Secretary, Shona Robison, told MSPs that tackling homelessness was a "national priority" to reduce levels of homelessness in Scotland. Leading an opposition debate in Holyrood, Conservative

housing spokesman Miles Briggs took aim at the Scottish Government, claiming policies were making the housing situation worse. H8

Comment **Will Scotland stand up for its rights after Gender Bill blocked?** SM24

Comment **What do we want? 700,000 new social housing properties** SM46

Comment **Gender certificates don't place prisoners, so why are MSPs rowing?** H4

Comment **Gender terrorists are destroying the rights of women. When will we man up, grow a pair and fight back?** Sun12

Comment The rights of women must trump those of a rapist DMail6

Comment Ditch gender bill now DMail14

Comment The smirking rapist now sitting in a female prison proves our legal system has sacrificed vulnerable women at the shrine of trans rights DMail14

Comment Women left in danger DExp12

Comment Mad days when rapist sent to women's jail DExp13

Brown passes the buck on transgender rapist jailing *See Justice*

Rural Affairs and Islands

300,000 trees eco boost for Bannockburn More than 300,000 native trees are due to be planted at a site near the famous Bannockburn battlefield, where Scottish King Robert the Bruce defeated the English royal army in 1314. Dumyat Estate, not far from the city of Stirling and a few miles from the historic battlefield, is popular with visitors and locals alike because of its rugged territory and stunning hilltop viewpoint, which overlooks the monument to another... SM34

SNP picks next devolution row on gene-edited food legislation SNP ministers have started another constitutional row with Westminster after Holyrood rejected the rollout of gene-edited food in Scotland. The Scottish parliament refused consent for the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill to be implemented in Scotland. Although the bill is directed towards England, Mairi McAllan, the Scottish environment and biodiversity minister, said it contained provisions that could allow UK ministers to impose gene editing in Scotland. Times8

Survey shows 4% fall in beef cow numbers Results from NFU Scotland's (NFUS) 2023 Intentions survey have revealed a 4% fall in beef cow numbers on units across Scotland as some farmers and crofters look to keep more breeding ewes. The survey, supported by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), was set up to assess the scale of change that unprecedented input costs and flat-lining output prices are having on business plans across all sectors. It stated that 40% of... PJ35

'Monumental' moment as hunting law passed New laws introducing further restrictions on hunting with dogs have been passed by Holyrood, with animal welfare campaigners hailing it as a "monumental day for Scotland". The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill was passed by 90 votes to 30 late on Tuesday night by the Scottish Parliament, with Environment Minister Mairi McAllan saying it would have an "immediate effect" by "modernising and strengthening" the existing legislation. Nat17

Comment Scotland is at the forefront of agricultural innovation H17

Comment Burning question arises over bracken control Times22

Mountain railway scales Cairngorm once more following £25 million repair job *See Finance and the Economy*

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Scottish Government

Scottish Parliament

'Serious concerns': Tories are accused of failing to follow Scottish Parliament procedure THE Scottish Tories have been accused of failing to follow "proper parliamentary procedure" after sharing details of an opposition day debate with lobbyists and the press before MSPs. SNP MSP Emma Roddick raised a point of order in the Scottish Parliament ahead of two debates tabled in the name of Tory MSP Miles Briggs, on homelessness and housing. Roddick told MSPs that she had "serious concerns" over the conduct of... Nat6

Other

Local Broadcast Summaries (Provided by Precise)

Moray Firth

The UK's highest railway is finally reopening to the public. The Cairngorm Funicular shut down five years ago, but the Scottish government has since poured around £25 million into fixing it up so it's ready to go again.

Heart Scotland West

Students are skipping meals and relying on hardship funds and family support because of the cost of living crisis, with one in four saying they are in danger of dropping out of university, according to a survey. Research carried out this month for the Sutton Trust found nearly a quarter of the 1,000 UK students interviewed said they were "less likely" to be able to complete their degree because of cost pressures, while one in three said they were cutting down on food to save money.

Borders Radio

Nearly one in four students say they are less likely to finish their degree as a result of the cost of living crisis, a survey suggests. More than three in five students are spending less on food and essentials this academic year as a result of increases in the cost of living, according to a Sutton Trust report

The UK's highest railway is finally reopening to the public. The Cairngorm Funicular shut down five years ago, but the Scottish government has since poured around £25 million into fixing it up so it's ready to go again.

Forth 1

A million British children under four are growing up in poverty, a heartbreaking new report has revealed. The latest official figures showed 13.4 million people were living in poverty in the first year of the pandemic from 2020 to 2021.

Tay

Nearly one in four students say they are less likely to finish their degree as a result of the cost of living crisis, a survey suggests. More than three in five students are spending less on food and essentials this academic year as a result of increases in the cost of living, according to a Sutton Trust report

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Item 10:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitor **On Behalf Of** Communications MMU

Sent: 26 January 2023 07:46

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

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Subject: Media Digest - Thursday 26 January 2023

Please do not reply to this email. For any questions related to the Media Digest mailing list, please email communicationsmmu@gov.scot

Press Summary For Scottish Government

26 January 2023

Compiled By Precise

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9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

10. CORPORATE

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express (Scotland) 13 **Mad days when rapist sent to women's jail** IT is one of the most bizarre and disgraceful episodes in a court of law in Scotland when a transgender rapist convicted of two attacks on vulnerable women is sent to a female jail to await sentence. Isla Bryson was convicted of rapes committed while she was living as a man called Adam Graham. The jury heard she transitioned after being accused of the second rape and Bryson was remanded

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **snp 'passes buck' over trans rapist jail uproar** FROM PAGE ONE when she was a man called Adam Graham. But there has been a furious reaction to the fact that Bryson is being housed at CorntonVale, the women's prison near Stirling. The row led to intervention yesterday from Downing Street. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab stated that if the case had been dealt with in England the 31-year-old rapist would be in a men's prison "as a matter

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Ditch gender Bill now** NICOLA Sturgeon was warned repeatedly that her transgender reforms were fraught with risk - but refused to listen to reason. The result is an unmitigated disaster of her own creation, evidenced by the row over double rapist Isla Bryson. Bryson, a transgender woman who raped two women while living as a man, has been sent to an all-female prison. There are now growing fears that the SNP Government's gender self-identification

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **The smirking rapist now sitting in a female prison proves our legal system has sacrificed vulnerable women at the shrine of trans rights** BETWEEN 2016 and 2019, a shaven-headed thug by the name of Adam Graham carried out two violent rapes. Graham — complete with facial tattoos akin to those sported by the boxer Mike Tyson, another convicted rapist — first appeared in the dock for these crimes in July 2019. But by the time this individual stood trial last week, a dramatic transformation had taken place. The jury at Glasgow High Court

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN MUST TRUMP THOSE OF A RAPIST** JUST over a year ago, as a new MSP, I found myself asking a very strange question of SNP Justice Secretary Keith Brown. I put it to him that Police Scotland might have been recording male sex criminals as women. It seemed too absurd to be true and I fully expected him to shoot it down by stating the obvious - which is that rape can only be committed by

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **SNP legal team ran up eye-watering £14k hotel bill in 'futile' indyref case** NEARLY £14,000 of taxpayers' money was spent on hotel rooms for lawyers fighting the SNP's doomed Supreme Court independence case. The delegation, led by Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain and made up of lawyers, officials and one of Nicola Sturgeon's special advisers, ran up the eye-watering bill during the November hearing in London. Miss Bain and some of her top officials stayed in £460-a-night hotel rooms, while others in the Scottish

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Sex attacker has only transitioned for attention and an easier life in prison, says wife. It's a sham** THE estranged wife of a transgender rapist last night mocked her decision to become a woman as 'a sham' to seek attention - and to get an easier time in prison. Shonna Graham married Adam Graham who, identifying as a man, went on to rape two women before changing his name to Isla Bryson to begin the process of gender reassignment. On Tuesday, Bryson, 31, was convicted by a jury

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **EX-JAIL BOSS FURY OVER TRANS RAPIST** A FORMER governor of Cornton Vale women's prison yesterday said she would have quit if forced to house transgender double rapist Isla Bryson. Rhona Hotchkiss said it was 'appalling' that the 31-year-old was sent to the Stirlingshire jail after being convicted of raping two women while she was still a man. Bryson is being held in a segregation unit at the all-female jail while risk assessments are carried out. But

Daily Record 18 **Friends of mine organised a [...]** Friends of mine organised a Chinese New Year celebration combined with a Burns Supper and called it Chinese Burns Night. I didn't want to go but they twisted my arm. A bit harsh to fine Rishi Sunak £100 for not wearing a seat-belt. How on Earth is he supposed to get a belt over those ears while sitting on a booster seat? Aberdeen. are set to sign four strikers -

Daily Record 6 **Praise for wind as £2bn farm opens** NICOLA Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future. The First Minister's announcement came as the operations and maintenance base for the new £2billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. When up and running it could generate enough electricity to power around 375,000 homes. Sturgeon said the Scottish Government's recently published draft energy strategy "reflects our understanding and belief

i (The paper for today) 11 **Sturgeon had 'last laugh' in spat with Truss** Nicola Sturgeon has said she had the "last laugh" in her relationship with former prime minister Liz Truss. Interviewed on BBC Radio 4's PM programme, Scotland's First Minister was asked whether she had a favourite among the five UK prime ministers she has worked with. "I don't think it's fair for one leader to rank others in order," Ms Sturgeon said. "They have all been very different - that is

Metro (Scotland) 1 **TRANS RAPIST PRISON SAFETY FEARS** THE prime minister intervened yesterday after it emerged a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man is being held in a women's prison. Isla Bryson was found guilty at the High Court in Glasgow on Tuesday of raping one woman in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, in 2016 and another in Drumchapel, Glasgow, in 2019. It is understood she is being held at Cornton Vale women's prison

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Scotland's public sector more bloated than pre-Covid** SCOTLAND'S bloated public sector is employing 30,000 more people than before the pandemic, according to a Holyrood inquiry that lambasted SNP ministers for having no plans for reform or to reduce the payroll. The Scottish Parliament's cross-party finance committee warned that high inflation means the public sector requires staffing reductions "over and above that figure" to meet an SNP pledge to hold the state's wage bill to 2022/23 levels. John

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon under pressure to move rapist out of female jail** NICOLA STURGEON has come under fire for refusing to remove a trans rapist from a women's prison. Downing Street expressed "concern" about the Scottish Government placing a male-bodied rapist in the female jail, putting pressure on the First Minister to reverse the decision. Rishi Sunak's spokesman said he had "seen the reporting and understands the concerns" over the decision to allow transgender Isla Bryson to be held in a women's

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Scots could face new income tax rise to plug spending black hole** SNP ministers could raise income tax rates in Scotland again to plug a growing black hole in their spending plans, a respected think tank has warned. The Institute for Fiscal Studies warns that soaring spending on benefits in Scotland "will reduce the amount available for public service spending". It forecasts spending on services will fall by 1.6 per cent in 2023-24, when expenditure on higher Scottish benefits and inflation are

The Guardian 15 **Scottish gender bill opponents say rape case justifies concerns** Politicians, campaigners and a UN special rapporteur have all expressed concerns that a transgender woman found guilty of raping two women before transitioning is being remanded in a female prison. Opponents of the Scottish government's gender recognition reforms (GRR) - which the UK government has blocked from going for royal assent because of "safety issues for women and children" - said that the case vindicated their concerns about lack of

The Herald 4 **Cherry dismisses claims Tories are stoking 'culture war' over gender reform** NICOLA Sturgeon's claim that the UK GOVERNMENT IS using trans rights to stoke a "shameful culture war" has been attacked by one of her own MPs. Joanna Cherry said the language was being used to "silence the legitimate concerns of feminists". On Sunday, speaking to the BBC, the First Minister claimed the intervention was politically motivated. "Shamefully, disgracefully, [the UK Government] are trying to stoke a culture war on the

The Herald 4 **Sturgeon stresses vital wind farm role** NICOLA Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future - at the same time as a major new green power development passed a "significant milestone". The operations and maintenance base for the new £2 billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. It will see turbines located about 9.6 miles (15.5km) off the Fife coast and when up and

The National (Scotland) 2 **FM hails 'crucial' role of wind amid major milestone** FIRST MINISTER Nicola Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future - at the same time as a major new green power development passed a "significant milestone". The operations and maintenance base for the new £2 billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. It

The National (Scotland) 7 **Tory voters say UK should be able to block any Scottish legislation** A MAJORITY of Conservative voters believe the UK Government should have the power to block any legislation passed by devolved parliaments, a new poll has found. The survey, by Redfield & Wilton Strategies, found that 60% of 2019 Tory

voters think Westminster should be able to bypass Holyrood, Stormont and the Senedd on whichever bill they pass. Overall, 40% of Brits polled said London should be able to bypass home

The National (Scotland) 8 **'Reform doesn't change where trans criminals will be jailed'** F I R S T M i n i s t e r Nicola Sturgeon has said that the Scottish Parliament's gender reform legislation "doesn't in any way change the system" which determines what prison transgender criminals are sent to. In the wake of the conviction of Isla Bryson, who was found guilty on Tuesday of

The Scotsman 6 **Rishi Sunak accused of being hopelessly weak and leading a parcel of rogues** Rishi Sunak has been labelled "hopelessly weak" for not sacking Conservative Party chairman Nadhim Zahawi amid the ongoing investigation into his taxes. The Prime Minister has so far resisted calls to sack Mr Zahawi after it was revealed the leading Tory figure and Cabinet member had paid a tax penalty while serving as chancellor. Mr Sunak has now ordered an independent investigation into the matter, and stressed he believed in

The Scotsman 3 **Sturgeon planning to 'get it all out there' in her memoirs** Nicola Sturgeon has said she will "almost certainly" write a memoir after she steps down from frontline politics. The First Minister said she will "get it all out there", adding: "So anybody listening who might feel they have to beware that, there's some warning for you." She made the comments during an interview on BBC Radio 4's PM programme. Ms Sturgeon previously fuelled speculation about her future after saying she

The Scotsman 8 **Sturgeon hails 'essential' role of offshore wind as new base opens** Nicola Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future - at the same time as a major new green power development passed a "significant milestone". The operations and maintenance base for the new £2 billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. It will see turbines located about 9.6 miles (15.5km) off the Fife coast, and when up and

The Scotsman 24 **Will Scotland stand up for its rights after Gender Bill blocked?** Nothing changes with unionism. Every time Labour and the Tories unite to push against the tide of Scottish independence, they use the language of placation; further devolution, gestures of decentralisation tossed out as tidbits, there there, be quiet now, and so on. But look what happens when Scotland's elected representatives, acting true to the manifestos they were elected on, do something in the Scottish Parliament that these Westminster men

The Scotsman 46 **Scotland can power UK energy revolution** Scotland's vast financial services sector can help power the UK to become the lead country in achieving net zero targets, according to one of the most prominent figures in London's Square Mile. Chris Hayward, policy chairman at the City of London Corporation, said green finance as a tool to drive net zero was of "fundamental importance" as he highlighted the strengths of the banking and financial services sectors on both

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **JK SWIPE AT STURGEON** JK Rowling has taken a swipe at Nicola Sturgeon after the decision to house Isla Bryson in a women's jail. The Harry

Potter author, 57, hit out online with a waspish joke suggesting trans-rights crusader Ms Sturgeon would claim anyone opposed to the double rapist being caged at Cornton Vale is a "bigot". Her barb came in response to a fellow Twitter user, who posted a snap of the First

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Money troubles** THE SNP Government has gained an unfortunate reputation over the years for failing to plan ahead. It survives by firefighting day-to-day — responding to crises as they arise, rather than preventing them in the first place. This strategy — or, rather, lack of — has been no more apparent than with the National Health Service. In the decade before the pandemic, there were repeated warnings about ministers' failure to get

The Times 23 **Brace yourself, Nicola: here comes the slide** Back in the days when Labour controlled Scotland, when legend had it that the party machine could fix anything it wanted apart from the country, the fights over seats were intense. Until the 1990s, party bosses and trade union masters knew how to operate the machine, and sometimes they used it to help find seats for rising stars such as John Smith, George Robertson and Gordon Brown. Patronage and power

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Coronation 'is right time for debate on republic'** A senior SNP MP has backed calls to make Scotland a republic and urged the party to clarify its position on the monarchy before the next independence referendum. Stewart McDonald, a former SNP defence spokesman at Westminster, said that Scotland should have an elected head of state. He urged the SNP to debate the future of the monarchy before the coronation of King Charles this year. He tweeted: "Although I

The Times (Scotland) 2 **SCOTLAND AND THE WORLD TODAY'S EDITION** Sturgeon will write memoirs Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "almost certain" to write her memoirs after she has left the top job in Scottish politics, and appeared to give a warning to those who may be mentioned in them. She said she had no intention of resigning soon. Page 5 Sunak 'livid' with Zahawi Rishi Sunak is said to be "livid" with Nadhim Zahawi over the Tory chairman's tax

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Minister defiant over trans rapist** The Scottish justice secretary has refused to stop the imprisonment of rapists in women's prisons after a party colleague accused a double sex offender of "gaming the system". Keith Brown said that he trusted the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to assess potential risks presented by trans prisoners, after it was reported that the rapist Isla Bryson was being held at Cornton Vale women's prison near Stirling. Politicians from across the

The Times (Scotland) 2 **National care service may be halted as calls for rethink grow** Ministers are to consider delaying the SNP's trumpeted plans for a national care service as criticism of the flagship policy grows In an apparent U-turn, Kevin Stewart, the social care minister, said the party would weigh up views and reflect on whether more time should be taken to formulate the plans. Councils, carers' charities, unions and MSPs, including SNP politicians, have called for the Scottish government to suspend or rethink

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon will block council moves to cut teaching staff** Nicola Sturgeon will stamp her authority on councils to prevent them from cutting

teacher numbers and school hours to balance the books. The first minister is understood to be preparing penalties for local authorities that stand in the way of her manifesto pledge to recruit 3,500 teachers by 2026. She has been alerted to a risk of a four-figure reduction in the classroom workforce if she does not step in

The Times (Scotland) 5 **I'll write a memoir - but I'm going nowhere yet, says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "almost certain" to write her memoirs after she has left the top job in Scottish politics and appeared to give a warning to those who may be mentioned in them. The first minister discussed her plans for life after politics on PM on Radio 4 yesterday. Asked whether she intended to write about her years as Scotland's most senior politician, she replied: "I sometimes

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Weak growth 'costing almost £700m in tax'** The Scottish Government could be losing out on almost £700m of income tax revenue because of weaker economic growth. The Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) - whose remit includes forecasting how much tax policies will raise - said that differences in tax policy between Scotland and the rest of the UK "should be contributing around £1bn to the income tax net position in 2023-24". When the draft budget for 2023-24 was

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Scotland's public sector more bloated than pre-Covid** SCOTLAND'S bloated public sector is employing 30,000 more people than before the pandemic, according to a Holyrood inquiry that lambasted SNP ministers for having no plans for reform or to reduce the payroll. The Scottish Parliament's cross-party finance committee warned that high inflation means the public sector requires staffing reductions "over and above that figure" to meet an SNP pledge to hold the state's wage bill to 2022/23 levels. John

The National (Scotland) 6 **'Serious concerns': Tories are accused of failing to follow Scottish Parliament procedure** THE Scottish Tories have been accused of failing to follow "proper parliamentary procedure" after sharing details of an opposition day debate with lobbyists and the press before MSPs. SNP MSP Emma Roddick raised a point of order in the Scottish Parliament ahead of two debates tabled in the name of Tory MSP Miles Briggs, on homelessness and housing. Roddick told MSPs that she had "serious concerns" over the conduct of

The Scotsman 1 **IFS: Spend on health and net zero will harm future** The Scottish Government could be forced to make cuts of 13 per cent to public services in the next four years if it wants to boost spending on the health service and net zero policies, a leading financial think-tank has said. An analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has compounded worries of funding issues in Edinburgh, saying that future non-benefit spending could be "tight". The assessment comes as

The Scotsman 4 **Ministers urged to give clarity over plans to cut public sector workforce** Scottish ministers have been urged to provide clarity on their plans to reform the public sector and reduce the workforce. Holyrood's finance and public administration committee called on the Scottish Government to set out where "reductions in headcount to pre-pandemic levels will be made". Elsewhere, it said

ministers were "firefighting" through considerable financial challenges as they battle the cost-of-living crisis and the demand for improved pay deals. It came as

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Weaker growth in Scotland costs £700m in lost tax** The Scottish government may be losing out on almost £700 million of income tax revenue because of weaker economic growth north of the border. The Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC), which as part of its remit forecasts how much tax policies will raise for ministers, believes that differences between Scotland and the rest of the UK should contribute about an extra £1 billion to the income tax revenues in this financial

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Breadline students skip food** ONE in four students is less likely to finish their degree since the cost crunch and more than a quarter skip meals to save on bills, a report says. The Sutton Trust charity, which polled 1,050 current undergraduates, is urging ministers to review student funding and support. Founder and chairman, Sir Peter Lampl, said: "It is scandalous students are skipping meals and having to cut back on essentials." The Department

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Teachers in no mood to back down over pay demands as fellow strikers show support** STRIKING teachers invoked the spirit of Robert Burns yesterday as they held a rally at the halfway point of 16 days of rolling walkouts across Scotland. Tom Britton, assistant secretary of the Edinburgh EIS association, recited a poem in Scots by Thomas Clark called *Tae a Teacher* to mark the anniversary of the Bard's birthday. Hundreds of EIS members braved the cold outside the Scottish National Gallery on The Mound

Daily Record 26 **Kids struggle too** A MUM whose son tried to take his own life three times has called for improved mental health care for children in schools. Kirsty Solman, 40, and her husband, Scott, 45, endured months of terror when their son Kyle, now 11, who has autism and ADHD, ended up in hospital multiple times across 2021 and 2022. The family, from Glasgow's Drumchapel, have launched a petition calling for funding to provide

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Teachers mark halfway point in strike with poetry recital** A Scots language poem about teachers was recited at a rally in Edinburgh yesterday to mark the anniversary of Robert Burns's birth and the halfway point of 16 days of rolling strike action. Hundreds of educators braved the cold at an EIS union rally outside the Scottish National Gallery, echoing calls for a 10 per cent pay rise. Tom Britton, from the EIS's Edinburgh branch, recited a poem in Scots

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Striking teachers take pay dispute to Burns' home** TEACHERS marked the halfway point of their 16-day programme of walkouts by gathering at Robert Burns' cottage. Members of the EIS turned out at the cottage in Alloway, South Ayrshire, and others were at a rally in Edinburgh yesterday as their pay row rumbles on. EIS general secretary Andrea Bradley said the Scottish government and councils 'have little or no interest' in resolving the matter, while Scottish education secretary Shirley-Anne

The National (Scotland) 3 **Teachers lake strike action to a house** perceived as Governments' real contempt for them, dressed up in warm words and sophistry, that in spite of the deliberately restrictive anti-trade union legislation that remains in force, that our respective unions were able to beat the ballot thresholds and achieve industrial action mandates." She advised politicians south of the Border against "seeking to divide teachers and support staff" in schools on the issue of pay, as she said that

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **Pupils could get extra day off for coronation** School pupils and teaching staff in Aberdeen could get an extra day off in May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. It comes after the UK and Scottish governments announced there would be an extended weekend to mark the occasion. Therefore, schools across Aberdeen are expected to close their doors on Monday May 8. Members of the city council's education and children's services committee unanimously agreed to the

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **Health board to promote Gaelic connections with language plan** A new English and Gaelic identity for NHS Highland is to be rolled out "shortly". The health board is one of 57 Scottish organisations required to have a Gaelic plan aimed at supporting the language and making it "increasingly visible and audible". Around half of Scotland's 87,000 Gaelic speakers are based in the region. NHS Highland says digital versions of the new branding can be rolled out at no cost,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Teachers' rally of support in capital** A poem about teachers written in Scots was recited at a rally in Edinburgh to mark the anniversary of Robert Burns' birth and the halfway point of 16 days of rolling strike action. Hundreds of educators attended the EIS union's rally outside the Scottish National Gallery on The Mound, echoing previous calls for a 10% pay rise. Tom Britton, assistant secretary of the Edinburgh EIS association, recited a poem, written in

The Scotsman 14 **Teachers mark halfway point in strike action with Burns-style recital** A poem about teachers and written in Scots was recited at a rally in Edinburgh to mark the anniversary of Robert Burns' birth and the halfway point of 16 days of rolling strike action. Hundreds of educators braved the cold yesterday as the EIS union held a rally outside the Scottish National Gallery on The Mound, echoing their previous calls for a 10 per cent pay rise. Tom Britton, assistant

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **Costs hit students' hopes of a degree** NEARLY one in four students in the UK are less likely to finish their degree due to the cost of living crisis, a survey suggests. Sixty-three per cent say they are now spending less on food and basics. More than a quarter (28 per cent) skip meals to cut costs, a report by The Sutton Trust says. Chairman Sir Peter Lampl said that the social mobility charity wants student funding

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon will block council moves to cut teaching staff** Nicola Sturgeon will stamp her authority on councils to prevent them from cutting teacher numbers and school hours to balance the books. The first minister is understood to be preparing penalties for local authorities that stand in the way of her

manifesto pledge to recruit 3,500 teachers by 2026. She has been alerted to a risk of a four-figure reduction in the classroom workforce if she does not step in

4. JUSTICE

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Women left in danger** KEITH Brown, the Justice Secretary, has predictably cowered away from the decision-making process over transgender rapist Isla Bryson. Bryson, found guilty of raping two vulnerable mothers, transitioned before the end of her case. She is now in a women's prison, to the potential detriment of other inmates. Dominic Raab, the UK Deputy Prime Minister, says she would be in a men's jail if the case had been in England. The

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **TWICE AS MANY AS IN ENGLAND** SCOTLAND has more transgender prisoners than England and Wales combined, it has emerged. Latest figures show 15 transitioning people in Scottish prisons compared to six south of the Border. Scotland has an estimated 290 women in prison compared to 3,216 in England and Wales. The figures were compiled before Isla Bryson was jailed. The Scottish Prison Service website said: "As of September, we had 15 trans individuals, including 11 trans

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **snp 'passes buck' over trans rapist jail uproar** FROM PAGE ONE when she was a man called Adam Graham. But there has been a furious reaction to the fact that Bryson is being housed at Cornton Vale, the women's prison near Stirling. The row led to intervention yesterday from Downing Street. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab stated that if the case had been dealt with in England the 31-year-old rapist would be in a men's prison "as a matter

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Sex attacker has only transitioned for attention and an easier life in prison, says wife. It's a sham** THE estranged wife of a transgender rapist last night mocked her decision to become a woman as 'a sham' to seek attention - and to get an easier time in prison. Shonna Graham married Adam Graham who, identifying as a man, went on to rape two women before changing his name to Isla Bryson to begin the process of gender reassignment. On Tuesday, Bryson, 31, was convicted by a jury

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **EX-JAIL BOSS FURY OVER TRANS RAPIST** A FORMER governor of Cornton Vale women's prison yesterday said she would have quit if forced to house transgender double rapist Isla Bryson. Rhona Hotchkiss said it was 'appalling' that the 31-year-old was sent to the Stirlingshire jail after being convicted of raping two women while she was still a man. Bryson is being held in a segregation unit at the all-female jail while risk assessments are carried out. But

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Ditch gender Bill now** NICOLA Sturgeon was warned repeatedly that her transgender reforms were fraught with risk - but refused to listen to reason. The result is an unmitigated disaster of her own creation, evidenced by the row over double rapist Isla Bryson. Bryson, a transgender woman who raped two women while living as a man, has been sent to an all-female prison. There are now growing fears that the SNP Government's gender self-identification

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Gender 'minefield' as rapist Bryson held in jail's segregation unit** RAPIST Isla Bryson will be held in a Segregation and Reintegration Unit (SRU) - nicknamed 'seg' - at Cornton Vale women's prison. Most jails have 'segs', which consist of several cells away from the general population. Meals are taken to cell occupants and there is no mixing between inmates in an SRU. They may encounter others during visiting periods at the jail - but for the rest of the time

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Five trans women already in female jails** THE number of transgender and non-binary prisoners in Scottish jails has risen to 18, according to the latest figures. The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) figures show there were 11 transgender women in custody at the end of September, along with four trans men and three non-binary prisoners. Five of the trans women were serving their sentences in the female prison estate, with the others continuing to be held in men's

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **The smirking rapist now sitting in a female prison proves our legal system has sacrificed vulnerable women at the shrine of trans rights** BETWEEN 2016 and 2019, a shaven-headed thug by the name of Adam Graham carried out two violent rapes. Graham — complete with facial tattoos akin to those sported by the boxer Mike Tyson, another convicted rapist — first appeared in the dock for these crimes in July 2019. But by the time this individual stood trial last week, a dramatic transformation had taken place. The jury at Glasgow High Court

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN MUST TRUMP THOSE OF A RAPIST** JUST over a year ago, as a new MSP, I found myself asking a very strange question of SNP Justice Secretary Keith Brown. I put it to him that Police Scotland might have been recording male sex criminals as women. It seemed too absurd to be true and I fully expected him to shoot it down by stating the obvious - which is that rape can only be committed by

Daily Record 13 **Transgender rapist should be put in a men's jail** A TRANSGENDER woman who raped two women while a man should not be held in a women's prison, an SNP MP has said. Isla Bryson was found guilty on Tuesday of raping one woman in Clydebank in 2016 and another in Drumchapel, Glasgow, in 2019. It is understood Bryson is being held at Cornton Vale women's prison in Stirling while awaiting sentence for the crimes, which were committed before transitioning

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Gender-switch rapist 'gaming the system to enter women's prison'** Scotland's Justice Secretary has refused to intervene to stop a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man from being held in a women's jail. Keith Brown said that the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) had a "great track record" on managing trans inmates and that he trusted it to ensure there would be no risk to others. He was speaking after Downing Street voiced concerns about

Metro (Scotland) 1 **TRANS RAPIST PRISON SAFETY FEARS** THE prime minister intervened yesterday after it emerged a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man is being held in a women's prison. Isla Bryson was found guilty at the High Court in Glasgow on Tuesday of raping one woman in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, in 2016 and another in Drumchapel, Glasgow, in 2019. It is understood she is being held at Cornton Vale women's prison

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon under pressure to move rapist out of female jail** NICOLA STURGEON has come under fire for refusing to remove a trans rapist from a women's prison. Downing Street expressed "concern" about the Scottish Government placing a male-bodied rapist in the female jail, putting pressure on the First Minister to reverse the decision. Rishi Sunak's spokesman said he had "seen the reporting and understands the concerns" over the decision to allow transgender Isla Bryson to be held in a women's

The Guardian 15 **Scottish gender bill opponents say rape case justifies concerns** Politicians, campaigners and a UN special rapporteur have all expressed concerns that a transgender woman found guilty of raping two women before transitioning is being remanded in a female prison. Opponents of the Scottish government's gender recognition reforms (GRR) - which the UK government has blocked from going for royal assent because of "safety issues for women and children" - said that the case vindicated their concerns about lack of

The Herald 1 **Brown won't intervene over trans rapist** SCOTLAND'S Justice Secretary has rejected calls to intervene in a convicted rapist potentially being sent to a female prison, saying that jail bosses can be trusted to make the right call. The row emerged after a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man is being held in a women's prison - with Conservative MSPs attempting to link the situation to a rejection of a gender

The Herald 4 **Brown refuses to intervene in transgender rapist prison row** SCOTLAND'S Justice Secretary has rejected calls to intervene in a convicted rapist potentially being sent to a female prison, insisting that jail bosses can be trusted to make the right decisions. The row emerged after a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man is being held in a women's prison - with Conservative MSPs attempting to link the situation to a rejection of a gender

The Herald 4 **Gender certificates don't place prisoners, so why are MSPs rowing?** ANGER has been levelled at the Scottish Government after it was reported a transgender prisoner, found guilty of raping two women before she transitioned to a woman, was being held at a women's prison. The timing had aligned for the Scottish Conservatives to warn that the SNP-Greens government's gender recognition reforms were putting female prisoners at risk. To be clear, a gender recognition certificate is not paramount to prisoners being

The Herald 7 **Asthma concern in pyro use** JOSEPH Carter, the Head of Asthma and Lung UK Scotland, has called for the greater enforcement of the ban on pyrotechnics at sporting events following a spate of alarming incidents this season. Kick-off in the Edinburgh derby match at Easter Road on Sunday was delayed because smoke bombs had been thrown onto the pitch by both sets of supporters. More smoke bombs were then set off by fans of the

The National (Scotland) 8 **'Reform doesn't change where trans criminals will be jailed'** FI R S T M i n i s t e r Nicola Sturgeon has said that the Scottish Parliament's g e n d e r r e f o r m l e g i s l a t i o n "doesn't in any way change the system" which determines what prison transgender criminals are sent to. In the wake of the conviction of Isla Bryson, who was found guilty on Tuesday of

The National (Scotland) 35 **Asthma concern in pyro use** JOSEPH Carter, the Head of Asthma and Lung UK Scotland, has called for the greater enforcement of the ban on pyrotechnics at sporting events following a spate of alarming incidents this season. Kick-off in the Edinburgh derby match at Easter Road on Sunday was delayed because smoke bombs had been thrown onto the pitch by both sets of supporters. More smoke bombs were then set off by fans of the

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 17 **Safety fear over jailing of transgender rapist** A transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man should not be held in a women's prison as it raises safety concerns, an SNP MP has said. Isla Bryson was found guilty on Tuesday of raping one woman in Clydebank in 2016 and another in Drumchapel, Glasgow, in 2019, following a trial at the High Court in Glasgow. It is understood she is being held at

The Scotsman 5 **Brown passes the buck on transgender rapist jailing** Scotland's Justice Secretary has refused to intervene to ensure a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man is not held in a women's prison. Keith Brown said he trusted the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to make the best decision and insisted their track record was "exemplary". Earlier this week, following a trial at the High Court in Glasgow, Isla Bryson was found guilty of raping

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Rapist a 'danger' to female inmates** JAIL bosses yesterday faced demands to move transgender double rapist Isla Bryson out of a women's prison — as its former governor said she would have quit over the row. Calls grew yesterday for "dangerous" sex fiend Bryson, 31, to be sent to a male prison amid fears for the safety of female inmates at Cornton Vale. It came after a wave of anger over the Scottish Prison Service's decision

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Convict is seventh to be housed in women's jail** Isla Bryson is understood to be the seventh transgender woman now housed in a female jail in Scotland. A report published by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) has confirmed that out of 16 transgender prisoners in custody at the end of June 2022, five were in women's jails. Since then, Bryson, who was convicted on Tuesday of raping two women, has been sent to the segregation unit at Scotland's

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Laughing gas ban to tackle bad behaviour** UK ministers are preparing to ban the sale and possession of laughing gas in a crackdown on antisocial behaviour. Under the proposals, drug misuse laws would be revised to allow people found with nitrous oxide gas in public to be prosecuted. Only those with a "legitimate reason" would have an exemption, such as chefs who use it in products such as whipped cream, or for freezing and chilling food. The

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Minister defiant over trans rapist** The Scottish justice secretary has refused to stop the imprisonment of rapists in women's prisons after a party colleague accused a double sex offender of "gaming the system". Keith Brown said that he trusted the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to assess potential risks presented by trans prisoners, after it was reported that the rapist Isla Bryson was being held at Cornton Vale women's prison near Stirling. Politicians from across the

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Daily Express (Scotland) 21 **I was saved from cancer ... now others may be too** A FORMER head teacher's aggressive cancer vanished after he joined a clinical trial. Jim McCallum, 76, feared the worst after chemotherapy failed to stop the spread of his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. But he is now cancer-free after taking part in the trial of a new blood cell therapy at the Glasgow Experimental Cancer Centre. Mr McCallum told his story yesterday as Cancer Research UK, the Scottish Government and the Little Princess

Daily Record 27 **Cancer tests call** TWO CERVICAL cancer survivors have teamed up to campaign for home test kits to be rolled out across the country. Emma Keyes and Lauren McNulty want women to be given swab kits as soon as they become sexually active rather than waiting until 25, which is when cervical screening currently begins. Emma, from Uddingston in Lanarkshire, received her shock diagnosis in July 2021 after admittedly "ignoring" smear test letters. She

Daily Record 9 **We can't keep just chucking cash at problem** MANAGING and sustaining our health is a complicated business. Inadequate financing of the NHS across the UK has been a hot topic for many years and is present whatever the politics. However, the current crisis has been exacerbated by recent world events, namely the Covid pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. All have impacted on individuals, businesses and organisations, as well as the NHS's ability to utilise new technologies and medicines

Daily Record 8 **MIRACLE CURE TO SAVENHS** EXERCISE and healthy living is the "miracle treatment" which could go a long way to easing the pressure on Scotland's crippled NHS. With a growing number of elderly people and a Scottish lifestyle plagued by obesity, alcohol, drug and smoking addiction, hospitals and GP surgeries are facing record demand. And experts believe that a healthier lifestyle as the population ages is vital to the survival of the NHS in its

Daily Record 14 **Social care jobs drive** A £500,000 campaign to boost recruitment in the social care sector was launched yesterday by Scottish Government minister Kevin Stewart.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **Two more Strep A deaths recorded in Scotland** Two more people in Scotland with Strep A infections have died since last week, according to the latest data. A total of 19 deaths of patients with invasive group A streptococcal infection (iGAS) were recorded between 3 October last year and 22 January, Public Health Scotland said. Three deaths were children under 10, with no further deaths in that age group since last week. 2.1m Number of the UK who

Metro (Scotland) 14 **£500k advertising blitz to promote social care jobs** A SCOTTISH government campaign to boost recruitment in the social care sector has been launched. The £500,000 drive comes after staffing was impacted by Brexit. Ministers have already pledged that all workers in adult social care will be paid at least £10.90 an hour from April. Social care minister Kevin Stewart (right) said: 'We are increasing pay, improving conditions and developing clear career pathways for staff ahead of the introduction

Metro (Scotland) 7 **£4M CANCER BOOST** A CANCER survivor who was saved by an innovative cell therapy has welcomed the announcement of nearly £4million of new funding for the medics who treated him. Retired head teacher Jim McCallum was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2017. His condition didn't respond to chemotherapy and he was given the chance to take part in a CAR T-cell trial at Glasgow's experimental cancer medicine centre (ECMC) in 2020. The 76-year-old,

The Herald 4 **Covid-19 boosters rolled out in spring** SCOTLAND'S Health Secretary has welcomed a move to target those most vulnerable to the ill-effects of Covid with a booster shot this autumn, and some Scots could get one within a matter of weeks. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) said yesterday that plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe Covid-19 to be offered a booster in autumn and for a smaller group, such

The Herald 8 **'Volunteer for health study' call** THOUSANDS of volunteers are being sought to take part in a huge study looking at Scotland's health. Participants will be asked to submit saliva samples and allow access to medical records. The Generation Scotland study has run since 2006 and has helped to develop potentially lifesaving treatments. More than 24,000 people already take part but researchers want another 20,000. The project is keen to find whole families to join the

The Herald 5 **Scot declared cancer-free after treatment welcomes £3.9m investment move** A MAN who is cancer free after experimental treatment has welcomed £3.9 million in funding to help further developments to treat the disease. Jim McCallum, 76, from Paisley, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2017 after going to the doctor and hoping he would be told it was a "harmless lump". Mr McCallum's cancer did not respond well to treatment but, in 2020, he was able to take part in

The National (Scotland) 5 **Brexit, austerity, Covid: Why is Scotland's NHS gripped by crisis?** ACROSS the UK, the four nations' health services are battling to stay afloat amid a "perfect storm" of issues applying huge pressure to staff and capacity. Westminster is the common denominator. Here are some of the complex and interlinked issues facing the NHS across the UK right now. WORKFORCE "WORKFORCE is probably, where we are now, the biggest single challenge in social care and health care," SNP MP Dr Philippa

The National (Scotland) 17 **Cancer treatment gets £3.9m funds boost** A MAN who is cancer-free after experimental treatment has welcomed £3.9 million in funding to help further developments to treat the disease. Jim McCallum, 76, from Paisley, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2017 after going to the doctor and hoping he would be told it was a "harmless lump". McCallum's cancer did not respond well to treatment but in 2020, he was able to take part in the CAR T-cell

The National (Scotland) 5 **Yousaf welcomes plan for boosters** THE Health Secretary has welcomed a move to target those most vulnerable to the ill-effects of Covid with a booster shot this autumn, and some Scots could get one within a matter of weeks. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) said plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe Covid-19 to be offered a booster in autumn, and for a smaller group, such as the

The National (Scotland) 4 **Think tank issues health spend warning** THE Scottish Government could be forced to make cuts of 13% to public services in the next four years if it wants to boost spending on the health service and net zero policies, a leading financial think tank has said. An analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that future non-benefit spending could be "tight" - with the Scottish Government saying the findings highlighted the need for independence.

The National (Scotland) 20 **Recruitment bid in social care** A SCOTTISH Government campaign which aims to boost recruitment in the social care sector has been launched. The £500,000 drive aims to encourage more Scots to consider a career in the sector, with Social Care Minister Kevin Stewart saying while the work can be "challenging", staff can have a "hugely positive impact". The Government has been working to increase recruitment after staffing was impacted by Brexit, and ministers have pledged

The National (Scotland) 4 **UK AT FAULT FOR THE NHS CRISIS'** THE majority of Scots think the Tory government is most responsible for the crisis g r i p p i n g the NHS, an exclusive new poll has found. The Find Out Now survey suggested that 56% of people in Scotland point the finger at Westminster for the critical issues in the health service - while just 16% say that the Scottish Government has the most responsibility. Just 1%

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 27 **Rural health services are on life support - and need action now** Healthcare in Moray has reached breaking point. Recent figures show that patients attending Dr Gray's Hospital's emergency department in Elgin are facing unacceptable waits to be treated. We need action, not just words, from NHS Grampian and the Scottish Government's health secretary. Health services in rural areas like Moray are in desperate need of more support. The latest statistics obtained by the Moray Liberal Democrats show that, despite only 34

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 10 **Man renews fight to end secret meds** An Aberdeen man is making another push to protect care home residents like his late mother from being given concealed antipsychotic drugs. Hunter Watson, 87, has been trying to outlaw hidden medication in patients' food and drink ever since Helen Watson died in January 2000. Antipsychotic drugs were concealed in her food while she had dementia and was living in a care home. Mr Watson wants the Scottish Government to

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 10 **£500k social care campaign launched** A Scottish Government campaign which aims to boost recruitment in the social care sector has been launched. The £500,000 drive aims to encourage more Scots to consider a career in the sector, with Social Care Minister Kevin Stewart saying while the work can be "challenging", staff can have a "hugely positive impact". The government has been working to increase recruitment after staffing was affected by Brexit, and ministers have pledged

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Locums cover plan for hospital staff shortage** Locums could be paid to work at the new National Treatment Centre in Inverness when it opens because there's a shortage of staff. A new report

reveals that NHS Highland still needs to recruit around 20% of the workforce required to fully run the facility. The hospital is part of a network of 10 national treatment centres across the country funded by the Scottish Government to keep up with increased

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **Covid-19 booster advice** Scotland's health secretary has welcomed a move to target those most vulnerable to the effects of Covid with a booster shot this autumn and some Scots could get one within a matter of weeks. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation yesterday said plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe Covid-19 to be offered a booster in autumn and for a smaller group, such as the

The Scotsman 20 **Scot who is cancer free after experimental treatment welcomes £3.6m funding boost** A man who is cancer free after experimental treatment has welcomed £3.9 million in funding to help further developments to treat the disease. Jim McCallum, 76, from Paisley, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2017 after going to the doctor and hoping he would be told it was a "harmless lump". Mr McCallum's cancer did not respond well to treatment but, in 2020, he was able to take part in

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The Scotsman 8 **Scots urged to consider career in social care** A Scottish Government campaign which aims to boost recruitment in the social care sector has been launched. The £500,000 drive aims to encourage more Scots to consider a career in the sector, with social care minister Kevin Stewart saying while the work can be "challenging", staff can have a "hugely positive impact". The government has been working to increase recruitment after staffing was impacted by Brexit, and ministers have pledged

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Money troubles** THE SNP Government has gained an unfortunate reputation over the years for failing to plan ahead. It survives by firefighting day-to-day — responding to crises as they arise, rather than preventing them in the first place. This strategy — or, rather, lack of — has been no more apparent than with the National Health Service. In the decade before the pandemic, there were repeated warnings about ministers' failure to get

The Times (Scotland) 2 **National care service may be halted as calls for rethink grow** Ministers are to consider delaying the SNP's trumpeted plans for a national care service as criticism of the flagship policy grows. In an apparent U-turn, Kevin Stewart, the social care minister, said the party would weigh up views and reflect on whether more time should be taken to formulate the plans. Councils, carers' charities, unions and MSPs, including SNP politicians, have called for the Scottish government to suspend or rethink

The Times (Scotland) 2 **National care service may be halted as calls for rethink grow** Ministers are to consider delaying the SNP's trumpeted plans for a national care service as criticism of the flagship policy grows In an apparent U-turn, Kevin Stewart, the social care minister, said the party would weigh up views and reflect on whether more time should be taken to formulate the plans. Councils, carers' charities, unions and MSPs, including SNP politicians, have called for the Scottish government to suspend or rethink

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 7 **Mountain railway reopens after £25m of repairs** Scotland's only mountain railway will reopen today at the Cairngorm Mountain Resort, more than four years after it was shut because of safety issues. The return of the railway, which climbs to an altitude of 1,065m (3,494ft), comes after more than £25m was spent on bringing it back into operation. Snowsports enthusiasts will be transported to the upper slopes along a 2km track, with the refurbished Ptarmigan building, which houses

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 3 **Back on track: Cairngorm railway reopens** BRITAIN'S highest railway will finally run again today after being shut for more than four years. The Cairngorm funicular near Aviemore has been closed since September 2018 because of structural issues, but will resume taking passengers to the mountain's upper slopes. The Scottish Government gave £16million towards the £25million cost of fixing the railway, owned by public body Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). However, the final bill was £9

The Herald 10 **UK's highest railway opens for first time in four years** THE Cairngorm Mountain Railway is to reopen today for the first time since 2018, following extensive structural repairs. Snowsports enthusiasts can look forward to a regular service taking them to the top of the slopes in five minutes, Cairngorm Mountain (Scotland) Ltd (CMSL) has announced. The UK's highest railway was initially meant to open in early 2022 but faced delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, extreme weather and material shortages.

The Herald 17 **Scotland is at the forefront of agricultural innovation** GLOBAL food security is going to be a dominant economic theme over the next decade. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine a year ago, we have all seen just how fragile the food ecosystem really is to acute shocks, as well as the chronic effects of climate extremes and pandemics. The food industry accounts for nearly one-third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, so it is also one of the

The National (Scotland) 17 **'Monumental' moment as hunting law passed** NEW laws introducing further restrictions on hunting with dogs have been passed by Holyrood, with animal welfare campaigners hailing it as a "monumental day for Scotland". The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill was passed by 90 votes to 30 late on Tuesday night by the Scottish Parliament, with Environment Minister Mairi McAllan saying it would have an "immediate effect" by "modernising and strengthening" the existing legislation. The changes will bring

The National (Scotland) 19 **Famed funicular railway makes its return after four-year closure** THE Cairngorm Mountain Railway is set to return to full operation today following significant engineering works and testing. The UK Department of Transport has issued safety certificates, enabling Cairngorm Mountain (Scotland) Ltd (CMSL) to bring Scotland's only funicular railway back into service during the 2023 snowsports season. Weather permitting, the two kilometre railway will now run a regular service taking snowsport enthusiasts to the top of the slopes in around

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 35 **Survey shows 4% fall in beef cow numbers** Results from NFU Scotland's (NFUS) 2023 Intentions survey have revealed a 4% fall in beef cow numbers on units across Scotland as some farmers and crofters look to keep more breeding ewes. The survey, supported by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), was set up to assess the scale of change that unprecedented input costs and flat-lining output prices are having on business plans across all sectors. It stated that 40% of

The Scotsman 3 **Mountain railway scales Cairngorm once more following £25 million repair job** Today Scotland's only mountain railway will re-open at Cairngorm Mountain Resort, more than four years after it was shut down due to safety issues. The return of the railway, which climbs to 1,065 metres, comes after more than £25 million was spent on bringing it back into operation. Snowsports enthusiasts will be transported to the upper slopes along two kilometres of track, with the newlyrefurbished Ptarmigan building, which houses the

The Scotsman 34 **300,000 trees eco boost for Bannockburn** More than 300,000 native trees are due to be planted at a site near the famous Bannockburn battlefield, where Scottish King Robert the Bruce defeated the English royal army in 1314. Dumyat Estate, not far from the city of Stirling and a few miles from the historic battlefield, is popular with visitors and locals alike because of its rugged territory and stunning hilltop viewpoint, which overlooks the monument to another

The Sun (Scotland) 25 **Peak rail reopens** BRITAIN'S highest railway is to reopen today after four years. The Cairngorm funicular, near Aviemore, had been shut since 2018 due to structural problems. The Scottish Government put £16million towards the £25million cost of fixing the mountain railway, owned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Repairs started in 2021 but the pandemic, material shortages and weather delayed reopening. Cairngorm Mountain Scotland chief exec Susan Smith said: "It's an iconic hook to

The Times (Scotland) 22 **Burning question arises over bracken control** Idoubt that much time is spent in the Scottish cabinet talking about bracken. I wonder whether ministers even discuss rural Scotland at all, except to decide what they are against. Hunting, of course. Landowners, obviously. Grouse shooting, naturally. Salmon fishing? Mmm. But bracken — sorry? Well, it's time they raised it. Quietly, and with no public announcement, funding for bracken control has been withdrawn. Thousands of acres covered in this

The Times (Scotland) 8 **SNP picks next devolution row on gene-edited food legislation** SNP ministers have started another constitutional row with Westminster after Holyrood rejected the rollout of gene-edited food in Scotland. The Scottish

parliament refused consent for the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill to be implemented in Scotland. Although the bill is directed towards England, Mairi McAllan, the Scottish environment and biodiversity minister, said it contained provisions that could allow UK ministers to impose gene editing in Scotland. The bill will lift

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Water supply is back on for thousands of homes after burst destroys road** MORE than 100,000 homes have had their water supplies restored after a major leak. The burst mains pipe in Milngavie, East Dunbartonshire - not far from Rangers FC's Murray Park training base - destroyed the road above it, flooded other routes and cut off the water supply for a large swathe of north-west Glasgow. Children from the Lullaby Nursery in Milngavie were evacuated in boats and taken to Murray Park.

Daily Record 6 **Praise for wind as £2bn farm opens** NICOLA Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future. The First Minister's announcement came as the operations and maintenance base for the new £2billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. When up and running it could generate enough electricity to power around 375,000 homes. Sturgeon said the Scottish Government's recently published draft energy strategy "reflects our understanding and belief

Metro (Scotland) 6 **250k left without water after leak wrecks road** SUPPLIES have been restored to about 100,000 properties left without water after a major pipe burst. A 36in water main ruptured in Milngavie, East Dunbartonshire, on Tuesday afternoon and led to flooding as well as cutting off supply to people in parts of Glasgow. The force of the leak split Auchenhowie Road open, with children at the Lullaby Lane nursery having to take shelter in Rangers' training centre. Scottish Water

The Herald 4 **Sturgeon stresses vital wind farm role** NICOLA Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future - at the same time as a major new green power development passed a "significant milestone". The operations and maintenance base for the new £2 billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. It will see turbines located about 9.6 miles (15.5km) off the Fife coast and when up and

The National (Scotland) 2 **FM hails 'crucial' role of wind amid major milestone** FIRST MINISTER Nicola Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future - at the same time as a major new green power development passed a "significant milestone". The operations and maintenance base for the new £2 billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. It

The National (Scotland) 17 **'Monumental' moment as hunting law passed** NEW laws introducing further restrictions on hunting with dogs have been passed by Holyrood, with animal welfare campaigners hailing it as a "monumental day for Scotland". The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill was passed by 90 votes to 30 late on Tuesday night by the Scottish Parliament, with Environment Minister Mairi McAllan

saying it would have an "immediate effect" by "modernising and strengthening" the existing legislation. The changes will bring

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 7 **Call for Toll of Birness U-turn** Calls have been made for urgent upgrades to a collision blackspot on the A90 after data revealed seven people have died on the road in the last three years. Figures, obtained from police by the Scottish Conservatives, showed a further 49 people were injured in crashes at the Toll of Birness junction, on the A90 north of Ellon. The notorious junction has been at the centre of heated discussions at

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Council members firm over wind farm objection** Highland councillors have refused to drop their opposition to a controversial wind farm proposed for Strath Oykel. The Scottish Government had invited the council's north planning committee to review its previous decisions in light of the new national planning framework. But members reacted angrily, accusing the Scottish Government - and the council's own planning officers - of not respecting their decision. The controversy centred on two wind farm applications which

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 3 **New waste facility will help city meet need to cut rubbish to landfill** A new waste transfer station has been completed in Inverness ready for operation in April. The £14 million facility will be the first port of call for rubbish and recycling coming from across Inverness and Nairn to be sorted and processed. Highland Council currently collects and disposes of around 130,000 tonnes of household and commercial waste each year, with only 35% of this material recycled. Mixed waste will then be

The Scotsman 1 **Network Rail faces charges over fatal Stonehaven crash** Network Rail is set to be prosecuted for failings over the Carmont rail crash in which three people were killed, The Scotsman has learned. The infrastructure body will face charges over health and safety shortcomings that led to the fatal ScotRail train derailment near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire in 2020, it is understood. However, it is believed no corporate homicide charges will be brought. One industry source said: "Network Rail

The Scotsman 46 **Scotland can power UK energy revolution** Scotland's vast financial services sector can help power the UK to become the lead country in achieving net zero targets, according to one of the most prominent figures in London's Square Mile. Chris Hayward, policy chairman at the City of London Corporation, said green finance as a tool to drive net zero was of "fundamental importance" as he highlighted the strengths of the banking and financial services sectors on both

The Scotsman 8 **Sturgeon hails 'essential' role of offshore wind as new base opens** Nicola Sturgeon has highlighted the "crucial" role that offshore wind will play in Scotland's future - at the same time as a major new green power development passed a "significant milestone". The operations and maintenance base for the new £2 billion Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm was opened in Eyemouth, Berwickshire. It will see turbines located about 9.6 miles (15.5km) off the Fife coast, and when up and

The Scotsman 18 **Engineers work through the night on water main** Engineers have been work through the night as they repair the burst water main which left hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland's largest city without water for hours. A 36ins water main burst in Milngavie, East Dunbartonshire, on Tuesday afternoon and led to flooding in the area - as well as interrupting supplies for around 250,000 customers in parts of Glasgow. The force of the mains bursting split Auchenhowie

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

Daily Mail (Scotland) 61 **'ANCIENT INSTITUTION OF THE PUB' PUT AT RISK BY HIGH TAX** THE outspoken boss of Wetherspoon says that the 'ancient institution of the pub' is at risk due to sky-high taxes. As he revealed sales are still below pre-pandemic levels despite a surge over Christmas, Tim Martin said the disparity between taxes on pubs and supermarkets was the 'biggest threat' to a recovery from Covid. He argued that supermarkets can sell beer on the cheap because they pay no VAT on

Daily Record 6 **level down** THE UK Government has been accused of handing Levelling Up funding to wealthy areas in England at the expense of the poorest communities in Scotland. Tory ministers were criticised after millions in taxpayers' cash was last week awarded to projects in well-off local authority areas south of the Border. It has now emerged that five of the least well-off council areas in Scotland received no grants from the Levelling Up

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Ministers 'must raise taxes or make big cuts'** The Scottish Government will have to consider significant cuts to public services over the next four years if it wants to sustain the NHS and continue the drive for net zero emissions, economists have warned. In a report out today, the Institute for Fiscal Studies says cuts of about 13 per cent to areas outside health and climate change could be needed between now and 2027. It says Scottish Government

The Daily Telegraph 17 **Sturgeon warned Scotland faces 'stark funding challenges'** NICOLA STURGEON has been warned she must either slash spending or raise taxes in Scotland as Holyrood faces a tough budget squeeze in the coming years. Funds available for day-to-day spending, excluding benefits, are on course to shrink by 2pc in real terms by spring 2028, analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) shows. The crunch comes as inflation eats away at spending power, the SNP runs down Holyrood's

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Scots could face new income tax rise to plug spending black hole** SNP ministers could raise income tax rates in Scotland again to plug a growing black hole in their spending plans, a respected think tank has warned. The Institute for Fiscal Studies warns that soaring spending on benefits in Scotland "will reduce the amount available for public service spending". It forecasts spending on services will fall by 1.6 per cent in 2023-24, when expenditure on higher Scottish benefits and inflation are

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Scotland's public sector more bloated than pre-Covid** SCOTLAND'S bloated public sector is employing 30,000 more people than before the pandemic, according to a Holyrood inquiry that lambasted SNP ministers for having no plans for reform or to reduce the payroll. The Scottish Parliament's cross-

party finance committee warned that high inflation means the public sector requires staffing reductions "over and above that figure" to meet an SNP pledge to hold the state's wage bill to 2022/23 levels. John

The Herald 6 **IFS think tank warns 'stark funding challenges' lie ahead for Holyrood budget** THE UK's leading economic think tank has warned the Scottish Government faces "stark funding challenges" in the near future. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that if income tax receipts were lower than forecast, some departments could face cuts of more than 10 per cent of their budgets. In a new analysis of Holyrood's finances, the IFS said the budget for day-to-day spending, other than on benefits, looked "very

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 7 **Funding fails a 'slap in the face' for Skye** A councillor has hit out at the UK and Scottish governments after the island failed in its latest funding bids. John Finlayson, chairman of the Skye and Raasay area committee at Highland Council, claims other island communities get "preferential treatment". Mr Finlayson made his remarks as the UK Government announced the successful bids to the latest round of the levelling-up fund. Highland Council bid for investment in Portree Harbour and the

The Scotsman 46 **What do we want? 700,000 new social housing properties** Patrick Harvie's recent statement that the Scottish Government was reversing its ban on rent rises from 1 April was a welcome sign of good sense. To continue beyond April when it had already been announced that the rent freeze for social housing was being lifted would have been incomprehensible. Although the policy is not without anomalies. It is surely illogical that the social housing sector - which houses people

The Scotsman 12 **Taxpayer unlikely to see all of £16.4m tied up in BiFab despite legal action** Ministers have commenced legal action in an attempt to wrestle back £16.4 million from the Scottish Government's doomed investment into BiFab. A progress report from the company's administrators states, however, the prospect of the taxpayer being repaid in full is "unlikely". The firm, which had plants in Fife and Lewis, received £52m from the Scottish Government, including a £16.4m loan, which remains unpaid and was viewed as the best option

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Money troubles** THE SNP Government has gained an unfortunate reputation over the years for failing to plan ahead. It survives by firefighting day-to-day — responding to crises as they arise, rather than preventing them in the first place. This strategy — or, rather, lack of — has been no more apparent than with the National Health Service. In the decade before the pandemic, there were repeated warnings about ministers' failure to get

The Times (Scotland) 41 **Fast-growing firms secure record funds** Scotland's fast-growing companies secured a record £705 million of venture capital funding in 2022, research shows. KPMG's Venture Pulse report said the figure was an increase of more than 12 per cent compared with the previous record of £626 million set in 2021. There were 161 deals, slightly down on the 169 the year before. However, there was sharp fall in funding in Scotland during the final three months of

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Bryson should be in men's prison, SNP MP claims** THE fallout in nationalist circles over Scottish Government gender reform plans deepened with a senior SNP figure stating that transgender rapist Isla Bryson should not be in a women's jail. MP Joanna Cherry KC told Times Radio: "To many people, it will look like this convict has gamed the system in order to try and garner sympathy and to end up in a woman's prison and I think a lot

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **snp 'passes buck' over trans rapist jail uproar** FROM PAGE ONE when she was a man called Adam Graham. But there has been a furious reaction to the fact that Bryson is being housed at CorntonVale, the women's prison near Stirling. The row led to intervention yesterday from Downing Street. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab stated that if the case had been dealt with in England the 31-year-old rapist would be in a men's prison "as a matter

Daily Mail 4 **Rapist only transitioned for easier life in prison, says wife. It's a mockery** THE estranged wife of a transgender rapist last night mocked her decision to become a woman as 'a sham' to seek attention - and get an easier time in prison. Shonna Graham married Adam Graham who, identifying as a man, went on to rape two women before changing his name to Isla Bryson to begin the process of gender reassignment. On Tuesday, Bryson, 31, was convicted by a jury in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **EX-JAIL BOSS FURY OVER TRANS RAPIST** A FORMER governor of Cornton Vale women's prison yesterday said she would have quit if forced to house transgender double rapist Isla Bryson. Rhona Hotchkiss said it was 'appalling' that the 31-year-old was sent to the Stirlingshire jail after being convicted of raping two women while she was still a man. Bryson is being held in a segregation unit at the all-female jail while risk assessments are carried out. But

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Ditch gender Bill now** NICOLA Sturgeon was warned repeatedly that her transgender reforms were fraught with risk - but refused to listen to reason. The result is an unmitigated disaster of her own creation, evidenced by the row over double rapist Isla Bryson. Bryson, a transgender woman who raped two women while living as a man, has been sent to an all-female prison. There are now growing fears that the SNP Government's gender self-identification

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN MUST TRUMP THOSE OF A RAPIST** JUST over a year ago, as a new MSP, I found myself asking a very strange question of SNP Justice Secretary Keith Brown. I put it to him that Police Scotland might have been recording male sex criminals as women. It seemed too absurd to be true and I fully expected him to shoot it down by stating the obvious - which is that rape can only be committed by

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **The smirking rapist now sitting in a female prison proves our legal system has sacrificed vulnerable women at the shrine of trans rights** BETWEEN 2016 and 2019, a shaven-headed thug by the name of Adam Graham carried out two violent rapes. Graham — complete with facial tattoos akin to those sported by the boxer Mike Tyson, another convicted rapist — first appeared in the dock for these crimes in July 2019. But by the time this individual stood trial last week, a dramatic transformation had taken place. The jury at Glasgow High Court

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Labour 'all over place' on gender, says Blunkett as he backs block on SNP Bill** A LABOUR grandee has accused the party of being 'all over the place' on the contentious topic of gender. Former home secretary Lord Blunkett said that Labour must treat people with respect but not do anything to undermine women's rights. He also went against party policy by backing the Government's decision to block Scotland's radical self-ID reform that would have allowed 16-year-olds to legally change sex. Lord Blunkett told yesterday's

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Sex attacker has only transitioned for attention and an easier life in prison, says wife. It's a sham** THE estranged wife of a transgender rapist last night mocked her decision to become a woman as 'a sham' to seek attention - and to get an easier time in prison. Shonna Graham married Adam Graham who, identifying as a man, went on to rape two women before changing his name to Isla Bryson to begin the process of gender reassignment. On Tuesday, Bryson, 31, was convicted by a jury

Daily Record 12 **This is no game** THE Levelling Up fund was a pet project of Boris Johnson and was meant to replace the EU's regional development grants. Brexit put a stop to Brussels' cash despite it helping many post-industrial areas over the years, including Scotland. The idea of Westminster handing out cash to worthy projects is fine in theory but as ever the devil is in the detail. There have now been two rounds of Levelling

Metro (Scotland) 1 **TRANS RAPIST PRISON SAFETY FEARS** THE prime minister intervened yesterday after it emerged a transgender woman convicted of raping two women while she was a man is being held in a women's prison. Isla Bryson was found guilty at the High Court in Glasgow on Tuesday of raping one woman in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, in 2016 and another in Drumchapel, Glasgow, in 2019. It is understood she is being held at Cornton Vale women's prison

Metro (Scotland) 7 **Learning disability kids 'left to rely on benefits' after college** A LACK of support for people with learning disabilities has created a 'reliance on the welfare state', MSPs have been told. Ashley Ryan, director of Enable Works, said a fifth of learning disabled teenagers leave school with no meaningful qualifications. She told Holyrood's economy and fair work committee: 'What we're seeing is there is a real lack of aspiration for that client group in school. We're still seeing people with

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon under pressure to move rapist out of female jail** NICOLA STURGEON has come under fire for refusing to remove a trans rapist from a women's prison. Downing Street expressed "concern" about the Scottish Government placing a male-bodied rapist in the female jail, putting pressure on the First Minister to reverse the decision. Rishi Sunak's spokesman said he had "seen the reporting and understands the concerns" over the decision to allow transgender Isla Bryson to be held in a women's

The Guardian 15 **Scottish gender bill opponents say rape case justifies concerns** Politicians, campaigners and a UN special rapporteur have all expressed concerns that a transgender woman found guilty of raping two women before transitioning is being remanded in a female prison. Opponents of the Scottish government's gender recognition reforms (GRR) - which the UK government has

blocked from going for royal assent because of "safety issues for women and children" - said that the case vindicated their concerns about lack of

The Herald 4 **Robison blasts Jack's 'flat refusal to engage' after gender reforms meeting** SHONA Robison has hit out at Alister Jack's "flat refusal to engage" with SNP ministers to resolve the constitutional standoff over Scotland's gender recognition reforms. The Scottish Government's Social Justice Secretary has criticised the Scottish Secretary over an "inadequate approach to finding a constructive way of working together". The war of words comes after Mr Jack and Ms Robison spoke on Tuesday to discuss a way forward to resolve the

The Herald 8 **Minister insists action to fight homelessness 'national priority'** SNP ministers have been warned that more action is needed to "save lives" from homelessness, amid claims policy choices were exacerbating problems. The Scottish Housing Secretary, Shona Robison, told MSPs that tackling homelessness was a "national priority" to reduce levels of homelessness in Scotland. Leading an opposition debate in Holyrood, Conservative housing spokesman Miles Briggs took aim at the Scottish Government, claiming policies were making the housing situation worse. "The

The Herald 4 **Cherry dismisses claims Tories are stoking 'culture war' over gender reform** NICOLA Sturgeon's claim that the UK GOVERNMENT IS using trans rights to stoke a "shameful culture war" has been attacked by one of her own MPs. Joanna Cherry said the language was being used to "silence the legitimate concerns of feminists". On Sunday, speaking to the BBC, the First Minister claimed the intervention was politically motivated. "Shamefully, disgracefully, [the UK Government] are trying to stoke a culture war on the

The Herald 1 **Hundreds of disabled Scots face losing jobs in grants crisis** HUNDREDS of disabled Scots are at risk of losing their jobs as soaring numbers wait for decisions on UK Government grant support with approvals taking up to eight months to process. New figures have revealed that the UK Government's 30-year-old Access to Work scheme, which funds office adaptations and travel assistance so people can do their jobs, is in crisis. The number of outstanding applications soared from 4,890 in March

The Herald 22 **What does surge of openings tell us about future of Scottish hospitality?** RESEARCH disclosed by Savills recently offered a surprise take on the fortunes of the hospitality sector in Scotland's biggest city. And the findings made the case that there are more reasons to be cheerful than one might expect. The research, reported exclusively in The Herald, found that 23 new outlets launched in Glasgow in 2022, making it the busiest year for new openings in the city for five years. At

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 34 **MSP hits out after city backs move to plant-based eating** Farmers have received another slap in the face as Edinburgh becomes Europe's first capital to endorse a "Plant Based Treaty" which could include the introduction of meatfree days at schools, hospitals, nursing homes and offices. Councillors on Edinburgh's policy and sustainability committee backed a motion to refuse applications for new farms and slaughterhouses, and for the potential rollout of meat taxes and carbon labelling on foods. The move comes in

The Scotsman 24 **Will Scotland stand up for its rights after Gender Bill blocked?** Nothing changes with unionism. Every time Labour and the Tories unite to push against the tide of Scottish independence, they use the language of placation; further devolution, gestures of decentralisation tossed out as tidbits, there there, be quiet now, and so on. But look what happens when Scotland's elected representatives, acting true to the manifestos they were elected on, do something in the Scottish Parliament that these Westminster men

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Gender terrorists are destroying the rights of women. When will we man up, grow a pair and fight back?** FOR the past few years, I've held an increasingly firm conviction that the world has gone stark raving nuts. We have allowed a bunch of purple-haired, ring-nosed, humour-devoid, permanently howling woke fascists to bully and shame us into believing their insane views are the only ones to be tolerated. And by kowtowing to this vile, censorious, cancel culture mob, we've created a society too fearful to defend even the most

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **JK SWIPE AT STURGEON** JK Rowling has taken a swipe at Nicola Sturgeon after the decision to house Isla Bryson in a women's jail. The Harry Potter author, 57, hit out online with a waspish joke suggesting trans-rights crusader Ms Sturgeon would claim anyone opposed to the double rapist being caged at Cornton Vale is a "bigot". Her barb came in response to a fellow Twitter user, who posted a snap of the First

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Minister defiant over trans rapist** The Scottish justice secretary has refused to stop the imprisonment of rapists in women's prisons after a party colleague accused a double sex offender of "gaming the system". Keith Brown said that he trusted the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to assess potential risks presented by trans prisoners, after it was reported that the rapist Isla Bryson was being held at Cornton Vale women's prison near Stirling. Politicians from across the

10. CORPORATE

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **SNP legal team ran up eye-watering £14k hotel bill in 'futile' indyref case** NEARLY £14,000 of taxpayers' money was spent on hotel rooms for lawyers fighting the SNP's doomed Supreme Court independence case. The delegation, led by Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain and made up of lawyers, officials and one of Nicola Sturgeon's special advisers, ran up the eye-watering bill during the November hearing in London. Miss Bain and some of her top officials stayed in £460-a-night hotel rooms, while others in the Scottish

The Scotsman 4 **Ministers urged to give clarity over plans to cut public sector workforce** Scottish ministers have been urged to provide clarity on their plans to reform the public sector and reduce the workforce. Holyrood's finance and public administration committee called on the Scottish Government to set out where "reductions in headcount to pre-pandemic levels will be made". Elsewhere, it said ministers were "firefighting" through considerable financial challenges as they battle the cost-of-living crisis and the demand for improved pay deals. It came as

The National (Scotland) 6 **'Serious concerns': Tories are accused of failing to follow Scottish Parliament procedure** THE Scottish Tories have been accused of

failing to follow "proper parliamentary procedure" after sharing details of an opposition day debate with lobbyists and the press before MSPs. SNP MSP Emma Roddick raised a point of order in the Scottish Parliament ahead of two debates tabled in the name of Tory MSP Miles Briggs, on homelessness and housing. Roddick told MSPs that she had "serious concerns" over the conduct of

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 6 **Scotland's public sector more bloated than pre-Covid** SCOTLAND'S bloated public sector is employing 30,000 more people than before the pandemic, according to a Holyrood inquiry that lambasted SNP ministers for having no plans for reform or to reduce the payroll. The Scottish Parliament's cross-party finance committee warned that high inflation means the public sector requires staffing reductions "over and above that figure" to meet an SNP pledge to hold the state's wage bill to 2022/23 levels. John

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The Scotsman 30 **Burns does not deserve slavery shame** ravo Sir Tom Devine. B Not only is he Scotland's foremost living historian, but he's had the courage to speak out against the nonsense of linking our National Bard with slavery. A reported plan by the National Galleries of Scotland to reference the heinous trade in text beside a famous portrait of Robert Burns was rightly described as "historically illiterate" by the learned academic. The proposal, which hopefully will be

Item 11:

From: Economic Research Team [Redacted]

Sent: 23 January 2023 10:13

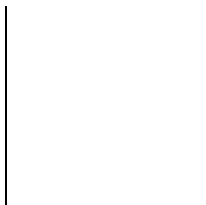
To: Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]

Subject: Company news - 23rd January 2023

A weekly round up of company news covering topical areas.

Your weekly update of company news from the Economic Research Team.

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Weekly News Alert
23 January 2023

Aviation

[Scottish aviation business invests in new aircraft to meet pilot demand](#)

Flight training and aircraft maintenance business, **ACS Aviation**, has invested £550,000 to purchase two additional aircraft to service the continued growth of its pilot training programme. The business is on track to post another record year, with turnover up 17% to £3.4 million in 2022/23 and a further increase to £3.9 million forecast for 2023/24.

Construction

[Cala records £1.36 billion revenue and £169 million profit](#)

Cala Group has reported revenue of £1.36bn, a 9% increase on 2021, and anticipates pre-tax profit of circa £169m, up 27% year-on-year. The house builder's preliminary results for the 12 months to 31 December 2022 also revealed total home completions of 3,027 – 4% up on the 2021 total of 2,904 units. Sales per site per week across the year were 0.62, compared to 0.76 achieved in 2021, as a result of a change in sales rates in the final quarter of 2022, following the UK Government's mini budget.

Energy

[Edinburgh Boiler Company begins £2 million renewables expansion](#)

The **Edinburgh Boiler Company** (EBC) is set to double its workforce with a £2m investment in a new renewables division. The expansion will see staff numbers rise to more than 70 over the course of the next 12 months. Established in 2015, EBC has grown to become a leading installer of boilers in Scotland - and will now also focus on heat pumps and solar panels.

[Revenues soar past £70million at Ashtead Technology](#)

Westhill subsea equipment supplier **Ashtead Technology** has said its annual revenue will be up about 30% to £72.5million. In a year end trading update released yesterday, the company said it enjoyed growing demand for its services across the offshore wind and oil and gas markets. It also benefited from two acquisitions it made in the second half of 2022.

[Harbour Energy to cut jobs in Aberdeen in response to UK windfall tax](#)

The North Sea's largest oil and gas producer is preparing to cut hundreds of jobs and shift attention outside of the UK in response to the windfall tax. **Harbour Energy** confirmed that it had launched a review of its UK business "to align with lower future activity levels" after the tax rate on operators was increased from 40% to 75% following months of soaring gas and oil prices.

Financial Services

[Paddle lays off 8% of staff](#)

Paddle, the UK unicorn provider of payments infrastructure for SaaS companies, has laid off eight per cent of its workforce, citing the need to cut costs amidst rising inflation and interest rates. The firm, which last year raised \$200 million in Series D equity and debt financing at a valuation of \$1.4bn, was a beneficiary of the Covid era as the shift to digital saw it sign up a slew of software companies who wanted to sell globally.

[Tesco Bank gives staff £1,250 cost-of-living pay rise](#)

Tesco Bank has given more than 3,400 of its staff a £1,250 pay increase, on a full-time equivalent basis, to help with the increased cost of living. More than 90% of the bank's workforce are eligible for the increase, which was made effective from 8 January.

Life Sciences

[Blackford Analysis acquired by Bayer](#)

Artificial intelligence-led medical imaging firm **Blackford Analysis** has been acquired by global life sciences group **Bayer**. Spun out from the University of Edinburgh in 2010 and still headquartered in the city, Blackford has a presence in the UK and US, focused on providing healthcare providers with tailored tools and services. Following the transaction, it will continue to operate as an independent organisation on an arm's-length basis, remaining headquartered in Scotland with no changes to the management or staff.

[Glasgow biotech firm acquired](#)

A Glasgow-based drug development company has been acquired by a market leader in its field. **SB Drug Discovery**, which specialises in ion channel and receptor drug discovery research, has been purchased by Nottingham-based **Sygnature Discovery**. The acquisition will see both companies continue to operate out of their respective facilities, with further investment and service expansion planned by SG in the coming months.

[Medical cannabis company Hilltop Leaf secures £2m investment](#)

A medical cannabis company based in the south of Scotland has secured a £2m investment that will allow it to make its first commercial sales. **Hilltop Leaf** in Dumfries and Galloway has Scotland's first medicinal cannabis cultivation and production facility. Chief executive Hamish Clegg said the business was based on the "key pillars of health innovation, environmental sustainability and community impact".

Retail

[Marks & Spencer to open 20 large shops, creating 3,400 jobs](#)

Marks & Spencer is to open 20 large stores and create 3,400 jobs as part of a £500m plan

to rejuvenate its presence on the high street after bumper Christmas trading. The retail chain – which in October said it would close 67 of its “lower productivity” sites that sold clothes and homewares, about a quarter of its estate of bigger stores – said it planned to open the 20 new “bigger, better” stores in locations across the UK in the next financial year.

[Return of Christmas parties drives Quiz December sales](#)

Quiz has reported an 11% year-on-year rise in total sales to £9.8m, driven by increased demand for 'occasionwear' during the first festive period in three years not impacted by pandemic-related restrictions. The Glasgow-headquartered fast fashion retailer's trading update for the month of December also showed that this helped offset slightly weaker than anticipated revenues in the weeks prior - and contributed to a 3% increase in revenues in the three months to the end of year.

[Ocado has record Christmas sales but people are buying fewer items](#)

Ocado Retail enjoyed record sales over Christmas but customers are putting fewer items in their baskets in response to higher prices and the cost of living crisis.

[Paperchase hunts for buyer but prepares for insolvency](#)

High Street stationery chain **Paperchase** has lined up administrators and put itself up for sale. The firm said it has a number of buyers interested in the business but was also taking to the insolvency experts Begbies Traynor about options for its future. Paperchase was only recently sold to a consortium led by retail investor Steve Curtis.

[Aldi increases pay for UK warehouse workers for third time in a year](#)

Aldi is increasing pay for UK warehouse workers for the third time in a year – with its hourly minimum rate now 20% above last January. The German-owned discounter, which is the UK's fourth-largest supermarket chain, said pay would rise to £13.18 on 1 February, up 4% on the current minimum of £12.66, which was introduced in September.

Services

[Spotless grows UK footprint with English acquisitions](#)

Spotless Commercial Cleaning has acquired two rivals south of the border, bolstering its annual revenues and widening its UK customer base. The Edinburgh-headquartered company has taken over the Manchester-based Purity Group, purchasing its assets out of administration. The move further builds the north west England footprint for Spotless, which has had a Manchester-based team operating within the region for over a decade.

Technology

[Livingston laboratory equipment firm acquired](#)

Scientific Laboratory Supplies (SLS) has acquired **C&M Scientific**. Based in Livingston, C&M is a distributor of laboratory equipment and service provider specialising in installation, validation, calibration, repair and ongoing maintenance for scientific equipment.

[HR tech firm raises £1.6 million in seed funding round](#)

Gigged.AI has raised £1.6m in a seed round led by Par Equity, alongside existing investor Techstart Ventures, Edinburgh-based design firm Nile HQ and several other entrepreneurs. The Glasgow-headquartered start-up uses matching algorithms to help businesses source and onboard on-demand tech talent and retain existing staff.

[UK battery start-up collapses into administration](#)

UK battery start-up **Britishvolt** has collapsed into administration, with the majority of its 232 staff made redundant with immediate effect. Employees were told the news at an all-staff meeting (on Tuesday morning). The firm had planned to build a giant factory to make electric car batteries in Blyth, Northumberland.

[Microsoft to cut 10,000 jobs in March as tech firms, including Amazon, thin ranks](#)

Microsoft is cutting 10,000 jobs as it cited a post-pandemic shift in digital spending habits and weakness in the global economy. Microsoft's chief executive, Satya Nadella, said in a blogpost that customers had increased their digital spend when coronavirus hit in 2020-21 but were now scaling back.

[Craneware reports rising revenue and earnings](#)

Craneware's first half revenues are expected to increase by 6% to approximately \$84.7m, while adjusted earnings before tax are up by 8% to \$25.5m. The software solutions provider targeting the US healthcare market also revealed cash reserves of \$38.6m - down from \$41.7m at the last half-year stage - and total bank debt of \$107.9m - down from \$114.6m.

[Google parent Alphabet to cut 12,000 jobs](#)

Google's parent company **Alphabet** will cut 12,000 jobs, in the latest staff redundancies to hit the tech industry. Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai said he took "full responsibility" for the cuts, in an internal email. The cuts will affect 6% of Alphabet's workforce worldwide, in teams including recruitment and engineering.

Transport

[McGill's buses makes offer to Amazon employees guaranteeing interviews](#)

McGill's Buses has made an offer to all Amazon staff at risk of redundancy to guarantee them an interview for a range of vacancies it has available across Scotland. Earlier this week, Amazon announced plans to close its distribution centre in Gourrock, putting about 300 jobs at risk and leaving many staff at risk of redundancy.

[Abellio's services arm relaunches with promise of new Scottish jobs](#)

The shared business services arm of transport group **Abellio** has relaunched with the promise of new jobs and the aim of becoming the biggest single provider of joined-up business support in Scotland. **SOLVD**, based at a 150-employee shared service centre in Glasgow, already provides services ranging from customer experience and contact centres to payroll, finance, HR and management information reporting for rail and bus operators across the UK. The business has now revealed plans to expand beyond transport, targeting industries in the public and private sectors.

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Item 12:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitoring Unit Manager

Sent: 23 January 2023 07:44

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot; Shirley-Anne.Somerville2@parliament.scot; Yousaf H (Humza) <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>; keith.brown.msp@parliament.scot; Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot; Harvie P (Patrick) <Patrick.Harvie@gov.scot>; mairi.mcallan.msp@parliament.scot;
Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: Media Digest - Monday 23 January 2023

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Press Summary For Scottish Government

23 January 2023

Compiled By Precise

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1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Sturgeon mixes her drinks comments on pubs at 16** NICOLA Sturgeon was forced into an embarrassing climbdown after stating 16-year-olds could soon be able to drink legally in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The Gender Recognition Reform Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the

Daily Express 13 **IT'S ABOUT time that wee [...]** IT'S ABOUT time that wee Nicola Sturgeon was shown to be the fool we all knew she is. This gender recognition Act she was going to put in in Scotland wasn't universally popular even there and would cause all sorts of problems about how it would apply in England. There are, of course, suggestions that she is using the row caused by the UK government blocking the Act to

The Herald 14 **The world would be much better off if more leaders acted like dignified Ardern** JACINDA Ardern's announcement last Thursday that she will resign as New Zealand's Prime Minister and leader of the New Zealand Labour Party came as a shock to outside observers. Holding back tears, she explained that, after much soul-searching, she felt she no longer had the energy or motivation to do her role justice. By stepping down, she has allowed her party to find a new leader in Chris Hipkins, who

The Herald 4 **Tributes as Scots thinker Nairn dies** TRIBUTES have been paid to philosopher Tom Nairn, who has died aged 90. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon described him as one of the "greatest thinkers, political theorists and intellectuals that Scotland has ever produced." A statement issued on behalf of his family said he had been "poorly for some years" and had died peacefully after a fall on Saturday morning. In a tweet, Ms Sturgeon also described him as "one

Daily Mail 19 **Sturgeon U-turn on alcohol for 16-year-olds** NICOLA Sturgeon has backtracked after suggesting she thought 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs, as she discussed teens being able to change their legal sex. During an interview with the BBC, the Scottish First Minister was asked why she believed 16-year-olds were mature enough to self-identify as a different sex under her controversial Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. Ms Sturgeon pointed out they can already get married and

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **SNP WESTMONSTER WHIP QUIT "AFTER DIRTY TRICKS EMAIL"** THE atmosphere in the SNP's Westminster camp has reportedly "turned sour" after the chief whip quit just six weeks into the job. Stephen Flynn's honeymoon period as leader appears to be over, as a senior Nationalist source claimed support for the Aberdeen South MP was "rapidly declining". The group is understood to be even more divided now than in the final days of Ian Blackford's tenure, when he was forced

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **I want justice for my asbestos hell says site labourer** FURIOUS workers are threatening to sue a major housebuilder with close links to the SNP over claims they were exposed to deadly asbestos. Springfield Properties, run by multi-millionaire Sandy Adam, was forced to pay a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire. Government-run environment regulator Sepa found failures in the way the firm managed "controlled waste" being transported between a number of

The Daily Telegraph 4 **SNP's social engineering targets risk brain drain** BRITAIN'S second most senior judge would have been rejected from his university law course had social engineering policies designed to meet SNP targets been in place when he was a teenager, The Daily Telegraph can reveal. Lord Reed of Allmuir graduated from the University of Edinburgh's renowned law school with a first class degree in 1978 and had a glittering legal career, becoming president of the Supreme Court in January

The Herald 1 **Sturgeon: I might not lead Scotland to indy** NICOLA Sturgeon has suggested she might not be the person to lead Scotland to independence. However, the First Minister insisted there was still "plenty in the tank", and that

she had no intention of standing down in the near future. The comments come after New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern shocked Kiwis on Thursday when she said she had "no more in the tank" to lead the country and would

The Herald 14 **For the Sunday shows there's no such thing as a Saturday night off** SOME scores on the doors after this week's Sunday politics shows. What we learned: Foreign Secretary James Cleverly went shopping on Saturday (Sky News' Ridge on Sunday); Iain Duncan Smith, former leader of the Conservatives, regards himself as an old rocker (Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg); Tesco tussled with Heinz over soup prices (SWLK); Nicola Sturgeon still thinks the UK Government's blocking of the Scottish Parliament's gender reform law is outrageous

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 18 **Sturgeon: I have 'plenty in the tank'** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as Scotland's first minister and believes she will lead the nation to independence. The SNP leader revealed that when the time comes she hopes she will have the "same courage" as outgoing New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who announced this week that she no longer had "enough in the tank" to go on in the job. But Ms

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Sleeper link subsidy cost taxpayers £95 per user** THE Caledonian Sleeper service has cost the taxpayer roughly £95 per passenger since Nicola Sturgeon became First Minister. The subsidy to run the overnight service which links London and the Highlands has climbed to £173million since 2014. Figures compiled by the Office of Rail and Road show that the Caledonian Sleeper has carried just over 1.8million people in that time. The service is currently run by Serco, an outsourcing firm

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Lawyers scrutinise assisted dying Bill amid fear of UK veto** PLANS to legalise assisted dying in Scotland are being scrutinised by lawyers amid fears they will be blocked by Westminster. A proposal for a Member's Bill on the issue was lodged at Holyrood by Lib Dem MSP Liam McArthur last year. Legal advice has now been sought about the Bill after Scottish Secretary Alister Jack issued a section 35 order to block the SNP's controversial gender reforms. The order, which

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **SNP in headlights over safety concerns on A9** SNP ministers are being inundated with demands to speed up dualling of the A9 and A96 in the wake of a spate of recent tragedies, we can reveal. Worried motorists and residents have been flooding ministers with their concerns about the failure to deliver on promises to upgrade the key routes. E-mails and letters about progress with the A9 and A96 were being sent to transport chiefs almost every day

The Herald 15 **The misogynistic hatred that has infected the SNP** AT least they know how to spell "decapitate". I mean I know it's not the hardest word to get right, but it doesn't have the same degree of difficulty as, say, "eviscerate" or something to do with genital mutilation (which probably wouldn't fit on a placard, anyway). All of these charming epithets have been aimed at women - usually by men - who insist on defending women's sex-based rights, including

The Herald 9 **Activist in broadside at police over probe into SNP 'fraud'** THE man who triggered the police investigation into potential fraud at the SNP has launched a scathing attack on the apparent lack of progress in the case. Sean Clerkin has lodged a complaint with Police Scotland after it emerged the party's leadership had yet to be questioned, 18 months after the probe officially began. He said Nicola Sturgeon, her husband, the SNP chief executive Peter Murrell, and SNP treasurer Colin

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Drivers bombard SNP with road safety fears** TERRIFIED north residents are besieging SNP ministers with desperate demands to speed up the dualling of the A9 and A96. Emails and letters were being sent to transport chiefs almost every day late last year after a spate of fatal crashes on the routes. The memos lay bare how "genuinely fearful" many are, and how some view the delays to upgrades as "utterly scandalous". There were 13 deaths on the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Nicola: I still have plenty in the tank to lead my party** NICOLA Sturgeon says she is 'nowhere near' quitting as First Minister and has 'plenty left in the tank' to lead the SNP. Scotland's longest-serving First Minister revealed she hopes to have the 'same courage' to resign in a similar way to outgoing New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. But asked about continuing to lead the independence campaign, Miss Sturgeon said she would 'like to think' she would still be in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Failing First Minister** WITH boundless arrogance, Nicola Sturgeon asserts that she has 'plenty left in the tank' and is 'nowhere near' quitting. But the First Minister may have little choice over her future if she is judged by recent lamentable performances. Her latest blunder comes in a week when the SNP has committed a series of humiliating U-turns. They include leaving the much-vaunted crusade to close the pupil attainment gap lying in tatters,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Establishing what gender identity means is first step to settling debate** "What is gender identity?" former Guardian columnist Suzanne Moore asked on Twitter last week, after Alister Jack announced the UK Government will use a section 35 order to prevent Holyrood's freshly minted Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill gaining royal assent. It's a good question - and she posed other equally good ones. What's

the difference between gender identity and regressive gender stereotypes? Does everyone have a gender identity, and when do

The Herald 4 **No 'persuasive or compelling' argument against gender law** NICOLA Sturgeon has insisted that there is no "persuasive or compelling" legal argument about the impact of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill on the Equality Act. The First Minister told the BBC that despite the objections of the UK Government, the new law would "not change the legal effect of a gender recognition certificate." However, a second former Supreme Court judge has also now spoken out on the legislation, and warned

The Scotsman 2 **Sturgeon gaffe is a reminder of crisis in alcohol deaths** It is perhaps testament to Nicola Sturgeon's status as one of the country's most polished political performers that when she makes a mistake, it stands out. The First Minister is an assured and focused interviewee not known for misspeaking, but her gaffe during her one-to-one with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg was particularly embarrassing. The wide-ranging interview saw Ms Sturgeon asked why she held thought 16-year-olds are old enough to

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Holyrood is drifting further and further away from the true priorities of Scots** THEY say a week is a long time in politics but Alister Jack has gone in even less time from mild-mannered Dumfriesshire businessman to tyrannical satrap. His colonial crime? Invoking section 35 of the Scotland Act to block Nicola Sturgeon's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. For doing so, the Secretary of State for Scotland has been accused of attacking devolution and even democracy itself. He was howled at by a pack

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Most people are against SNP gender reforms, poll reveals** NICOLA Sturgeon's controversial gender reforms are opposed by the majority of Britons, a poll has found. Holyrood passed legislation making it easier for trans people to obtain a gender recognition certificate (GRC) by self identification and without medical involvement. The age limit has been slashed from 18 to 16. Over-18s will only have to state they have lived in their desired gender for three months, while 16 and 17-year olds

The Scotsman 20 **Jack gives Sturgeon a full-frontal defence of devolution** When is a full-frontal assault on devolution not a full-frontal assault on devolution? The simple answer is: when a legitimate political intervention is made using the laws that established it in the first place. Last week the Scottish Secretary of State, Alister Jack, saved devolution from itself. Indeed, he saved it from a full-frontal assault by the nationalists currently in control of it. The SNP/ Green Government will do

The Scotsman 10 **Sturgeon claims gender reforms do not affect UK-wide legislation** Claims that controversial changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland impact on UK-wide equalities legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The Scottish First Minister was speaking amid ongoing controversy over the UK government's veto of Holyrood legislation. Former Supreme Court judge Lord Sumption said it is part of a strategy by SNP ministers to "provoke constitutional rows, which they hope will boost support for independence". He accused the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **STURGEON'S 'PUB UB AT 16' BLUNDER** NICOLA Sturgeon backtracked yesterday after suggesting she thought that 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs as well as change gender. The First Minister insisted only a 'tiny' number of teenagers would benefit from her divisive reforms that would lower the age at which people can legally change sex, as well as speeding up the process. She pointed out that 16-year-olds can get married and join the Army, then

Daily Record 15 **Scotland can fight draconian Tory actions.. but it can't change them** THE Tories have outdone themselves with their recent dealings at Westminster. Undermining the right to strike, overruling the Scottish Parliament, ripping up EU legislation and sending levelling up money to their own wealthy seats are just a handful of their damaging moves. Just one standard week in Westminster leaves many wondering what Scotland gets out of our membership of this union. On Monday, the Conservatives brought forward their anti-trades union

The Scotsman 10 **I've got plenty in the tank to lead Scotland, says First Minister** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as Scotland's First Minister - adding she still hopes to lead the country to independence. The SNP leader has been in the post since November 2014, with her predecessor Alex Salmond stepping down after Scots voted to stay in the UK in September of that year. Speaking on the BBC's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme, Ms Sturgeon insisted she

The Times 24 **Don't fall into the trap of 'bad news Britain'** It is a rare and dangerous thing for a politician in a 21st-century democracy to be simultaneously interesting and in office. Boris Johnson and Liz Truss fascinated in the way that any car crash, whether slow-motion or high-speed might. By contrast Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer offer the political equivalent of a high-fibre diet: porridge, potatoes and pulses, never likely to cause indigestion but hardly popular at a party.

Daily Record 2 **Sturgeon backtrack on booze-at-16 gaffe** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she made a mistake after claiming she was open to 16-year-olds being able to drink alcohol in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview

about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The gender recognition Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the age threshold a concern

Daily Record 5 **'We go home and burst into tears'** THE medical profession is on its knees with a chronic lack of staff meaning patients are not getting the care they deserve. One nurse, who asked not to be named, told first-hand of the crisis in our hospitals and the impact on patients with too few nurses to go round. She works in a busy city accident and emergency department where every day the numbers of patients queuing up to

The Times (Scotland) 11 **Sturgeon has 'plenty in the tank' to lead Scotland** Nicola Sturgeon insisted she still had energy to lead Scotland to independence as she accused the UK government of stoking a "shameful culture war" over trans rights. The first minister said that she had "plenty in the tank" and had no intention of following her friend and political ally Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, who announced her resignation last week. Speaking on the BBC's Sunday with Laura

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Sturgeon rejects grounds offered by UK ministers for veto of Scottish gender Bill** Claims that changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland will affect UK-wide equality legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. Last week the Scottish Secretary, Alister Jack, said that he would veto the Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, using Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998. Accepting that legal opinion on the matter of whether the UK Government had the right to do so was "divided", Ms Sturgeon

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **First Minister says she has 'plenty in the tank' and not ready to quit** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as First Minister, adding that she still hoped to lead the country to independence. The SNP leader has been in the post since November 2014, after her predecessor Alex Salmond stepped down when Scots voted to stay in the UK in September of that year. Speaking BBC One's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, Ms Sturgeon said she had "plenty in

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Former law lord says SNP gender law claim is 'absurd'** A FORMER Supreme Court judge has dismissed claims the UK government is attacking Scottish democracy with its veto of Holyrood legislation as 'absurd'. Lord Sumption said that if the gender recognition reform (Scotland) bill wasn't challenged, 'some UK citizens will have a different legal gender in different parts of the UK'. The ex-barrister added: 'This poses serious legal and practical problems for employers and public authorities operating on a UK-wide

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **SNP social mobility targets risk brain drain** THE head of the UK's highest court would have been rejected from his university law course had social engineering policies designed to meet SNP targets been in place when he was young, The Daily Telegraph can reveal. Lord Reed of Allmuir graduated from the University of Edinburgh's renowned law school with a first class degree in 1978 and went on to have a glittering legal career, becoming Scotland's youngest ever

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon vows not to give up on gender Bill** Nicola Sturgeon has insisted she has not given up on her gender reforms despite a second former Supreme Court judge warning that a legal bid to overturn a veto would be doomed. The First Minister said she would "do everything" to enact legislation passed at Holyrood last month, which would allow Scots aged 16 and over to change their legal sex simply by signing a declaration. Ms Sturgeon is expected

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **Sturgeon sticks to gender Bill guns despite advice of top judges** NICOLA STURGEON has insisted she has not given up on her gender reforms despite a second former Supreme Court judge warning that a legal bid to overturn a veto would be doomed. The First Minister said yesterday she would "do everything" possible to enact legislation passed at Holyrood last month, which would allow Scots aged 16 and over to change their legal sex simply by signing a declaration. While the

The National (Scotland) 17 **Fascism has already dug into the fabric of UK** AS a political ideology, fascism is surprisingly difficult to pin beneath a single, all-encompassing descriptor. Some fascistic regimes view expansionism as a necessary tenet of their ideology. Others close borders and build walls. Some focus on religious supremacy. Others mimic the morals of extreme evangelism with different justifications. Yet despite moulding itself around the contemporary philosophies it seeks to destroy, there are some core themes to fascism that I believe

The National (Scotland) 5 **FM: No compelling argument that gender law affects the Equality Act** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she has not heard a single "persuasive or compelling" argument that Scotland's gender reform legislation would have an impact on the Equality Act. The First Minister re-iterated her government's commitment to do "everything" to defend legislation designed to make it easier for people to change their legal gender. The UK Government issued a Section 35 Order in a bid to veto the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland)

The National (Scotland) 15 **On shoulders of giants...** GUSNA, the Glasgow University Scottish Nationalist Association, predates the SNP by seven years. Past members include Ian Hamilton, Winnie Ewing and First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. In an interview for The National, GUSNA's President Euan Bell told me what it was like to "stand on the shoulders of

giants" - a common phrase at society meetings: "It feels quite strange being part of an organisation that has been around for so

The National (Scotland) 10 **Yes has lost one of its best and brightest advocates** TOM Nairn, Scotland's greatest political philosopher of the modern era and doughty champion of independence, has left us at the age of 90. He was a kindly, thoughtful individual whom I was privileged to call my friend for half-a-century. Like Stephen Maxwell, the national movement's other towering intellect, Tom will not see the sun rise when Scotland recovers her ancient statehood. But in some misty Valhalla, he and Maxwell and Hamish

The National (Scotland) 4 **Sarwar rules out EU referendum despite 'economic disaster' of Brexit** ANAS Sarwar has admitted Brexit has been a "disaster" for the UK economy - but said he won't back another referendum on rejoining the EU. The Scottish Labour leader said he would be inconsistent if he supported another plebiscite on the European Union whilst opposing a second Scottish independence referendum. UK Labour leader Keir Starmer has ruled out rejoining the bloc if he becomes prime minister. It comes despite several

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **THE SUN SAYS In slow lane** AS with many key SNP-Green policies, the introduction of free bus passes for all those aged under 22 in Scotland was announced to much fanfare. On the face of it, the idea sounds good. Helping young people travel while also promoting the use of public transport. But new figures show four in ten eligible Scots are missing out on the Young Person's FreeBus Travel Scheme. After launching it last

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **NICOLA: I'VE GOT PLENTY IN TANK** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday insisted she has "plenty in the tank" to lead Scotland to independence. The BBC's Laura Kuenssberg asked the First Minister about her future after Jacinda Ardern announced last week she's quitting as New Zealand's PM. Ms Ardern told journalists: "I know what this job takes and I know I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice." But Ms Sturgeon made clear she is

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Nairn, champion of civic nationalism, dies aged 90** Tom Nairn, described by Nicola Sturgeon as "one of the greatest thinkers, political theorists and intellectuals that Scotland has ever produced", has died aged 90. The Fife-born academic influenced a generation of politicians by making the case for a separate Scottish state in socialism and civic nationalism, rather than right-leaning romanticism. His best known work The Break-Up of Britain, published in 1977, persuaded many that independence, rather than a Labour-led

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

Daily Mail (Scotland) 25 **Probe into alleged child abuse linked to top legal figures** AN investigation is ongoing into claims senior members of the legal establishment were linked to the sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse of children. Concerns over alleged connections between leading Scottish legal figures and such abuse were raised four years ago by former advocate and part-time sheriff John Halley. Mr Halley detailed his fears in a 43-page 'note' which he wrote to Scottish prosecutors in 2019 - but it is only

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **shocking rise of 'something for nothing Britain'** BRITONS are more dependent on the state than ever before, a bombshell report reveals today. For the first time, more than half of UK households - 36 million people - get more from the Government than they pay in tax, according to a study by Civitas. This is up from 24 million people, or two fifths of the total, when Sir Tony Blair was in power at the turn of the millennium. MPs

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Council funding crisis could sink push for net zero** SCOTLAND'S bid to reach its 'net zero' goal by 2045 is doomed to failure due to the cash crisis engulfing councils, it is claimed. Local authorities were highlighted as the key to achieving the target on greenhouse gas emissions outlined in 2019 by the Scottish Government. But councils warned SNP ministers they face a £1 billion budget shortfall and said services could be 'significantly reduced, or stopped altogether'. It came after

Daily Record 5 **'We go home and burst into tears'** THE medical profession is on its knees with a chronic lack of staff meaning patients are not getting the care they deserve. One nurse, who asked not to be named, told first-hand of the crisis in our hospitals and the impact on patients with too few nurses to go round. She works in a busy city accident and emergency department where every day the numbers of patients queuing up to

Daily Record 6 **Come together to save our NHS** THE mounting crisis facing the NHS is one of the top concerns of voters across Scotland. Patients are struggling to get GP appointments and are waiting ages for appointments at hospitals. The nightmare situation in A&E is another major factor. People are proud of the NHS but frustration is growing. The Daily Record today starts a week-long series into how the NHS finds itself in this position. We look at

Daily Record 1 **we need 2000 extra docs** SCOTLAND'S doctors are at breaking point because of a shortage of 2000 GPs. There is also a shortfall of consultants in every area of expertise, warned one of Scotland's most senior medics. Dr Iain Kennedy of the BMA Scotland laid bare the crisis facing patients on day one of a five-Daily Record investigation into the NHS crisis. He said: "The NHS is a dire situation." FULL STORY PAGES 4&

The Sun (Scotland) 21 **'FEARS' ON BUG INQUIRY** THE former chair of the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry raised concerns about its slow progress and "reputational damage" before she quit, documents reveal. Lady Poole complained to the government about several issues in her final weeks in the role, emails seen by The Scottish Sun show. The High Court judge criticised timescales and advice she had been given to fill key positions. When she resigned from the independent probe into Scotland's

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The Herald 1 **Sturgeon: I might not lead Scotland to indy** NICOLA Sturgeon has suggested she might not be the person to lead Scotland to independence. However, the First Minister insisted there was still "plenty in the tank", and that she had no intention of standing down in the near future. The comments come after New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern shocked Kiwis on Thursday when she said she had "no more in the tank" to lead the country and would

The Herald 11 **Hiker pioneers hygiene kit to aid women in remote locations** AN outdoor enthusiast has designed a new kit that aims to reduce the risk of infection and toxic shock syndrome for women in remote locations. Erin Reid, 25, was "infuriated" at the lack of products and support for women when they have their periods in remote locations. Women in remote locations, including adventurers and armed forces personnel, can be at risk from urinary tract infections (UTIs), toxic shock, or infertility,

The Daily Telegraph 4 **SNP's social engineering targets risk brain drain** BRITAIN'S second most senior judge would have been rejected from his university law course had social engineering policies designed to meet SNP targets been in place when he was a teenager, The Daily Telegraph can reveal. Lord Reed of Allermuir graduated from the University of Edinburgh's renowned law school with a first class degree in 1978 and had a glittering legal career, becoming president of the Supreme Court in January

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 2 **Moray schools fall behind in new data on education levels** Moray schools have fallen well behind the national average for literacy and numeracy in every single measure, a council report reveals. The Scottish Government records data on Achieving Curriculum for Excellence Levels (ACEL) at primary one, four and seven, and again in S3. The latest figures for the 2022/23 school year show that Moray schools are not meeting the national average on any measure. In fact, they lag a little

The Scotsman 24 **More VC funding can take life sciences sector to the next level** Attracting investment for early-stage life science companies can be a challenge. Some companies will need tens of millions of pounds before bringing a product to market or being sold to a larger business. The risks and expense of bringing a life science product to market can be significant. Life science companies will often not generate revenue for many years while undertaking R&D, a deterrent to many investors. Scotland's life

The Scotsman 10 **I've got plenty in the tank to lead Scotland, says First Minister** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as Scotland's First Minister - adding she still hopes to lead the country to independence. The SNP leader has been in the post since November 2014, with her predecessor Alex Salmond stepping down after Scots voted to stay in the UK in September of that year. Speaking on the BBC's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme, Ms Sturgeon insisted she

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Universities' 'risky' ties to China** More than 40 British universities have collaborated with institutions that have been linked to malign activities of the Chinese state. An investigation by The Times reveals that dozens of universities, including four from the Russell Group, have partnered with bodies in China connected to the Uighur genocide, nuclear weapons development, espionage, defence research or hacking. Cambridge is among those to have signed agreements with Tsinghua, the alma mater of President

Daily Mail (Scotland) 25 **Probe into alleged child abuse linked to top legal figures** AN investigation is ongoing into claims senior members of the legal establishment were linked to the sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse of children. Concerns over alleged connections between leading Scottish legal figures and such abuse were raised four years ago by former advocate and part-time sheriff John Halley. Mr Halley detailed his fears in a 43-page 'note' which he wrote to Scottish prosecutors in 2019 - but it is only

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Quango aims to show pupils a better world using Minecraft** IT is a video game craze that has swept across the world. Now quango bosses are looking to use Minecraft to further their green agenda with primary and secondary school pupils. Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is searching for a 'specialist development supplier' to build a 'green careers world' on Minecraft. Two 'base worlds' would be created - one aimed at primary schools and the other for secondary schools, with both

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **SNP social mobility targets risk brain drain** THE head of the UK's highest court would have been rejected from his university law course had social engineering policies designed to meet SNP targets been in place when he was young, The Daily Telegraph can reveal. Lord Reed of Allermuir graduated from the University of Edinburgh's renowned law school with a first class degree in 1978 and went on to have a glittering legal career, becoming Scotland's youngest ever

The National (Scotland) 14 **A Periods kit designed for remote locations** AN outdoor enthusiast has designed a new kit that aims to reduce the risk of infection and toxic shock syndrome for women when they have their periods in remote locations. Erin Reid, 25, said she came up with the idea because she was "infuriated" at the lack of products and support. Women in remote locations, including adventurers, and armed forces

4. JUSTICE

The Herald 4 **Police launch investigation into 'Decapitate Terfs' sign at pro-trans rally** POLICE Scotland has launched an investigation after complaints about a sign at a pro-trans rally reading "Decapitate Terfs". The placard, which also included a drawing of a guillotine, came to prominence on social media over the weekend after it featured in images and video of SNP politicians attending the rally, including MSP Kaukab Stewart, and MPs Stewart McDonald, Alison Thewliss and Kirsten Oswald. Tory MSP Murdo Fraser said he had

The Herald 13 **Revealed: The secretive review of law on hunting** SAY what you like about the Scottish Government but they've always been conscious of publicity and PR, and have been good at it on the whole, so it's curious that the review they're currently conducting into shooting has been so little publicised and so undercover. Why on earth are they being secretive about it? The review was ordered in 2021 by the minister for the environment, Mairi McAllan, and is

The Herald 4 **No 'persuasive or compelling' argument against gender law** NICOLA Sturgeon has insisted that there is no "persuasive or compelling" legal argument about the impact of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill on the Equality Act. The First Minister told the BBC that despite the objections of the UK Government, the new law would "not change the legal effect of a gender recognition certificate." However, a second former Supreme Court judge has also now spoken out the legislation, and warned

The Herald 9 **Activist in broadside at police over probe into SNP 'fraud'** THE man who triggered the police investigation into potential fraud at the SNP has launched a scathing attack on the apparent lack of progress in the case. Sean Clerkin has lodged a complaint with Police Scotland after it emerged the party's leadership had yet to be questioned, 18 months after the probe officially began. He said Nicola Sturgeon, her husband, the SNP chief executive Peter Murrell, and SNP treasurer Colin

The Herald 7 **Hunting with dogs 'has no place in modern Scotland' says environment minister as Labour hits at 'loophole'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation that aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting With Dogs

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Sheriff's warning over lack of help for drug addicts** A sheriff based at one of Scotland's busiest courts has gone public with his frustration that he has been unable to offer potentially life-saving support to those battling addiction. The number of drug-related deaths recorded in Scotland dropped slightly in 2021. However, the figures for Edinburgh bucked the trend, with fatalities continuing to rise. Sheriff Frank Crowe suggested it was linked to a lack of assistance offered to those coming

The Times (Scotland) 11 **Inquiry over trans rally 'hate' banners** Police Scotland has launched an investigation into "hateful" banners displayed at a trans rights demo in Glasgow on Saturday. Hundreds of trans supporters gathered in the city centre to protest against the UK government blocking Holyrood's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, which aims to allow trans people to quickly change their gender. The event was attended by SNP and Green Party MSPs but there was outrage after pictures appeared of banners

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Eleven prisoners were given bail and went on to kill, data shows** Eleven suspected criminals freed on conditional release from jails in one year went on to kill while on bail, it has emerged. Figures show that in the year to 2020 almost 10,000 people were convicted of offences including murder, attempted murder, rapes and other sex crimes while on bail. The data, obtained through freedom of information requests by Victim Support Scotland (VSS) and published in The Mail on Sunday, shows

The Scotsman 26 **Is allowing assisted dying really what being a caring society in Scotland means?** The Church cares about people - which is why we feel strongly that it would be wrong to introduce legalised assisted suicide in Scotland. This, however, is exactly what is being proposed by a bill which will shortly be considered by the Scottish Parliament. My experience, in common with many others in church congregations and communities throughout Scotland, has often involved the privilege of coming alongside people who are

The Scotsman 1 **Moderator fears assisted dying will be to save cash** The Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly has raised fears the legalisation of assisted dying could be seen as "an opportunity for cost-saving" in the health service. The Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields pointed to the current pressure on resources and said the Kirk was "very concerned" about the issue. His intervention comes as Liberal Democrat MSP Liam McArthur is expected to introduce a Members' Bill on assisted

The Scotsman 24 **Wheels turn slowly for e-scooter laws** On turning up a mouse in its nest with a plough, Robert Burns considered the mouse not alone "in proving foresight may be vain" because "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley, an' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, for promis'd joy". A promise of joy may have been sensed by anyone giving or receiving an e-scooter last Christmas. But what "schemes" or rules

The Scotsman 10 **Sturgeon claims gender reforms do not affect UK-wide legislation** Claims that controversial changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland impact on UK-wide equalities legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The Scottish First Minister was speaking amid ongoing controversy over the UK government's veto of Holyrood legislation. Former Supreme Court judge Lord Sumption said it is part of a strategy from SNP ministers to "provoke constitutional rows, which they hope will boost support for independence". He accused the

The Scotsman 24 **Big changes are coming to the relationship between employers and their staff** The next 12 months promise to deliver really significant changes affecting the legal relationship between UK employers and workers. I've picked out some of the most important for Scottish businesses. Firstly, the UK Government plans major reforms by reviewing all EU derived laws retained post-Brexit. Unless specifically exempted, all will be repealed at the end of 2023. A huge amount of employment law protection stems from Europe, including: holiday pay and

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 17 **Ex-PM's wife slated for Ann Gloag tweet** The wife of former prime minister Gordon Brown has been criticised for her social media support of Dame Ann Gloag in the wake of the Perth bus tycoon's "human trafficking" charge. Sarah Brown's Twitter comments came after the Stagecoach co-founder was charged as part of an alleged human trafficking investigation. The 80-year-old multimillionaire and philanthropist is one of four people accused of immigration offences. It's understood her husband, David McCleary,

The Times (Scotland) 20 **Ransom demand after car dealer cyberattack** The country's largest car dealership has been hit by a cyberattack, leaving tens of thousands of motorists at risk of identity theft and online fraud. Customers of Arnold Clark, which is based in Glasgow and employs more than 11,000 people, have had personal details — including national insurance and passport numbers — taken and posted online. An organised criminal group, known as Play, has claimed responsibility for the attack and

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Sturgeon mixes her drinks comments on pubs at 16** NICOLA Sturgeon was forced into an embarrassing climbdown after stating 16-year-olds could soon be able to drink legally in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The Gender Recognition Reform Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **PROBE LAUNCHED OVER 'HATEFUL' BANNER AT TRANS DEMO** POLICE Scotland has launched an investigation into "hateful" banners displayed at a trans rights demonstration in Glasgow on Saturday. Hundreds of trans supporters gathered in the city centre to protest against the UK Government blocking the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform bill. The event was attended by SNP and Green Party MSPs, but there was outrage after pictures appeared of a banner bearing the slogan "Decapitate TERFS", a derogatory term

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Sturgeon mixes her drinks comments on pubs at 16** NICOLA Sturgeon was forced into an embarrassing climbdown after stating 16-year-olds could soon be able to drink legally in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The Gender Recognition Reform Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 **Ministers go in for the kill over hunting loopholes** TRADITIONAL hunting could be outlawed after the environment minister claimed it has 'no place in modern Scotland'. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs Bill - which is

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Failing First Minister** WITH boundless arrogance, Nicola Sturgeon asserts that she has 'plenty left in the tank' and is 'nowhere near' quitting. But the First Minister may have little choice over her future if she is judged by recent lamentable performances. Her latest blunder comes in a week when the SNP has committed a series of humiliating U-turns. They include leaving the much-vaunted crusade to close the pupil attainment gap lying in tatters,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 25 **Probe into alleged child abuse linked to top legal figures** AN investigation is ongoing into claims senior members of the legal establishment were linked to the sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse of children. Concerns over alleged connections between leading Scottish legal figures and such abuse were raised four years ago by former advocate and part-time sheriff John Halley. Mr Halley detailed his fears in a 43-page 'note' which he wrote to Scottish prosecutors in 2019 - but it is only

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Lawyers scrutinise assisted dying Bill amid fear of UK veto** PLANS to legalise assisted dying in Scotland are being scrutinised by lawyers amid fears they will be blocked by Westminster. A proposal for a Member's

Bill on the issue was lodged at Holyrood by Lib Dem MSP Liam McArthur last year. Legal advice has now been sought about the Bill after Scottish Secretary Alister Jack issued a section 35 order to block the SNP's controversial gender reforms. The order, which

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **STURGEON'S 'PUB UB AT 16' BLUNDER** NICOLA Sturgeon backtracked yesterday after suggesting she thought that 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs as well as change gender. The First Minister insisted only a 'tiny' number of teenagers would benefit from her divisive reforms that would lower the age at which people can legally change sex, as well as speeding up the process. She pointed out that 16-year-olds can get married and join the Army, then

Daily Record 2 **Sturgeon backtrack on booze-at-16 gaffe** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she made a mistake after claiming she was open to 16-year-olds being able to drink alcohol in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The gender recognition Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the age threshold a concern

Daily Record 2 **Probe into 'hate' banners** AN INVESTIGATION has been launched by police into "hateful" banners on display close to SNP politicians at a trans rights demo. Hundreds of trans supporters gathered in central Glasgow on Saturday to protest against the UK Government blocking the SNP Government's gender recognition reform Bill. SNP MP Kirsten Oswald and MSP Kaukab Stewart were seen smiling in front of a sign saying "Decapitate TERFS" with a drawing of a guillotine.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Hunt loopholes to be addressed** The use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Minister for Environment and Land Reform has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of tomorrow's final vote on the Hunting with Dogs Bill, which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Sturgeon rejects grounds offered by UK ministers for veto of Scottish gender Bill** Claims that changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland will affect UK-wide equality legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. Last week the Scottish Secretary, Alister Jack, said that he would veto the Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, using Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998. Accepting that legal opinion on the matter of whether the UK Government had the right to do so was "divided", Ms Sturgeon

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Former law lord says SNP gender law claim is 'absurd'** A FORMER Supreme Court judge has dismissed claims the UK government is attacking Scottish democracy with its veto of Holyrood legislation as 'absurd'. Lord Sumption said that if the gender recognition reform (Scotland) bill wasn't challenged, 'some UK citizens will have a different legal gender in different parts of the UK'. The ex-barrister added: 'This poses serious legal and practical problems for employers and public authorities operating on a UK-wide

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **Police investigate banner at Glasgow trans rally calling for women to be 'decapitated'** POLICE have launched an investigation after placards calling for women to be decapitated were displayed at a pro-transgender rights rally attended by SNP politicians. MPs Alison Thewliss, Kirsten Oswald, Stewart McDonald and MSP Kaukab Stewart were pictured in front of a sign that said "decapitate terfs" next to an image of a guillotine at a protest in Glasgow on Saturday. Another homemade sign appeared to call for terfs, an acronym

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **Sturgeon sticks to gender Bill guns despite advice of top judges** NICOLA STURGEON has insisted she has not given up on her gender reforms despite a second former Supreme Court judge warning that a legal bid to overturn a veto would be doomed. The First Minister said yesterday she would "do everything" possible to enact legislation passed at Holyrood last month, which would allow Scots aged 16 and over to change their legal sex simply by signing a declaration. While the

The Herald 22 **'People could die' Anger as installation of new prepayment energy companies force meters in Scottish homes** CAMPAIGNERS are calling on ministers to ban the forced installation of prepayment meters as a "staggering" 100 unpaid bill warrants to have the right to enter homes are typically lodged every day by energy companies. Energy Action Scotland and The Poverty Alliance have joined forces to ask the Justice Secretary for a hiatus on the procedure in advance of a review as it emerged that an average of at least

The National (Scotland) 5 **FM: No compelling argument that gender law affects the Equality Act** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she has not heard a single "persuasive or compelling" argument that Scotland's gender reform legislation would have an impact on the Equality Act. The First Minister re-iterated her government's commitment to do "everything" to defend legislation designed to make it easier for people to change their legal gender. The UK Government issued a Section 35 Order in a bid to veto the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland)

The Scotsman 2 **Sturgeon gaffe is a reminder of crisis in alcohol deaths** It is perhaps testament to Nicola Sturgeon's status as one of the country's most polished political performers that when she makes a mistake, it stands out. The First Minister is an assured and focused interviewee not known for misspeaking, but her gaffe during her one-to-one with the

BBC's Laura Kuenssberg was particularly embarrassing. The wide-ranging interview saw Ms Sturgeon asked why she held thought 16-year-olds are old enough to

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Gloag charges 'an utter bombshell'** Dame Ann Gloag, one of Scotland's best known entrepreneurs and philanthropists, is hopeful that allegations linking her to human trafficking will "fizzle out", sources close to her claim. The co-founder of the Stagecoach travel empire, at one point Scotland's richest woman, was charged with trafficking and immigration offences last week after a police investigation. Her husband, David McCleary, and two other family members were also charged after voluntarily attending a

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Owner of fire hotel 'failed to act on staff's safety fears'** The owner of the Perth hotel where three guests were killed in a fire created a "climate of fear" in which staff would be "punished" for raising safety concerns, its manager has said. Karen Kennedy, 48, general manager of the New County hotel for the last five years, has condemned the owner's leadership, insisting staff raised concerns to him on multiple occasions. After the fire on January 2, multiple health

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Herald 1 **Sturgeon: I might not lead Scotland to indy** NICOLA Sturgeon has suggested she might not be the person to lead Scotland to independence. However, the First Minister insisted there was still "plenty in the tank", and that she had no intention of standing down in the near future. The comments come after New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern shocked Kiwis on Thursday when she said she had "no more in the tank" to lead the country and would

The Herald 1 **Asbestos crisis hits NHS buildings** HUNDREDS of health service buildings Scotland-wide are blighted by asbestos, research reveals, amid warnings of the danger posed to patients. The potentially cancer-causing material was discovered in 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said death and illness from asbestos-related conditions is clearly "not just a legacy from the past, it is in the here and now for thousands of people". Full

The Herald 6 **Asbestos alert at NHS sites** PATIENTS cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, it has been warned, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research released today revealed, and it was found that all of the properties for which NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Greater Glasgow and Clyde are the dutyholder had

The Herald 1 **Asbestos crisis hits NHS buildings** HUNDREDS of health service buildings Scotland-wide are blighted by asbestos, research reveals, amid warnings of the danger posed to patients. The potentially cancer-causing material was discovered in 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said death and illness from asbestos-related conditions is clearly "not just a legacy from the past, it is in the here and now for thousands of people". Full

The Herald 2 **Scottish Government under attack amid 'unacceptable failure' on dentistry** THE Scottish Government has been accused of an "unacceptable failure" to support dentists as new figures showed an 8 per cent fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid pandemic. Figures covering the first eight months of 2022-23 showed that Scotland has 3,155 dentists carrying out work on the NHS, compared to 3,407 in 2019-20. The data, revealed after a freedom of information request to Public Health Scotland,

The Herald 21 **Drink move could make Dry January look like Club 18-30** IT is said New Year's resolutions just make you more miserable - especially if you are a publican, confectioner or tobacconist. And the start of this year looks particularly grim for many in hospitality, retail or any other sector that relies on the public being able to enjoy themselves a bit. No help with your energy bills - or even certainty about how much you will be paying - after

Daily Mail 19 **Sturgeon U-turn on alcohol for 16-year-olds** NICOLA Sturgeon has backtracked after suggesting she thought 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs, as she discussed teens being able to change their legal sex. During an interview with the BBC, the Scottish First Minister was asked why she believed 16-year-olds were mature enough to self-identify as a different sex under her controversial Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. Ms Sturgeon pointed out they can already get married and

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Women call for health service review** Women living in the far north of Scotland are being failed by NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, campaigners say. Rebecca Wymer, of the North Highland Women's Wellness Hub, said women's lives were in danger due to the crisis in healthcare and called for an emergency review of women's health services in Caithness and Sutherland. Ms Wymer said: "I believe serious conditions such as endometriosis and ovarian cancer are being

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **SNP in headlights over safety concerns on A9** SNP ministers are being inundated with demands to speed up dualing of the A9 and A96 in the wake of a spate of recent

tragedies, we can reveal. Worried motorists and residents have been flooding ministers with their concerns about the failure to deliver on promises to upgrade the key routes. E-mails and letters about progress with the A9 and A96 were being sent to transport chiefs almost every day

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 7 **Dangerous asbestos still present at 695 NHS sites across Scotland** Patients cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, say trade unions, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research has revealed. All of the properties for which NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are dutyholders still included the material. Roz Foyer,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Island dentist closes but urgent cases seen** An island dentist has been forced to close for health and safety reasons. The Barra Dental Clinic has been closed and patients told that it is hoped to reopen the facility in St Brendan's Hospital next month. A spokesman for NHS Western Isles said: "As a result of health and safety issues that require assessment, routine dental care will be temporarily unavailable in Barra Dental Clinic. "In the event that

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 22 **Plea to halt mass exodus of dentists** Dentists have warned there could be a "wholesale exodus" of the profession from the NHS if ministers fail to make a "serious long-term commitment" to the sector. Robert Donald, chair of the British Dental Association's Scottish council, was speaking after new figures showed an 8% fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid-19 pandemic. Data covering the first eight months of 2022-23 reveals Scotland has 3,155 dentists carrying

The Scotsman 1 **Moderator fears assisted dying will be to save cash** The Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly has raised fears the legalisation of assisted dying could be seen as "an opportunity for cost-saving" in the health service. The Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields pointed to the current pressure on resources and said the Kirk was "very concerned" about the issue. His intervention comes as Liberal Democrat MSP Liam McArthur is expected to introduce a Members' Bill on assisted

The Scotsman 2 **Sturgeon gaffe is a reminder of crisis in alcohol deaths** It is perhaps testament to Nicola Sturgeon's status as one of the country's most polished political performers that when she makes a mistake, it stands out. The First Minister is an assured and focused interviewee not known for misspeaking, but her gaffe during her one-to-one with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg was particularly embarrassing. The wide-ranging interview saw Ms Sturgeon asked why she held thought 16-year-olds are old enough to

The Scotsman 10 **I've got plenty in the tank to lead Scotland, says First Minister** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as Scotland's First Minister - adding she still hopes to lead the country to independence. The SNP leader has been in the post since November 2014, with her predecessor Alex Salmond stepping down after Scots voted to stay in the UK in September of that year. Speaking on the BBC's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme, Ms Sturgeon insisted she

The Scotsman 26 **Is allowing assisted dying really what being a caring society in Scotland means?** The Church cares about people - which is why we feel strongly that it would be wrong to introduce legalised assisted suicide in Scotland. This, however, is exactly what is being proposed by a bill which will shortly be considered by the Scottish Parliament. My experience, in common with many others in church congregations and communities throughout Scotland, has often involved the privilege of coming alongside people who are

The Scotsman 16 **Dentists warn of 'wholesale exodus' from NHS provision** Dentists have warned there could be a "wholesale exodus" of the profession from the NHS if ministers fail to make a "serious long-term commitment" to the sector. Robert Donald, chairman of the British Dental Association's Scottish council, was speaking after new figures showed an 8 per cent fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid pandemic. Data covering the first eight months of 2022-23 reveals Scotland has 3,155

The Scotsman 4 **Hundreds of Scots NHS buildings still contain asbestos** Patients cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, a union has warned, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research released today revealed, including all of the properties NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are dutyholders for. Roz Foyer, general secretary

The Scotsman 20 **Asbestos should not be in NHS buildings** Asbestos is the biggest workplace killer, according to the Health and Safety Executive, and Britain has some of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world. These facts make it all the more shocking that the material has been found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. A report said all the buildings for which the NHS is responsible in Dumfries and Galloway and the Greater Glasgow and

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **Lethal legacy contained in 695 NHS buildings** A "SHOCKING" number of NHS buildings still contain potentially fatal levels of asbestos, according to new research. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. That includes all the NHS properties in Dumfries and Galloway and Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish TUC, said the "stark report" underlined the "grave concerns" her union had about the scale of the problem north of

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Danger can't be ignored** ALARMING news came out yesterday that a significant amount of NHS buildings across Scotland contain potentially deadly asbestos. A total of 695 buildings have the hazardous material. Thousands of people across Scotland, as a result, are having their health put at risk. As if the country's NHS wasn't already in a bad enough state, staff are now being told they are going into work to be around materials that in years

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Sturgeon mixes her drinks comments on pubs at 16** NICOLA Sturgeon was forced into an embarrassing climbdown after stating 16-year-olds could soon be able to drink legally in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The Gender Recognition Reform Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the

Daily Express (Scotland) 15 **Fewer dentists working in NHS** THE Scottish Government has been accused of an "unacceptable failure" to support dentists as new figures showed an eight per cent fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid pandemic. Figures covering the first eight months of 2022-23 showed that Scotland has 3,155 dentists carrying out work on the NHS, compared to 3,407 in 2019-20. The data, revealed after a Freedom of Information request to Public Health Scotland,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **STURGEON'S 'PUB AT 16' BLUNDER** NICOLA Sturgeon backtracked yesterday after suggesting she thought that 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs as well as change gender. The First Minister insisted only a 'tiny' number of teenagers would benefit from her divisive reforms that would lower the age at which people can legally change sex, as well as speeding up the process. She pointed out that 16-year-olds can get married and join the Army, then

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **NHS faces 'exodus' of dentists** DENTISTS have warned there could be a 'wholesale exodus' of the profession from the NHS in Scotland. Robert Donald, chairman of the British Dental Association's Scottish council, spoke out after new figures showed a 7 per cent fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid pandemic. In the first eight months of 2022-23 Scotland had 3,155 dentists carrying out work on the NHS, compared to 3,407 in 2019-20.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Lawyers scrutinise assisted dying Bill amid fear of UK veto** PLANS to legalise assisted dying in Scotland are being scrutinised by lawyers amid fears they will be blocked by Westminster. A proposal for a Member's Bill on the issue was lodged at Holyrood by Lib Dem MSP Liam McArthur last year. Legal advice has now been sought about the Bill after Scottish Secretary Alister Jack issued a section 35 order to block the SNP's controversial gender reforms. The order, which

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Girls in poorer areas are missing out on 'life saving' cancer vaccine** GIRLS in Scotland's most deprived areas are missing out on life-saving cervical cancer vaccines, a charity has warned. Drastic regional differences in uptake of the HPV vaccine, which protects against infection that can develop into cervical cancer, could mean women are missing out on 'vital' treatment, according to Jo's Trust. The charity said more than one in five schoolgirls in deprived areas had not received the second dose of the

Daily Record 5 **'We go home and burst into tears'** THE medical profession is on its knees with a chronic lack of staff meaning patients are not getting the care they deserve. One nurse, who asked not to be named, told first-hand of the crisis in our hospitals and the impact on patients with too few nurses to go round. She works in a busy city accident and emergency department where every day the numbers of patients queuing up to

Daily Record 2 **Dentist numbers fall** THERE has been a seven per cent drop in the number of NHS dentists since the Covid pandemic. Figures covering the first eight months of 2022-23 showed Scotland has 3155 dentists carrying out work on the NHS, compared with 3407 in 2019-20. The data showed 11 of the country's regional health boards now have fewer NHS dentists. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has 59 fewer dentists working on the NHS

Daily Record 2 **Sturgeon backtrack on booze-at-16 gaffe** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she made a mistake after claiming she was open to 16-year-olds being able to drink alcohol in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The gender recognition Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the age threshold a concern

Daily Record 1 **We need 2000 extra docs** SCOTLAND'S doctors are at breaking point because of a shortage of 2000 GPs. There is also a shortfall of consultants in every area of expertise, warned one of Scotland's most senior medics. Dr Iain Kennedy of the BMA Scotland laid bare the crisis facing patients on day one of a five-Daily Record investigation into the NHS crisis. He said: "The NHS is a dire situation." FULL STORY PAGES 4&

Daily Record 6 **Come together to save our NHS** THE mounting crisis facing the NHS is one of the top concerns of voters across Scotland. Patients are struggling to get GP appointments and are waiting ages for appointments at hospitals. The

nightmare situation in A&E is another major factor. People are proud of the NHS but frustration is growing. The Daily Record today starts a week-long series into how the NHS finds itself in this position. We look at

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Unions have 'grave concerns' on asbestos left in hospitals** Unions have warned that patients cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to contain the potentially carcinogenic material. Research released today reveals that asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. hospitals Scotland to harbour asbestos to STUC Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said the "stark report" underlined

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Drop of 7% in NHS dentists may soon become 'exodus'** Dentists have warned there could be a "wholesale exodus" of the profession from the NHS should ministers fail to make a "serious long-term commitment" to the sector. Robert Donald, chair of the British Dental Association's Scottish council, was speaking after figures showed a 7 per cent fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid-19 pandemic began. Data covering the first eight months of 2022-23 revealed that Scotland had

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Fears over 'exodus' of dentists from Scots NHS** DENTISTS have warned of a 'wholesale exodus' from the NHS if ministers fail to properly support their profession. Figures show an 8 per cent fall in numbers since the pandemic with just 3,155 dentists now carrying out work on the NHS. Robert Donald, chair of the British Dental Association's Scottish council, blames the 'high volume/low margin model' NHS dentistry uses and said: 'Some treatments are delivered at a loss.' The

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Deadly asbestos 'in 695 NHS buildings'** A 'SHOCKING' report has found at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland contain asbestos. The fibre-like material, which can cause cancer, was used for insulation, flooring and roofing before being banned in 1999. But many older buildings still contain it and a study carried out for the STUC and Westminster's parliamentary group on occupational health and safety has now uncovered the scale of the issue in NHS hospitals. STUC chief

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Dentists warn of 'exodus' from NHS unless SNP acts** DENTISTS have warned there could be a "wholesale exodus" of the profession from the Scottish NHS if SNP ministers fail to make a "serious long-term commitment" to the sector. Robert Donald, chair of the British Dental Association's Scottish council, was speaking after new figures showed an 8 per cent fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid pandemic. Data covering the first eight months of 2022-23 reveals that

The National (Scotland) 12 **Warning of 'exodus' of dentists from NHS** DENTISTS have warned there could be a "wholesale exodus" of the profession from the NHS if ministers fail to make a "serious long-term commitment" to the sector. Robert Donald, chair of the British Dental Association's Scottish council, spoke after new figures showed an 8% fall in the number of NHS practitioners since the Covid pandemic. Data covering the first eight months of 2022-23 reveals Scotland had 3155 dentists carrying out

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **Village's ice sheet street 'death risk'** Peterculter residents have claimed someone could be killed on a street which turns into a "lethal" sheet of ice in freezing weather. The warning came as NHS Grampian recorded a record 122 A&E admissions for slips, trips and falls in a single day. Full story: Page 5

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Residents' warning as ice injury toll hits new high** Residents in Peterculter have warned someone could be killed as a constant stream of water turns their street into an "absolutely lethal" sheet of ice during freezing weather. Houses on The Bush are plagued with water run-off from private land that runs down the private road. The fears have been raised as it emerged NHS Grampian treated its highest ever number of patients for slips, trips and falls on Friday.

The Sun (Scotland) 21 **'FEARS' ON BUG INQUIRY** THE former chair of the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry raised concerns about its slow progress and "reputational damage" before she quit, documents reveal. Lady Poole complained to the government about several issues in her final weeks in the role, emails seen by The Scottish Sun show. The High Court judge criticised timescales and advice she had been given to fill key positions. When she resigned from the independent probe into Scotland's

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

The Herald 13 **Revealed: The secretive review of law on hunting** SAY what you like about the Scottish Government but they've always been conscious of publicity and PR, and have been good at it on the whole, so it's curious that the review they're currently conducting into shooting has been so little publicised and so undercover. Why on earth are they being secretive about it? The review was ordered in 2021 by the minister for the environment, Mairi McAllan, and is

The Herald 21 **Drink move could make Dry January look like Club 18-30** IT is said New Year's resolutions just make you more miserable - especially if you are a publican, confectioner or tobacconist. And the start of this year looks

particularly grim for many in hospitality, retail or any other sector that relies on the public being able to enjoy themselves a bit. No help with your energy bills - or even certainty about how much you will be paying - after

The Herald 7 Hunting with dogs 'has no place in modern Scotland' says environment minister as Labour hits at 'loophole' THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation that aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting With Dogs

The Herald 7 Preparing for blast-off: First orbital rocket launch could be from Shetland THE UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from Shetland in October or November, spaceport bosses have said. Saxa Vord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland Islands, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier this month. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but it failed to deliver

Daily Mail 19 Sturgeon U-turn on alcohol for 16-year-olds NICOLA Sturgeon has backtracked after suggesting she thought 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs, as she discussed teens being able to change their legal sex. During an interview with the BBC, the Scottish First Minister was asked why she believed 16-year-olds were mature enough to self-identify as a different sex under her controversial Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. Ms Sturgeon pointed out they can already get married and

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 16 Blast-off set for autumn The UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from Shetland in October or November this year, spaceport bosses have said. Saxa Vord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland's northernmost inhabited island, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier in January. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 Local campaigns could stem population loss Rural and island communities are being encouraged to sell themselves more to help tackle depopulation. Brand Scotland is expected to update campaigns soon to attract more people to the country. The Scottish Government believes there is an opportunity for areas suffering depopulation to localise marketing strategies. Brand Scotland brings together communications efforts of the Scottish Government and partners covering tourism, business, education and food and drink. It promotes the country

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 33 Latest group of 23 firms join HIE fast-track Twenty-three businesses from the Highlands and Islands have started the latest edition of a four-month programme aimed at putting them on the fast track to success. The Pathfinder Accelerator programme provides fast-track training and mentoring for entrepreneurs looking to build a company or launch a new product. The twelfth group to start on the programme since it began in 2018 met at An Lochran, Inverness Campus. Led by Highlands and

The Scotsman 1 Shetland sets sights on UK rocket first A spaceport on the Shetland Islands is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. Bosses at Saxa Vord say the country's first orbital rocket launch could blast off in October or November. Director of operations Scott Hammond said a recent agreement with a German company, Rocket Factory Augsburg, would see them begin testing their engines in the summer. He expects a lot of spectators for the

The Scotsman 3 Rockets galore! First orbital launch from Scotland could blast off later this year The UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from the Shetland islands in October or November this year, spaceport bosses have said. Saxa Vord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland Islands, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier in January. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but

Daily Express (Scotland) 19 Shetland gets set for Saxa Vord space launch THE UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from the Shetland islands in October or November this year, spaceport bosses have said. Saxa Vord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland Islands, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier in January. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 Ministers go in for the kill over hunting loopholes TRADITIONAL hunting could be outlawed after the environment minister claimed it has 'no place in modern Scotland'. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs Bill - which is

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 Hunt loopholes to be addressed The use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Minister for Environment and Land Reform has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead

of tomorrow's final vote on the Hunting with Dogs Bill, which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in

The Sun (Scotland) 41 **BEWARE WHISKY AD BAN IT MAKES ME LAUGH ME CRY WHISKY** producers will no doubt have seen a spike in sales as Scots get their wee drams ready for Burns Night this Wednesday. But is it soon going to be last orders for the industry? A recent review from the Scottish Government on alcohol advertising suggested banning alcohol promotions in public places. There are many considerations when contemplating a move of this magnitude, but

The Times (Scotland) 16 **Countdown to Shetland launch this autumn** The UK's first orbital rocket launch is set to blast off from the Shetland islands in October or November this year (Neil Pooran writes). SaxaVord spaceport is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from British soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall's failed horizontal satellite launch — where a rocket blasts off from a plane — this month. Scott Hammond, director of operations at SaxaVord, acknowledged that there

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

The Herald 13 **Revealed: The secretive review of law on hunting** SAY what you like about the Scottish Government but they've always been conscious of publicity and PR, and have been good at it on the whole, so it's curious that the review they're currently conducting into shooting has been so little publicised and so undercover. Why on earth are they being secretive about it? The review was ordered in 2021 by the minister for the environment, Mairi McAllan, and is

The Herald 1 **Asbestos crisis hits NHS buildings** HUNDREDS of health service buildings Scotland-wide are blighted by asbestos, research reveals, amid warnings of the danger posed to patients. The potentially cancer-causing material was discovered in 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said death and illness from asbestos-related conditions is clearly "not just a legacy from the past, it is in the here and now for thousands of people". Full

The Herald 6 **Asbestos alert at NHS sites** PATIENTS cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, it has been warned, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research released today revealed, and it was found that all of the properties for which NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Greater Glasgow and Clyde are the dutyholder had

The Herald 7 **Hunting with dogs 'has no place in modern Scotland' says environment minister as Labour hits at 'loophole'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation that aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting With Dogs

The Herald 17 **Councils need more help to help us reach net zero** SCOTLAND will not meet its ambitious target of being net zero by 2045 without a more empowered local government sector, with better access to the skills and capital it needs to play its full role in this energy revolution. The Scottish Government also needs to set out a comprehensive roadmap that gives local government detailed guidance on how it wants the sector to make its full contribution to net zero.

The Herald 7 **Preparing for blast-off: First orbital rocket launch could be from Shetland** THE UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from Shetland in October or November, spaceport bosses have said. SaxaVord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland Islands, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier this month. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but it failed to deliver

The Herald 7 **Boost for red squirrels as they are introduced into castle woodland** RED squirrels have been introduced at Castle Ward in an attempt to establish a new population in the grounds of the County Down property. The move comes just days after it was revealed the number of red squirrel sightings in Scotland in a single week increased to 510, more than triple the number reported in a typical week. The first four animals have been released at the Castle ward estate

The Herald 8 **Low emission zones help Scotland meet air pollution limits for first time** NEW information has been released showing Scotland did not breach legal air pollution limits in 2022 for the first time, excluding the impact of the Covid lockdowns in 2020. Legal air quality standards came into force in 2010. But the record books show they have been broken every single year, with the exception of 2020, when the lockdowns resulted in a big drop in car journeys. Environmental campaigners say the

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Scotland beats legal air quality standards for the first time** Scotland has kept within legal air pollution limits for the first time, data shows. There were no breaches last year, according to research that excluded periods of Covid restrictions during which there were fewer flights and lighter motor traffic. Legal air quality standards

came into force in 2010 but these have been broken every year with the exception of 2020, when lockdowns resulted in a big drop in car journeys.

The Times 38 **Taxpayers will fund wind farms for North Sea firms, say critics** Taxpayers effectively will pay oil and gas companies to build wind farms to supply their North Sea platforms because of generous new tax breaks, critics have claimed. The government has been urged to ditch the proposed investment relief that will enable firms to claim a £109 tax break for every £100 they spend on decarbonising their assets. The new tax break is due to be introduced through legislation promised in

The Scotsman 12 **Scotland meets 2022 air pollution limits thanks to clean air zones** New information has been released showing Scotland did not breach legal air pollution limits in 2022 for the first time, excluding the impact of Covid lockdowns in 2020. Legal air quality standards came into force in 2010, but have been broken every year with the exception of 2020 when the lockdowns resulted in a big drop in car journeys. Environmental campaigners say the improvement in air quality in Scotland's cities

The Scotsman 3 **Rockets galore! First orbital launch from Scotland could blast off later this year** The UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from the Shetland islands in October or November this year, spaceport bosses have said. SaxaVord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland Islands, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier in January. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but

The Scotsman 12 **Ministers told to support councils on net zero** Ministers must tackle the barriers facing local government before it can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The net zero, energy and transport committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil their role, the committee said. The report follows a yearlong inquiry into the

The Scotsman 24 **Wheels turn slowly for e-scooter laws** On turning up a mouse in its nest with a plough, Robert Burns considered the mouse not alone "in proving foresight may be vain" because "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley, an' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, for promis'd joy". A promise of joy may have been sensed by anyone giving or receiving an e-scooter last Christmas. But what "schemes" or rules

The Scotsman 8 **'My car has given me security' - now Ukrainians battle to keep vehicles in UK** For Olga Kuzina, from Ukraine, her car is a place of refuge and safety at a time when everything else in her life has become uncertain. Now living in Scotland, Ms Kuzina and her son Lev, 12, quickly packed some belongings into their vehicle and drove almost 1,000 miles across Ukraine on the day that war broke out in their country almost a year ago, while air raid sirens sounded

The Scotsman 1 **Shetland sets sights on UK rocket first** A spaceport on the Shetland Islands is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. Bosses at SaxaVord say the country's first orbital rocket launch could blast off in October or November. Director of operations Scott Hammond said a recent agreement with a German company, Rocket Factory Augsburg, would see them begin testing their engines in the summer. He expects a lot of spectators for the

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **SNP in headlights over safety concerns on A9** SNP ministers are being inundated with demands to speed up dualling of the A9 and A96 in the wake of a spate of recent tragedies, we can reveal. Worried motorists and residents have been flooding ministers with their concerns about the failure to deliver on promises to upgrade the key routes. E-mails and letters about progress with the A9 and A96 were being sent to transport chiefs almost every day

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Island campaigners renew call for young folk to get free travel** Calls have resurfaced for free ferry travel for islanders under the age of 22. The Scottish Government rejected the idea in 2021, but campaigners from island communities refusing to walk away say it's a matter of fairness. They argue their young people are being put at a disadvantage because they don't benefit from the Scotland-wide free under-22s bus travel scheme as much as mainlanders. To compensate for this, they have

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 3 **Avian flu detected in four otters in Scotland** Public health officials say avian flu was detected in four otters during routine testing. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) say the quartet that tested positive were all in Scotland - one on Shetland, one on Skye and two in Fife. They were all discovered last year. According to APHA, samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin also in

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Drivers bombard SNP with road safety fears** TERRIFIED north residents are besieging SNP ministers with desperate demands to speed up the dualling of the A9 and A96. Emails and letters were being sent to transport chiefs almost every day late last year after a spate of fatal crashes on the routes. The memos lay bare how "genuinely fearful" many are, and how some view the delays to upgrades as "utterly scandalous". There were 13 deaths on the

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 16 **Blast-off set for autumn** The UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from Shetland in October or November this year, spaceport bosses have said. SaxaVord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland's northernmost inhabited island, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier in January. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 19 **Most polluted streets in Aberdeen are revealed** Environmental campaigners have backed Aberdeen's controversial low emission zone (LEZ) and highlighted the city's worst polluted streets. Friends of the Earth Scotland looked at official air pollution data from roadside and kerbside monitors for the first six months of 2022 and provisional data for the rest of the year. It assessed measurements of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter - air pollutants that are mostly produced by transport. The group

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Ferry operator's compensation bill soars amid 'chaos'** Ferry operator CalMac has been paying out more than £50,000 a month to frustrated customers after a four-fold increase in its compensation bill. Taxpayers were left to pick up the bill for a recent spate of "chaos, cancellations and delays" on west coast services to and from the islands. Problems on the network led to claims islanders are being forced to pack up and leave fragile communities because lifeline transport

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 34 **1.7m turn down the heating as energy bills rise** An estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland has found. Analysis for the charity, carried out by YouGov, has estimated 1.7 million adults (78% of those adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs) are turning down the thermostat or not heating all their rooms in order to deal

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Vow to dual our key roads has been forgotten** It is the job of this newspaper to stand up for its readers. It is also our job to hold our elected members to account. Such scrutiny is especially important when you live in an area far from the centre of power. The north and north-east of Scotland can feel a long way from Edinburgh or London. Politicians can be swayed by what they see out of their own window.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **'Tackle barriers to reach net zero'** Ministers must tackle the barriers facing local government before it can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **New report says councils hold key to hitting net zero** MINISTERS must tackle the barriers facing local government before Scotland can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures, councils need support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil their role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long inquiry into the role local

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **Lethal legacy contained in 695 NHS buildings** A "SHOCKING" number of NHS buildings still contain potentially fatal levels of asbestos, according to new research. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. That includes all the NHS properties in Dumfries and Galloway and Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish TUC, said the "stark report" underlined the "grave concerns" her union had about the scale of the problem north of

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **I want justice for my asbestos hell says site labourer** FURIOUS workers are threatening to sue a major housebuilder with close links to the SNP over claims they were exposed to deadly asbestos. Springfield Properties, run by multi-millionaire Sandy Adam, was forced to pay a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire. Government-run environment regulator Sepa found failures in the way the firm managed "controlled waste" being transported between a number of

Daily Express (Scotland) 19 **Shetland gets set for SaxaVord space launch** THE UK's first orbital rocket launch could blast off from the Shetland islands in October or November this year, spaceport bosses have said. SaxaVord spaceport, on the northern tip of the Shetland Islands, is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from UK soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall attempted a horizontal satellite launch earlier in January. The rocket left the wing of Virgin Orbit's 747 jet but

Daily Mail (Scotland) 5 **Ministers go in for the kill over hunting loopholes** TRADITIONAL hunting could be outlawed after the environment minister claimed it has 'no place in modern Scotland'. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs Bill - which is

Daily Mail (Scotland) 51 **Infantile Green** AS THURSDAY'S FMQs drew to a close, MSP Liam Kerr, concerned about a possible breach of the ministerial code, interjected with a point of order concerning when SNP and Green Party MSPs and ministers became aware of their use of erroneous data about Scotland's potential share of available European wind energy. Apparently, there is a two-month discrepancy between the dates given by SNP Energy Minister Michael Matheson in September and

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Sleeper link subsidy cost taxpayers £95 per user** THE Caledonian Sleeper service has cost the taxpayer roughly £95 per passenger since Nicola Sturgeon became First Minister. The subsidy to run the overnight service which links London and the Highlands has climbed to £173million since 2014. Figures compiled by the Office of Rail and Road show that the Caledonian Sleeper has carried just over 1.8million people in that time. The service is currently run by Serco, an outsourcing firm

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Council funding crisis could sink push for net zero** SCOTLAND'S bid to reach its 'net zero' goal by 2045 is doomed to failure due to the cash crisis engulfing councils, it is claimed. Local authorities were highlighted as the key to achieving the target on greenhouse gas emissions outlined in 2019 by the Scottish Government. But councils warned SNP ministers they face a £1billion budget shortfall and said services could be 'significantly reduced, or stopped altogether'. It came after

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE, MINISTER** AT Holyrood last Thursday, Tory MSP Liam Kerr inquired about Lorna Slater's use of a statistic everyone now admits is dodgier than a three-day old kebab. The Green minister had claimed Scotland held a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential, a figure experts have rubbished. Slater told MSPs she learned the assertion was unreliable in November but her colleague Michael Matheson told a Westminster committee its dubiety came to light

Daily Record 2 **Council 'net zero key'** MINISTERS must do more to let councils reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The net zero, energy and transport committee said councils are best placed to lead climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee added. Launching its report after a year-long inquiry, convener Ed Mountain said: "We

Daily Record 18 **City street is still a high emission zone** GLASGOW'S Hope Street has been named Scotland's most polluted road - despite being in the city's Low Emission Zone. It topped Friends of the Earth Scotland's list of shame, ahead of St John's Road in Edinburgh, Perth's Atholl Street and Dundee's Lochee Road. Glasgow brought in its LEZ in 2019 to cut the number of polluting vehicles on its streets. Now every bus going through the city centre has to

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 11 **Unions have "grave concerns" on asbestos left in hospitals** Unions have warned that patients cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to contain the potentially carcinogenic material. Research released today reveals that asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. hospitals Scotland to harbour asbestos to STUC Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said the "stark report" underlined

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Charity offers its help as three-quarters of Scots turn down heat** An estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the thermostat as their bills rise, a Citizens Advice Scotland study has found. Analysis for the charity by YouGov has estimated that 78 per cent of adults in Scotland have been turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home in order to deal with rising energy costs. In light of this, the charity is running

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Hunt loopholes to be addressed** The use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Minister for Environment and Land Reform has said. Màiri McAllan spoke out ahead of tomorrow's final vote on the Hunting with Dogs Bill, which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Campaigners hail success of curbs on city pollution** In 2022 for the first time in 12 years Scotland did not breach legal air pollution limits - excluding the impact of Covid lockdowns in 2020 - according to an analysis. Legal air quality standards came into force in 2010, but have been broken every single year with the exception of 2020 when the lockdowns resulted in a big drop in car journeys. Environmental campaigners say the improvement in air

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Air quality target hit as LEZs make impact** SCOTLAND was within its legal air pollution limits last year for the first time outside of the pandemic lockdowns. Legal air quality standards came into force in 2010 but have been broken every year with the exception of 2020 when lockdowns resulted in a big drop in car journeys. Environmentalists claim the better air quality in Scotland's cities in 2022 was due to the early benefits of low emission zones.

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Deadly asbestos 'in 695 NHS buildings'** A 'SHOCKING' report has found at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland contain asbestos. The fibre-like material, which can cause cancer, was used for insulation, flooring and roofing before being banned in 1999. But many older buildings still contain it and a study carried out for the STUC and

Westminster's parliamentary group on occupational health and safety has now uncovered the scale of the issue in NHS hospitals. STUC chief

The Herald 22 **'People could die' Anger as installation of new prepayment energy companies force meters in Scottish homes** CAMPAIGNERS are calling on ministers to ban the forced installation of prepayment meters as a "staggering" 100 unpaid bill warrants to have the right to enter homes are typically lodged every day by energy companies. Energy Action Scotland and The Poverty Alliance have joined forces to ask the Justice Secretary for a hiatus on the procedure in advance of a review as it emerged that an average of at least

The National (Scotland) 2 **Air pollution figures 'show benefits of low-emission zones'** NEW figures have been released which show Scotland did not breach legal air pollution limits in 2022 for the first time, excluding the impact of Covid lockdowns in 2020. Legal air quality standards came into force in 2010 but have been broken every single year with the exception of 2020 when the lockdowns

The National (Scotland) 5 **SNP: Energy support must continue** THE SNP have said the Tory government "must not withdraw energy bill support for households" - as pressure grows for a U-turn on Tory plans to raise energy bills and scrap support from April. It comes as new research from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) and YouGov, published today, estimates 1.7 million adults in Scotland (78%) are having to turn their heating down - or off entirely - in the middle

The National (Scotland) 10 **Support for councils vital if Scotland is to reach net zero, report warns** MINISTERS must tackle the barriers facing local government before it can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 7 **Dangerous asbestos still present at 695 NHS sites across Scotland** Patients cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, say trade unions, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research has revealed. All of the properties for which NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are dutyholders still included the material. Roz Foyer,

The Scotsman 4 **Hundreds of Scots NHS buildings still contain asbestos** Patients cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, a union has warned, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research released today revealed, including all of the properties NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are dutyholders for. Roz Foyer, general secretary

The Scotsman 20 **Asbestos should not be in NHS buildings** Asbestos is the biggest workplace killer, according to the Health and Safety Executive, and Britain has some of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world. These facts make it all the more shocking that the material has been found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. A report said all the buildings for which the NHS is responsible in Dumfries and Galloway and the Greater Glasgow and

The Sun (Scotland) 41 **It's ship, ship hooray for our freeports** IT'S full steam ahead for Scotland's green freeports. The UK and Scottish governments have jointly confirmed the proposed schemes for Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green, and Forth Green, were successful in their bids. Consortia had to submit plans demonstrating to officials and ministers of both governments how they would regenerate communities, deliver decarbonisation, establish hubs for global trade and foster an innovative environment to support levelling up. Five bids were

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **THE SUN SAYS In slow lane** AS with many key SNP-Green policies, the introduction of free bus passes for all those aged under 22 in Scotland was announced to much fanfare. On the face of it, the idea sounds good. Helping young people travel while also promoting the use of public transport. But new figures show four in ten eligible Scots are missing out on the Young Person's FreeBus Travel Scheme. After launching it last

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **BUS PELTERS FOUR** in ten young Scots are missing out on a free bus travel scheme — amid claims the application process is too complicated. The huge number are still without passes a year after they were launched for those aged five to 21. According to the Scottish Government, 930,000 people are entitled to join the Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme, expected to cost £110million in its first year. But, as

The Times (Scotland) 16 **Countdown to Shetland launch this autumn** The UK's first orbital rocket launch is set to blast off from the Shetland islands in October or November this year (Neil Pooran writes). Saxa Vord spaceport is preparing to host the first vertical launch of satellites from British soil. It comes after Spaceport Cornwall's failed horizontal satellite launch — where a rocket blasts off from a plane — this month. Scott Hammond, director of operations at Saxa Vord, acknowledged that there

The Times (Scotland) 4 **NHS asbestos alert** Nearly 700 NHS buildings in Scotland still contain asbestos, according to research released today. Roz Foyer, of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, which carried out the research with MPs,

said that their report underlined her group's concerns. The Scottish government said that the material was "only dangerous when disturbed".

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

The Herald 20 **Plea to engage with industry experts before introducing new legislation** LAST week's decision by the Scottish Government to end the rent freeze in Scotland from April is an example of why government should not get involved in private enterprise, according to entrepreneur Lord Willie Haughey. He was referring to Patrick Harvie, the Scottish Greens co-leader, in what many have said is an embarrassing climbdown for the government, confirming the rent freeze would go with private landlords now permitted to increase

The Herald 17 **Councils need more help to help us reach net zero** SCOTLAND will not meet its ambitious target of being net zero by 2045 without a more empowered local government sector, with better access to the skills and capital it needs to play its full role in this energy revolution. The Scottish Government also needs to set out a comprehensive roadmap that gives local government detailed guidance on how it wants the sector to make its full contribution to net zero.

The Herald 20 **Energy efficiency provider is targeting £25m turnover** HOW to find an investor for your business was among the topics up for discussion on yesterday's Go Radio Business Show With Hunter & Haughey. Guest Steven Easton, co-founder and chairman of Ayrshire-based Green Home Systems, spoke about his company's ambition to achieve turnover of £20-25 million - up from its current £6m - within the next 12 to 18 months. Green Home Systems was founded in 2014 by Mr

The Times 38 **Taxpayers will fund wind farms for North Sea firms, say critics** Taxpayers effectively will pay oil and gas companies to build wind farms to supply their North Sea platforms because of generous new tax breaks, critics have claimed. The government has been urged to ditch the proposed investment relief that will enable firms to claim a £109 tax break for every £100 they spend on decarbonising their assets. The new tax break is due to be introduced through legislation promised in

The Scotsman 24 **Big changes are coming to the relationship between employers and their staff** The next 12 months promise to deliver really significant changes affecting the legal relationship between UK employers and workers. I've picked out some of the most important for Scottish businesses. Firstly, the UK Government plans major reforms by reviewing all EU derived laws retained post-Brexit. Unless specifically exempted, all will be repealed at the end of 2023. A huge amount of employment law protection stems from Europe, including: holiday pay and

The Scotsman 24 **More VC funding can take life sciences sector to the next level** Attracting investment for early-stage life science companies can be a challenge. Some companies will need tens of millions of pounds before bringing a product to market or being sold to a larger business. The risks and expense of bringing a life science product to market can be significant. Life science companies will often not generate revenue for many years while undertaking R&D, a deterrent to many investors. Scotland's life

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Drivers bombard SNP with road safety fears** TERRIFIED north residents are besieging SNP ministers with desperate demands to speed up the dualling of the A9 and A96. Emails and letters were being sent to transport chiefs almost every day late last year after a spate of fatal crashes on the routes. The memos lay bare how "genuinely fearful" many are, and how some view the delays to upgrades as "utterly scandalous". There were 13 deaths on the

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Ferry operator's compensation bill soars amid 'chaos'** Ferry operator CalMac has been paying out more than £50,000 a month to frustrated customers after a four-fold increase in its compensation bill. Taxpayers were left to pick up the bill for a recent spate of "chaos, cancellations and delays" on west coast services to and from the islands. Problems on the network led to claims islanders are being forced to pack up and leave fragile communities because lifeline transport

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Vow to dual our key roads has been forgotten** It is the job of this newspaper to stand up for its readers. It is also our job to hold our elected members to account. Such scrutiny is especially important when you live in an area far from the centre of power. The north and north-east of Scotland can feel a long way from Edinburgh or London. Politicians can be swayed by what they see out of their own window.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 34 **Landlords being driven out by Holyrood's new rent rules, warns expert** New rules for rented property in Scotland have tilted the balance too much towards tenants, according to a north-east lettings expert. Adrian Sangster, leasing director at law firm Aberdeen Considine, said the changes were driving landlords out of the market and - as a result of more people chasing fewer properties - driving up prices. As an example of current "unprecedented" demand, he described how one home that recently became

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 34 **1.7m turn down the heating as energy bills rise** An estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice

Scotland has found. Analysis for the charity, carried out by YouGov, has estimated 1.7 million adults (78% of those adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs) are turning down the thermostat or not heating all their rooms in order to deal

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **SNP in headlights over safety concerns on A9** SNP ministers are being inundated with demands to speed up dualling of the A9 and A96 in the wake of a spate of recent tragedies, we can reveal. Worried motorists and residents have been flooding ministers with their concerns about the failure to deliver on promises to upgrade the key routes. E-mails and letters about progress with the A9 and A96 were being sent to transport chiefs almost every day

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Local campaigns could stem population loss** Rural and island communities are being encouraged to sell themselves more to help tackle depopulation. Brand Scotland is expected to update campaigns soon to attract more people to the country. The Scottish Government believes there is an opportunity for areas suffering depopulation to localise marketing strategies. Brand Scotland brings together communications efforts of the Scottish Government and partners covering tourism, business, education and food and drink. It promotes the country

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 33 **Latest group of 23 firms join HIE fast-track** Twenty-three businesses from the Highlands and Islands have started the latest edition of a four-month programme aimed at putting them on the fast track to success. The Pathfinder Accelerator programme provides fast-track training and mentoring for entrepreneurs looking to build a company or launch a new product. The twelfth group to start on the programme since it began in 2018 met at An Lochran, Inverness Campus. Led by Highlands and

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Island campaigners renew call for young folk to get free travel** Calls have resurfaced for free ferry travel for islanders under the age of 22. The Scottish Government rejected the idea in 2021, but campaigners from island communities refusing to walk away say it's a matter of fairness. They argue their young people are being put at a disadvantage because they don't benefit from the Scotland-wide free under-22s bus travel scheme as much as mainlanders. To compensate for this, they have

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **'Tackle barriers to reach net zero'** Ministers must tackle the barriers facing local government before it can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **New report says councils hold key to hitting net zero** MINISTERS must tackle the barriers facing local government before Scotland can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures, councils need support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil their role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long inquiry into the role local

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE, MINISTER** AT Holyrood last Thursday, Tory MSP Liam Kerr inquired about Lorna Slater's use of a statistic everyone now admits is dodgier than a three-day old kebab. The Green minister had claimed Scotland held a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential, a figure experts have rubbished. Slater told MSPs she learned the assertion was unreliable in November but her colleague Michael Matheson told a Westminster committee its dubiety came to light

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **Tenants 'still unprotected' from eviction** THE SNP's rent freeze has had 'no significant impact' on tackling the country's housing and homelessness crisis, a charity has warned. Shelter Scotland has said the Cost of Living Act, which promised the freeze and an eviction moratorium, has brought few benefits to those it works with. Exemptions still allow for tenants to be evicted, leaving many confused about their legal protections, it claimed. Ahead of a Holyrood evidence session

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **Shocking rise of 'something for nothing Britain'** BRITONS are more dependent on the state than ever before, a bombshell report reveals today. For the first time, more than half of UK households - 36 million people - get more from the Government than they pay in tax, according to a study by Civitas. This is up from 24 million people, or two fifths of the total, when Sir Tony Blair was in power at the turn of the millennium. MPs

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Council funding crisis could sink push for net zero** SCOTLAND'S bid to reach its 'net zero' goal by 2045 is doomed to failure due to the cash crisis engulfing councils, it is claimed. Local authorities were highlighted as the key to achieving the target on greenhouse gas emissions outlined in 2019 by the Scottish Government. But councils warned SNP ministers they face a £1 billion budget shortfall and said services could be 'significantly reduced, or stopped altogether'. It came after

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Sleeper link subsidy cost taxpayers £95 per user** THE Caledonian Sleeper service has cost the taxpayer roughly £95 per passenger since Nicola Sturgeon became First Minister. The subsidy to run the overnight

service which links London and the Highlands has climbed to £173million since 2014. Figures compiled by the Office of Rail and Road show that the Caledonian Sleeper has carried just over 1.8million people in that time. The service is currently run by Serco, an outsourcing firm

Daily Record 2 **Council 'net zero key'** MINISTERS must do more to let councils reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The net zero, energy and transport committee said councils are best placed to lead climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee added. Launching its report after a year-long inquiry, convener Ed Mountain said: "We

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Charity offers its help as three-quarters of Scots turn down heat** An estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the thermostat as their bills rise, a Citizens Advice Scotland study has found. Analysis for the charity by YouGov has estimated that 78 per cent of adults in Scotland have been turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home in order to deal with rising energy costs. In light of this, the charity is running

The Herald 22 **'People could die' Anger as installation of new prepayment energy companies force meters in Scottish homes** CAMPAIGNERS are calling on ministers to ban the forced installation of prepayment meters as a "staggering" 100 unpaid bill warrants to have the right to enter homes are typically lodged every day by energy companies. Energy Action Scotland and The Poverty Alliance have joined forces to ask the Justice Secretary for a hiatus on the procedure in advance of a review as it emerged that an average of at least

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9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Herald 1 **Asbestos crisis hits NHS buildings** HUNDREDS of health service buildings Scotland-wide are blighted by asbestos, research reveals, amid warnings of the danger posed to patients. The potentially cancer-causing material was discovered in 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said death and illness from asbestos-related conditions is clearly "not just a legacy from the past, it is in the here and now for thousands of people". Full

The Herald 20 **Plea to engage with industry experts before introducing new legislation** LAST week's decision by the Scottish Government to end the rent freeze in Scotland from April is an example of why government should not get involved in private enterprise, according to entrepreneur Lord Willie Haughey. He was referring to Patrick Harvie, the Scottish Greens co-leader, in what many have said is an embarrassing climbdown for the government, confirming the rent freeze would go with private landlords now permitted to increase

The Herald 17 **Councils need more help to help us reach net zero** SCOTLAND will not meet its ambitious target of being net zero by 2045 without a more empowered local government sector, with better access to the skills and capital it

needs to play its full role in this energy revolution. The Scottish Government also needs to set out a comprehensive roadmap that gives local government detailed guidance on how it wants the sector to make its full contribution to net zero.

The Herald 4 **No 'persuasive or compelling' argument against gender law** NICOLA Sturgeon has insisted that there is no "persuasive or compelling" legal argument about the impact of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill on the Equality Act. The First Minister told the BBC that despite the objections of the UK Government, the new law would "not change the legal effect of a gender recognition certificate." However, a second former Supreme Court judge has also now spoken out the legislation, and warned

The Herald 6 **Asbestos alert at NHS sites** PATIENTS cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, it has been warned, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research released today revealed, and it was found that all of the properties for which NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Greater Glasgow and Clyde are the dutyholder had

The Herald 15 **Is Labour ready to deal with the crisis?** LABOUR is the only party I have ever joined. In 1966 and 1970 I was inspired by, and campaigned for, Donald Dewar in Aberdeen South. A few years later, however, infiltration by Militant, especially at branch level, dampened my enthusiasm and my membership lapsed. Nevertheless, during the Thatcher years I remained a supporter and voter. Hope arising from New Labour's 1997 landslide didn't last long. It's more than likely Margaret

The Herald 4 **Police launch investigation into 'Decapitate Terfs' sign at pro-trans rally** POLICE Scotland has launched an investigation after complaints about a sign at a pro-trans rally reading "Decapitate Terfs". The placard, which also included a drawing of a guillotine, came to prominence on social media over the weekend after it featured in images and video of SNP politicians attending the rally, including MSP Kaukab Stewart, and MPs Stewart McDonald, Alison Thewliss and Kirsten Oswald. Tory MSP Murdo Fraser said he had

Daily Express 12 **Misguided Labour ignores the danger of trans militants** THE transgender movement likes to portray itself as a force for liberation. But in reality there is nothing even remotely progressive about its campaign for revolution or social change. On the contrary. Too many of its activists resort to intimidation, aggression, and bigotry as they trumpet their demands for the advancement of trans rights. That kind of ugly bullying has been on full display in the wake of the explosive political

Daily Mail 19 **Sturgeon U-turn on alcohol for 16-year-olds** NICOLA Sturgeon has backtracked after suggesting she thought 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs, as she discussed teens being able to change their legal sex. During an interview with the BBC, the Scottish First Minister was asked why she believed 16-year-olds were mature enough to self-identify as a different sex under her controversial Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. Ms Sturgeon pointed out they can already get married and

i (The paper for today) 10 **Activists hail gender bill** Drag queen Tiara Skye reacts as transgender rights supporters protest outside Downing Street in favour of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill that the UK Government seeks to block HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS

The Daily Telegraph 4 **SNP's social engineering targets risk brain drain** BRITAIN'S second most senior judge would have been rejected from his university law course had social engineering policies designed to meet SNP targets been in place when he was a teenager, The Daily Telegraph can reveal. Lord Reed of Allermuir graduated from the University of Edinburgh's renowned law school with a first class degree in 1978 and had a glittering legal career, becoming president of the Supreme Court in January

The Daily Telegraph 14 **Britain is becoming sick over the trans debate. Only facts can cure it** Imagine the outrage if, after the discovery that yet another rapist had been found amid the ranks of the Metropolitan Police, the Commissioner had told women to calm down. "The vast majority of officers," he might have told protesters, "are likely to be safe." The thought is preposterous. Yet it is the very argument made by those defending Scottish legislation that would allow people to change their gender in law

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Women call for health service review** Women living in the far north of Scotland are being failed by NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, campaigners say. Rebecca Wymer, of the North Highland Women's Wellness Hub, said women's lives were in danger due to the crisis in healthcare and called for an emergency review of women's health services in Caithness and Sutherland. Ms Wymer said: "I believe serious conditions such as endometriosis and ovarian cancer are being

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **'Tackle barriers to reach net zero'** Ministers must tackle the barriers facing local government before it can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 18 **Sturgeon: I have 'plenty in the tank'** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as Scotland's first minister and believes she will lead the nation to independence. The SNP leader revealed that when the time comes she hopes she will have the "same courage" as outgoing New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who announced this week that she no longer had "enough in the tank" to go on in the job. But Ms

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Island campaigners renew call for young folk to get free travel** Calls have resurfaced for free ferry travel for islanders under the age of 22. The Scottish Government rejected the idea in 2021, but campaigners from island communities refusing to walk away say it's a matter of fairness. They argue their young people are being put at a disadvantage because they don't benefit from the Scotland-wide free under-22s bus travel scheme as much as mainlanders. To compensate for this, they have

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Establishing what gender identity means is first step to settling debate** "What is gender identity?" former Guardian columnist Suzanne Moore asked on Twitter last week, after Alister Jack announced the UK Government will use a section 35 order to prevent Holyrood's freshly minted Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill gaining royal assent. It's a good question - and she posed other equally good ones. What's the difference between gender identity and regressive gender stereotypes? Does everyone have a gender identity, and when do

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 34 **1.7m turn down the heating as energy bills rise** An estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland has found. Analysis for the charity, carried out by YouGov, has estimated 1.7 million adults (78% of those adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs) are turning down the thermostat or not heating all their rooms in order to deal

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 34 **Landlords being driven out by Holyrood's new rent rules, warns expert** New rules for rented property in Scotland have tilted the balance too much towards tenants, according to a north-east lettings expert. Adrian Sangster, leasing director at law firm Aberdeen Considine, said the changes were driving landlords out of the market and - as a result of more people chasing fewer properties - driving up prices. As an example of current "unprecedented" demand, he described how one home that recently became

The Scotsman 2 **Sturgeon gaffe is a reminder of crisis in alcohol deaths** It is perhaps testament to Nicola Sturgeon's status as one of the country's most polished political performers that when she makes a mistake, it stands out. The First Minister is an assured and focused interviewee not known for misspeaking, but her gaffe during her one-to-one with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg was particularly embarrassing. The wide-ranging interview saw Ms Sturgeon asked why she held thought 16-year-olds are old enough to

The Scotsman 12 **Ministers told to support councils on net zero** Ministers must tackle the barriers facing local government before it can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The net zero, energy and transport committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil their role, the committee said. The report follows a yearlong inquiry into the

The Scotsman 4 **Hundreds of Scots NHS buildings still contain asbestos** Patients cannot afford to wait any longer for asbestos to be removed from hospitals, a union has warned, as hundreds of health service buildings were found to still contain the potentially cancer-causing material. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland, research released today revealed, including all of the properties NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are dutyholders for. Roz Foyer, general secretary

The Scotsman 20 **Jack gives Sturgeon a full-frontal defence of devolution** When is a full-frontal assault on devolution not a full-frontal assault on devolution? The simple answer is: when a legitimate political intervention is made using the laws that established it in the first place. Last week the Scottish Secretary of State, Alister Jack, saved devolution from itself. Indeed, he saved it from a full-frontal assault by the nationalists currently in control of it. The SNP/ Green Government will do

The Scotsman 26 **Is allowing assisted dying really what being a caring society in Scotland means?** The Church cares about people - which is why we feel strongly that it would be wrong to introduce legalised assisted suicide in Scotland. This, however, is exactly what is being proposed by a bill which will shortly be considered by the Scottish Parliament. My experience, in common with many others in church congregations and communities throughout Scotland, has often involved the privilege of coming alongside people who are

The Scotsman 1 **Moderator fears assisted dying will be to save cash** The Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly has raised fears the legalisation of assisted dying could be seen as "an opportunity for cost-saving" in the health service. The Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields pointed to the current pressure on resources and said the Kirk was "very concerned" about the issue. His intervention comes as Liberal Democrat MSP Liam McArthur is expected to introduce a Members' Bill on assisted

The Scotsman 10 **Sturgeon claims gender reforms do not affect UK-wide legislation** Claims that controversial changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland impact on UK-wide equalities legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The Scottish First Minister was speaking amid ongoing controversy over the UK government's veto of Holyrood legislation. Former Supreme Court judge Lord Sumption said it is part of a strategy from SNP ministers to "provoke constitutional rows, which they hope will boost support for independence". He accused the

The Scotsman 20 **Asbestos should not be in NHS buildings** Asbestos is the biggest workplace killer, according to the Health and Safety Executive, and Britain has some of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world. These facts make it all the more shocking that the material has been found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. A report said all the buildings for which the NHS is responsible in Dumfries and Galloway and the Greater Glasgow and

The Scotsman 8 **'My car has given me security' - now Ukrainians battle to keep vehicles in UK** For Olga Kuzina, from Ukraine, her car is a place of refuge and safety at a time when everything else in her life has become uncertain. Now living in Scotland, Ms Kuzina and her son Lev, 12, quickly packed some belongings into their vehicle and drove almost 1,000 miles across Ukraine on the day that war broke out in their country almost a year ago, while air raid sirens sounded

The Times 24 **Don't fall into the trap of 'bad news Britain'** It is a rare and dangerous thing for a politician in a 21st-century democracy to be simultaneously interesting and in office. Boris Johnson and Liz Truss fascinated in the way that any car crash, whether slow-motion or high-speed might. By contrast Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer offer the political equivalent of a high-fibre diet: porridge, potatoes and pulses, never likely to cause indigestion but hardly popular at a party.

The Times (Scotland) 11 **Sturgeon has 'plenty in the tank' to lead Scotland** Nicola Sturgeon insisted she still had energy to lead Scotland to independence as she accused the UK government of stoking a "shameful culture war" over trans rights. The first minister said that she had "plenty in the tank" and had no intention of following her friend and political ally Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, who announced her resignation last week. Speaking on the BBC's Sunday with Laura

The Times (Scotland) 11 **Inquiry over trans rally 'hate' banners** Police Scotland has launched an investigation into "hateful" banners displayed at a trans rights demo in Glasgow on Saturday. Hundreds of trans supporters gathered in the city centre to protest against the UK government blocking Holyrood's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, which aims to allow trans people to quickly change their gender. The event was attended by SNP and Green Party MSPs but there was outrage after pictures appeared of banners

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **Lethal legacy contained in 695 NHS buildings** A "SHOCKING" number of NHS buildings still contain potentially fatal levels of asbestos, according to new research. Asbestos was found in at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland. That includes all the NHS properties in Dumfries and Galloway and Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Roz Foyer, general secretary to the Scottish TUC, said the "stark report" underlined the "grave concerns" her union had about the scale of the problem north of

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **New report says councils hold key to hitting net zero** MINISTERS must tackle the barriers facing local government before Scotland can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures, councils need support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil their role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long inquiry into the role local

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Sturgeon mixes her drinks comments on pubs at 16** NICOLA Sturgeon was forced into an embarrassing climbdown after stating 16-year-olds could soon be able to drink legally in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview with the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The Gender Recognition Reform Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **PROBE LAUNCHED OVER 'HATEFUL' BANNER AT TRANS DEMO** POLICE Scotland has launched an investigation into "hateful" banners displayed at a trans rights demonstration in Glasgow on Saturday. Hundreds of trans supporters gathered in the city centre to protest against the UK Government blocking the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform bill. The event was attended by SNP and Green Party MSPs, but there was outrage after pictures appeared of a banner bearing the slogan "Decapitate TERFS", a derogatory term

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Danger can't be ignored** ALARMING news came out yesterday that a significant amount of NHS buildings across Scotland contain potentially deadly asbestos. A total of 695 buildings have the hazardous material. Thousands of people across Scotland, as a result, are having their health put at risk. As if the country's NHS wasn't already in a bad enough state, staff are now being told they are going into work to be around materials that in years

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **I want justice for my asbestos hell says site labourer** FURIOUS workers are threatening to sue a major housebuilder with close links to the SNP over claims they were exposed to deadly asbestos. Springfield Properties, run by multi-millionaire Sandy Adam, was forced to pay a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building

site in Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire. Government-run environment regulator Sepa found failures in the way the firm managed "controlled waste" being transported between a number of

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Holyrood is drifting further and further away from the true priorities of Scots** THEY say a week is a long time in politics but Alister Jack has gone in even less time from mild-mannered Dumfriesshire businessman to tyrannical satrap. His colonial crime? Invoking section 35 of the Scotland Act to block Nicola Sturgeon's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. For doing so, the Secretary of State for Scotland has been accused of attacking devolution and even democracy itself. He was howled at by a pack

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Girls in poorer areas are missing out on 'life saving' cancer vaccine** GIRLS in Scotland's most deprived areas are missing out on life-saving cervical cancer vaccines, a charity has warned. Drastic regional differences in uptake of the HPV vaccine, which protects against infection that can develop into cervical cancer, could mean women are missing out on 'vital' treatment, according to Jo's Trust. The charity said more than one in five schoolgirls in deprived areas had not received the second dose of the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Failing First Minister** WITH boundless arrogance, Nicola Sturgeon asserts that she has 'plenty left in the tank' and is 'nowhere near' quitting. But the First Minister may have little choice over her future if she is judged by recent lamentable performances. Her latest blunder comes in a week when the SNP has committed a series of humiliating U-turns. They include leaving the much-vaunted crusade to close the pupil attainment gap lying in tatters,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Most people are against SNP gender reforms, poll reveals** NICOLA Sturgeon's controversial gender reforms are opposed by the majority of Britons, a poll has found. Holyrood passed legislation making it easier for trans people to obtain a gender recognition certificate (GRC) by self identification and without medical involvement. The age limit has been slashed from 18 to 16. Over-18s will only have to state they have lived in their desired gender for three months, while 16 and 17-year olds

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **STURGEON'S 'PUB UB AT 16' BLUNDER** NICOLA Sturgeon backtracked yesterday after suggesting she thought that 16-year-olds should be allowed to drink in pubs as well as change gender. The First Minister insisted only a 'tiny' number of teenagers would benefit from her divisive reforms that would lower the age at which people can legally change sex, as well as speeding up the process. She pointed out that 16-year-olds can get married and join the Army, then

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Lawyers scrutinise assisted dying Bill amid fear of UK veto** PLANS to legalise assisted dying in Scotland are being scrutinised by lawyers amid fears they will be blocked by Westminster. A proposal for a Member's Bill on the issue was lodged at Holyrood by Lib Dem MSP Liam McArthur last year. Legal advice has now been sought about the Bill after Scottish Secretary Alister Jack issued a section 35 order to block the SNP's controversial gender reforms. The order, which

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **Tenants 'still unprotected' from eviction** THE SNP's rent freeze has had 'no significant impact' on tackling the country's housing and homelessness crisis, a charity has warned. Shelter Scotland has said the Cost of Living Act, which promised the freeze and an eviction moratorium, has brought few benefits to those it works with. Exemptions still allow for tenants to be evicted, leaving many confused about their legal protections, it claimed. Ahead of a Holyrood evidence session

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Council funding crisis could sink push for net zero** SCOTLAND'S bid to reach its 'net zero' goal by 2045 is doomed to failure due to the cash crisis engulfing councils, it is claimed. Local authorities were highlighted as the key to achieving the target on greenhouse gas emissions outlined in 2019 by the Scottish Government. But councils warned SNP ministers they face a £1 billion budget shortfall and said services could be 'significantly reduced, or stopped altogether'. It came after

Daily Record 2 **Sturgeon backtrack on booze-at-16 gaffe** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she made a mistake after claiming she was open to 16-year-olds being able to drink alcohol in pubs. The First Minister had been asked during an interview about plans backed by MSPs to lower the age at which people can change gender from 18 to 16. The gender recognition Bill has been blocked by the UK Government from becoming law, with the age threshold a concern

Daily Record 2 **Council 'net zero key'** MINISTERS must do more to let councils reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The net zero, energy and transport committee said councils are best placed to lead climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee added. Launching its report after a year-long inquiry, convener Ed Mountain said: "We

Daily Record 2 **Probe into 'hate' banners** AN INVESTIGATION has been launched by police into "hateful" banners on display close to SNP politicians at a trans rights demo. Hundreds of trans supporters gathered in central Glasgow on Saturday to protest against the UK Government blocking the SNP Government's gender recognition reform Bill. SNP MP Kirsten Oswald and MSP Kaukab Stewart were seen smiling in front of a sign saying "Decapitate TERFS" with a drawing of a guillotine.

Daily Record 15 **Scotland can fight draconian Tory actions.. but it can't change them** THE Tories have outdone themselves with their recent dealings at Westminster. Undermining the right to strike, overruling the Scottish Parliament, ripping up EU legislation and sending levelling up money to their own wealthy seats are just a handful of their damaging moves. Just one standard week in Westminster leaves many wondering what Scotland gets out of our membership of this union. On Monday, the Conservatives brought forward their anti-trades union

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Charity offers its help as three-quarters of Scots turn down heat** An estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the thermostat as their bills rise, a Citizens Advice Scotland study has found. Analysis for the charity by YouGov has estimated that 78 per cent of adults in Scotland have been turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home in order to deal with rising energy costs. In light of this, the charity is running

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Sturgeon rejects grounds offered by UK ministers for veto of Scottish gender Bill** Claims that changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland will affect UK-wide equality legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. Last week the Scottish Secretary, Alister Jack, said that he would veto the Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, using Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998. Accepting that legal opinion on the matter of whether the UK Government had the right to do so was "divided", Ms Sturgeon

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Former law lord says SNP gender law claim is 'absurd'** A FORMER Supreme Court judge has dismissed claims the UK government is attacking Scottish democracy with its veto of Holyrood legislation as 'absurd'. Lord Sumption said that if the gender recognition reform (Scotland) bill wasn't challenged, 'some UK citizens will have a different legal gender in different parts of the UK'. The ex-barrister added: 'This poses serious legal and practical problems for employers and public authorities operating on a UK-wide

Metro (Scotland) 2 **Deadly asbestos 'in 695 NHS buildings'** A 'SHOCKING' report has found at least 695 NHS buildings in Scotland contain asbestos. The fibre-like material, which can cause cancer, was used for insulation, flooring and roofing before being banned in 1999. But many older buildings still contain it and a study carried out for the STUC and Westminster's parliamentary group on occupational health and safety has now uncovered the scale of the issue in NHS hospitals. STUC chief

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **Sturgeon sticks to gender Bill guns despite advice of top judges** NICOLA STURGEON has insisted she has not given up on her gender reforms despite a second former Supreme Court judge warning that a legal bid to overturn a veto would be doomed. The First Minister said yesterday she would "do everything" possible to enact legislation passed at Holyrood last month, which would allow Scots aged 16 and over to change their legal sex simply by signing a declaration. While the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon vows not to give up on gender Bill** Nicola Sturgeon has insisted she has not given up on her gender reforms despite a second former Supreme Court judge warning that a legal bid to overturn a veto would be doomed. The First Minister said she would "do everything" to enact legislation passed at Holyrood last month, which would allow Scots aged 16 and over to change their legal sex simply by signing a declaration. Ms Sturgeon is expected

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **Police investigate banner at Glasgow trans rally calling for women to be 'decapitated'** POLICE have launched an investigation after placards calling for women to be decapitated were displayed at a pro-transgender rights rally attended by SNP politicians. MPs Alison Thewliss, Kirsten Oswald, Stewart McDonald and MSP Kaukab Stewart were pictured in front of a sign that said "decapitate terfs" next to an image of a guillotine at a protest in Glasgow on Saturday. Another homemade sign appeared to call for terfs, an acronym

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **SNP social mobility targets risk brain drain** THE head of the UK's highest court would have been rejected from his university law course had social engineering policies designed to meet SNP targets been in place when he was young, The Daily Telegraph can reveal. Lord Reed of Allermuir graduated from the University of Edinburgh's renowned law school with a first class degree in 1978 and went on to have a glittering legal career, becoming Scotland's youngest ever

The Herald 22 **'People could die' Anger as installation of new prepayment energy companies force meters in Scottish homes** CAMPAIGNERS are calling on ministers to ban the forced installation of prepayment meters as a "staggering" 100 unpaid bill warrants to have the right to enter homes are typically lodged every day by energy companies. Energy Action Scotland and The Poverty Alliance have joined forces to ask the Justice Secretary for a hiatus on the procedure in advance of a review as it emerged that an average of at least

The National (Scotland) 10 **Support for councils vital if Scotland is to reach net zero, report warns** MINISTERS must tackle the barriers facing local government before it can reach net zero targets, a Holyrood committee has warned. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has said councils are best placed to lead the ambitious climate goals by 2045. But due to financial pressures facing the sector, councils need significant support in accessing skills and capital to fulfil its role, the committee said. The report follows a year-long

The National (Scotland) 5 **FM: No compelling argument that gender law affects the Equality Act** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she has not heard a single "persuasive or compelling" argument that Scotland's gender reform legislation would have an impact on the Equality Act. The First Minister re-iterated her government's commitment to do "everything" to defend legislation designed to make it easier for people to change their legal gender. The UK Government issued a Section 35 Order in a bid to veto the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland)

The National (Scotland) 17 **Fascism has already dug into the fabric of UK** AS a political ideology, fascism is surprisingly difficult to pin beneath a single, all-encompassing descriptor. Some fascistic regimes view expansionism as a necessary tenet of their ideology. Others close borders and build walls. Some focus on religious supremacy. Others mimic the morals of extreme evangelism with different justifications. Yet despite moulding itself around the contemporary philosophies it seeks to destroy, there are some core themes to fascism that I believe

The National (Scotland) 5 **SNP: Energy support must continue** THE SNP have said the Tory government "must not withdraw energy bill support for households" - as pressure grows for a U-turn on Tory plans to raise energy bills and scrap support from April. It comes as new research from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) and YouGov, published today, estimates 1.7 million adults in Scotland (78%) are having to turn their heating down - or off entirely - in the middle

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **BUS PELTERS FOUR** in ten young Scots are missing out on a free bus travel scheme — amid claims the application process is too complicated. The huge number are still without passes a year after they were launched for those aged five to 21. According to the Scottish Government, 930,000 people are entitled to join the Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme, expected to cost £110million in its first year. But, as

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **THE SUN SAYS In slow lane** AS with many key SNP-Green policies, the introduction of free bus passes for all those aged under 22 in Scotland was announced to much fanfare. On the face of it, the idea sounds good. Helping young people travel while also promoting the use of public transport. But new figures show four in ten eligible Scots are missing out on the Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme. After launching it last

The Times (Scotland) 23 **Leaders falling through the gender trapdoor** The price of a politics dominated by the constitution for over a decade now is the need to always paint your words in primary colours. There's no place for subtlety, nuance and refinement when the test for everything is: which side are you on? So when Sir Keir Starmer was invited to comment on the Gender Recognition Reform Bill passed by the Scottish parliament before Christmas and the UK government's

10. CORPORATE

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE, MINISTER** AT Holyrood last Thursday, Tory MSP Liam Kerr inquired about Lorna Slater's use of a statistic everyone now admits is dodgier than a three-day old kebab. The Green minister had claimed Scotland held a quarter of Europe's offshore wind potential, a figure experts have rubbished. Slater told MSPs she learned the assertion was unreliable in November but her colleague Michael Matheson told a Westminster committee its dubiety came to light

The Sun (Scotland) 21 **'FEARS' ON BUG INQUIRY** THE former chair of the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry raised concerns about its slow progress and "reputational damage" before she quit, documents reveal. Lady Poole complained to the government about several issues in her final weeks in the role, emails seen by The Scottish Sun show. The High Court judge criticised timescales and advice she had been given to fill key positions. When she resigned from the independent probe into Scotland's

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The Herald 15 **The misogynistic hatred that has infected the SNP** AT least they know how to spell "decapitate". I mean I know it's not the hardest word to get right, but it doesn't have the same degree of difficulty as, say, "eviscerate" or something to do with genital mutilation (which probably wouldn't fit on a placard, anyway). All of these charming epithets have been aimed at women - usually by men - who insist on defending women's sex-based rights, including

The Herald 4 **No 'persuasive or compelling' argument against gender law** NICOLA Sturgeon has insisted that there is no "persuasive or compelling" legal argument about the impact of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill on the Equality Act. The First Minister told the BBC that despite the objections of the UK Government, the new law would "not change the legal effect of a gender recognition certificate." However, a second former Supreme Court judge has also now spoken out the legislation, and warned

The Herald 1 **Sturgeon: I might not lead Scotland to indy** NICOLA Sturgeon has suggested she might not be the person to lead Scotland to independence. However, the First Minister insisted there was still "plenty in the tank", and that she had no intention of standing down in the near future. The comments come after New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern shocked Kiwis on Thursday when she said she had "no more in the tank" to lead the country and would

The Times (Scotland) 11 **Sturgeon has 'plenty in the tank' to lead Scotland** Nicola Sturgeon insisted she still had energy to lead Scotland to independence as she accused the UK government of stoking a "shameful culture war" over trans rights. The first minister said that she had "plenty in the tank" and had no intention of following her friend and political ally Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, who announced her resignation last week. Speaking on the BBC's Sunday with Laura

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Universities' 'risky' ties to China** More than 40 British universities have collaborated with institutions that have been linked to malign activities of the Chinese state. An investigation by The Times reveals that dozens of universities, including four from the Russell Group, have partnered with bodies in China connected to the Uighur genocide, nuclear weapons development, espionage, defence research or hacking. Cambridge is among those to have signed agreements with Tsinghua, the alma mater of President

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Sheriff's warning over lack of help for drug addicts** A sheriff based at one of Scotland's busiest courts has gone public with his frustration that he has been unable to offer potentially life-saving support to those battling addiction. The number of drug-related deaths recorded in Scotland dropped slightly in 2021. However, the figures for Edinburgh bucked the trend, with fatalities continuing to rise. Sheriff Frank Crowe suggested it was linked to a lack of assistance offered to those coming

The Times 15 **Museums scrap 'mummy' label over colonial legacy** Museums are removing the word "mummy" from labels that describe human remains in their Egyptian exhibitions because it is deemed "dehumanising" and has a colonial past. Curators are instead opting to describe them as "mummified remains" and use their known names or sex to provide more information for visitors. The British Museum says it wants to emphasise to visitors that it is looking at "people who once lived", while National

The Scotsman 10 **Sturgeon claims gender reforms do not affect UK-wide legislation** Claims that controversial changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland impact on UK-wide equalities legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The Scottish First Minister was speaking amid ongoing controversy over the UK government's veto of Holyrood legislation. Former Supreme Court judge Lord Sumption said it is part of a strategy from SNP ministers to "provoke constitutional rows, which they hope will boost support for independence". He accused the

The Scotsman 20 **Jack gives Sturgeon a full-frontal defence of devolution** When is a full-frontal assault on devolution not a full-frontal assault on devolution? The simple answer is: when a legitimate political intervention is made using the laws that established it in the first place. Last week the Scottish Secretary of State, Alistair Jack, saved devolution from itself. Indeed, he saved it from a full-frontal assault by the nationalists currently in control of it. The SNP/ Green Government will do

The Scotsman 10 **I've got plenty in the tank to lead Scotland, says First Minister** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as Scotland's First Minister - adding she still hopes to lead the country to independence. The SNP leader has been in the post since November 2014, with her predecessor Alex Salmond stepping down after Scots voted to stay in the UK in September of that year. Speaking on the BBC's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme, Ms Sturgeon insisted she

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 18 **Sturgeon: I have 'plenty in the tank'** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as Scotland's first minister and believes she will lead the nation to independence. The SNP leader revealed that when the time comes she hopes she will have the "same courage" as outgoing New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who announced this week that she no longer had "enough in the tank" to go on in the job. But Ms

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Establishing what gender identity means is first step to settling debate** "What is gender identity?" former Guardian columnist Suzanne Moore asked on Twitter last week, after Alistair Jack announced the UK Government will use a section 35 order to prevent Holyrood's freshly minted Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill gaining royal assent. It's a good question - and she posed other equally good ones. What's the difference between gender identity and regressive gender stereotypes? Does everyone have a gender identity, and when do

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Local campaigns could stem population loss** Rural and island communities are being encouraged to sell themselves more to help tackle depopulation. Brand Scotland is expected to update campaigns soon to attract more people to the country. The Scottish Government believes there is an opportunity for areas suffering depopulation to localise marketing strategies. Brand Scotland brings together communications efforts of the Scottish Government and partners covering tourism, business, education and food and drink. It promotes the country

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **SNP WESTMONSTER WHIP QUIT "AFTER DIRTY TRICKS EMAIL"** THE atmosphere in the SNP's Westminster camp has reportedly "turned sour" after the chief whip quit just six weeks into the job. Stephen Flynn's honeymoon period as leader appears to be over, as a senior Nationalist source claimed support for the Aberdeen South MP was "rapidly declining". The group is understood to be even more divided now than in the final days of Ian Blackford's tenure, when he was forced

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Nicola: I still have plenty in the tank to lead my party** NICOLA Sturgeon says she is 'nowhere near' quitting as First Minister and has 'plenty left in the tank' to lead the SNP. Scotland's longest-serving First Minister revealed she hopes to have the 'same courage' to resign in a similar way to outgoing New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. But asked about continuing to lead the independence campaign, Miss Sturgeon said she would 'like to think' she would still be in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Holyrood is drifting further and further away from the true priorities of Scots** THEY say a week is a long time in politics but Alister Jack has gone in even less time from mild-mannered Dumfriesshire businessman to tyrannical satrap. His colonial crime? Invoking section 35 of the Scotland Act to block Nicola Sturgeon's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. For doing so, the Secretary of State for Scotland has been accused of attacking devolution and even democracy itself. He was howled at by a pack

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Most people are against SNP gender reforms, poll reveals** NICOLA Sturgeon's controversial gender reforms are opposed by the majority of Britons, a poll has found. Holyrood passed legislation making it easier for trans people to obtain a gender recognition certificate (GRC) by self identification and without medical involvement. The age limit has been slashed from 18 to 16. Over-18s will only have to state they have lived in their desired gender for three months, while 16 and 17-year olds

Daily Record 15 **Scotland can fight draconian Tory actions.. but it can't change them** THE Tories have outdone themselves with their recent dealings at Westminster. Undermining the right to strike, overruling the Scottish Parliament, ripping up EU legislation and sending levelling up money to their own wealthy seats are just a handful of their damaging moves. Just one standard week in Westminster leaves many wondering what Scotland gets out of our membership of this union. On Monday, the Conservatives brought forward their anti-trades union

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Sturgeon rejects grounds offered by UK ministers for veto of Scottish gender Bill** Claims that changes to the gender recognition process in Scotland will affect UK-wide equality legislation are wrong, Nicola Sturgeon has said. Last week the Scottish Secretary, Alister Jack, said that he would veto the Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, using Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998. Accepting that legal opinion on the matter of whether the UK Government had the right to do so was "divided", Ms Sturgeon

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **First Minister says she has 'plenty in the tank' and not ready to quit** Nicola Sturgeon has said she is "nowhere near" ready to quit as First Minister, adding that she still hoped to lead the country to independence. The SNP leader has been in the post since November 2014, after her predecessor Alex Salmond stepped down when Scots voted to stay in the UK in September of that year. Speaking BBC One's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, Ms Sturgeon said she had "plenty in

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Former law lord says SNP gender law claim is 'absurd'** A FORMER Supreme Court judge has dismissed claims the UK government is attacking Scottish democracy with its veto of Holyrood legislation as 'absurd'. Lord Sumption said that if the gender recognition reform (Scotland) bill wasn't challenged, 'some UK citizens will have a different legal gender in different parts of the UK'. The ex-barrister added: 'This poses serious legal and practical problems for employers and public authorities operating on a UK-wide

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **Sturgeon sticks to gender Bill guns despite advice of top judges** NICOLA STURGEON has insisted she has not given up on her gender reforms despite a second former Supreme Court judge warning that a legal bid to overturn a veto would be doomed. The First Minister said yesterday she would "do everything" possible to enact legislation passed at Holyrood last month, which would allow Scots aged 16 and over to change their legal sex simply by signing a declaration. While the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon vows not to give up on gender Bill** Nicola Sturgeon has insisted she has not given up on her gender reforms despite a second former Supreme Court judge warning that a legal bid to overturn a veto would be doomed. The First Minister said she would "do everything" to enact legislation passed at Holyrood last month, which would allow Scots aged 16 and over to change their legal sex simply by signing a declaration. Ms Sturgeon is expected

The National (Scotland) 15 **On shoulders of giants...** GUSNA, the Glasgow University Scottish Nationalist Association, predates the SNP by seven years. Past members include Ian Hamilton, Winnie Ewing and First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. In an interview for The National, GUSNA's President Euan Bell told me what it was like to "stand on the shoulders of giants" - a common phrase at society meetings: "It feels quite strange being part of an organisation that has been around for so

The National (Scotland) 5 **FM: No compelling argument that gender law affects the Equality Act** NICOLA Sturgeon has said she has not heard a single "persuasive or compelling" argument that Scotland's gender reform legislation would have an impact on the Equality Act. The First Minister re-iterated her government's commitment to do "everything" to defend legislation designed to make it easier for people to change their legal gender. The UK Government issued a Section 35 Order in a bid to veto the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland)

The National (Scotland) 10 **Yes has lost one of its best and brightest advocates** TOM Naim, Scotland's greatest political philosopher of the modern era and doughty champion of independence, has left us at the age of 90. He was a kindly, thoughtful individual whom I was privileged to call my friend for half-a-century. Like Stephen Maxwell, the national movement's other towering intellect, Tom will not see the sun rise when Scotland recovers her ancient statehood. But in some misty Valhalla, he and Maxwell and Hamish

The National (Scotland) 17 **Fascism has already dug into the fabric of UK** AS a political ideology, fascism is surprisingly difficult to pin beneath a single, all-encompassing descriptor. Some fascistic regimes view expansionism as a necessary tenet of their ideology. Others close borders and build walls. Some focus on religious supremacy. Others mimic the morals of extreme evangelism with different justifications. Yet despite moulding itself around the contemporary philosophies it seeks to destroy, there are some core themes to fascism that I believe

The National (Scotland) 6 **Two-thirds want prince to be stripped of Scots title** AN overwhelming majority of Scots believe Prince Andrew should be stripped of his Scottish title, a new poll commissioned exclusively for The National has revealed. The Find Out Now survey found 72% of the country thinks the scandal-hit royal should have his Earl of Inverness title removed. Just 7% of respondents said Andrew should keep his Scottish title, with 16% responding don't know and 4% opting not to say.

The National (Scotland) 4 **Sarwar rules out EU referendum despite 'economic disaster' of Brexit** ANAS Sarwar has admitted Brexit has been a "disaster" for the UK economy - but said he won't back another referendum on rejoining the EU. The Scottish Labour leader said he would be inconsistent if he supported another plebiscite on the European Union whilst opposing a second Scottish independence referendum. UK Labour leader Keir Starmer has ruled out rejoining the bloc if he becomes prime minister. It comes despite several

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **NICOLA: I'VE GOT PLENTY IN TANK** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday insisted she has "plenty in the tank" to lead Scotland to independence. The BBC's Laura Kuenssberg asked the First Minister about her future after Jacinda Ardern announced last week she's quitting as New Zealand's PM. Ms Ardern told journalists: "I know what this job takes and I know I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice." But Ms Sturgeon made clear she is

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Watching children discover joy of song is music to my ears** YOUNG people were among those who suffered most in the pandemic. Plunged into home learning and separated from their friends, their anxiety levels soared. But one of the things that has really helped kids impacted by the Covid crisis is an involvement in music projects. Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) last year helped 360,000 young people in Scotland to access free music tuition through schemes such as Beat Buddies

[Redacted]

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Item 13:

From: [Redacted] Media Manager

Sent: 22 January 2023 10:01

To: Shirley-anne.somerville2@parliament.scot;

Humza.Yousaf.msp@scottish.parliament.uk; Media Digest [Redacted];

John.Swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Subject: Media digest - Sunday 22 January 2023

Press Summary For Scottish Government

22 January 2023

Compiled By Precise

[1. FIRST MINISTER](#)

[2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY](#)

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1. FIRST MINISTER

Scotland on Sunday 12 **A watershed moment in history of Scots devolution** This has never happened in the history of devolution. It is worth reflecting on that fact when considering and assessing the decision by the UK government to block the Gender Recognition Reform Act passed by the Scottish Parliament just before Christmas. Strip back the shouting, the anger and the fury, and that is the central fact: It has never happened before. British devolution to the nations, by the standards of

Scotland on Sunday 8 **SNP to blame for gender debate getting messier still** The reaction from the SNP was entirely predictable. This was an attack on the Scottish Parliament, an attempt to undermine the very principles of democracy. It would, of course, hasten the break-up of the United Kingdom. When Scottish Secretary Alister Jack announced last week that he would invoke Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block legislation making it easier for people to change their recorded sex, the outrage was

Scotland on Sunday 6 **Key issues losing out to constitutional wrangling** There is always a risk when one issue dominates the news cycle that other important stories go under the radar. Last week saw a frenzy over the Westminster government acting to block the Scottish Government's gender reform bill. A significant step, certainly, as it marked the first time a Section 35 order had been used in this way. It raises big questions about the relationship between the Scottish and Westminster

Sunday Express 17 **ONLY Nicola Sturgeon knows what [...]** ONLY Nicola Sturgeon knows what is behind her determination to drive through the Gender Recognition Reform Bill that would change the law dramatically in Scotland. If it is to help people who are vulnerable and experiencing considerable emotional trauma, she is to be lauded. However, if it is merely a ruse to MANOEUVRE WESTMINSTER into blocking the act - which would then be seen as denying the will of the

Sunday Express 2 **'Gender law row is Scotland's get-out'** NICOLA STURGEON has "picked a fight" with Westminster over gender reforms to show why Scotland should pull out of the UK, a constitutional expert has warned. Belfast Birmingham Cardiff Glasgow Manchester Newcastle Norwich Plymouth 8 10 8 11 4 10 2 6 5 8 4 10 2 7 4 8 4 10 8 10 9 11 4 10 4 7 6 9 3 10 5 8 7 10 2 10

Sunday Mail 16 **Clamp down on firms who put staff in danger** Asbestos poisoning kills 5000 people a year in the UK - more than the number of fatalities in road accidents. The death toll is often wrongly associated solely with historic shipbuilding at a time when the dangers were not fully understood. The truth is hundreds of lives are being lost to this day as a result of rogue employers who can no longer claim ignorance when sending staff to building

Sunday Mail 11 **Women accuse Sarwar of fleeing from trans debate** Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar evaded gender protesters as he attended the party's Women's Conference in Glasgow. Around a dozen campaigners gathered at Strathclyde University's Technology & Innovation Centre yesterday to protest over Scottish Labour's support for the controversial Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Just hours earlier, hundreds of people gathered on Buchanan Street to show their support for transgender rights, including SNP and Green party politicians. SNP MPs Kirsten Oswald

Sunday Mail 30 **Quotes of the week** Nothing stays the same forever and I have decided the time is right for me to move on DJ and PopMaster host Ken Bruce on why he is leaving BBC Radio 2 after 31 years This is a full-frontal attack on our democratically elected Scottish Parliament and its ability to make its own decisions on devolved matters First Minister Nicola Sturgeon after the UK Government announced it would block gender

Sunday Mail 8 **This is our asbestos nightmare** Furious workers are threatening to sue a major housebuilder with close links to the SNP over claims they were exposed to deadly asbestos. Springfield Properties." - run by multi-millionaire Sandy Adam - was forced to pay a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire. Government-run environment regulator SEPA found failures in the way the firm managed "controlled waste" being transported between a

The Herald 13 **Poll in wake of Section 35 finds 54% back indy** A POLL carried out amid the row over Westminster stepping in to block reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland has found a majority in favour of independence. Research by Find Out Now for The National suggested that 54 per cent backed Scotland leaving the UK,

with 46% in favour of remaining. Those were the totals when those who said they did not know were excluded from the research,

The Herald 13 **Tories demand SNP release legal advice on gender bill** NICOLA Sturgeon is being urged to publish the legal advice her government was given on the gender recognition reform bill as the row between the Scottish and UK governments over the legislation continues. Donald Cameron, the Conservative MSP, is to write to ministers tomorrow demanding the documents are released. It is not normal practice for lawyers' counsel to ministers to be published though the Scottish Government did release the legal

The Herald 10 **Deploying 'Draconian' power risks a bonfire of legislation** YOU are entitled to be perplexed by the political optics. When Rishi Sunak was parachuted into Downing Street with a mop and an apologetic expression, we were told that conciliation was now the name of the game. Muscular Unionism was out, and a new, more constructive spirit would rule relations between London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. f. During the whole spell of her premiership - a lifetime in lettuce years -

The Herald 21 **PM wishes his Tory colleagues would belt up** IT'S arguable who had the bigger smile when it emerged Rishi Sunak had been fined for not wearing a seatbelt - Keir Starmer, Nicola Sturgeon, Liz Truss or, most probably, Boris Johnson. Schadenfreude is never far away in politics. Labour branded the Prime Minister a "total liability" and a "laughing stock" while Sunak, thanks to what has been ridiculously dubbed "seatbeltgate", has not only acquired another fixed penalty notice but

The Herald 12 **Lawyers study Holyrood's assisted dying plans to avoid gender UK Government block** PLANS to bring in assisted dying laws in Scotland are being examined by lawyers to ensure they do not end up falling victim in a new row over reserved and devolved powers like Holyrood's gender reform legislation, The Herald on Sunday can reveal. Liam McArthur, who is behind the proposed member's bill, said legal advice is being taken to make sure its provisions are within devolved powers and any potentially

The Herald 25 **Scot Gov criticised for not asking Treasury for more tax powers** DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney has not recently asked for more tax powers for Holyrood, according to the Treasury. Mr Swinney, who is also acting Finance Secretary, has said the Scottish Parliament's financial powers are "largely fixed" as he has made the case for having more ability to raise revenue to help fund public services. The SNP made the pledge to strengthen devolved tax powers in its 2021 election manifesto

The Mail on Sunday 29 **If Starmer gets to No 10, the rights of women in Britain could be set back decades** TO SAY the Labour Party has a problem with women, as its MP for Canterbury Rosie Duffield claimed last week, is not strictly true. It would be fairer to say that it has a problem with biological women or, to use the rather unpleasant and derogatory-sounding term imposed upon us by the trans lobby and its various supporters, a 'cis' women problem. (Cis - or cisgender - is a term

The Mail on Sunday 5 **Protesters who want women 'decapitated'** JK ROWLING last night led the condemnation of politicians who stood with protesters calling for women's rights campaigners to be 'decapitated'. The shocking placards were brandished at a demonstration in Glasgow in support of Scottish plans to allow anyone 16 or over to change their sex at will, without the need for a medical diagnosis. The Harry Potter author tweeted pictures of campaigners brandishing the offensive signs. One said 'decapitate

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **Majority of Brits back UK block of gender reforms and oppose Bill** MOST of the British public are against every key pillar of Nicola Sturgeon's gender swap reforms - and overwhelmingly in favour of the UK Government's decision to block the Bill, polling has found. An exclusive Deltapoll survey for The Mail on Sunday shows a majority believe people should 'in principle' have the right to legally switch gender. Yet they also have concerns about the Holyrood law that waters down transitioning

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 11 **Fury as SNP trio pose in front of placards urging violence against women** SNP politicians have sparked a major women's rights row after posing in front of banners calling for females to be 'decapitated' and 'eaten' at a trans protest. Nicola Sturgeon ally and Glasgow Central MP Alison Thewliss, former SNP deputy Westminster leader Kirsten Oswald MP and Glasgow Kelvin MSP Kaukab Stewart were pictured gleefully smiling in front of the 'hateful' signs at a rally in Glasgow's Buchanan Street yesterday. In one

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 8 **...while hospitals axe beds** THE NHS in Scotland is being forced to axe hospital beds to save money - in the midst of the worst crisis in its history. Health boards say acute beds must close because the Scottish Government isn't providing enough cash to keep them open. The drastic move comes in spite of Nicola Sturgeon's recent emergency statement on the NHS when she pledged action to ease hospital pressures. Health Secretary Humza

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **SUPPORT FADES FOR INDY REF 2 ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER** NICOLA Sturgeon's hopes of using the next general election as a 'de facto' referendum were on a knife-edge last night as polling showed a dramatic slump in support for independence. A Mail on Sunday and Deltapoll survey reveals that voters on

both sides of the Border overwhelmingly reject the First Minister's bid to break up Britain. People across the UK were asked if 'in principle' they 'think there should or

The National (Scotland) 6 **Tories' Section 35 move is a direct assault on Holyrood and devolution** ET'S get real here. The r i s i b l e A i i s t e r Jack, a walking anachronism if ever there was one, has a c t u a l l y just removed a n o t h e r brick from a devolution wall which has b e e n s y s t e m a t i c a l l y d i s m a n

The National (Scotland) 6 **Section 35 highlights extent of Labour's Scottish problem** DIVISIONS in Labour which have been exposed over the UK Government's blocking of gender reform legislation are reflective of the party's difficulties in Scotland over the last two decades, an expert has said. While a majority of Scottish Labour MSPs supported the Bill in Holyrood, UK leader Keir Starmer expressed "concerns" about provisions in the legislation enabling 16-year-olds to legally change their gender. He also said he would wait to

The National (Scotland) 4 **SCOTS SAY BBC HAS FAILED IN ITS BREXIT COVERAGE** THE majority of people in Scotland do not think the BBC has done a good job of reporting on the impacts of Brexit on the country, exclusive polling for the Sunday National has revealed. A nationally representative survey of Scottish adults conducted for this paper by the British Polling Council registered firm Find Out Now asked to what extent people thought the BBC had "reported accurately on the impacts of

The National (Scotland) 6 **'Debatable whether the trigger was met** A PROFESSOR of law has said it's "debatable" whether the indirect effects of the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill on the UK wide Equality Act is "sufficient to trigger" the use of Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 by Westminster. Aileen McHarg, Professor of Public Law and Human Rights at Durham Law School, told the Sunday National: "The GRR Bill doesn't directly change the Equality Act; it has

The National (Scotland) 9 **The Sunday National's noticeboard** • The Govan SNP Burns Supper, with a star list of speakers including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, will take place at 7pm on Saturday, January 28, at the Go Glasgow Urban Hotel on Paisley Road West in Glasgow. Tickets priced £40-£50 (plus fees) are available from Eventbrite. • Eastwood SNP will celebrate its 56th Burns Supper on Saturday, January 28 with speakers including John Swinney MSP, Kirsten Oswald MP and Stuart

The National (Scotland) 10 **Media in Britain is 'insulting' its audiences by dodging debate** THE British media must engage in more open debate about the monarchy and stop "insulting" audiences by dodging republicanism, a politics lecturer and journalist has said. Ash Sarkar, who has lectured in political theory at the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam, has slated the BBC for seeming "scared" to platform anti-monarchy views and called on them to engage in a "grown-up debate" about whether the royal family is good for the

The National (Scotland) 13 **Health board rejects Tory claims over c five-year wait for scan** A HEALTH board has refuted claims by the Tories that a patient waited nearly five years for a "crucial diagnostic" CT scan. The figure was widely reported last week with Tory health spokesperson Dr Sandesh Gulhane describing it as "scarcely believable" that certain patients had been waiting that long for a "potentially life-saving" test. But NHS Grampian, which provided figures in response to a freedom of information request, has said

The National (Scotland) 7 **Deploying this 'draconian' power risks a bonfire of Scots legislation** YOU are entitled to be p e r p l e x e d by the political optics. When R i s h i S u n a k was p a r a c h u t e d i n to Downing Street with a mop and an apologetic expression, we were told that conciliation was now the name of the game. Muscular Unionism was out, and anew,

The National (Scotland) 11 **insult to Scottish democracy** logic behind the call for Scottish independence that people should make decisions as close as possible to where those decisions have an impact. Following this logic the argument for decentralisation within Scotland, both now and after independence is overwhelming. The Conservatives are morally bankrupt and deeply cynical. But more than that, they don't care. Whether it's levelling up or trickling down, nothing changes. If the latest round of corruption, like

The Observer 37 **Stoking a culture war? No, Nicola Sturgeon, this is about balancing conflicting rights** The term "culture war" once had meaning: the weaponisation of socio-cultural issues to foment division. But, like the words bigoted and phobic, it is being rendered impotent by how often it is now used to mean "opinion I disagree with". Not just in social media spats: Nicola Sturgeon last week accused the Conservative government of "stoking a culture war" by using section 35 of the Scotland Act to block reforms

The Observer 8 **Sunak warned: you're risking 'uproar' if you decide to cut tax** Rishi Sunak will provoke a public uproar should he prioritise preelection tax cuts over better pay for nurses, ambulance workers and teachers, Britain's most senior union figure has warned. With the prime minister already under pressure from Tory MPs to sanction tax cuts in the spring budget, Paul Nowak, the general secretary of the TUC, warned that the public would condemn any such move while a series of public sector

The Sun (Scotland) 17 **BILL'S A DOUBLE WINNER** WHAT could have motivated the Scottish Government to forge full steam ahead with the Gender Recognition Bill, all the time knowing it would clash with existing UK equality legislation? Did Nicola Sturgeon predict it would be blocked by Westminster? Could this have been engineered just to highlight how the UK Government still holds the power to veto our legislation? It would be a shrewd political move in the aftermath of

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **SNP 'BLIND' TO HARASSMENT** THE SNP staffer targeted by sex pest MP Patrick Grady yesterday said Nicola Sturgeon and her husband's grip on the party was helping to foster a culture where harassment victims are not protected. The former aide hit out after Glasgow North MP Grady was reinstated to the Nats — despite sources saying he wouldn't be given back the whip. And the man, 25, who was harassed by the politician as

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **Sturgeon U-turn on 16-yr-olds' pubs OK** Chief Reporter NICOLA Sturgeon has been forced to deny suggesting that 16-year-olds should be able to booze in bars — while arguing for a wider debate on teenager's rights. The First Minister said "Why can't a 16-year-old drink alcohol in a pub" as she spoke about age inconsistencies between the current booze laws and the new age limit in the gender reform bill. The comments were made last night in

The Sunday Telegraph 19 **The Tories have indulged Sadiq Khan for far too long** Now that Rishi Sunak has found the gumption to challenge Nicola Sturgeon over her putative law to allow people to change their gender at whim in Scotland, he should turn his attention to Sadiq Khan and his expansion of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez). Surely, the Government can find the powers to stop this highly-regressive charge on the dual grounds that it is unfair and will be hugely damaging

The Sunday Telegraph 23 **Caledonian Sleeper costs taxpayers dearly** THE Caledonian Sleeper has cost taxpayers £95 for every passenger that has travelled on the service since Nicola Sturgeon became Scotland's first minister, new analysis reveals. The subsidy to run the overnight train linking London with the Scottish Highlands has now hit £173m since 2014, when its latest contract was awarded. Analysis of figures compiled by the Office of Rail and Road shows the service has carried 1.8m people over

The Sunday Times 7 **What gives men the right to use gender activism as a cover for misogyny?** And lo, it has come to pass. The rise of gender ideology — which for too long was dismissed as too niche and irrelevant to discuss by those too sexist or just too cowardly to listen to women's concerns — has now exploded into a constitutional showdown, with the UK government blocking Nicola Sturgeon's wildly unpopular gender recognition reform bill. For those of us who have been writing for years

The Sunday Times 6 **THE PROXY WAR** When Rishi Sunak visited Nicola Sturgeon in Scotland for dinner the Thursday before last, the two leaders had a "pretty friendly" conversation marred by one awkward moment. "There was a bowl of chips in the middle and neither of them was sure whose chips they were," a senior government source said. "Rishi did not eat the chips, fortunately, because it turned out they were Nicola's." Confusion over the jurisdiction of

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 23 **Alex Bell Episode 2 - Holyrood shoots itself in the foot** The Netflix theory of Scottish politics is that each episode threatens high drama but it never quite happens. You'd think the anticlimax would turn people off but it has run for seven years and become the only show on screen. The story arc is we meet the two sides and it is ambiguous who is good and who is bad. The intrigue! Then something happens. The SNP says it is

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Tories scotch SNP call for more devolution on whisky curbs** Constitutional tensions between the SNP and Conservatives are set to rise further, with Nicola Sturgeon's administration seeking more devolution to clamp down on whisky advertising. The Scottish government wants greater powers to enable it to restrict the promotion of the spirit, which is one of Scotland's biggest industries, worth an estimated £5.5 billion to the UK economy. It follows concerns about alcohol-related hospital treatment and deaths, and fears that marketing

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 25 **This is a fight with Westminster that Sturgeon won't win** The UK government's veto of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill has provoked predictable outrage from Bute House. The first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has called it a "full frontal attack" on Scottish democracy. She threatens a challenge in the courts. Three streets away in Edinburgh's New Town, Lord Hope of Craighead, a distinguished Scottish lawyer and former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, is scathing. Her litigation, he says,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **Ukrainian refugees leaving Scotland because they can't get a GP appointment** Scotland promised a new life, a world away from the bombs and bullets of their war-torn homeland. But some Ukrainians, disappointed by their encounters with the NHS, have left in search of better healthcare overseas. Refugees who arrived in Glasgow last winter have waited weeks, sometimes months, to register with a GP or secure appointments. The delays have persuaded some Ukrainians to book last-minute flights and travel to countries such

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 2 **Ex-judge: gender bill veto correct** A second former Supreme Court judge has spoken out against Nicola Sturgeon's legal attempt to get around the UK government's veto of her gender recognition bill. Writing in The Sunday Times, Lord Sumption accused Scottish ministers of resorting to "froth and rage" after the Scottish secretary, Alister Jack, used a mechanism to block royal assent for reforms giving people as young as 16 the right to quickly change their legal

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **A glass of hypocrisy? We'll have a double** Last summer Scotland's first minister called on the monarch at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. As was customary, she brought a gift. Thus, on one of their last encounters, Nicola Sturgeon presented Queen Elizabeth with an expensive bottle of Johnnie Walker whisky. The first minister is a long-time admirer of the brand and its parent company, Diageo. When the plan for the "Johnnie Walker Experience" in Princes Street, Edinburgh, was announced

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 3 **Labour under fire for oil vow** One of the Labour Party's largest trade union donors has fired a broadside at Sir Keir Starmer's commitment to ban new investment in North Sea oil and gas fields. His pledge was also criticised by Sir Ian Wood, the North Sea oil tycoon, who warned that the policy would increase uncertainty for thousands of workers. The party sought to play down Starmer's comments, made at the World Economic Forum in

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

The Herald 13 **More school strikes** Teachers in Scotland have announced further strike plans, with union leaders insisting a "substantially improved" pay offer is needed. The NASUWT union announced more strike dates for its members, who will take part in protests on Tuesday, February 28 and Wednesday, March 1. The EIS, Scotland's largest teaching union, has already declared strike action on those dates.

The Herald 25 **Scot Gov criticised for not asking Treasury for more tax powers** DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney has not recently asked for more tax powers for Holyrood, according to the Treasury. Mr Swinney, who is also acting Finance Secretary, has said the Scottish Parliament's financial powers are "largely fixed" as he has made the case for having more ability to raise revenue to help fund public services. The SNP made the pledge to strengthen devolved tax powers in its 2021 election manifesto

The Herald 19 **Charity hits out at 'devastating cuts' to spending for affordable homes** SCOTLAND'S leading homelessness charity is to demand the Deputy First Minister reverses plans to cut affordable housing spending. The draft Budget published by the John Swinney, acting Finance Secretary, in December stated that spending on "more homes" in 2023/24 would be £567.5 million compared to £748.1m in 2021/22. Now, in a written submission to Holyrood's local government and housing committee ahead of a meeting on Tuesday, the organisation has urged

The Herald 9 **Compensation claims against CalMac soar to £53k each month** COMPENSATION claims paid to ferry passengers for problems with service have more than doubled in a year and come as one of CalMac's key vessels is expected to be sidelined for more than a month. New data has revealed that customer rights claims paid out by CalMac have soared to over £215,000 in the first four months of 2022/23 - an average of £53,000 per month. The average monthly payout

The National (Scotland) 9 **The Sunday National's noticeboard** • The Govan SNP Burns Supper, with a star list of speakers including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, will take place at 7pm on Saturday, January 28, at the Go Glasgow Urban Hotel on Paisley Road West in Glasgow. Tickets priced £40-£50 (plus fees) are available from Eventbrite. • Eastwood SNP will celebrate its 56th Burns Supper on Saturday, January 28 with speakers including John Swinney MSP, Kirsten Oswald MP and Stuart

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Investigation revealed into legal figures accused of child abuse** An investigation into claims that senior members of the legal establishment were linked to the sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse of children in care is under way in Scotland, it has emerged. The disclosure was made by Ruth Charteris KC, the solicitor-general, to Russell Findlay, the Scottish Conservative MSP, last month. Four years ago John Halley, a former advocate and part-time sheriff, raised concerns about alleged connections between senior Scottish

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Scotland on Sunday 16 **Pupils to learn about green jobs through Minecraft 'worlds'** School pupils are to learn about sustainable careers and industries by building virtual worlds on Minecraft. Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is seeking a Minecraft "specialist development supplier" to push the project forward. The online worlds will feature landscapes and industry-specific landmarks from five different areas of Scotland - the North, North East, South East, West and South West. Older primary pupils and younger secondary students will be able to build

The Herald 13 **More school strikes** Teachers in Scotland have announced further strike plans, with union leaders insisting a "substantially improved" pay offer is needed. The NASUWT union announced more strike dates for its members, who will take part in protests on Tuesday, February 28 and Wednesday, March 1. The EIS, Scotland's largest teaching union, has already declared strike action on those dates.

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **THE SUN SAYS Class cash clash** COUNCILS have come under fire for spending money meant for hiring more permanent teachers on other things. The criticism is understandable. We need more teachers after falling numbers in recent years. More staff and smaller class sizes are crucial to improving attainment. But the

money should have been legally ring-fenced by the Scottish Government for this purpose. Because council budgets have been hammered in the last decade, meaning there is

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **THAT LACKS CLASS COUNCILS** were last night accused of taking cash to hire more permanent teachers — and spending it elsewhere. Critics expressed "deep disappointment" at how some of the £145.5million fund was used. It was paid to local authorities by the Scottish Government last year to get more staff off temporary contracts. But Greens MSP Mark Ruskell's office admitted: "This money has not been spent on what it was intended for by

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **THE SUN SAYS Class cash clash** COUNCILS have come under fire for spending money meant for hiring more permanent teachers on other things. The criticism is understandable. We need more teachers after falling numbers in recent years. More staff and smaller class sizes are crucial to improving attainment. But the money should have been legally ring-fenced by the Scottish Government for this purpose. Because council budgets have been hammered in the last decade, meaning there is

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The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Bureaucrats fail the test of violence-blighted schools** 'Multi pertransibunt et augebitur scientia,' reads the motto of the Waid Academy, the secondary school founded in 1886 by the philanthropist Lt Andrew Waid in the sleepy seaside village of Anstruther, in the highly desirable location of the East Neuk of Fife. Many have indeed passed through but whether their knowledge has increased is a moot point. The Sunday Times school rankings put the Waid Academy at number 124 in

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Naming of 'sex predator' at leading schools persuades more ex-pupils to come forward** Five victims who claim they were sexually abused at Edinburgh schools have come forward after their alleged abuser was named in the House of Commons. Ian Blackford, the SNP MP, used parliamentary privilege to name Iain Wares last week as the man known as "Edgar", who is accused of being a dangerous sexual predator in the 1970s. The 82-year-old is accused of crimes against boys at Edinburgh Academy and Fettes

4. JUSTICE

The Observer 18 **Rape crisis centres turn away victims as demand soars but cash runs out** Rape crisis centres that provide support and counselling for victims are being forced to shut their waiting lists across the country because a lack of funding means they can no longer meet the demand. Staff at centres from Scotland to Somerset have described lists as long as 18 months for access to counselling, therapy and advocacy services, with some closing lists altogether. About 14,000 people are waiting for a service

The Herald 1 **FEARS UK GOV COULD BLOCK NEW SCOTTISH ASSISTED DYING LAWS** FULL STORY INSIDE

Scotland on Sunday 1 **Stagecoach tycoon Gloag 'bewildered' by allegations of human trafficking** A number of those who have accused Dame Ann Gloag of human trafficking stayed at her home at Kinfauns Castle, it has emerged. Gloag, 80, the co-founder of Stagecoach and at one point Scotland's richest woman, has been charged with alleged human trafficking and immigration offences following a Police Scotland investigation. The tycoon and philanthropist "strongly disputes" the allegations, which she described as "malicious", with her husband David McCleary and

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **MSP: We'll close the loopholes on hunts with dogs** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with

Sunday Mail 9 **Hunting with dogs slammed** The use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been illegal to hunt a wild animal with a dog, but with some exceptions. The Hunting with Dogs Bill, which is due to be voted

Sunday Mail 35 **We must get shot of our old gun laws** A senior Police Scotland firearms officer has said the UK's gun laws need to be updated. Superintendent Steven Duncan, the force's head of national firearms and explosives licensing, admitted the 55-year-old legislation could cause issues and said changes would be made if it was rewritten from scratch. He made the comments at Westminster's Scottish affairs committee meeting on firearms licensing regulations, which published its minutes last week. It comes amid

Sunday Mail 6 **25 cops probed over sexual misconduct** Police Scotland currently has 25 police officers suspended over allegations of sexual misconduct, the Sunday Mail can reveal. Three complaints of rape and 18 of sexual assault by serving officers and police staff were also made in just six months last year. A third set, a snapshot of figures for last July, showed that 132 police officers were facing criminal allegations at the time, of whom 45 had been suspended

The Herald 24 **Dame Ann to 'vigorously defend' herself against trafficking charges** STAGECOACH founder Dame Ann Gloag "strongly disputes the malicious allegations" made against her after being charged with human trafficking offences. A spokesperson for the bus company tycoon yesterday said she would "vigorously defend herself" as well as her family and the charitable foundation she established and would "protect her legacy". It comes after Police Scotland confirmed four people have been charged following an investigation into alleged human trafficking and immigration

The Herald 19 **Police Scotland to step up vetting after Carrick case** POLICE Scotland will check staff against national databases as it steps up the vetting of officers after it was revealed one of Britain's most prolific sex offenders was a serving policeman in London. After former Metropolitan Police officer David Carrick admitted earlier this week to committing dozens of rape and sex offences during his time in the force, constabularies in England and Wales had been asked to check UK-wide databases

The Herald 12 **Lawyers study Holyrood's assisted dying plans to avoid gender UK Government block** PLANS to bring in assisted dying laws in Scotland are being examined by lawyers to ensure they do not end up falling victim in a new row over reserved and devolved powers like Holyrood's gender reform legislation, The Herald on Sunday can reveal. Liam McArthur, who is behind the proposed member's bill, said legal advice is being taken to make sure its provisions are within devolved powers and any potentially

The Herald 13 **Tories demand SNP release legal advice on gender bill** NICOLA Sturgeon is being urged to publish the legal advice her government was given on the gender recognition reform bill as the row between the Scottish and UK governments over the legislation continues. Donald Cameron, the Conservative MSP, is to write to ministers tomorrow demanding the documents are released. It is not normal practice for lawyers' counsel to ministers to be published though the Scottish Government did release the legal

The Herald 3 **Use of dogs to hunt and kill 'has no place in Scotland'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Environment Minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 24 **SNP and a grim travesty of justice** SNP plans to increase the use of bail to free up prison spaces were always poorly considered to the point of recklessness. The release of potentially dangerous suspected criminals may begin to address overcrowding in jails but the reality is that society becomes less safe for the law-abiding majority. Sickening statistics underline this truth. New data shows 11 people freed on conditional release from Scottish jails went on to kill.

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 12 **Freed on bail to kill and rape** SUSPECTED criminals are being freed to kill while on bail, The Scottish Mail on Sunday can reveal, as the SNP ramps up plans to release more accused offenders onto Scotland's streets. Shocking figures show that over a one-year period 11 people freed on conditional release from jails went on to kill someone. The data also reveals a further 189 attempted to murder someone and six either raped or attempted to

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 13 **...and half of the inmates let out due to Covid also reoffended** ALMOST half of all inmates freed under an SNP Covid release policy went on to reoffend, The Scottish Mail on Sunday can reveal. In a move which distressed victims and their families, around 350 prisoners were let out early during the pandemic - including some guilty of attempted murder. At the time, then -Justice Minister Humza Yousaf insisted that streamlining the prison population would reduce the spread of coronavirus. The public

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 1 **cyber raid on scots drivers** TENS of thousands of motorists are at risk of identity theft and online fraud after Scotland's biggest car dealership was hit by a devastating cyber attack. Arnold Clark customers have had personal details - including copies of passports and national insurance numbers - leaked on the 'dark web' by hackers. Ransomware gang Play is claiming responsibility for the attack on the nationwide car dealer and is now threatening to release

The National (Scotland) 7 **Deploying this 'draconian' power risks a bonfire of Scots legislation** YOU are entitled to be perplexed by the political optics. When Rishi Sunak was parachuted in to Downing Street with a mop and an apologetic expression, we were told that conciliation was now the name of the game. Muscular Unionism was out, and anew,

The National (Scotland) 11 **'No place for hunting with dogs in Scotland'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Environment Minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this

week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs

The National (Scotland) 6 **Tories' Section 35 move is a direct assault on Holyrood and devolution** ET'S get real here. The r i s i b l e Alistair Jack, a walking anachronism if ever there was one, has a c t u a l l y just removed a n o t h e r brick from a devolution wall which has b e e n s y s t e m a t i c a l l y d i s m a n

The National (Scotland) 6 **'Debatable whether the trigger was met** APROFESSOR of law has said it's "debatable" whether the indirect effects of the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill on the UK wide Equality Act is "sufficient to trigger" the use of Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 by Westminster. Aileen McHarg, Professor of Public Law and Human Rights at Durham Law School, told the Sunday National: "The GRR Bill doesn't directly change the Equality Act; it has

The National (Scotland) 19 **Stagecoach founder denies trafficking** STAGECOACH founder Dame Ann Gloag "strongly disputes the malicious allegations" made against her after being charged with human trafficking offences. A spokesperson for the bus company tycoon said she would "vigorously defend herself" as well as her family and the charitable foundation she established. It comes after Police Scotland confirmed four people have been charged following an investigation into alleged human trafficking and immigration offences. A spokesperson for the force

The Sun (Scotland) 23 **DRINKING GAME FOR THE PRANKS FOR THE FOOTIE** fans want a 43-year ban on boozing at games lifted — insisting they can be as well-behaved as rugby supporters. They pointed out there were just 45 drink-related arrests at rugby games in a decade in Edinburgh. Fans also reckon they would be more trustworthy than punters at music and comedy gigs. Calls are growing for a law change allowing bars to open in sections of stadiums and fans

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **Sturgeon U-turn on 16-yr-olds' pubs OK** Chief Reporter NICOLA Sturgeon has been forced to deny suggesting that 16-year-olds should be able to booze in bars — while arguing for a wider debate on teenager's rights. The First Minister said "Why can't a 16-year-old drink alcohol in a pub" as she spoke about age inconsistencies between the current booze laws and the new age limit in the gender reform bill. The comments were made last night in

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Naming of 'sex predator' at leading schools persuades more ex-pupils to come forward** Five victims who claim they were sexually abused at Edinburgh schools have come forward after their alleged abuser was named in the House of Commons. Ian Blackford, the SNP MP, used parliamentary privilege to name Iain Wares last week as the man known as "Edgar", who is accused of being a dangerous sexual predator in the 1970s. The 82-year-old is accused of crimes against boys at Edinburgh Academy and Fettes

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Bureaucrats fail the test of violence-blighted schools** 'Multi pertransibunt et augebitur scientia,' reads the motto of the Waid Academy, the secondary school founded in 1886 by the philanthropist Lt Andrew Waid in the sleepy seaside village of Anstruther, in the highly desirable location of the East Neuk of Fife. Many have indeed passed through but whether their knowledge has increased is a moot point. The Sunday Times school rankings put the Waid Academy at number 124 in

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Investigation revealed into legal figures accused of child abuse** An investigation into claims that senior members of the legal establishment were linked to the sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse of children in care is under way in Scotland, it has emerged. The disclosure was made by Ruth Charteris KC, the solicitor-general, to Russell Findlay, the Scottish Conservative MSP, last month. Four years ago John Halley, a former advocate and part-time sheriff, raised concerns about alleged connections between senior Scottish

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Herald 1 **FEARS UK GOV COULD BLOCK NEW SCOTTISH ASSISTED DYING LAWS** FULL STORY INSIDE

Scotland on Sunday 2 **A&E patient waited 15 hours for triage** A hospital patient waited more than 15 hours to be triaged at an accident and emergency department last year, figures obtained by the Scottish Conservatives have revealed. More than 650,000 patients waited longer than 15 minutes to be triaged at A&E units across Scotland in 2022, according to data revealed under freedom of information requests. Scottish Conservative health spokesman Sanjesh Gulhane said the figures for initial assessments of patients at

Scotland on Sunday 25 **"The government seems to be doing everything it can to stifle this amazing industry"** In November last year, the Scottish Government released information on a proposed marketing and advertising ban on alcohol in Scotland. This current consultation, which ends in March, is looking at further restrictions on alcohol marketing in order to reduce the appeal of booze to young people and cut the number of alcohol-related hospitalisations and deaths. A restriction of in-store promotion of alcohol is also part of trying to tackle this

Scotland on Sunday 14 **Scottish care homes could free up hospital beds 'tomorrow', with huge potential savings for NHS** A Scottish care home boss has claimed he could provide the NHS with "300 beds tomorrow" if the Scottish Government increased funding for care - amid a severe shortage of care placements and hospitals operating above capacity. Dr Sanjeev Kanoria, chief executive of Advinia Health Care, says increasing funding would not only free up beds, but save NHS Scotland thousands of pounds per patient, per day - due to the

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **Tories slam 'terrifying' triage wait of 15 hours** A HOSPITAL patient waited more than 15 hours to be triaged at an A&E department last year, figures obtained by the Scottish Conservatives show. More than 650,000 patients waited longer than 15 minutes to be triaged at A&E units across Scotland in 2022, according to data revealed under freedom of information requests. Tory health spokesman Dr Sandesh Gulhane said the figures for initial assessments of patients at A&E are "terrifying".

Sunday Mail 31 **Stop ignoring the damage mesh is doing to our lives** Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has refused campaigners' calls for an independent review into the use of mesh in all surgical procedures. Patients who blame mesh products for leaving them disabled and in chronic pain want the Scottish Government to suspend their use. The issue was debated in the Scottish Parliament last week after a petition calling for an independent review was brought forward by Scottish Global Mesh Alliance campaigners Roseanna

Sunday Mail 4 **Patient in 15hr wait for triage in A&E** A patient waited more than 15 hours to be triaged at an accident and emergency department last year, official figures show. More than 650,000 patients waited longer than 15 minutes to be triaged at A&E units across Scotland in 2022, according to data revealed under freedom of information requests. Tory health spokesman Sandesh Gulhane said the figures for initial assessments of patients at A&E were "terrifying". Guidance for the NHS

Sunday Mail 34 **Health chiefs' image panic over jobs axe at test-and-trace flop** NHS chiefs were working on a damage limitation exercise over the collapse of a Covid test and trace firm - before hundreds of staff knew they were losing their jobs. We can reveal NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) knew more than a week in advance that call centre provider Go-Centric was on the brink of going bust. Papers obtained under freedom of information laws reveal a media strategy was being

The Herald 20 **Data recovery Algorithm to predict respiratory illnesses** SCIENTISTS in Scotland are extending surveillance programmes set up during Covid in a bid to create a new risk calculator able to predict the patients most likely to be hospitalised with respiratory infections. The project is one of more than a dozen data science initiatives which are being funded across the UK to find ways of alleviating winter pressures on the NHS. These include rapid-research studies geared at reducing ambulance

The Herald 12 **Slips and falls rise** Hospital staff in parts of Scotland hit by wintry weather have reported a 425 per cent increase in patients due to slips, trips and falls in just one week. NHS Grampian said staff at its hospitals treated 84 patients who had fallen on Thursday, compared with 16 on the same day the previous week. Around 35% of the patients seen on Thursday had suffered a head injury.

The Herald 53 **The week that was** IF the jazz, classical and traditional music programmes that BBC Scotland intends to axe weren't very good it would be difficult to make a case for saving them. But some of the programmes under threat are very good indeed and meet the corporation's target to deliver cultural programmes of a high quality across various platforms. In particular, they might want to look at their dreadful coverage of football on radio.

The Herald 12 **Lawyers study Holyrood's assisted dying plans to avoid gender UK Government block** PLANS to bring in assisted dying laws in Scotland are being examined by lawyers to ensure they do not end up falling victim in a new row over reserved and devolved powers like Holyrood's gender reform legislation. The Herald on Sunday can reveal. Liam McArthur, who is behind the proposed member's bill, said legal advice is being taken to make sure its provisions are within devolved powers and any potentially

The Herald 18 **Scottish NHS dentistry still 'light years away' from pre-pandemic activity** DENTAL leaders have urged ministers to fix Scotland's "broken payment system" as figures reveal that NHS activity was more than 60 per cent lower in some areas last year than it was before Covid. Statistics for January to November last year, provided by health boards under freedom of information, show that dentists submitted around 3.2 million claims for NHS work compared to 5.6 million in 2019 - a decline of

The Herald 2 **Figures reveal Scots patient waited more than 15 hours at A&E** A HOSPITAL patient waited more than 15 hours to be triaged at an accident and emergency department last year, figures obtained by the Scottish Conservatives show. More than 650,000 patients waited longer than 15 minutes to be triaged at A&E units across Scotland in 2022, according to data revealed under freedom of information requests. Tory health spokesman Sandesh Gulhane said the figures for initial assessments of patients at A&E are

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 8 **...while hospitals axe beds** THE NHS in Scotland is being forced to axe hospital beds to save money - in the midst of the worst crisis in its history. Health boards say acute beds must close because the

Scottish Government isn't providing enough cash to keep them open. The drastic move comes in spite of Nicola Sturgeon's recent emergency statement on the NHS when she pledged action to ease hospital pressures. Health Secretary Humza

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 8 **'Needless loss of lives' caused by triage delays** MORE than 650,000 emergency patients last year faced 'terrifying' delays for vital first assessments at Scottish hospitals, according to the latest figures. Hundreds of thousands of people waited longer than the recommended 15 minutes for triage at A&E in 2022. One patient endured a shocking 15-hour wait to be assessed, according to statistics obtained by the Scottish Tories. People attending emergency departments are supposed to be triaged within 15 minutes

The National (Scotland) 13 **Health board rejects Tory claims over c five-year wait for scan** A HEALTH board has refuted claims by the Tories that a patient waited nearly five years for a "crucial diagnostic" CT scan. The figure was widely reported last week with Tory health spokesperson Dr Sandesh Gulhane describing it as "scarcely believable" that certain patients had been waiting that long for a "potentially life-saving" test. But NHS Grampian, which provided figures in response to a freedom of information request, has said

The National (Scotland) 2 **Radio Scotland needs saved - except for the football** IF the jazz, classical and traditional music programmes that BBC Scotland intends to axe weren't very good, it would be difficult to make a case for saving them. But some of the programmes under threat are very good indeed and meet the corporation's target to deliver cultural programmes of a high quality across various platforms. In particular, they might want to look at their dreadful coverage of football on radio.

The National (Scotland) 15 **Sleep advice on offer for Scots amid warning over financial strain** SCOTS are being urged to make use of help to ensure we're getting enough sleep - amid warnings over the health impact of the cost of living crisis. Research by the Mental Health Foundation found last week that 30% of adults in Scotland are experiencing poorer quality sleep following a sharp increase in everyday expenses caused by the cost of living crisis in the UK. The report also addressed the

The National (Scotland) 12 **Hundreds of cervical cancer cases going undetected as screening rates drop** HUNDREDS of cervical cancer cases are going undetected in Scotland each year due to missed routine screenings, The Ferret can reveal. Our analysis of data from Public Health Scotland found there were 440,000 eligible people in 2020/21 who had not had a cervical screening, also known as a smear test, in the last three to five years. The Ferret compared these figures to incidence rates which show how many screenings

The National (Scotland) 6 **Time has come for Scotland's pioneering autism commissioner role** IN a week of dramatic turmoil about the sanctity of devolution and the now notorious gender reassignment certificate, cross-party unanimity seems to be gathering around a very different issue in civic Scotland. At the heart of a paper published this week by advocates of Scotland's autistic community is a ground-breaking proposal for a National Commissioner for Autism, the first in the world. The position paper, published jointly by the National

The National (Scotland) 16 **'Frustration' on lack of autism commissioner** N Autism Commissioner is 'desperately needed' in Scotland to stop neurodivergent people being marginalised across "every organ of the state", charities and those with lived experience have told the Sunday National. A report produced by the National Autistic Society Scotland and Scottish Autism last week showed how 96% of 1215 people surveyed supported creating an independent commissioner who could hold local and central government to account, promote good practice and

The People 12 **Knowing a man spent his last night on earth waiting in A&E will stay with me** are facing the worst winter crisis ever as the NHS struggles to cope. Cash-strapped and stressed, nurses and ambulance staff have already been out on strike. And on February 6, in a 24-hour action, RCN nurses, GMB members - including ambulance staff, emergency care assistants and call handlers - and ambulance workers with the Unite union, will walk out. With further action planned into March, Sunday People reporter Matthew Dresch

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **'Years' to sort NHS dentistry wait lists** DENTISTRY in Scotland is facing years of turmoil with a huge patient backlog after the pandemic. The warning comes as stats reveal the number of payment claims by dentists for NHS work has halved since 2019 in some health boards. The tally fell from just over 5.5million in 2019 to 3.1million between January and November 2022, Lib Dem analysis showed. It includes drops of 64 per cent in NHS Orkney,

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 4 **Ukrainian refugees leaving Scotland because they can't get a GP appointment** Scotland promised a new life, a world away from the bombs and bullets of their war-torn homeland. But some Ukrainians, disappointed by their encounters with the NHS, have left in search of better healthcare overseas. Refugees who arrived in Glasgow last winter have waited weeks, sometimes months, to register with a GP or secure appointments. The delays have persuaded some Ukrainians to book lastminute flights and travel to countries such

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Alex Massie A glass of hypocrisy? We'll have a double** Last summer Scotland's first minister called on the monarch at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. As was customary, she brought a gift. Thus, on one of their last encounters, Nicola Sturgeon presented Queen Elizabeth with an expensive bottle of Johnnie Walker whisky.

The first minister is a long-time admirer of the brand and its parent company, Diageo. When the plan for the "Johnnie Walker Experience" in Princes Street, Edinburgh, was announced

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Tories scotch SNP call for more devolution on whisky curbs** Constitutional tensions between the SNP and Conservatives are set to rise further, with Nicola Sturgeon's administration seeking more devolution to clamp down on whisky advertising. The Scottish government wants greater powers to enable it to restrict the promotion of the spirit, which is one of Scotland's biggest industries, worth an estimated £5.5 billion to the UK economy. It follows concerns about alcohol-related hospital treatment and deaths, and fears that marketing

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

Scotland on Sunday 25 **"The government seems to be doing everything it can to stifle this amazing industry"** In November last year, the Scottish Government released information on a proposed marketing and advertising ban on alcohol in Scotland. This current consultation, which ends in March, is looking at further restrictions on alcohol marketing in order to reduce the appeal of booze to young people and cut the number of alcohol-related hospitalisations and deaths. A restriction of in-store promotion of alcohol is also part of trying to tackle this

Scotland on Sunday 1 **War on whisky Small distillers appalled by Scottish Government's proposed alcohol marketing ban** Insight, Pages 25-27

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **MSP: We'll close the loopholes on hunts with dogs** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with

Sunday Mail 9 **Hunting with dogs slammed** The use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been illegal to hunt a wild animal with a dog, but with some exceptions. The Hunting with Dogs Bill, which is due to be voted

The Herald 3 **Use of dogs to hunt and kill 'has no place in Scotland'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Environment Minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs

The Herald 16 **Wish you were here Scottish towns fight back against 'Insta' hotspots** THROUGH her office window, Patricia Kent has a perfect view of the snow-covered slopes of Ben Ledi, dominating one of Scotland's best-loved tourist towns. "I've lived here for nearly 30 years and sometimes I forget how amazing it is," she said. "I can look out from my office at Ben Ledi, it's white with snow and it's stunning. As a local, sometimes I take it for granted." A beacon for

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 14 **Now meat bites back** MEAT industry chiefs are to hold fightback talks with Scotland's councils after one of the biggest local authorities voted to promote a vegan agenda over other foods. City of Edinburgh Council is to adopt a 'Plant-Based Treaty' which will see veganism given emphasis over meat and dairy in schools and other public buildings. The city is just the second place in the UK to adopt the treaty and one of

The National (Scotland) 11 **'No place for hunting with dogs in Scotland'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Environment Minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs

The National (Scotland) 9 **The Sunday National's noticeboard** • The Govan SNP Burns Supper, with a star list of speakers including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, will take place at 7pm on Saturday, January 28, at the Go Glasgow Urban Hotel on Paisley Road West in Glasgow. Tickets priced £40-£50 (plus fees) are available from Eventbrite. • Eastwood SNP will celebrate its 56th Burns Supper on Saturday, January 28 with speakers including John Swinney MSP, Kirsten Oswald MP and Stuart

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Tories scotch SNP call for more devolution on whisky curbs** Constitutional tensions between the SNP and Conservatives are set to rise further, with Nicola Sturgeon's administration seeking more devolution to clamp down on whisky advertising. The Scottish government wants greater powers to enable it to restrict the promotion of the spirit, which is one of Scotland's biggest industries, worth an estimated £5.5 billion to the UK economy. It follows concerns about alcohol-related hospital treatment and deaths, and fears that marketing

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 2 **Holyrood is concocting a bad hangover for distillers** Full marks to the Scottish secretary, Alister Jack. Not a sentence one writes every day. Employers across Scotland are now hoping his decision to

block Holyrood's gender recognition law will lead him to intervene in a few other daft measures the SNP has inflicted on businesses. He could start with the proposals, unveiled last week, to crack down on alcohol advertising and alcohol-branded merchandise, a plan that appears deliberately designed

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 22 **Alex Massie A glass of hypocrisy? We'll have a double** Last summer Scotland's first minister called on the monarch at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. As was customary, she brought a gift. Thus, on one of their last encounters, Nicola Sturgeon presented Queen Elizabeth with an expensive bottle of Johnnie Walker whisky. The first minister is a long-time admirer of the brand and its parent company, Diageo. When the plan for the "Johnnie Walker Experience" in Princes Street, Edinburgh, was announced

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Scotland on Sunday 5 **Labour would expand windfall tax to prevent new rise in energy bills** Labour would toughen up the windfall tax on oil and gas companies and stop the energy price cap from rising this spring to help millions through the cost-of-living crisis, Rachel Reeves has said. In a keynote speech at the left-wing Fabian Society Conference, the shadow chancellor set out her party's climate transition plans, promising they would be "pro-worker, pro-business and pro-climate", while condemning ideologues who believe the choice is only

Scotland on Sunday 3 **Ferry disruption payouts hit more than £50k per month in summer 2022** Payouts to passengers on Scotland's publicly-owned ferry operator averaged more than £50,000 per month for a period of last year, data shows. CalMac paid out £215,000 for disruption between April and the end of July 2022 - almost equal to the amount paid in the entire preceding year (£261,000), according to figures obtained through a freedom of information request made by Scottish Labour. It meant payouts over the period averaged

Scotland on Sunday 4 **'If you don't invest, you don't get jobs and prosperity'** Business leaders who backed the failed green freeport bid in the North-east of Scotland have condemned the Scottish and UK governments for the way they handled the process, and argued that the criteria should have been revised in the wake of the war in Ukraine. Widespread anger greeted the announcement that the North-east consortium had lost out in the race to host one of the special economic zones, which would

Sunday Express (Scotland) 7 **Ferry passenger payouts top £53,000 a month** PAYOUTS to passengers on Scotland's publicly owned ferry operator averaged more than £50,000 per month for a period of last year, data shows. CalMac paid out £215,000 for disruption between April and the end of July 2022 - almost equal to the amount paid in the full year before (£261,000), according to figures obtained through a freedom of information request by Scottish Labour. It saw payouts over the period average £53,750

Sunday Express (Scotland) 32 **Otter fears after avian flu infection** FEARS have been raised for Scotland's dwindling otter population after four of the mammals were confirmed to have avian flu. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) confirmed two otters in Fife, one on Shetland and one on Skye tested positive for the disease last year. Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in four foxes - all in England. 'We're

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **1.7m Scots turning down the heating 'to deal with energy prices'** MORE than a million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) has found. Fresh analysis for the charity by YouGov has estimated 1.7 million adults - 78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs - are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **MSP: We'll close the loopholes on hunts with dogs** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current - s. Since 2002 it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with

Sunday Mail 11 **Labour to tax big oil** Labour would toughen up the windfall tax on oil and gas firms and stop the energy price cap from rising this spring to help millions through the cost-of-living crisis, Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves said: "Those who have profited from the windfalls of war should share their part of the burden in reducing the cost for others."

Sunday Mail 25 **Otters hit by avian flu** Four otters have been found to have avian flu in routine testing - sparking wider fears for the mammal. The Animal and Plant Health Agency said the four that tested positive were all in Scotland - two in Fife, one on Shetland and one on Skye. The Scottish Government said: "A surveillance programme remains in place for the testing of certain mammalian wildlife species for avian influenza virus."

Sunday Mail 8 **This is our asbestos nightmare** Furious workers are threatening to sue a major housebuilder with close links to the SNP over claims they were exposed to deadly asbestos. Springfield Properties." - run by multi-millionaire

Sandy Adam - was forced to pay a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire. Government-run environment regulator SEPA found failures in the way the firm managed "controlled waste" being transported between a

Sunday Mail 9 **Hunting with dogs slammed** The use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the environment minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002 it has been illegal to hunt a wild animal with a dog, but with some exceptions. The Hunting with Dogs Bill, which is due to be voted

Sunday Mail 16 **Clamp down on firms who put staff in danger** Asbestos poisoning kills 5000 people a year in the UK - more than the number of fatalities in road accidents. The death toll is often wrongly associated solely with historic shipbuilding at a time when the dangers were not fully understood. The truth is hundreds of lives are being lost to this day as a result of rogue employers who can no longer claim ignorance when sending staff to building

Sunday Mail 2 **Rail chief's gravy train** Former ScotRail operator Abellio paid its managing director £739,653 in 2021 after receiving £850million in pandemic subsidies from the Scottish Government. The huge sum was paid to businessman Dominic Booth - a £143,000 increase on the previous year - for running the UK arm of the Dutch government-owned firm. Accounts published earlier this month show Abellio Transport Holdings Limited - which owned Abellio ScotRail - also paid an £8.6million dividend

Sunday Mail 11 **1.7m are forced to cut back heating** About 1.7million Scots have been forced to turn down their heating this winter amid soaring energy costs, a leading charity has found. An analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) of a YouGov poll found the majority of households in Scotland are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms. They say that figure equates to 78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have had to cut back on

Sunday Mirror 13 **Red squirrels back to stay in Scotland** RED squirrel numbers are on the rise in the UK as efforts to increase the furry mammal population have been successful. The Great Scottish Squirrel Survey has found red squirrels are returning to the Aberdeen area and the number of greys has decreased. Over many years, the reds retreated further northwards with concerns they could be wiped out. People are encouraged to report sightings and to feed the red squirrels

The Herald 9 **Compensation claims against CalMac soar to £53k each month** COMPENSATION claims paid to ferry passengers for problems with service have more than doubled in a year and come as one of CalMac's key vessels is expected to be sidelined for more than a month. New data has revealed that customer rights claims paid out by CalMac have soared to over £215,000 in the first four months of 2022/23 - an average of £53,000 per month. The average monthly payout

The Herald 4 **'Failure on all counts' Fury over China and UAE's multi-million offshore wind profits** FOREIGN governments and overseas firms with interests in Scotland's offshore wind farm revolution are enjoying more than £200 million in annual profits, The Herald on Sunday can reveal. Ministers have come under fire for failing to properly cash in on the seven farms that are operating and three major schemes that are in advanced stages of development which together, according to energy firms, will have 5GW of installed capacity -

The Herald 2 **Public's 'vital' role in saving red squirrels** HUNDREDS of red squirrel sightings reported by the public will be a vital part of work to save the "iconic" species, conservationists have said. People across the country reported sightings of the creatures during the annual Great Scottish Squirrel Survey Week in October. A total of 659 participants reported 255 grey squirrel and 510 red squirrel sightings - more than triple the number reported in a typical week. Organisers of

The Herald 3 **Use of dogs to hunt and kill 'has no place in Scotland'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Environment Minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs

The Herald 3 **Scots are 'risking health' turning heat down or off** AN estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland has found. An analysis from the charity by YouGov has estimated that 1.7 million adults (78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs) are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home.

The Herald 6 **'Catastrophic' Concern over huge airport queues this summer due to new visas** MASSIVE airport queues on the continent after the EU brings in new visas for British citizens this year may contribute to a wider sense that "Brexit is not working", a report this week will warn. The study, to be published by think tank the UK In A Changing Europe on Tuesday, considers what lies ahead for the future relationship between the UK and the EU27, and how public opinion may

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 22 **£50k a month cost of SNP's failures over ferry delays** PAYOUTS to passengers on Scotland's publicly owned ferry operator averaged more than £50,000 a month over a four-month period last year, data shows. CalMac forked out £215,000 for disruption between April and the end of July - almost equal to the £261,000 paid in the full year before, according to figures obtained through freedom of information by Scottish Labour. It meant payouts over the period averaged £53,750 a month compared

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 43 **Fears over mutant bird flu as otters are struck down** BIRD flu has been found in four dead Scottish otters. The disease was confirmed after tests were carried out on animals found in Fife, Shetland and Skye last year. The Animal and Plant Health Agency also detected H5N1 influenza of avian origin in four foxes, all in England. There are now fears that a mutation of the flu which has devastated bird populations is affecting mammals in 'sporadic spillovers'. The

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 22 **1.7m turn down heat to take edge off bills** AN estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a Citizens Advice Scotland study has found. Analysis from the charity by YouGov shows 78 per cent of adults who have cut back on household spending are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home to deal with rising energy costs. Citizens Advice Scotland social justice spokesman David Hilferty

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The National (Scotland) 11 **'No place for hunting with dogs in Scotland'** THE use of dogs to hunt and kill wild animals has "no place in modern Scotland", the Environment Minister has said. Mairi McAllan spoke out ahead of this week's final vote on legislation which aims to close loopholes in current laws. Since 2002, it has been against the law to hunt a wild mammal with a dog, but exceptions have been allowed in some circumstances. The new Hunting with Dogs

The National (Scotland) 10 **Westminster's levelling up funding bribes are an** IN America, they call it pork barrel politics. Here you could call it vote-rigging. The Levelling Up Fund - the last vestige of Boris Johnson's disgraced regime - is being used as a Tory pre-election bribe, a blatant party political inducement, and they're doing it in plain sight. Labour's Chris Bryant called it out saying: "The Levelling Up Fund is fundamentally corrupt because it is discretionary and competitive. It doesn't

The National (Scotland) 10 **We're losing out on levelling up from the UK** ON Thursday, the UK Government announced a second round of Levelling Up Fund awards. A number of council areas and priorities benefited - that is welcome. But Levelling Up has now become yet another example of Westminster trampling over devolved responsibilities. This funding should be devolved - just as we were promised that EU funding would be devolved after Brexit - through the Barnett formula which allocates public spending in

The National (Scotland) 17 **Will this coming year see a turnaround for beavers in Scotland?** COMMENT JUST before Christmas, at the COP15 UN biodiversity summit in Canada, the world's nations agreed a historic deal to protect 30% of the planet for nature by 2030. A few days previously, RSPB Scotland had announced that its application to move a family of beavers to its Loch Lomond nature reserve had been successful. There are clear dots joining these global and local announcements. Scotland is party to the

The Sunday Telegraph 23 **Caledonian Sleeper costs taxpayers dearly** THE Caledonian Sleeper has cost taxpayers £95 for every passenger that has travelled on the service since Nicola Sturgeon became Scotland's first minister, new analysis reveals. The subsidy to run the overnight train linking London with the Scottish Highlands has now hit £173m since 2014, when its latest contract was awarded. Analysis of figures compiled by the Office of Rail and Road shows the service has carried 1.8m people over

The Sunday Times 15 **Tuftys toughs it out: red squirrels are springing back** If you're a fan of red squirrels, there is a better chance of seeing one now than you have had for many years. After decades of decline, the native British species is recovering, according to Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels, a project led by the Scottish Wildlife Trust that has been running for 14 years. During a week in October, 510 red squirrels were spotted in Scotland, compared with 255 grey

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 2 **Holyrood is concocting a bad hangover for distillers** Full marks to the Scottish secretary, Alister Jack. Not a sentence one writes every day. Employers across Scotland are now hoping his decision to block Holyrood's gender recognition law will lead him to intervene in a few other daft measures the SNP has inflicted on businesses. He could start with the proposals, unveiled last week, to crack down on alcohol advertising and alcohol-branded merchandise, a plan that appears deliberately designed

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 3 **Labour under fire for oil vow** One of the Labour Party's largest trade union donors has fired a broadside at Sir Keir Starmer's commitment to ban new investment in North Sea oil and gas fields. His

pledge was also criticised by Sir Ian Wood, the North Sea oil tycoon, who warned that the policy would increase uncertainty for thousands of workers. The party sought to play down Starmer's comments, made at the World Economic Forum in

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

Scotland on Sunday 3 **Ferry disruption payouts hit more than £50k per month in summer 2022** Payouts to passengers on Scotland's publicly-owned ferry operator averaged more than £50,000 per month for a period of last year, data shows. CalMac paid out £215,000 for disruption between April and the end of July 2022 - almost equal to the amount paid in the entire preceding year (£261,000), according to figures obtained through a freedom of information request made by Scottish Labour. It meant payouts over the period averaged

Scotland on Sunday 5 **Labour would expand windfall tax to prevent new rise in energy bills** Labour would toughen up the windfall tax on oil and gas companies and stop the energy price cap from rising this spring to help millions through the cost-of-living crisis, Rachel Reeves has said. In a keynote speech at the left-wing Fabian Society Conference, the shadow chancellor set out her party's climate transition plans, promising they would be "pro-worker, pro-business and pro-climate", while condemning ideologues who believe the choice is only

Scotland on Sunday 14 **Scottish care homes could free up hospital beds 'tomorrow', with huge potential savings for NHS** A Scottish care home boss has claimed he could provide the NHS with "300 beds tomorrow" if the Scottish Government increased funding for care - amid a severe shortage of care placements and hospitals operating above capacity. Dr Sanjeev Kanoria, chief executive of Advinia Health Care, says increasing funding would not only free up beds, but save NHS Scotland thousands of pounds per patient, per day - due to the

Scotland on Sunday 4 **'If you don't invest, you don't get jobs and prosperity'** Business leaders who backed the failed green freeport bid in the North-east of Scotland have condemned the Scottish and UK governments for the way they handled the process, and argued that the criteria should have been revised in the wake of the war in Ukraine. Widespread anger greeted the announcement that the North-east consortium had lost out in the race to host one of the special economic zones, which would

Scotland on Sunday 25 **"The government seems to be doing everything it can to stifle this amazing industry"** In November last year, the Scottish Government released information on a proposed marketing and advertising ban on alcohol in Scotland. This current consultation, which ends in March, is looking at further restrictions on alcohol marketing in order to reduce the appeal of booze to young people and cut the number of alcohol-related hospitalisations and deaths. A restriction of in-store promotion of alcohol is also part of trying to tackle this

Sunday Express (Scotland) 7 **Ferry passenger payouts top £53,000 a month** PAYOUTS to passengers on Scotland's publicly owned ferry operator averaged more than £50,000 per month for a period of last year, data shows. CalMac paid out £215,000 for disruption between April and the end of July 2022 - almost equal to the amount paid in the full year before (£261,000), according to figures obtained through a freedom of information request by Scottish Labour. It saw payouts over the period average £53,750

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **1.7m Scots turning down the heating 'to deal with energy prices'** MORE than a million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) has found. Fresh analysis for the charity by YouGov has estimated 1.7 million adults - 78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs - are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in

Sunday Mail 11 **1.7m are forced to cut back heating** About 1.7 million Scots have been forced to turn down their heating this winter amid soaring energy costs, a leading charity has found. Analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) of a YouGov poll found the majority of households in Scotland are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms. They say that figure equates to 78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have had to cut back on

Sunday Mail 2 **Rail chief's gravy train** Former ScotRail operator Abellio paid its managing director £739,653 in 2021 after receiving £850 million in pandemic subsidies from the Scottish Government. The huge sum was paid to businessman Dominic Booth - a £143,000 increase on the previous year - for running the UK arm of the Dutch government-owned firm. Accounts published earlier this month show Abellio Transport Holdings Limited - which owned Abellio ScotRail - also paid an £8.6 million dividend

Sunday Mail 11 **Labour to tax big oil** Labour would toughen up the windfall tax on oil and gas firms and stop the energy price cap from rising this spring to help millions through the cost-of-living crisis, Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves said: "Those who have profited from the windfalls of war should share their part of the burden in reducing the cost for others."

The Herald 9 **Compensation claims against CalMac soar to £53k each month** COMPENSATION claims paid to ferry passengers for problems with service have more than doubled in a year and come as one of CalMac's key vessels is expected to be sidelined for more than a month. New data has revealed that customer rights claims paid out by CalMac have soared to over £215,000 in the first four months of 2022/23 - an average of £53,000 per month. The average monthly payout

The Herald 25 **Scot Gov criticised for not asking Treasury for more tax powers** DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney has not recently asked for more tax powers for Holyrood, according to the Treasury. Mr Swinney, who is also acting Finance Secretary, has said the Scottish Parliament's financial powers are "largely fixed" as he has made the case for having more ability to raise revenue to help fund public services. The SNP made the pledge to strengthen devolved tax powers in its 2021 election manifesto

The Herald 3 **Scots are 'risking health' turning heat down or off** AN estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland has found. A analysis from the charity by YouGov has estimated that 1.7 million adults (78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs) are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home.

The Herald 19 **Charity hits out at 'devastating cuts' to spending for affordable homes** SCOTLAND'S leading homelessness charity is to demand the Deputy First Minister reverses plans to cut affordable housing spending. The draft Budget published by the John Swinney, acting Finance Secretary, in December stated that spending on "more homes" in 2023/24 would be £567.5 million compared to £748.1m in 2021/22. Now, in a written submission to Holyrood's local government and housing committee ahead of a meeting on Tuesday, the organisation has urged

The Herald 13 **More school strikes** Teachers in Scotland have announced further strike plans, with union leaders insisting a "substantially improved" pay offer is needed. The NASUWT union announced more strike dates for its members, who will take part in protests on Tuesday, February 28 and Wednesday, March 1. The EIS, Scotland's largest teaching union, has already declared strike action on those dates.

The Herald 4 **'Failure on all counts' Fury over China and UAE's multi-million offshore wind profits** FOREIGN governments and overseas firms with interests in Scotland's offshore wind farm revolution are enjoying more than £200 million in annual profits, The Herald on Sunday can reveal. Ministers have come under fire for failing to properly cash in on the seven farms that are operating and three major schemes that are in advanced stages of development which together, according to energy firms, will have 5GW of installed capacity -

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 22 **1.7m turn down heat to take edge off bills** AN estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a Citizens Advice Scotland study has found. Analysis from the charity by YouGov shows 78 per cent of adults who have cut back on household spending are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home to deal with rising energy costs. Citizens Advice Scotland social justice spokesman David Hilferty

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The National (Scotland) 15 **Sleep advice on offer for Scots amid warning over financial strain** SCOTS are being urged to make use of help to ensure we're getting enough sleep - amid warnings over the health impact of the cost of

living crisis. Research by the Mental Health Foundation found last week that 30% of adults in Scotland are experiencing poorer quality sleep following a sharp increase in everyday expenses caused by the cost of living crisis in the UK. The report also addressed the

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **THAT LACKS CLASS COUNCILS** were last night accused of taking cash to hire more permanent teachers — and spending it elsewhere. Critics expressed "deep disappointment" at how some of the £145.5million fund was used. It was paid to local authorities by the Scottish Government last year to get more staff off temporary contracts. But Greens MSP Mark Ruskell's office admitted: "This money has not been spent on what it was intended for by

The Sunday Telegraph 23 **Caledonian Sleeper costs taxpayers dearly** THE Caledonian Sleeper has cost taxpayers £95 for every passenger that has travelled on the service since Nicola Sturgeon became Scotland's first minister, new analysis reveals. The subsidy to run the overnight train linking London with the Scottish Highlands has now hit £173m since 2014, when its latest contract was awarded. Analysis of figures compiled by the Office of Rail and Road shows the service has carried 1.8m people over

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The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Tories scotch SNP call for more devolution on whisky curbs** Constitutional tensions between the SNP and Conservatives are set to rise further, with Nicola Sturgeon's administration seeking more devolution to clamp down on whisky advertising. The Scottish government wants greater powers to enable it to restrict the promotion of the spirit, which is one of Scotland's biggest industries, worth an estimated £5.5 billion to the UK economy. It follows concerns about alcohol-related hospital treatment and deaths, and fears that marketing

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Observer 18 **Rape crisis centres turn away victims as demand soars but cash runs out** Rape crisis centres that provide support and counselling for victims are being forced to shut their waiting lists across the country because a lack of funding means they can no longer meet the demand. Staff at centres from Scotland to Somerset have described lists as long as 18 months for access to counselling, therapy and advocacy services, with some closing lists altogether. About 14,000 people are waiting for a service

The Herald 1 **FEARS UK GOV COULD BLOCK NEW SCOTTISH ASSISTED DYING LAWS** FULL STORY INSIDE

The Herald 1 **SNP MPs pictured in front of "decapitate TERFs" sign at Glasgow rally condemn "horrific, hateful" words** A ROW erupted last night after photographs of SNP politicians were posted online showing them standing in front of protesters in Glasgow yesterday holding signs saying "I eat TERFs" and "decapitate TERFs" - which stands for "trans-exclusionary radical feminists". NEWS

Scotland on Sunday 14 **Scottish care homes could free up hospital beds 'tomorrow', with huge potential savings for NHS** A Scottish care home boss has claimed he could provide the NHS with "300 beds tomorrow" if the Scottish Government increased funding for care - amid a severe shortage of care placements and hospitals operating above capacity. Dr Sanjeev Kanoria, chief executive of Advinia Health Care, says increasing funding would not only free up beds, but save NHS Scotland thousands of pounds per patient, per day - due to the

Scotland on Sunday 13 **Badenoch: 'Predators would be able to exploit any system' of self-ID** Kemi Badenoch has said she opposes gender self-identification because it puts women and girls at risk from predators. The UK minister for women and equalities argued that sexual predators would be able to "exploit any system that says you can just say you are what you are". She made the comments in an interview with The Times after the UK government announced this week it was issuing an unprecedented Section

Scotland on Sunday 12 **A watershed moment in history of Scots devolution** This has never happened in the history of devolution. It is worth reflecting on that fact when considering and assessing the decision by the UK government to block the Gender Recognition Reform Act passed by the Scottish Parliament just before Christmas. Strip back the

shouting, the anger and the fury, and that is the central fact: It has never happened before. British devolution to the nations, by the standards of

Scotland on Sunday 8 **SNP to blame for gender debate getting messier still** The reaction from the SNP was entirely predictable. This was an attack on the Scottish Parliament, an attempt to undermine the very principles of democracy. It would, of course, hasten the break-up of the United Kingdom. When Scottish Secretary Alister Jack announced last week that he would invoke Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block legislation making it easier for people to change their recorded sex, the outrage was

Scotland on Sunday 6 **Key issues losing out to constitutional wrangling** There is always a risk when one issue dominates the news cycle that other important stories go under the radar. Last week saw a frenzy over the Westminster government acting to block the Scottish Government's gender reform bill. A significant step, certainly, as it marked the first time a Section 35 order had been used in this way. It raises big questions about the relationship between the Scottish and Westminster

Scotland on Sunday 5 **Labour would expand windfall tax to prevent new rise in energy bills** Labour would toughen up the windfall tax on oil and gas companies and stop the energy price cap from rising this spring to help millions through the cost-of-living crisis, Rachel Reeves has said. In a keynote speech at the left-wing Fabian Society Conference, the shadow chancellor set out her party's climate transition plans, promising they would be "pro-worker, pro-business and pro-climate", while condemning ideologues who believe the choice is only

Sunday Express 57 **JACOB'S WEEKLY WISDOM** 'A government above the law is a menace to be defeated.' LORD SCARMAN, 1911-2004 Jacob Rees-Mogg says: "The Scottish Government, by passing its controversial Gender Recognition Act, sought to undermine United Kingdom law and was quite rightly stopped by His Majesty's Government."

Sunday Express 2 **'Gender law row is Scotland's get-out'** NICOLA STURGEON has "picked a fight" with Westminster over gender reforms to show why Scotland should pull out of the UK, a constitutional expert has warned. Belfast Birmingham Cardiff Glasgow Manchester Newcastle Norwich Plymouth 8 10 8 11 4 10 2 6 5 8 4 10 2 7 4 8 4 10 8 10 9 11 4 10 4 7 6 9 3 10 5 8 7 10 2 10

Sunday Express 17 **ONLY Nicola Sturgeon knows what [...]** ONLY Nicola Sturgeon knows what is behind her determination to drive through the Gender Recognition Reform Bill that would change the law dramatically in Scotland. If it is to help people who are vulnerable and experiencing considerable emotional trauma, she is to be lauded. However, if it is merely a ruse to MANOEUVRE WESTMINSTER into blocking the act - which would then be seen as denying the will of the

Sunday Express (Scotland) 6 **1.7m Scots turning down the heating 'to deal with energy prices'** MORE than a million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) has found. Fresh analysis for the charity by YouGov has estimated 1.7 million adults - 78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs - are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in

Sunday Mail 8 **This is our asbestos nightmare** Furious workers are threatening to sue a major housebuilder with close links to the SNP over claims they were exposed to deadly asbestos. Springfield Properties." - run by multi-millionaire Sandy Adam - was forced to pay a £10,000 fine after breaking safety laws at a building site in Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire. Government-run environment regulator SEPA found failures in the way the firm managed "controlled waste" being transported between a

Sunday Mail 11 **Women accuse Sarwar of fleeing from trans debate** Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar evaded gender protesters as he attended the party's Women's Conference in Glasgow. Around a dozen campaigners gathered at Strathclyde University's Technology & Innovation Centre yesterday to protest over Scottish Labour's support for the controversial Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Just hours earlier, hundreds of people gathered on Buchanan Street to show their support for transgender rights, including SNP and Green party politicians. SNP MPs Kirsten Oswald

Sunday Mail 11 **1.7m are forced to cut back heating** About 1.7 million Scots have been forced to turn down their heating this winter amid soaring energy costs, a leading charity has found. Analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) of a YouGov poll found the majority of households in Scotland are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms. They say that figure equates to 78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have had to cut back on

Sunday Mail 16 **Clamp down on firms who put staff in danger** Asbestos poisoning kills 5000 people a year in the UK - more than the number of fatalities in road accidents. The death toll is often wrongly associated solely with historic shipbuilding at a time when the dangers were not fully understood. The truth is hundreds of lives are being lost to this day as a result of rogue employers who can no longer claim ignorance when sending staff to building

The Herald 13 **Poll in wake of Section 35 finds 54% back indy** A POLL carried out amid the row over Westminster stepping in to block reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland has found a majority in favour of

independence. Research by Find Out Now for The National suggested that 54 per cent backed Scotland leaving the UK, with 46% in favour of remaining. Those were the totals when those who said they did not know were excluded from the research,

The Herald 12 **Lawyers study Holyrood's assisted dying plans to avoid gender UK Government block** PLANS to bring in assisted dying laws in Scotland are being examined by lawyers to ensure they do not end up falling victim in a new row over reserved and devolved powers like Holyrood's gender reform legislation, The Herald on Sunday can reveal. Liam McArthur, who is behind the proposed member's bill, said legal advice is being taken to make sure its provisions are within devolved powers and any potentially

The Herald 11 **Badenoch wants trans people 'to be able to live their lives'** Kemi Badenoch has said she opposes gender self-identification because it puts women and girls at risk from predators. The Minister for Women and Equalities argued that sexual predators would be able to "exploit any system that says you can just say you are what you are". She made the comments in an interview after the UK Government - announced this week it was issuing an unprecedented Section 35 order under

The Herald 13 **Tories demand SNP release legal advice on gender bill** NICOLA Sturgeon is being urged to publish the legal advice her government was given on the gender recognition reform bill as the row between the Scottish and UK governments over the legislation continues. Donald Cameron, the Conservative MSP, is to write to ministers tomorrow demanding the documents are released. It is not normal practice for lawyers' counsel to ministers to be published though the Scottish Government did release the legal

The Herald 10 **Deploying 'Draconian' power risks a bonfire of legislation** YOU are entitled to be perplexed by the political optics. When Rishi Sunak was parachuted into Downing Street with a mop and an apologetic expression, we were told that conciliation was now the name of the game. Muscular Unionism was out, and a new, more constructive spirit would rule relations between London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. f. During the whole spell of her premiership - a lifetime in lettuce years -

The Herald 19 **Charity hits out at 'devastating cuts' to spending for affordable homes** SCOTLAND'S leading homelessness charity is to demand the Deputy First Minister reverses plans to cut affordable housing spending. The draft Budget published by the John Swinney, acting Finance Secretary, in December stated that spending on "more homes" in 2023/24 would be £567.5 million compared to £748.1m in 2021/22. Now, in a written submission to Holyrood's local government and housing committee ahead of a meeting on Tuesday, the organisation has urged

The Herald 11 **Row as MSP and MP stand in front of 'decapitate TERFS' sign at protest** A ROW erupted last night after photographs of SNP politicians were posted online showing them standing in front of protesters holding signs saying "I eat TERFS" and "decapitate TERFS" - standing for "transexclusionary radical feminists". The images were taken at a protest in Glasgow yesterday after the UK Government moved to block Scottish Gender Recognition Reform s earlier in the week. Campaigners congregated on the Buchanan Galleries steps from 11am

The Herald 2 **Glasgow gathering for trans equality** SNP MPs in sign row Page 11

The Herald 3 **Scots are 'risking health' turning heat down or off** AN estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a new study from Citizens Advice Scotland has found. A analysis from the charity by YouGov has estimated that 1.7 million adults (78 per cent of adults in Scotland who have cut back on household spending due to energy costs) are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home.

The Mail on Sunday 29 **If Starmer gets to No10, the rights of women in Britain could be set back decades** TO SAY the Labour Party has a problem with women, as its MP for Canterbury Rosie Duffield claimed last week, is not strictly true. It would be fairer to say that it has a problem with biological women or, to use the rather unpleasant and derogatory-sounding term imposed upon us by the trans lobby and its various supporters, a 'cis' women problem. (Cis - or cisgender - is a term

The Mail on Sunday 5 **Protesters who want women 'decapitated'** JK ROWLING last night led the condemnation of politicians who stood with protesters calling for women's rights campaigners to be 'decapitated'. The shocking placards were brandished at a demonstration in Glasgow in support of Scottish plans to allow anyone 16 or over to change their sex at will, without the need for a medical diagnosis. The Harry Potter author tweeted pictures of campaigners brandishing the offensive signs. One said 'decapitate

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 11 **Fury as SNP trio pose in front of placards urging violence against women** SNP politicians have sparked a major women's rights row after posing in front of banners calling for females to be 'decapitated' and 'eaten' at a trans protest. Nicola Sturgeon ally and Glasgow Central MP Alison Thewliss, former SNP deputy Westminster leader Kirsten Oswald MP and Glasgow Kelvin MSP Kaukab Stewart were pictured gleefully smiling in front of the 'hateful' signs at a rally in Glasgow's Buchanan Street yesterday. In one

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **Majority of Brits back UK block of gender reforms and oppose Bill** MOST of the British public are against every key pillar of Nicola Sturgeon's gender swap reforms - and overwhelmingly in favour of the UK Government's decision to block the Bill, polling has found. An exclusive Deltapoll survey for The Mail on Sunday shows a majority believe people should 'in principle' have the right to legally switch gender. Yet they also have concerns about the Holyrood law that waters down transitioning

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 14 **Now meat bites back** MEAT industry chiefs are to hold fightback talks with Scotland's councils after one of the biggest local authorities voted to promote a vegan agenda over other foods. City of Edinburgh Council is to adopt a 'Plant-Based Treaty' which will see veganism given emphasis over meat and dairy in schools and other public buildings. The city is just the second place in the UK to adopt the treaty and one of

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 22 **1.7m turn down heat to take edge off bills** AN estimated 1.7 million adults in Scotland are turning down the heat as their bills rise, a Citizens Advice Scotland study has found. Analysis from the charity by YouGov shows 78 per cent of adults who have cut back on household spending are turning down the thermostat or not heating all the rooms in their home to deal with rising energy costs. Citizens Advice Scotland social justice spokesman David Hilferty

The National (Scotland) 16 **'Frustration' on lack of autism commissioner** N Autism Commissioner is 'desperately needed' in Scotland to stop neurodivergent people being marginalised across "every organ of the state", charities and those with lived experience have told the Sunday National. A report produced by the National Autistic Society Scotland and Scottish Autism last week showed how 96% of 1215 people surveyed supported creating an independent commissioner who could hold local and central government to account, promote good practice and

The National (Scotland) 6 **'Debatable whether the trigger was met** A PROFESSOR of law has said it's "debatable" whether the indirect effects of the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill on the UK wide Equality Act is "sufficient to trigger" the use of Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 by Westminster. Aileen McHarg, Professor of Public Law and Human Rights at Durham Law School, told the Sunday National: "The GRR Bill doesn't directly change the Equality Act; it has

The National (Scotland) 15 **Sleep advice on offer for Scots amid warning over financial strain** SCOTS are being urged to make use of help to ensure we're getting enough sleep - amid warnings over the health impact of the cost of living crisis. Research by the Mental Health Foundation found last week that 30% of adults in Scotland are experiencing poorer quality sleep following a sharp increase in everyday expenses caused by the cost of living crisis in the UK. The report also addressed the

The National (Scotland) 2 **SNP 'reject violent language' after row over sign at protest** THE SNP said violent and hateful language was "unacceptable" after two politicians were pictured at a pro-trans rights rally standing in front of a sign reading "Decapitate Terfs", with a Tory MSP saying he later reported the sign to police. "Terfs" refers to a "transexclusionary radical feminist" but is often used as a catch-all term for anyone critical of or opposed to the trans-rights movement. Glasgow Kelvin MSP Kaukab Stewart

The National (Scotland) 7 **Deploying this 'draconian' power risks a bonfire of Scots legislation** YOU are entitled to be perplexed by the political optics. When Rishi Sunak was parachuted in to Downing Street with a mop and an apologetic expression, we were told that conciliation was now the name of the game. Muscular Unionism was out, and anew,

The National (Scotland) 9 **The Sunday National's noticeboard** • The Govan SNP Burns Supper, with a star list of speakers including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, will take place at 7pm on Saturday, January 28, at the Go Glasgow Urban Hotel on Paisley Road West in Glasgow. Tickets priced £40-£50 (plus fees) are available from Eventbrite. • Eastwood SNP will celebrate its 56th Burns Supper on Saturday, January 28 with speakers including John Swinney MSP, Kirsten Oswald MP and Stuart

The National (Scotland) 10 **Westminster's levelling up funding bribes are an** IN America, they call it pork barrel politics. Here you could call it vote-rigging. The Levelling Up Fund - the last vestige of Boris Johnson's disgraced regime - is being used as a Tory pre-election bribe, a blatant party political inducement, and they're doing it in plain sight. Labour's Chris Bryant called it out saying: "The Levelling Up Fund is fundamentally corrupt because it is discretionary and competitive. It doesn't

The National (Scotland) 6 **Time has come for Scotland's pioneering autism commissioner role** IN a week of dramatic turmoil about the sanctity of devolution and the now notorious gender reassignment certificate, cross-party unanimity seems to be gathering around a very different issue in civic Scotland. At the heart of a paper published this week by advocates of Scotland's autistic community is a ground-breaking proposal for a National Commissioner for Autism, the first in the world. The position paper, published jointly by the National

The National (Scotland) 6 **Section 35 highlights extent of Labour's Scottish problem** DIVISIONS in Labour which have been exposed over the UK Government's blocking of gender reform legislation are reflective of the party's

difficulties in Scotland over the last two decades, an expert has said. While a majority of Scottish Labour MSPs supported the Bill in Holyrood, UK leader Keir Starmer expressed "concerns" about provisions in the legislation enabling 16-year-olds to legally change their gender. He also said he would wait to

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The National (Scotland) 10 **We're losing out on levelling up from the UK** ON Thursday, the UK Government announced a second round of Levelling Up Fund awards. A number of council areas and priorities benefited - that is welcome. But Levelling Up has now become yet another example of Westminster trampling over devolved responsibilities. This funding should be devolved - just as we were promised that EU funding would be devolved after Brexit - through the Barnett formula which allocates public spending in

The Observer 37 **Stoking a culture war? No, Nicola Sturgeon, this is about balancing conflicting rights** The term "culture war" once had meaning: the weaponisation of socio-cultural issues to foment division. But, like the words bigoted and phobic, it is being rendered impotent by how often it is now used to mean "opinion I disagree with". Not just in social media spats: Nicola Sturgeon last week accused the Conservative government of "stoking a culture war" by using section 35 of the Scotland Act to block reforms

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **THE SUN SAYS Class cash clash** COUNCILS have come under fire for spending money meant for hiring more permanent teachers on other things. The criticism is understandable. We need more teachers after falling numbers in recent years. More staff and smaller class sizes are crucial to improving attainment. But the money should have been legally ring-fenced by the Scottish Government for this purpose. Because council budgets have been hammered in the last decade, meaning there is

The Sun (Scotland) 17 **BILL'S A DOUBLE WINNER** WHAT could have motivated the Scottish Government to forge full steam ahead with the Gender Recognition Bill, all the time knowing it would clash with existing UK equality legislation? Did Nicola Sturgeon predict it would be blocked by Westminster? Could this have been engineered just to highlight how the UK Government still holds the power to veto our legislation? It would be a shrewd political move in the aftermath of

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **THAT LACKS CLASS** COUNCILS were last night accused of taking cash to hire more permanent teachers — and spending it elsewhere. Critics expressed "deep disappointment" at how some of the £145.5million fund was used. It was paid to local authorities by the Scottish Government last year to get more staff off temporary contracts. But Greens MSP Mark Ruskell's office admitted: "This money has not been spent on what it was intended for by

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **Sturgeon U-turn on 16-yr-olds' pubs OK** Chief Reporter NICOLA Sturgeon has been forced to deny suggesting that 16-year-olds should be able to booze in bars — while arguing for a wider debate on teenager's rights. The First Minister said "Why can't a 16-year-old drink alcohol in a pub" as she spoke about age inconsistencies between the current booze laws and the new age limit in the gender reform bill. The comments were made last night in

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **SNP 'BLIND' TO HARASSMENT** THE SNP staffer targeted by sex pest MP Patrick Grady yesterday said Nicola Sturgeon and her husband's grip on the party was helping to foster a culture where harassment victims are not protected. The former aide hit out after Glasgow North MP Grady was reinstated to the Nats — despite sources saying he wouldn't be given back the whip. And the man, 25, who was harassed by the politician as

The Sun (Scotland) 11 **KEEP ANN... & CARRY ON** A CHARITY at the centre of a human trafficking probe has pledged to continue its work after founder Dame Ann Gloag was charged with immigration offences. The Gloag Foundation's vow came as it emerged the Stagecoach tycoon's husband David McCleary, 72, daughter-in-law Sarah Gloag, 47, and son-in-law Paul McNeil, 52, were also charged as part of the inquiry. Chiefs insisted they stand united with Dame Ann, 80, as staff work

The Sunday Times 7 **What gives men the right to use gender activism as a cover for misogyny?** And lo, it has come to pass. The rise of gender ideology — which for too long was dismissed as too niche and irrelevant to discuss by those too sexist or just too cowardly to listen to women's concerns — has now exploded into a constitutional showdown, with the UK government blocking Nicola Sturgeon's wildly unpopular gender recognition reform bill. For those of us who have been writing for years

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The Sunday Times (Scotland) 25 **This is a fight with Westminster that Sturgeon won't win** The UK government's veto of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill has provoked predictable outrage from Bute House. The first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has called it a "full frontal attack" on Scottish democracy. She threatens a challenge in the courts. Three streets away in Edinburgh's New Town, Lord Hope of Craighead, a distinguished Scottish lawyer and former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, is scathing. Her litigation, he says,

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10. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The Herald 1 **FEARS UK GOV COULD BLOCK NEW SCOTTISH ASSISTED DYING LAWS** FULL STORY INSIDE

Scotland on Sunday 8 **SNP to blame for gender debate getting messier still** The reaction from the SNP was entirely predictable. This was an attack on the Scottish Parliament, an attempt to undermine the very principles of democracy. It would, of course, hasten the break-up of the United Kingdom. When Scottish Secretary Alister Jack announced last week that he would invoke Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block legislation making it easier for people to change their recorded sex, the outrage was

Scotland on Sunday 12 **A watershed moment in history of Scots devolution** This has never happened in the history of devolution. It is worth reflecting on that fact when considering and assessing the decision by the UK government to block the Gender Recognition Reform Act passed by the Scottish Parliament just before Christmas. Strip back the shouting, the anger and the fury, and that is the central fact: It has never happened before. British devolution to the nations, by the standards of

Scotland on Sunday 6 **Key issues losing out to constitutional wrangling** There is always a risk when one issue dominates the news cycle that other important stories go under the radar. Last week saw a frenzy over the Westminster government acting to block the Scottish Government's gender reform bill. A significant step, certainly, as it marked the first time a Section 35 order had been used in this way. It raises big questions about the relationship between the Scottish and Westminster

Sunday Express 17 **ONLY Nicola Sturgeon knows what [...]** ONLY Nicola Sturgeon knows what is behind her determination to drive through the Gender Recognition Reform Bill that would change the law dramatically in Scotland. If it is to help people who are vulnerable and experiencing considerable emotional trauma, she is to be lauded. However, if it is merely a ruse to MANOEUVRE WESTMINSTER into blocking the act - which would then be seen as denying the will of the

Sunday Express 2 **'Gender law row is Scotland's get-out'** NICOLA STURGEON has "picked a fight" with Westminster over gender reforms to show why Scotland should pull out of the UK, a constitutional expert has warned. Belfast Birmingham Cardiff Glasgow Manchester Newcastle Norwich Plymouth 8 10 8 11 4 10 2 6 5 8 4 10 2 7 4 8 4 10 8 10 9 11 4 10 4 7 6 9 3 10 5 8 7 10 2 10

Sunday Mail 11 **Women accuse Sarwar of fleeing from trans debate** Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar evaded gender protesters as he attended the party's Women's Conference in Glasgow. Around a dozen campaigners gathered at Strathclyde University's Technology & Innovation Centre yesterday to protest over Scottish Labour's support for the

controversial Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Just hours earlier, hundreds of people gathered on Buchanan Street to show their support for transgender rights, including SNP and Green party politicians. SNP MPs Kirsten Oswald

The Herald 30 **Burns on trial Would the Bard face cancellation in the 'woke' era?** HE is a philanderer. A feminist. A racist. A champion of human rights. A tool of empire. A republican. He supported Scottish independence. He backed the union. He writes kitsch doggerel. He's literary genius up there with Shakespeare. He is a rebel. He is a pillar of the establishment. A sectarian bigot. A man for all people. A symbol of tartanised tourist tat. A global Scottish icon. Poor old Rabbie

The Herald 12 **Lawyers study Holyrood's assisted dying plans to avoid gender UK Government block** PLANS to bring in assisted dying laws in Scotland are being examined by lawyers to ensure they do not end up falling victim in a new row over reserved and devolved powers like Holyrood's gender reform legislation, The Herald on Sunday can reveal. Liam McArthur, who is behind the proposed member's bill, said legal advice is being taken to make sure its provisions are within devolved powers and any potentially

The Herald 10 **Deploying 'Draconian' power risks a bonfire of legislation** YOU are entitled to be perplexed by the political optics. When Rishi Sunak was parachuted into Downing Street with a mop and an apologetic expression, we were told that conciliation was now the name of the game. Muscular Unionism was out, and a new, more constructive spirit would rule relations between London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. During the whole spell of her premiership - a lifetime in lettuce years -

The Herald 7 **Edinburgh theatre under threat of closure** A SCOTTISH theatre could potentially have to close its doors for good after it failed to secure funding. The King's Theatre in Edinburgh was unsuccessful in its bid to secure access to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund, which would have provided a crucial contribution towards the funding gap for the King's redevelopment project. Capital Theatres, the charity which runs the King's, has already raised £26 million and must find

The Herald 13 **Poll in wake of Section 35 finds 54% back indy** A POLL carried out amid the row over Westminster stepping in to block reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland has found a majority in favour of independence. Research by Find Out Now for The National suggested that 54 per cent backed Scotland leaving the UK, with 46% in favour of remaining. Those were the totals when those who said they did not know were excluded from the research,

The Herald 25 **Scot Gov criticised for not asking Treasury for more tax powers** DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney has not recently asked for more tax powers for Holyrood, according to the Treasury. Mr Swinney, who is also acting Finance Secretary, has said the Scottish Parliament's financial powers are "largely fixed" as he has made the case for having more ability to raise revenue to help fund public services. The SNP made the pledge to strengthen devolved tax powers in its 2021 election manifesto

The Herald 6 **'Catastrophic' Concern over huge airport queues this summer due to new visas** MASSIVE airport queues on the continent after the EU brings in new visas for British citizens this year may contribute to a wider sense that "Brexit is not working", a report this week will warn. The study, to be published by think tank the UK In A Changing Europe on Tuesday considers what lies ahead for the future relationship between the UK and the EU27, and how public opinion may

The Herald 13 **Tories demand SNP release legal advice on gender bill** NICOLA Sturgeon is being urged to publish the legal advice her government was given on the gender recognition reform bill as the row between the Scottish and UK governments over the legislation continues. Donald Cameron, the Conservative MSP, is to write to ministers tomorrow demanding the documents are released. It is not normal practice for lawyers' counsel to ministers to be published though the Scottish Government did release the legal

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **Majority of Brits back UK block of gender reforms and oppose Bill** MOST of the British public are against every key pillar of Nicola Sturgeon's gender swap reforms - and overwhelmingly in favour of the UK Government's decision to block the Bill, polling has found. An exclusive Deltapoll survey for The Mail on Sunday shows a majority believe people should 'in principle' have the right to legally switch gender. Yet they also have concerns about the Holyrood law that waters down transitioning

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 11 **Fury as SNP trio pose in front of placards urging violence against women** SNP politicians have sparked a major women's rights row after posing in front of banners calling for females to be 'decapitated' and 'eaten' at a trans protest. Nicola Sturgeonally and Glasgow Central MP Alison Thewliss, former SNP deputy Westminster leader Kirsten Oswald MP and Glasgow Kelvin MSP Kaukab Stewart were pictured gleefully smiling in front of the 'hateful' signs at a rally in Glasgow's Buchanan Street yesterday. In one

The Mail on Sunday (Scotland) 6 **SUPPORT FADES FOR INDY REF 2 ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER** NICOLA Sturgeon's hopes of using the next general election as a 'de facto referendum' were on a knife-edge last night as polling showed a dramatic slump in support for independence. A Mail on Sunday and Deltapoll survey reveals that voters on

both sides of the Border overwhelmingly reject the First Minister's bid to break up Britain. People across the UK were asked if 'in principle' they 'think there should or

The National (Scotland) 9 **The Sunday National's noticeboard** • The Govan SNP Burns Supper, with a star list of speakers including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, will take place at 7pm on Saturday, January 28, at the Go Glasgow Urban Hotel on Paisley Road West in Glasgow. Tickets priced £40-£50 (plus fees) are available from Eventbrite. • Eastwood SNP will celebrate its 56th Burns Supper on Saturday, January 28 with speakers including John Swinney MSP, Kirsten Oswald MP and Stuart

The National (Scotland) 2 **INDY GIANT NAIRN DIES** TOM Nairn, the "intellectual godfather of the modern Scottish independence movement" has died aged 90, a friend has confirmed. The academic had been unwell "for some years" prior to his death yesterday morning, according to a statement issued by openDemocracy founder Anthony Barnett and archaeologist Judith Herrin on behalf of Nairn's family. The statement read: "On behalf of his family, we are heartbroken to announce the death of Tom Nairn.

The National (Scotland) 10 **Media in Britain is 'insulting' its audiences by dodging debate** THE British media must engage in more open debate about the monarchy and stop "insulting" audiences by dodging republicanism, a politics lecturer and journalist has said. Ash Sarkar, who has lectured in political theory at the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam, has slated the BBC for seeming "scared" to platform anti-monarchy views and called on them to engage in a "grown-up debate" about whether the royal family is good for the

The National (Scotland) 2 **Radio Scotland needs saved - except for the football** IF the jazz, classical and traditional music programmes that BBC Scotland intends to axe weren't very good, it would be difficult to make a case for saving them. But some of the programmes under threat are very good indeed and meet the corporation's target to deliver cultural programmes of a high quality across various platforms. In particular, they might want to look at their dreadful coverage of football on radio.

The National (Scotland) 6 **'Debatable whether the trigger was met** A PROFESSOR of law has said it's "debatable" whether the indirect effects of the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill on the UK wide Equality Act is "sufficient to trigger" the use of Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 by Westminster. Aileen McHarg, Professor of Public Law and Human Rights at Durham Law School, told the Sunday National: "The GRR Bill doesn't directly change the Equality Act; it has

The National (Scotland) 6 **Section 35 highlights extent of Labour's Scottish problem** DIVISIONS in Labour which have been exposed over the UK Government's blocking of gender reform legislation are reflective of the party's difficulties in Scotland over the last two decades, an expert has said. While a majority of Scottish Labour MSPs supported the Bill in Holyrood, UK leader Keir Starmer expressed "concerns" about provisions in the legislation enabling 16-year-olds to legally change their gender. He also said he would wait to

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The National (Scotland) 4 **SCOTS SAY BBC HAS FAILED IN ITS BREXIT COVERAGE** THE majority of people in Scotland do not think the BBC has done a good job of reporting on the impacts of Brexit on the country, exclusive polling for the Sunday National has revealed. A nationally representative survey of Scottish adults conducted for this paper by the British Polling Council registered firm Find Out Now asked to what extent people thought the BBC had "reported accurately on the impacts of

The National (Scotland) 6 **Tories' Section 35 move is a direct assault on Holyrood and devolution** ET'S get real here. The risible Alistair Jack, a walking anachronism if ever there was one, has actually just removed another brick from a devolution wall which has been systematically dismantled

The National (Scotland) 8 **The idea of Britain and Britishness is at the end of the road** THE idea of Britain is "at the end of the road" with successive polls showing support for Scotland leaving the UK "not a normal situation", according to a leading historian. Stuart Ward, professor of British imperial history at The Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, also said it was "obvious" that UK Prime Ministers were rejecting another independence referendum because they "don't trust people to invest their hearts in the Union".

The National (Scotland) 14 **'We must near ourselves on our national radio** 9 IF BBC Radio Scotland goes ahead with plans to scrap non-mainstream music programmes covering piping, jazz and classical music it will be a "dereliction of duty". That's the opinion of Steve Byrne, who led the effort to save Hamish Henderson's letters and papers and is now taking over as the new director of TRACS (Traditional Arts and

The National (Scotland) 3 **SPECIAL POSTER IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER** NEXT week's Sunday National will include a poster spread - ahead of a major Lights On rally to mark Brexit day. Time for Scotland, spearheaded by Lesley Riddoch, will be holding the event - with full information available online by visiting <https://timeforscotland.scot/> - and you'll find extra details in our front-page story today. The poster is being printed to go alongside the January 31 rally, which will include a torch-lit

The National (Scotland) 10 **Corrupt, clueless, careless and reckless and overruling you** THE foul waves of corruption steaming up from the moral cesspit that is Westminster are overwhelming and endless. Take the latest episode featuring that fine upstanding fellow, the former chancellor, Nadhim Zahawi. He has confessed to avoiding taxes. Like most British ministers he has form. You may recall he is the guy who charged taxpayers for heating

The National (Scotland) 5 **BBC must learn how to respond to fair criticism** THE stock BBC reply to criticism is not to take such comments to heart but instead to glibly point to complaints from the other end of the political spectrum and assert that if they are getting brickbats from both sides, they must be doing something right. This is arrogant and evasive nonsense - but, of course, it is not meant to address the problem, only to deflect attention from it.

The Observer 37 **Stoking a culture war? No, Nicola Sturgeon, this is about balancing conflicting rights** The term "culture war" once had meaning: the weaponisation of socio-cultural issues to foment division. But, like the words bigoted and phobic, it is being rendered impotent by how often it is now used to mean "opinion I disagree with". Not just in social media spats: Nicola Sturgeon last week accused the Conservative government of "stoking a culture war" by using section 35 of the Scotland Act to block reforms

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The Sunday Times (Scotland) 12 **Tories scotch SNP call for more devolution on whisky curbs** Constitutional tensions between the SNP and Conservatives are set to rise further, with Nicola Sturgeon's administration seeking more devolution to clamp down on whisky advertising. The Scottish government wants greater powers to enable it to restrict the promotion of the spirit, which is one of Scotland's biggest industries, worth an estimated £5.5 billion to the UK economy. It follows concerns about alcohol-related hospital treatment and deaths, and fears that marketing

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[Redacted]

Media Manager | News: Finance and the Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

[Redacted]

Item 14:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitor

Sent: 20 January 2023 10:30

To: Media Summaries [Redacted]; keith.brown.msp@parliament.scot

Cc: Communications MMU <CommunicationsMMU@gov.scot>

Subject: This Morning's News - Friday 20 January 2023

Broadcast summaries

BBC Scotland

Islands growth deal worth £100m to be signed A £100 million deal aimed at promoting economic prosperity in Scotland's islands is to be signed today. The money is being put forward by both the Westminster and Holyrood governments.

Rep Scotland	<i>Clip</i>	Captain Calum Grains (Lerwick Port Authority)
GMS0700	<i>Clip</i>	Captain Calum Grains (Lerwick Port Authority)
	<i>Interview</i>	James Stockan (Orkney Council)
GMS0730	<i>Clip</i>	James Stockan (Orkney Council)
GMS0746		
GMS0800	<i>Report</i>	David Delday
GMS0830		
GMS0836	<i>Interview</i>	Ivan McKee MSP
GMS0848		

Fresh talks to take place amid dispute over teachers' pay Fresh talks take place today as teachers across Scotland continue their rolling programme of strike action. Unions, councils and the Scottish Government will meet to discuss the ongoing pay row although union leaders say they don't expect a new offer to be made. Walkouts today are affecting schools in Angus and East Dunbartonshire.

Rep Scotland

GMS0700

GMS0730

GMS0800

Report

Jamie McIvor

GMS0830

SG to invest £14m in sustainable farming More than 600 rural businesses are to benefit from funding for projects that protect the environment and mitigate the impact of climate change. The Scottish Government's making £14 million available this year.
GMS0800 *Report* Robbie Boyle

Eviction ban to remain and rent rises to be capped A rent freeze for private tenants in Scotland will come to an end this spring. The change to the system of private housing rent caps is part of the Scottish Government's extension of emergency legislation introduced last year in response to the cost-of-living crisis.

GMS0714 *Report* Steven Godden
 Clip Calum Sanderson (Postgraduate student)
 Clip Patrick Harvie MSP
 Clip David Alexander (DJ Alexander)

Scotland considers ban on disposable vapes The environmental and health impacts of vaping are to be reviewed by the Scottish Government with campaigners saying single-use ones pose a serious environmental impact. The Health Minister, Humza Yousaf, told MSPs that a review will consider whether they should be banned.

GMS0755 *Interview* Gillian Mackay MSP (Scottish Greens)

Weekly flu deaths reach highest level in 20 years The figures are stark. The weekly number of flu deaths in Scotland are at the highest for over 20 years. The NRS, the National Records of Scotland, stats show there were 121 deaths last week where flu was mentioned on the death certificate. That's up from 91 the previous week. The number of deaths in Scotland from all causes last week was 2,020 which NRS says is 29 per cent more than the five-year average.

GMS0807 *Interview* Chris Williams (Royal College of GPs in Scotland)

Good Morning Britain

Fresh talks to take place amid dispute over teachers' pay Primary and secondary schools in East Dunbartonshire and Angus will be closed today due to the latest teachers' strike. EIS union members are walking out in their long-running pay row.

Clyde One

Eviction ban to remain and rent rises to be capped A renters' union is telling Clyde News they have been 'thrown under a bus' by the Scottish Government abandoning a rent freeze. From March, landlords can put up bills by three per cent and there's no cap for social housing. The scheme was brought in last year to help tackle the cost of living crisis.

Fresh talks to take place amid dispute over teachers' pay The weekend is starting early for kids in East Dunbartonshire. Schools are off there today as teachers in the EIS stage the latest of the one-day local strikes.

Radio 4

No further stories

Kaye Adams

- Tell us about your most memorable comebacks.

The Nine

- Figures released from the National Records of Scotland show that deaths from flu have hit a 20-year high.

Report Lisa Summers

Interview Jillian Evans (NHS Grampian)

- The Scottish Secretary has told the BBC the UK Government will not cancel its decision to block Holyrood's Gender Recognition Reform Bill.

Report Glenn Campbell

Clip Shona Robison MSP

Clip Alister Jack MP (Conservative)

Interview Lord Falconer KC (Former UK Justice Minister)

Report Rajdeep Sandhu

- Opposition parties have criticised the UK Government's 'levelling up' plan for sending more money to the southeast of England rather than poorer parts of the UK.

Report Rajdeep Sandhu

- The Health Secretary says the Scottish Government would consider banning single-use vape products – it comes as there's a campaign to clean up Scotland's streets of vape pens.

Clip Katrina Tweedie (The Daily Record)

Interview Sheila Duffy (ASH Scotland)

Scotland Tonight

No further stories

Press coverage

First Minister

Nicola Sturgeon accuses Alister Jack of acting like 'governor-general' Nicola Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a "governor-general" by blocking her controversial gender reforms. The First Minister said Alister Jack was treating the Scottish Parliament "as a subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". SM6; Sun2; DTel1; Times6

First Minister prepares to throw more taxpayer money down the drain Signs are emerging that Nicola Sturgeon is fast losing the plot in her dispute with the Government over its veto on her gender reform bill. She accused Alister Jack, Scottish Secretary of behaving like a colonial era governor general and of a 'fullfrontal' Tory assault on the Scottish Parliament and devolution. DMail7

Sturgeon 'should be embarrassed' amid reports of teacher cuts in Glasgow See Education and Skills

FM quiz dodge on strike See Education and Skills

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Finance and the Economy

Scotland is facing another devolution row over strikes bill The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill was introduced into the UK parliament last week and makes provision for minimum service levels to be stipulated for health services, fire and rescue services, education services, transport services, decommissioning of nuclear installations and management of radioactive waste and spent fuel, and border security, but the detail of the minimum service levels themselves will be outlined in further regulations. SM42

Scots ministers accused of being economical with the truth Ministers were accused of being "economical with the truth" and misleading either Holyrood or the House of Commons following First Minister's Questions. Ivan McKee, the SNP minister for business, and Lorna Slater, the Green minister for green skills, were the focus of two points of order from Conservative MSPs, who criticised the accuracy of answers to questions in the Scottish Parliament. SM8

Fears for 'unravelling' smelter deal The lack of audited accounts from the embattled GFG Alliance-owned Lochaber smelter are a "concern", the Auditor General has said. Stephen Boyle, speaking to the Scottish Parliament's public audit committee, also warned the deal could "unravel potentially quite quickly" due to the "really volatile set of circumstances". SM14

Councils make direct plea to First Minister Council leaders from across Scotland have warned the First Minister of their fears over government underfunding. The 32 leaders - including SNP politicians - wrote to Nicola Sturgeon to express their concerns of a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the cost-of-living crisis. H1

£100m deal to boost Scots island economies Scotland's island communities are to receive £100 million in a landmark deal that could spark a jobs boom in areas battling depopulation. The funds will be invested in Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides after an agreement was signed by UK and Scottish government ministers and council leaders. H5

Comment **Transforming life in our island communities through investment** H5

Anger in Glasgow at levelling-up cash snub as all bids fail The UK Government has defended the geographical spread of the most recent round of the Levelling Up Fund. Ministers have been criticised that the bulk of the £2 billion of spending has been handed to the south east. H6; Sun6; Times2

Health and Social Care

Vaccination plea after flu deaths hit a 20-year high Health officials have pleaded with eligible Scots to get a flu jab, after attributing the highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years to "multiple types of infection" among people who are once again in close contact following the pandemic. SM1; H1; DR11; Sun6; DMail4; Times8; Nat11

Spoken language crisis looms for children who lived in lockdowns Covid-19 lockdowns led to more young children having difficulties communicating, a report has found, leading a speech therapist to warn that Scotland is facing a spoken language crisis. Times4

Education and Skills

Sturgeon 'should be embarrassed' amid reports of teacher cuts in Glasgow Nicola Sturgeon has been told she should be "embarrassed" following reports 800 teachers could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The First Minister sought to downplay a leaked document from SNP-run Glasgow City Council after it was raised during First Minister's Questions [FMQs] yesterday. SM1; H4; DR11; Sun2; DMail6; Times6; Nat2

Comment **Nicola refuses to say if education is still No1 priority** DMail7

Fears universities will depend on foreign students for funding The Scottish Government is facing a "geopolitical risk" in relying on foreign students to subsidise universities, a key body has warned, as figures show the number of people studying in Scotland from outside Europe rocketed by more than a third in the past year. SM9

GAP remains over teachers' pay deal The Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland quickly, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The First Minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. DR11; PJ13

FM quiz dodge on strike MS Sturgeon has refused to say if she'll step in on teacher pay talks in a bid to end strikes across Scotland. The First Minister didn't give a direct answer when quizzed by Tory MSP Stephen Kerr. But she insisted that her education secretary was working hard to resolve the dispute. Sun2

Editorial **Mend the gap** Sun10

pupils aged just seven quizzed on gender identity PUPILS as young as seven are being asked if they identify as transgender or non-binary in a 'disgraceful' school survey. Primary school children taking part in the sex and wellbeing study are told an answer to the question is 'required' to move on to the next page of the survey. DMail1

Comment **Can't they just let our children be children?** DMail14

SNP 'disappointed' over drop in EU students The SNP has claimed it is "bitterly disappointing" European Union students have deserted Scotland's universities, despite the exodus helping to deliver a record number of places for home grown teenagers. Figures show that there was a dramatic drop in the number of enrollments from EU countries in the last academic year, after European students were charged tuition fees for the first time in two decades. DTel10

A FM attacks Tories' 'staggering hypocrisy' over teacher strikes Nicola Sturgeon has branded the Tories "hypocrites" over their attacks on the Scottish Government's handling of teacher strikes while similar action in England "looms". During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Stephen Kerr criticised the Scottish Government for presiding over the first teacher strikes in Scotland for some 40 years. Nat6

Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Ministers to consider disposable vapes ban Ministers will give "consideration" to a potential ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has said. Asked about a new campaign against single-use vapes, he said an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. SM5; DR1; Times8

Editorial

Disposable vapes must be banned DR10

Ministers 'must come clean' over A9 dualling delay Former SNP rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing has demanded ministers apologise for failing to meet their pledge to complete dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness on time. SM8; DMail26; Times2; PJ8

Prestwick still needs cash Executives at nationalised Prestwick Airport are expecting continued multi-million-pound public support to keep it in existence while spending auditors said it is not clear that Scottish Government intervention has provided value for the taxpayer's cash. H2; DMail14

The long and winding A82 sums up shambles of transport policy It winds its way along the banks of some of our most famous lochs and is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque roads in Scotland. But the A82 "low road" along the banks of Loch Lomond from Glasgow to Inverness via Fort William is also one of the most frustrating for drivers. H14

Oil right by us Three in four Scots signalled they want drilling in the North Sea to continue despite the SNP's push to wind down the linchpin industry. Some 76 per cent said in a poll they believe that the "UK should aim to meet its demand for oil and gas from domestic production". Sun8; PJ15

Editorial

Follow the drill Sun10

Slater in eco row walkout A SCOTTISH Greens minister was slammed yesterday for walking out of a Holyrood debate as she was accused of misleading parliament. Lorna Slater left as Tory MSP Liam Kerr rose to ask her to correct the record on the government's false claim that Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. Sun8; DMail7

At last, bottle deposit plan is here... but not for glass! A deposit scheme for plastic bottles and cans will finally be announced by ministers today in a breakthrough against litter, pollution and waste. The scheme will see a small fee - perhaps 20p - charged on plastic bottles and cans, which would be reclaimed when the empty is returned. DMail9

Justice

Police urged to review officers' records Police Scotland must review the background of all existing officers to ensure they are not sex offenders, a former assistant chief constable has said. Angela Wilson, who held the position with Tayside police, spoke out after David Carrick admitted carrying out dozens of rapes and sexual offences while working as an officer with the Metropolitan Police. Times9

Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

Westminster urged to revoke order blocking gender bill The UK Government has been urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking Scotland's controversial gender recognition legislation. SNP Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said the move was "harmful to trans people" and the Scottish Government was "absolutely determined to vigorously defend the Bill". However, she said ministers were still "digesting" the UK Government's reasons for the decision. SM7

The Gender Bill is being used as a culture war distraction by the Tories These are troubled times, no question. In Davos, the world's great and good are discussing the end of the age of globalism and free trade we have taken for granted for so long, scuppered by a combination of pandemic pressures and looming war. SM21

Jack refuses to give evidence to MSPs over gender reforms Alister Jack has snubbed an invitation to give evidence to a Holyrood committee over his decision to block Scotland's gender recognition reforms despite insisting amending the bill is up to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Secretary was branded an "absolute disgrace" after he insisted it was not his job to appear before Holyrood's Equalities Committee. H6; Nat4

'16 too young to change' A clear majority of people in the UK think 16 is too young to change gender, a survey has revealed. Reforms proposed by the SNP Government would lower the minimum age to seek a gender recognition certificate from 18 to 16. The PeoplePolling survey of 1,168 adults across the UK for GB News found that 61 per cent agree 16-year-olds are too young to change their legally recognised gender. DMail8

Transitioning at 13 should be 'taken seriously', says Labour's Nandy Labour was split on trans issues last night after Lisa Nandy suggested that children as young as 13 should be able to change their gender. It comes just days after Sir Keir Starmer said he thought that 16 was too young to legally change. DTel10

Robison urges UK to U-turn on 'harmful' move The UK Government is being challenged to revoke the order it has made that will prevent reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland from becoming law. Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison argued that "immediately" revoking the order would "show the UK Government is serious about improving the lives of trans people and respecting Scottish democracy". Nat5

Comment **Stakes couldn't be higher as Sunak takes a gamble** H15

Comment **THE row in Scotland rumbles** DMail24

Comment **Gender bill might well have faced legal challenge in an indy Scotland** Nat12

Comment **Even biggest critics could not argue gender bill process was...** Nat20

Comment **Men are threat to women and children - not trans folk who seek happiness** PJ26

Editorial **Shock and law as Scots divided** Sun10

Scottish budget failing housing The Scottish Government's budget could "completely derail" efforts to tackle the housing emergency, a charity has warned. Shelter Scotland says it is "deeply concerned" by cuts to the housing capital budget and the freezing of funding for homelessness services. The charity hit out at plans to cut £112.8 million from the housing capital budget, the equivalent of 16 per cent. SM6

Rent cap extended for six months but allows for three per cent rises from April A CAP on private rents is set to be extended for at least another six months but it will allow for increases of up to three per cent, it has been confirmed. H4; DR2; Sun2; DTel10

Rural Affairs and Island

Scottish Government to invest £14m in sustainable farming The Scottish Government is set to invest more than £14 million in sustainable farming as a new funding round opens this month. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon announced the next round of the agri-environment climate scheme (AECS) during a visit to a farm in the Borders. SM20

Scotland's species are struggling to survive deadly twin threats Scotland's wildlife is struggling to recover from climate change and biodiversity loss, a new survey has warned. The latest study from Scotland's nature agency shows that birds, mammals, butterflies and moths are all struggling from the twin threats. H11

Private cash to help save habitats A Greens minister has said an investment plan is being drawn up to lever in "responsible private finance" to plug a £20 billion nature funding gap. Biodiversity Minister Lorna Slater told MSPs that specific details on how the Scottish Government will reach its nature and biodiversity targets will be set out in a plan to be published later this year. H14

SEABIRD numbers plummet Seabird numbers plummeted by nearly a tenth before last year's huge bird flu outbreak, a survey has found. The NatureScot study said the numbers of 14 species of breeding seabirds had fallen by 41 per cent since 1994. DR10

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Calanais in line for £6m upgrade amid rise in visitors and arrival of cruise ships Around £6 million is to be spent on upgrading the Calanais Standing Stones experience amid an "enormous" rise in visitor numbers and the predicted arrival of thousands of cruise ship passengers to the Neolithic wonder. SM20

Pledge to help crisis-hit arts groups - if alarm is raised early enough Scottish culture secretary Angus Robertson has pledged that help will be offered to arts organisations facing major financial problems - so long as they do not leave it too late to raise the alarm. Mr Robertson said everything possible would be done by the Scottish Government and its agencies to help arts organisations facing financial difficulties. SM8; H4; Times6

Tories wont hesitate to wield Section 35 again The UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill was unprecedented. It was a dark day for devolution, democracy, and the rights of trans people in Scotland. The reality is that this is one of the most scrutinised bills in the history of our Parliament. It passed following years of debate, Nat17

Scottish Government

Scottish Parliament

Other

Local Broadcast Summaries (Provided by Precise)

Westsound

Fresh talks are taking place in a bid to end strike action by teachers over pay in Scotland. The Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers, which brings

together the Scottish Government, local authority leaders in Cosla and trades unions, is to meet on Friday.

Rent rises are to be capped at three per cent and evictions will remain banned under Scottish government plans. Tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie announced the move - which will be subject to parliamentary approval - pledging to amend an emergency bill. The bill was passed last year to tackle the cost-of-living crisis with most rents frozen until the end of March.

Forth 1

Private tenants are hitting out at the Scottish Government for ending a freeze on their rent. Landlords were ordered not to increase bills to help with the cost of living, but from March they will be allowed to put them up again by between three per cent and six per cent if they have a good enough reason.

Edinburgh Council is being urged to rule out any cuts to teaching jobs as it faces tough decisions trying to balance its budget. It is after a week suggested Glasgow is considering axing hundreds of positions.

Northsound

Sites at Cromarty Firth and the Forth have been selected to host Scotland's first green freeports. The winning bids were revealed in a joint announcement by the UK and Scottish governments.

Borders Radio

Rents in Scotland's private and social housing sectors will be frozen for an additional six months but a cap on monthly leases will increase slightly. The Scottish Government has extended the expiration date for a pause on rental increases above three per cent until September 2023.

Heart Scotland West

A tenant's rights group says social rent could rise by the rate of inflation, that is 11 per cent The Scottish Government, which is capping rent rises at three per cent for private tenants, denies this.

Tay

Rent rises to be capped and eviction ban to remain Private landlords will now be allowed to raise rents by a maximum of three per cent but can apply to increase this to six per cent.

Fresh talks are taking place in a bid to end strike action by teachers over pay in Scotland. The Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers, which brings together the Scottish Government, local authority leaders in Cosla and trades unions, is to meet on Friday.

[Redacted]

Media Monitor | Media Monitoring Unit

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[Redacted]

Item 15:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitoring Unit Manager

Sent: 20 January 2023 07:45

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot; Shirley-Anne.Somerville2@parliament.scot; Yousaf H (Humza) <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>; keith.brown.msp@parliament.scot; Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot; Harvie P (Patrick) <Patrick.Harvie@gov.scot>; mairi.mcallan.msp@parliament.scot; Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: Media Digest - Friday 20 January 2023

Please do not reply to this email. For any questions related to the Media Digest mailing list, please email communicationsmmu@gov.scot

Press Summary For Scottish Government

20 January 2023

Compiled By Precise

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1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **Strikes won't end until teachers win fair deal** FROM PAGE ONE anger after Ms Sturgeon praised her Education Secretary for doing "everything possible" to reach a solution. Union chiefs savagely dismissed the First Minister's opinion of the affair and its handling by Shirley-Anne Somerville. Ms Sturgeon was also under withering attack from critics after it emerged that the SNP-led council in Scotland's biggest city Glasgow was considering getting rid of 800 teachers in a desperate effort to balance

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **'16 too young to change'** A CLEAR majority of people in the UK think 16 is too young to change gender, a survey has revealed. Reforms proposed by the SNP Government would lower the minimum age to seek a gender recognition certificate from 18 to 16. The PeoplePolling survey of 1,168 adults across the UK for GB News found that 61 per cent agree 16-year-olds are too young to change their legally recognised gender. Only

Daily Mail 4 **16 'is too young to change gender'** MOST Britons believe that 16 is too young to change gender, in a fresh blow to SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon. The survey commissioned by GB News found that 61 per cent agreed that 16-year-olds were too young to legally change sex. Only 19 per cent said they disagreed with the statement. Experts said the findings showed that the public disagreed with the SNP's radical plan to let teenagers 'self-ID' as

Daily Mail 24 **THE row in Scotland rumbles [...]** THE row in Scotland rumbles on, with Nicola Sturgeon pushing forward a Bill that would allow gender self-identification at the age of 16, and Rishi Sunak refusing to endorse it, while SNP supporters rub their hands with glee at what they see as a modern-day Bannockburn. All I can see is a leader stoking constitutional grievance for her own political ends. The Bill might be what Nicola wants, it might

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **800 TEACHERS 'AT RISK IN SNP CUTS'** MORE than 800 teachers could be axed in Scotland's biggest city under cuts considered by councillors. Cash-strapped Glasgow City Council, which is controlled by the SNP, is contemplating moves to slash teacher numbers to save money, along with proposals to close schools early on Fridays. Class sizes would also rocket if teaching jobs were slashed, on top of more than 100 'support for learning jobs' being at risk. Council officials

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **SNP accused of discarding long-held pledge over attainment gap** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of ditching her long-standing commitment to closing the poverty-related attainment gap. During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross, right, criticised Ms Sturgeon's broken promise to close the gap completely. He said Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville, far right, had rubbished the pledge on Wednesday, when she told a committee that "it is exceptionally difficult, if not impossible, to achieve - to get it

Daily Record 11 **Do not shirk the blame for plan to scrap 800 teachers** 800 FACE NICOLA Sturgeon has claimed she does not know the "detail" of plans by Glasgow City Council to axe over 800 teaching posts. Officials in the SNP-run local authority have drawn up options for slashing £68million to fill a budget black hole. »»Leaked doc as part of council's The biggest chunk, £51million, would come from the education budget. The First Minister, who represents a seat in the city and

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Edinburgh's become the vegan capital of Europe? Pass me a bacon roll to celebrate** ON my daughter's birthday we usually go out for a meal at the restaurant of her choice and, these last few years, the nominated establishment has always been vegan. 'An interesting selection,' I would say as the pattern took root. 'But how would it be if we went somewhere which catered for - how should I put it - a wider variety of dietary preferences?' She was having none of

i (The paper for today) 21 **Gender row could derail Sunak's plans** In blocking Scotland's Gender Reform Bill, has Rishi Sunak lit a tinderbox that could overshadow his administration's core aims? The row that has erupted this week lies at the intersection of two of the most contentious areas of debate in British politics: trans rights and Scottish devolution. To recap, in December Holyrood passed a Bill that would allow trans people in Scotland to legally change gender more easily, quickly and

i (The paper for today) 20 **Legal row has all the dignity of a bar fight** The Daily Telegraph Nicola Sturgeon wants 16-year-olds to be able to change the sex on their birth certificate without a medical diagnosis, an absurd idea most Scottish voters rightly oppose. Good on Rishi Sunak for blocking it, I thought, hoping the courts would uphold the legality of his veto. (Allister Heath) Herald Scotland We are back to intergovernmental relations conducted as a pub fight in EastEnders, both sides out on

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **pupils aged just seven quizzed on gender identity** PUPILS as young as seven are being asked if they identify as transgender or non-binary in a 'disgraceful' school survey. Primary school children taking part in the sex and wellbeing study are told an answer to the question is 'required' to move on to the next page of the survey. The pupils - who can select either 'male, female, non-binary, transgender or other' - are not required to have a

Daily Record 11 **GAP REMAINS OVER TEACHERS PAY DEAL** THE Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland quickly, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The First Minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks are scheduled to

Metro (Scotland) 1 **BRAIN DRAIN** SCOTTISH Tory leader Douglas Ross hit out at plans to axe 800 teachers in Scotland's biggest city yesterday - as he accused Nicola Sturgeon's government of already stripping schools of 900 teaching posts. A leaked document reportedly shows SNP-run Glasgow City Council is looking at the teaching cuts, as well as plans to shut primary schools early on Fridays, as it seeks to plug a £68million budget shortfall. Unions fear

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Can't they just let our children be children?** AT an age when you might expect pupils to be mastering reading, writing and arithmetic, children as young as seven are being quizzed about their gender in a baffling new survey. After all, many adults would struggle to explain what 'non-binary' means - let alone youngsters who have spent just two years at primary school. As one parent campaigner wisely said, at the age of seven most children don't even

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Doubt over dualling deadline** A former SNP government minister claimed he will eat his hat if Nicola Sturgeon meets the deadline to fully upgrade the A9 Perth- Inverness road. Fergus Ewing said colleagues in the government owe an apology for how long it has taken to dual the notorious road. Government agency Transport Scotland still lists the road for completion by 2025 on its website, despite only two of 11 sections being dualled so far.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **Majority back native drilling** More than threequarters of people in Scotland think the UK should aim to meet its demand for oil and gas from domestic production, a poll shows. The research by Survation suggests 76% of people in Scotland think North Sea drilling is preferable to importing oil and gas. Just 11% think the UK should import oil and gas while 13% are undecided. It puts pressure on Nicola Sturgeon, whose government has

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Nicola refuses to say if education is still No1 priority** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday refused to say whether improving education remains her top priority. The First Minister dodged a question about her commitment to pupils after being grilled about her 'embarrassing' record on closing the attainment gap. The SNP leader in 2015 made eradicating the gulf between Scotland's richest and poorest pupils her 'defining mission' and promised to close it 'completely' by 2026. But she has now been accused of abandoning

Metro (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon hits out at Labour social care call** NICOLA STURGEON said she wants to increase pay in the social care sector in a 'properly funded way'. At first minister's questions, Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar (below) called for improved pay levels. He said the recent increase amounted to about 40p an hour which is 'nowhere near enough' and called for pay to immediately increase to £12 an hour, and then hiked further to £15. Ms Sturgeon said the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Jack like a 'governorgeneral', says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a colonial "governor-general" after he vetoed her gender reforms over their impact on UK-wide protections for women. The First Minister said Alister Jack had treated the Scottish Parliament as a "subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". In a speech, she claimed the decision signalled the start of "a new and more dangerous phase for devolution" that showed

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Goodbye, Mr (and take 799 friends with Chips of your you...)** AT Holyrood yesterday, Nicola Sturgeon was pressed on reports that Glasgow City Council is mulling a cut of 800 teachers. 'This is that time of year when we get lots of reports about the savings options that different councils are considering,' she assured Douglas Ross. Is it Mass Teacher Layoff Day already? It comes round earlier every year. The revelation that threats to axe 14 per cent of teachers in

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 26 **Men are threat to women and children - not trans folk who seek happiness** It is important not to conflate the question of gender recognition with that of the constitution or devolution. They are separate issues. On the one hand, the UK Government clearly does not agree with the majority of MSPs concerning what the process should be for gender recognition. On the other, Nicola Sturgeon has accused Alister Jack of launching a "direct attack on the institution of the Scottish Parliament" by blocking

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **FM seeking 'fair and affordable' pay deal for striking teachers** The Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland as soon as possible, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The first minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS

unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Sky-high airport bill** PRESTWICK Airport has turned out to be the ultimate white elephant - as many predicted when SNP ministers bought it. Nicola Sturgeon described it as a 'viable enterprise' when the Scottish Government made the purchase for £1 in 2013. Now the Auditor General has confirmed that it is costing the taxpayer 'many millions' of pounds a year and that this will continue to be the case while it remains in

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **Jack like a colonial governor, says Sturgeon** NICOLA Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a colonial "governor-general" after he vetoed her gender reforms over their impact on UK-wide protections for women. The First Minister said Alister Jack had treated the Scottish Parliament as a "subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". In a speech to a group of pro-independence businessmen and women, she claimed the decision signalled the start of

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **First Minister prepares to throw more taxpayer money down the drain** Signs are emerging that Nicola Sturgeon is fast losing the plot in her dispute with the Government over its veto on her gender reform bill. She accused Alister Jack, Scottish Secretary of behaving like a colonial era governor general and of a 'fullfrontal' Tory assault on the Scottish Parliament and devolution. She said that Jack wasn't interested in a partnership arrangement but wanted to treat Holyrood as a "subordinate body",

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Keir: No more North Sea oil and gas fields** LABOUR plans to ban new investment in North Sea oil and gas fields in a major change from current Government policy. Party leader Sir Keir Starmer said the UK must instead focus on renewable energy such as wind farms. But his pledge during the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday will spell uncertainty for thousands employed in the once-thriving sector - as well as investors currently looking at new projects.

The Scotsman 6 **Sturgeon 'should be embarrassed' amid reports of teacher cuts in Glasgow** Nicola Sturgeon has been told she should be "embarrassed" following reports 800 teachers could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The First Minister sought to downplay a leaked document from SNP-run Glasgow City Council after it was raised during First Minister's Questions [FMQs] yesterday. Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said she should be "embarrassed, if not disgraced" by the reports. Glasgow is reportedly considering shutting primary schools early on

The Scotsman 1 **Vaccination plea after flu deaths hit a 20-year high** Health officials have pleaded with eligible Scots to get a flu jab, after attributing the highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years to "multiple types of infection" among people who are once again in close contact following the pandemic. Statistics released by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) yesterday show the deaths of 121 people from flu were registered last week - an increase of 91 from the

The Herald 1 **Councils make direct plea to First Minister** COUNCIL leaders from across Scotland have warned the First Minister of their fears over government

underfunding. The 32 leaders - including SNP politicians - wrote to Nicola Sturgeon to express their concerns of a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the cost-of-living crisis. They have now asked John Swinney, the acting Finance Secretary, to attend a special summit "as a matter of

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Scottish landlords handed power to enforce capped rent increases** PRIVATE landlords in Scotland will be permitted to make limited rent increases from April after Nicola Sturgeon's government scrapped a controversial freeze. Patrick Harvie, the tenants' rights minister, announced that landlords can increase private rents but only by up to 3 per cent, well below the rate of inflation. If the surge in interest rates leads to a rise in their mortgage payments, landlords can make an application to a

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 12 **Doubt over dualling deadline** A former SNP government minister claimed he will eat his hat if Nicola Sturgeon meets the deadline to fully upgrade the A9 Perth- Inverness road. Fergus Ewing said colleagues in the government owe an apology for how long it has taken to dual the notorious road. Government agency Transport Scotland still lists the road for completion by 2025 on its website, despite only two of 11 sections being dualled so far.

The Herald 4 **Sturgeon under fire over schools amid proposals to cut teachers** NICOLA Sturgeon has refused to say whether education remains her number one priority after being put under pressure over whether her key pledge to eliminate the attainment gap remains intact. The row comes after proposals to cut hundreds of teachers at Scotland's largest council was revealed. The plans emerged after Deputy First Minister John Swinney told a Holyrood committee that public-sector job cuts are inevitable over the next four years.

The Scotsman 9 **Fears universities will depend on foreign students for funding** The Scottish Government is facing a "geopolitical risk" in relying on foreign students to subsidise universities, a key body has warned, as figures show the number of people studying in Scotland from outside Europe rocketed by more than a third in the past year. The latest Higher Education Student Statistics found the number of non-European Union students from overseas rose by 37.1 per cent to 65,300 in the last academic

The Scotsman 42 **Scotland is facing another devolution row over strikes bill** The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill was introduced into the UK parliament last week and makes provision for minimum service levels to be stipulated for health services, fire and rescue services, education services, transport services, decommissioning of nuclear installations and management of radioactive waste and spent fuel, and border security, but the detail of the minimum service levels themselves will be outlined in further regulations. The government has said

The Herald 4 **The folk in the cheap seats aren't happy - and they aren't shy either** THE new year has brought a new twist to FMQs. Not insight, wit or any of those MSP allergens, but the skirl of the plebs. The folk in the cheap seats aren't happy - and they aren't shy about saying it. For the second week in a row, the session was

interrupted by a protest about climate change and oil exploration, followed by a bonus one about gender recognition reform.

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Sturgeon governor jibe blast** NICOLA Sturgeon was slated last night after claiming Scottish Secretary Alister Jack is trying to act like a colonial-era "governor-general" over her gender self-ID Bill. Scots Tory MSP Donald Cameron accused her of trying to create a "constitutional spat" with her "absurd" remarks. And he insisted Westminster had "little option" but to block the trans rights reforms, adding: "She railroaded through legislation that impinges on equalities law in the rest

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Mend the gap** WEASEL words were the order of the day yesterday as Nicola Sturgeon appeared to row back from her totemic education pledge. Once upon a time, she promised to get rid of the poverty-related attainment gap — that is, the difference between how well poor kids and their better-off classmates do at school. Indeed, the First Minister said of this "defining mission" that "I want to be judged on this". The

The Herald 4 **All of Scotland's council leaders make direct plea to First Minister over budgets** THE leaders of all of Scotland's councils, including SNP politicians, have signed a letter to Nicola Sturgeon warning of looming financial problems and job cuts. With councils setting budgets in the coming weeks, the 32 leaders told the First Minister they were "deeply concerned" by Scottish Government underfunding. They warned the settlement would have a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the

The Scotsman 42 **Following in longstanding family traditions** Charles White-Thomson is chief executive at online trading and investment specialist Saxo UK, marking the latest chapter in a career and family history encompassing military and corporate battlegrounds - and strong Scottish connections. I've held my current role for just over two years, and Scotland is a very important area both for the firm and for me personally. My family tree in Scotland has been traced back hundreds of years,

The Scotsman 6 **Nicola Sturgeon accuses Alister Jack of acting like 'governorgeneral'** Nicola Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a "governor-general" by blocking her controversial gender reforms. The First Minister said Alister Jack was treating the Scottish Parliament "as a subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". It came as the UK Government was urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking royal assent for the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. MSPs passed the legislation by

The Herald 2 **Prestwick still needs cash** EXECUTIVES at nationalised Prestwick Airport are expecting continued multi-million-pound public support to keep it in existence while spending auditors said it is not clear that Scottish Government intervention has provided value for the taxpayer's cash. Audit Scotland has said that the Scottish Government's propping up of the airport in loans has cost the taxpayer over £31 million - and that many millions more would be needed to sustain the airport

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **NIC'S CLASS GAP VOW 'AXE' RAP** NICOLA Sturgeon was yesterday slammed for appearing to water down a flagship pledge to wipe out the poverty-related attainment gap in schools. The First Minister committed only to a vow

that her government would "substantially eliminate" the academic divide by 2026. But in a 2015 keynote speech, she had promised to "completely" eradicate it. Scots Tory leader Douglas Ross pulled her up on the shift just 24 hours after

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **FM quiz dodge on strike** MS Sturgeon has refused to say if she'll step in on teacher pay talks in a bid to end strikes across Scotland. The First Minister didn't give a direct answer when quizzed by Tory MSP Stephen Kerr. But she insisted that her education secretary was working hard to resolve the dispute. She told Holyrood: "Shirley-Anne Somerville will continue to do everything possible to reach an agreement with Cosla and our

The Herald 15 **Stakes couldn't be higher as Sunak takes a gamble** IT'S hard to recall a recent occasion when so much political heat has been expended by so many on so few. But now Rishi Sunak has decided to use the gender reform row to stoke Scotland's constitutional fire and in doing so is gambling with the future of the Union. Of all the subjects to spark yet another cross-border wrangle, this time around it is one that's already loaded with

The Scotsman 7 **Westminster urged to revoke order blocking gender bill** The UK Government has been urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking Scotland's controversial gender recognition legislation. SNP Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said the move was "harmful to trans people" and the Scottish Government was "absolutely determined to vigorously defend the Bill". However, she said ministers were still "digesting" the UK Government's reasons for the decision. MSPs passed the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill by 86 votes to 39

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **OIL RIGHT BY US** By RACHEL WATSON Political Editor THREE in four Scots signalled they want drilling in the North Sea to continue despite the SNP's push to wind down the linchpin industry. Some 76 per cent said in a poll they believe that the "UK should aim to meet its demand for oil and gas from domestic production". It comes after the Scottish Government announced a presumption against new exploration. As part of

The Herald 6 **Jack refuses to give evidence to MSPs over gender reforms** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to give evidence to a Holyrood committee over his decision to block Scotland's gender recognition reforms despite insisting amending the bill is up to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Secretary was branded an "absolute disgrace" after he insisted it was not his job to appear before Holyrood's Equalities Committee. Hundreds of trans rights protesters gathered outside the UK Government's Queen Elizabeth House in Edinburgh

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Follow the drill** THE SNP government may want to wind down drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea — but it seems the public disagree. A poll yesterday showed that threequarters of Scots want the United Kingdom to meet demand for energy sources from domestic production. This is hardly surprising. Putin's war on Ukraine has highlighted the weaponising of oil and gas. So it is imperative that Britain takes major steps

The National (Scotland) 6 **A FM attacks Tories' 'staggering hypocrisy' over teacher strikes** NICOLA Sturgeon has branded the Tories "hypocrites" over their

attacks on the Scottish Government's handling of teacher strikes while similar action in England "looms". During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Stephen Kerr criticised the Scottish Government for presiding over the first teacher strikes in Scotland for some 40 years. The Tory MSP accused Education Secretary Shirley Anne-Somerville of showing "no energy or urgency" to

The National (Scotland) 3 **Don't miss our great new polling series** BREXIT, the NHS, a de facto referendum on Scottish independence. These are some of the key issues defining Scotland's - and the UK's - political landscape. But rather than listen on as politicians trade blows and point fingers, The National wanted to find out what people in Scotland were actually thinking. Does the Tories' rhetoric about the NHS crisis being entirely the fault of the Scottish Government reflect the views

The National (Scotland) 12 **Gender bill might well have faced legal challenge in an indie Scotland** Everyone knows I am opposed to the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. However, I believe the problems it creates should be addressed in Scotland if not by our Parliament, then by our courts. That said, to describe the use of the Section 35 power to block the bill as an attack on devolution doesn't really make sense. It is of the essence of devolution that

The National (Scotland) 23 **Shock move as Ardern quits as PM** JACINDA Ardern has announced her shock resignation as New Zealand Prime Minister, saying she "no longer has enough in the tank" to do the role justice. Ardern told reporters yesterday that her last day in office would be no later than February 7. In an emotional speech at the New Zealand Labour party's annual caucus meeting, the 42-year-old said it

The National (Scotland) 4 **'Disgrace' as Jack snubs MSPs over S35 invite** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to provide evidence at a Holyrood committee on his decision to prevent Scotland's gender reform legislation from becoming law. It comes after the UK Government issued a Section 35 order to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from receiving royal

The National (Scotland) 2 **Council cuts could put 800 teaching jobs under threat** Proposals which could see 800 teaching posts cut to save money have been drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. They also propose shutting primary schools across Glasgow early on Fridays in a bid to save £51 million from the education budget, according to a document leaked to the Daily Record. Teaching unions have said they are "desperately worried" about the plans,

The National (Scotland) 6 **Opposition leaders dodge hot topics amid bumper news week** IT'S been a huge week for Scottish politics. The UK Government will - for the first time in the Scottish Parliament's history - use a Section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform Bill (GRR) from gaining royal assent. So it looks like we're headed for another court battle between the governments. In response, the SNP said that it is a democratic outrage that the UK Government is interfering in

The National (Scotland) 3 **Farage to host GB News show from Scots pub** NIGEL Farage is set to host an episode of his GB News show from a pub in Scotland. The former UKIP leader has announced he will bring his programme to a pub in Aberdeen

this April. The venue has yet to be revealed due to security concerns, with details to be released 24 hours before the event begins. However, tickets for the show have reportedly sold out less than 24

The National (Scotland) 20 **Even biggest critics could not argue gender bill process was undemocratic** POLITICS is a brutal, bruising business and sometimes innocent, vulnerable people get hurt in the crossfire. This week those victims have included some of Scotland's most marginalised and discriminated-against people. The trans community has waited too long to have the process of legally changing their gender made simpler, in line with the system in many other countries in the world. It has been a long and often difficult journey which

The National (Scotland) 5 **Robison urges UK to U-turn on 'harmful' move** THE UK Government is being challenged to revoke the order it has made that will prevent reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland from becoming law. Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison argued that "immediately" revoking the order would "show the UK Government is serious about improving the lives of trans people and respecting Scottish democracy". Earlier this week, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack confirmed he would make a Section 35

The National (Scotland) 17 **Tories wont hesitate to wield Section 35 again** THE UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill was unprecedented. It was a dark day for devolution, democracy, and the rights of trans people in Scotland. The reality is that this is one of the most scrutinised bills in the history of our Parliament. It passed following years of debate, including two consultations and a full committee scrutiny process. The three days of parliamentary debate saw MSPs

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Jack acting like Scots governor over gender bill, says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon has accused Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, of acting like a "governor-general" following his decision to block Holyrood's contentious gender recognition reforms. Jack's announcement on Tuesday that he would make a section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from going forward for royal assent prompted a furious response from the first minister, who accused him of a "full-frontal" assault on the constitutional settlement. She

The Times (Scotland) 6 **First minister pressed on school cuts** Nicola Sturgeon has said that she would prefer to have "more teachers, not fewer", amid reports that 800 could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The Daily Record, reporting on a leaked document yesterday, said that SNP-run Glasgow city council was also considering shutting primary schools early on Fridays in an attempt to save £51 million from its education budget. Teaching unions said they were "desperately worried" about the

The Times (Scotland) 3 **Edinburgh 'leads the way' by endorsing vegan treaty** Edinburgh has become the first city in Scotland to endorse the "Plant Based Treaty" which promotes veganism. Councillors backed the treaty announced in 2021 at Cop26 in Glasgow which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture to tackle the climate emergency. They hope that where Edinburgh leads the country will follow and urged Nicola Sturgeon to adopt the treaty on behalf of the Scottish government. Suggestions to reduce

The Times (Scotland) 27 **Crony Politics** The SNP moved from the fringes of Scottish politics to become the dominant party by effectively turning its guns on Labour. Scottish Labour, said the nationalists, had grown complacent and lazy after decades of taking for granted the support of Scots. If voters wished for a new, more honest kind of government, free of the cronyism and the lack of accountability that had corrupted the Labour Party, then the SNP

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Flu deaths hit 20-year high in lethal winter** Scotland has recorded the highest number of flu deaths in 20 years creating the biggest peak in overall fatalities since the outbreak of coronavirus, official statistics show. BRAZILIAN December 15 was the deadliest single day in Scotland since coronavirus emerged in spring 2020, with resurgent flu and overcrowded hospitals pushing fatalities to critical levels. There were 253 deaths that day, more than the height of the second wave

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

Daily Record 11 **Do not shirk the blame for plan to scrap 800 teachers** 800 FACE NICOLA Sturgeon has claimed she does not know the "detail" of plans by Glasgow City Council to axe over 800 teaching posts, Officials in the SNP-run local authority have drawn up options for slashing £68million to fill a budget black hole. »»Leaked doc as part of council's The biggest chunk, £51million, would come from the education budget. The First Minister, who represents a seat in the city and

The Sun (Scotland) 11 **I will have to live with this for rest of my life** THE manager of a hotel where three guests and a dog died in an inferno said the tragedy will live with her for the "rest of her life". Karen Kennedy, 48, claimed she repeatedly raised fire safety concerns with owner Rashid Hussain before the devastating blaze ripped through the New County Hotel in Perth. Shattered Karen was at home when flames engulfed the 24-bedroom venue on January 2, killing sisters

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **Flu death rate hits highest for 20yrs** SCOTLAND recorded 121 flu deaths last week — up 30 in a week and the highest for a seven-day period in more than 20 years, figures show. The number of people dying from coronavirus also went up, from 84 to 101, National Records of Scotland revealed. Overall, 16,568 Covid deaths were registered as of last Sunday. The death rate for the virus last month rose to 59 per 100,000 cases

Daily Record 11 **GAP REMAINS OVER TEACHERS PAY DEAL** THE Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland quickly, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The First Minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks are scheduled to

Daily Record 11 **Weekly flu deaths soar to 20yr high** SCOTLAND has recorded the highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years, figures show. Statistics released by the National Records of Scotland yesterday showed the deaths of 121 people from flu were registered, an increase of 91 from the previous week. The number of people who

died as a result of Covid-19 also increased last week, with 101 fatalities registered that mentioned the virus on the death certificate, up

The Scotsman 9 **Fears universities will depend on foreign students for funding** The Scottish Government is facing a "geopolitical risk" in relying on foreign students to subsidise universities, a key body has warned, as figures show the number of people studying in Scotland from outside Europe rocketed by more than a third in the past year. The latest Higher Education Student Statistics found the number of non-European Union students from overseas rose by 37.1 per cent to 65,300 in the last academic

The Scotsman 1 **Vaccination plea after flu deaths hit a 20-year high** Health officials have pleaded with eligible Scots to get a flu jab, after attributing the highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years to "multiple types of infection" among people who are once again in close contact following the pandemic. Statistics released by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) yesterday show the deaths of 121 people from flu were registered last week - an increase of 91 from the

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Highest weekly deaths from flu in 23 years** Weekly flu deaths in Scotland have reached their highest level since 2000, when records began. Figures from the National Records of Scotland showed that 121 deaths were registered last week where flu was mentioned on the death certificate, up from 91 the previous week, and 84 the week before that. Shortly before Christmas, health officials warned that Scotland was experiencing the highest levels of flu for five years. At that

Metro (Scotland) 1 **BRAIN DRAIN** SCOTTISH Tory leader Douglas Ross hit out at plans to axe 800 teachers in Scotland's biggest city yesterday - as he accused Nicola Sturgeon's government of already stripping schools of 900 teaching posts. A leaked document reportedly shows SNP-run Glasgow City Council is looking at the teaching cuts, as well as plans to shut primary schools early on Fridays, as it seeks to plug a £68million budget shortfall. Unions fear

The Scotsman 6 **Sturgeon 'should be embarrassed' amid reports of teacher cuts in Glasgow** Nicola Sturgeon has been told she should be "embarrassed" following reports 800 teachers could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The First Minister sought to downplay a leaked document from SNP-run Glasgow City Council after it was raised during First Minister's Questions [FMQs] yesterday. Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said she should be "embarrassed, if not disgraced" by the reports. Glasgow is reportedly considering shutting primary schools early on

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **FM seeking 'fair and affordable' pay deal for striking teachers** The Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland as soon as possible, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The first minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **Fear of court delays as staff prepare for strike over low pay** "Fed up" court staff are due to strike over pay next month. The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) said bar officers and clerks employed at sheriff courts will halt work on February 1 due to low pay. It said "angry" workers feel they are being unfairly treated and taken for granted by the Scottish Government. While it is hoped essential services will be maintained "as far as possible", one

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **FM quiz dodge on strike** MS Sturgeon has refused to say if she'll step in on teacher pay talks in a bid to end strikes across Scotland. The First Minister didn't give a direct answer when quizzed by Tory MSP Stephen Kerr. But she insisted that her education secretary was working hard to resolve the dispute. She told Holyrood: "Shirley-Anne Somerville will continue to do everything possible to reach an agreement with Cosla and our

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **Flu deaths in Scotland hit 20-year weekly high** SCOTLAND has recorded its highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years, latest figures show. Officials recorded 121 deaths attributed to influenza up to Sunday, January 15, a rise from 91 during the previous seven days. The number of people who died as a result of Covid-19 also increased during the same period, with 101 fatalities registering the virus on the death certificate. That is up 17 from the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **800 TEACHERS 'AT RISK IN SNP CUTS'** MORE than 800 teachers could be axed in Scotland's biggest city under cuts considered by councillors. Cash-strapped Glasgow City Council, which is controlled by the SNP, is contemplating moves to slash teacher numbers to save money, along with proposals to close schools early on Fridays. Class sizes would also rocket if teaching jobs were slashed, on top of more than 100 'support for learning jobs' being at risk. Council officials

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Nicola refuses to say if education is still No1 priority** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday refused to say whether improving education remains her top priority. The First Minister dodged a question about her commitment to pupils after being grilled about her 'embarrassing' record on closing the attainment gap. The SNP leader in 2015 made eradicating the gulf between Scotland's richest and poorest pupils her 'defining mission' and promised to close it 'completely' by 2026. But she has now been accused of abandoning

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Twindemic** FLU deaths have soared to the highest level in 20 years as Scotland is gripped by a 'twindemic' also fuelled by Covid. A total of 121 people died with flu last week after Scottish cases reached record numbers. A further 101 people died with Covid, the highest toll since April. According to National Records of Scotland (NRS) figures, the total deaths from all causes across the country last week was

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Goodbye, Mr (and take 799 friends with Chips of your you...)** AT Holyrood yesterday, Nicola Sturgeon was pressed on reports that Glasgow City Council is mulling a cut of 800 teachers. 'This is that time of year when we get lots of reports about the savings options that different councils are considering,' she assured Douglas Ross. Is it Mass Teacher Layoff Day already? It comes round earlier every year. The revelation that threats to axe 14 per cent of teachers in

Metro (Scotland) 7 **Flu fatalities hit highest weekly rate in 20 years** SCOTLAND recorded its highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years last week, latest figures show. The rise in influenza cases helped take the total number of weekly deaths to 2,020, which is 29 per cent higher than the five-year average. Statistics released yesterday by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) show 121 flu fatalities were registered in the latest seven-day period, up by 30 from the week before.

The Herald 5 **Transforming life in our island communities through investment** SCOTLAND'S islands are remarkable places of rugged beauty, unrivalled heritage and home to hugely resourceful people who breathe life into our most remote communities. Through talent, industry and resilience, they have made the very best of traditional industries like fishing. More recently, they have turned our islands into world leaders in renewable energy. Our islands' well-deserved reputation as a world-class tourist destination has been enhanced by the welcoming hoteliers, B&B

The Herald 4 **Sturgeon under fire over schools amid proposals to cut teachers** NICOLA Sturgeon has refused to say whether education remains her number one priority after being put under pressure over whether her key pledge to eliminate the attainment gap remains intact. The row comes after proposals to cut hundreds of teachers at Scotland's largest council was revealed. The plans emerged after Deputy First Minister John Swinney told a Holyrood committee that public-sector job cuts are inevitable over the next four years.

The Herald 16 **Are the ferries under control?** WHEN one reads of the latest information with regard to the delivery, or otherwise, of the ferries Glen Sannox and Hull 802 ("Fresh fears raised over whether ferry fiasco vessels will ever sail", The Herald, January 18), one is reminded of the wording associated with the Glasgow coat of arms: Here is the bird that never flew Here is the tree that never grew Here is the bell that never

The Herald 11 **Scotland's species are struggling to survive deadly twin threats** SCOTLAND'S wildlife is struggling to recover from climate change and biodiversity loss, a new survey has warned. The latest study from Scotland's nature agency shows that birds, mammals, butterflies and moths are all struggling from the twin threats. Official statistics published by NatureScot show the abundance and habitats of 2,803 Scotland's marine and terrestrial species have stabilised at levels similar to the 1990s, well below historic populations. Scotland is

The Herald 1 **Councils make direct plea to First Minister** COUNCIL leaders from across Scotland have warned the First Minister of their fears over government underfunding. The 32 leaders - including SNP politicians - wrote to Nicola Sturgeon to express their concerns of a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the cost-of-living crisis. They have now asked John Swinney, the acting Finance Secretary, to attend a special summit "as a matter of

The Herald 1 **Flu deaths in Scotland hit highest levels in 20 years** FLU deaths in Scotland hit their highest level in more than 20 years amid a dramatic resurgence in the virus following two winters in lockdown. National Records of Scotland (NRS) said it had registered 121 flu deaths last week, up from 91 in the previous week. A surge in

respiratory illnesses, including Covid, on top of A&E gridlock and other NHS pressures, have been blamed for a spike in excess

The Herald 4 **All of Scotland's council leaders make direct plea to First Minister over budgets** THE leaders of all of Scotland's councils, including SNP politicians, have signed a letter to Nicola Sturgeon warning of looming financial problems and job cuts. With councils setting budgets in the coming weeks, the 32 leaders told the First Minister they were "deeply concerned" by Scottish Government underfunding. They warned the settlement would have a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the

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The National (Scotland) 2 **Council cuts could put 800 teaching jobs under threat** Pr o p o s a l s which could see 800 teaching posts cut to save money have been drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. They also propose shutting primary schools across Glasgow early on Fridays in a bid to save £51 million from the education budget, according to a document leaked to the Daily Record. Teaching unions have said they are "desperately worried" about the plans,

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Flu deaths hit 20-year high in lethal winter** Scotland has recorded the highest number of flu deaths in 20 years creating the biggest peak in overall fatalities since the outbreak of coronavirus, official statistics show. BRAZI AN Belo December 15 was the deadliest single day in Scotland since coronavirus emerged in spring 2020, with resurgent flu and overcrowded hospitals pushing fatalities to critical levels. There were 253 deaths that day, more than the height of the second wave

The Times (Scotland) 15 **Ballet company leads dance to good health** The UK's first dance centre for health is being launched to help people living with dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and long Covid (Sarah Ward writes). NHS staff and social care workers suffering from physical and mental stress will be able to take advantage of tailored sessions and workshops run by Scottish Ballet. The World Health Organisation and the Scottish government have backed the expansion of classes, workshops, programmes and

The Times (Scotland) 6 **First minister pressed on school cuts** Nicola Sturgeon has said that she would prefer to have "more teachers, not fewer", amid reports that 800 could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The Daily Record, reporting on a leaked document yesterday, said that SNP-run Glasgow city council was also considering shutting primary schools early on Fridays in an attempt to save £51 million from its education budget. Teaching unions said they were "desperately worried" about the

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Glasgow fears industry exodus after losing out on freeports** Heavy manufacturing and haulage firms will look to quit the west of Scotland after its bid for a green freeport was unsuccessful, the leader of Glasgow city council fears. Susan Aitken is worried that the selection by Westminster and Holyrood of bids in the Cromarty Firth and along the Firth of Forth will drive a shift in activity from other areas. In a letter to Michael Gove, the levelling-up secretary,

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The Scotsman 6 **Sturgeon 'should be embarrassed' amid reports of teacher cuts in Glasgow** Nicola Sturgeon has been told she should be "embarrassed" following reports 800 teachers could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The First Minister sought to downplay a leaked document from SNP-run Glasgow City Council after it was raised during First Minister's Questions [FMQs] yesterday. Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said she should be "embarrassed, if not disgraced" by the reports. Glasgow is reportedly considering shutting primary schools early on

The Scotsman 1 **Huge rise in overseas students in Scotland** The number of people studying in Scotland from outside Europe rocketed by more than a third in the past year and the Scottish Government is facing a "geopolitical risk" in relying on foreign students to subsidise universities. The latest Higher Education Student Statistics found the number of non- European Union students from overseas rose by 37.1 per cent to 65,300. 3 FULL STORY, PAGE 9

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **Strikes won't end until teachers win fair deal** FROM PAGE ONE anger after Ms Sturgeon praised her Education Secretary for doing "everything possible" to reach a solution. Union chiefs savagely dismissed the First Minister's opinion of the affair and its handling by Shirley-Anne Somerville. Ms Sturgeon was also under withering attack from critics after it emerged that the SNP-led council in Scotland's biggest city Glasgow was considering getting rid of 800 teachers in a desperate effort to balance

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Lockdown has led to speech and language crisis in young** LOCKDOWN led to more youngsters having difficulties in communicating, new research has found. And the findings have sparked a warning from a top speech therapist that Scotland is facing a spoken language crisis. The situation has led to an increase in speech, language and communication (SLC) developmental concerns for children aged 13-15 months, and 27-30 months compared to those in pre-pandemic levels. The report, published yesterday by Public Health Scotland,

The Scotsman 9 **Fears universities will depend on foreign students for funding** The Scottish Government is facing a "geopolitical risk" in relying on foreign students to subsidise universities, a key body has warned, as figures show the number

of people studying in Scotland from outside Europe rocketed by more than a third in the past year. The latest Higher Education Student Statistics found the number of non-European Union students from overseas rose by 37.1 per cent to 65,300 in the last academic

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **'Tooth and nail' fight for school funding** Councillors and community groups yesterday came out swinging in response to a shock decision to cancel the Highland Council capital budget meeting. The local authority says it can't set its investment priorities until the Scottish Government confirms it will fund some of its long-awaited new schools. Privately, some senior representatives fear the government may offer the council a far smaller sum than it had hoped, leaving members to fight in

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **SNP accused of discarding long-held pledge over attainment gap** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of ditching her long-standing commitment to closing the poverty-related attainment gap. During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross, right, criticised Ms Sturgeon's broken promise to close the gap completely. He said Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville, far right, had rubbished the pledge on Wednesday, when she told a committee that "it is exceptionally difficult, if not impossible, to achieve - to get it

Daily Record 11 **Do not shirk the blame for plan to scrap 800 teachers** 800 FACE NICOLA Sturgeon has claimed she does not know the "detail" of plans by Glasgow City Council to axe over 800 teaching posts. Officials in the SNP-run local authority have drawn up options for slashing £68million to fill a budget black hole. »»Leaked doc as part of council's The biggest chunk, £51million, would come from the education budget. The First Minister, who represents a seat in the city and

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **FM seeking 'fair and affordable' pay deal for striking teachers** The Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland as soon as possible, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The first minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks

Daily Record 8 **Record high of Scots at university** THE number of Scottish-domiciled students enrolling at universities in the country has hit its highest level on record. Figures released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency yesterday show the number rose from 180,170 in 2020-21 to 183,025 in 2021-22. The figure has increased by more than 20,000 since 2017-18, when 160,875 Scottish students enrolled. Higher education minister Jamie Hepburn said: "It is hugely encouraging to see a record number of

Daily Record 11 **GAP REMAINS OVER TEACHERS PAY DEAL** THE Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland quickly, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The First Minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks are scheduled to

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Lockdown hit to child language skills** Covid restrictions have been linked to young people having difficulties communicating, a Public Health Scotland report has suggested. Since early January 2021, there has been an increase in speech, language and communication (SLC) developmental concerns recorded at health reviews for children aged 13 to 15 months and 27 to 30 months compared with pre-pandemic levels, said. It added that researchers had said that it was "likely that the public health

Metro (Scotland) 1 **BRAIN DRAIN** SCOTTISH Tory leader Douglas Ross hit out at plans to axe 800 teachers in Scotland's biggest city yesterday - as he accused Nicola Sturgeon's government of already stripping schools of 900 teaching posts. A leaked document reportedly shows SNP-run Glasgow City Council is looking at the teaching cuts, as well as plans to shut primary schools early on Fridays, as it seeks to plug a £68million budget shortfall. Unions fear

The Daily Mirror (Scotland) 12 **Defibs for every school** A SCHEME to place life-saving defibrillators in every school has begun, education chiefs are expected to confirm today. Ministers had vowed to have the vital items in place by June to combat cardiac arrests. The move is a welcome step in the Mirror's campaign to have defibrillators in all public buildings. Health experts hailed the scheme, expected to be announced by the Department for Education. The Resuscitation Council UK's director

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **SNP 'disappointed' over drop in EU students** THE SNP has claimed it is "bitterly disappointing" European Union students have deserted Scotland's universities, despite the exodus helping to deliver a record number of places for home grown teenagers. Figures show that there was a dramatic drop in the number of enrollments from EU countries in the last academic year, after European students were charged tuition fees for the first time in two decades. While the number

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **£15k funding helps RGU launch first wheelchair basketball team** Robert Gordon University will launch its first wheelchair basketball team after securing £15,000 from Morrisons Foundation. The funding allows RGU SPORT, Scottish Disability Sport, Grampian Flyers and the university's Disability Sport Working Group to buy 10 sport wheelchairs as they hope to introduce a new audience to the sport across the north-east. Rory Anton, club development officer at RGU SPORT, said: "This investment is extremely positive for the region and

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **NIC'S CLASS GAP VOW 'AXE' RAP** NICOLA Sturgeon was yesterday slammed for appearing to water down a flagship pledge to wipe out the poverty-related attainment gap in schools. The First Minister committed only to a vow that her government would "substantially eliminate" the academic divide by 2026. But in a 2015 keynote speech, she had promised to "completely" eradicate it. Scots Tory leader Douglas Ross pulled her up on the shift just 24 hours after

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Mend the gap** WEASEL words were the order of the day yesterday as Nicola Sturgeon appeared to row back from her totemic education pledge. Once upon a time, she promised to get rid of the poverty-related attainment gap — that is, the difference between how well poor kids and their better-off

classmates do at school. Indeed, the First Minister said of this "defining mission" that "I want to be judged on this". The

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **FM quiz dodge on strike** MS Sturgeon has refused to say if she'll step in on teacher pay talks in a bid to end strikes across Scotland. The First Minister didn't give a direct answer when quizzed by Tory MSP Stephen Kerr. But she insisted that her education secretary was working hard to resolve the dispute. She told Holyrood: "Shirley-Anne Somerville will continue to do everything possible to reach an agreement with Cosla and our

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **Pupils aged just seven quizzed on gender identity** PUPILS as young as seven are being asked if they identify as transgender or non-binary in a 'disgraceful' school survey. Primary school children taking part in the sex and wellbeing study are told an answer to the question is 'required' to move on to the next page of the survey. The pupils - who can select either 'male, female, non-binary, transgender or other' - are not required to have a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Goodbye, Mr (and take 799 friends with Chips of your you...)** AT Holyrood yesterday, Nicola Sturgeon was pressed on reports that Glasgow City Council is mulling a cut of 800 teachers. 'This is that time of year when we get lots of reports about the savings options that different councils are considering,' she assured Douglas Ross. Is it Mass Teacher Layoff Day already? It comes round earlier every year. The revelation that threats to axe 14 per cent of teachers in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **800 TEACHERS 'AT RISK IN SNP CUTS'** MORE than 800 teachers could be axed in Scotland's biggest city under cuts considered by councillors. Cash-strapped Glasgow City Council, which is controlled by the SNP, is contemplating moves to slash teacher numbers to save money, along with proposals to close schools early on Fridays. Class sizes would also rocket if teaching jobs were slashed, on top of more than 100 'support for learning jobs' being at risk. Council officials

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Nicola refuses to say if education is still No1 priority** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday refused to say whether improving education remains her top priority. The First Minister dodged a question about her commitment to pupils after being grilled about her 'embarrassing' record on closing the attainment gap. The SNP leader in 2015 made eradicating the gulf between Scotland's richest and poorest pupils her 'defining mission' and promised to close it 'completely' by 2026. But she has now been accused of abandoning

Metro (Scotland) 16 **Uni support deal with Ukraine counterpart** A SCOTS university has partnered with a war-torn Ukrainian counterpart to provide a range of support for students and staff. University of the West of Scotland is teaming up with the Ukrainian State University of Railway Transport in Kharkiv as part of a scheme to help Ukrainian universities and researchers. Marcus Ross, vice-principal of planning at UWS, said: 'UWS will support USURT through the provision of various items of hardware,

The Herald 4 **Sturgeon under fire over schools amid proposals to cut teachers** NICOLA Sturgeon has refused to say whether education remains her number one priority after being put under pressure over whether her key pledge to eliminate the attainment gap remains intact. The row comes after proposals to cut

hundreds of teachers at Scotland's largest council was revealed. The plans emerged after Deputy First Minister John Swinney told a Holyrood committee that public-sector job cuts are inevitable over the next four years.

The Herald 7 **Tribunal rejects claim of university discrimination** AN academic has lost her sex discrimination fight against one of Scotland's oldest universities but the institution has been urged to review its promotion procedures. Jeanette Findlay claimed her application to be made a professor of economics was rejected by the University of Glasgow on account of her gender. The tribunal was told that, as of January 2020, there had never been a woman promoted to a chair in economics

The Herald 8 **Lockdown affected speech skills** COVID lockdowns led to more youngsters having difficulties communicating, a new report has found. Since early January 2021, there has been an increase in speech, language and communication (SLC) developmental concerns recorded at health reviews for children aged 13-15 months and 27-30 months compared to pre-pandemic levels, Public Health Scotland said yesterday. Health researchers blamed lockdowns, and said it is "likely that the public health restrictions experienced by children in

The National (Scotland) 2 **Council cuts could put 800 teaching jobs under threat** Pr o p o s a l s which could see 800 teaching posts cut to save money have been drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. They also propose shutting primary schools across Glasgow early on Fridays in a bid to save £51 million from the education budget, according to a document leaked to the Daily Record. Teaching unions have said they are "desperately worried" about the plans,

The National (Scotland) 6 **A FM attacks Tories' 'staggering hypocrisy' over teacher strikes** NICOLA S t u r g e o n has branded the Tories "hypocrites" over their attacks on the Scottish Government's handling of teacher strikes while similar action in England "looms". During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Stephen Kerr criticised the Scottish Government for presiding over the first teacher strikes in Scotland for some 40 years. The Tory MSP accused Education Secretary Shirley Anne-Somerville of showing "no energy or urgency" to

The Times (Scotland) 6 **First minister pressed on school cuts** Nicola Sturgeon has said that she would prefer to have "more teachers, not fewer", amid reports that 800 could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The Daily Record, reporting on a leaked document yesterday, said that SNP-run Glasgow city council was also considering shutting primary schools early on Fridays in an attempt to save £51 million from its education budget. Teaching unions said they were "desperately worried" about the

4. JUSTICE

Daily Mail 4 **16 'is too young to change gender'** MOST Britons believe that 16 is too young to change gender, in a fresh blow to SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon. The survey commissioned by GB News found that 61 per cent agreed that 16-year-olds were too young to legally change sex. Only 19 per cent said they disagreed with the statement. Experts said the findings showed that the public disagreed with the SNP's radical plan to let teenagers 'self-ID' as

i (The paper for today) 21 **Gender row could derail Sunak's plans** In blocking Scotland's Gender Reform Bill, has Rishi Sunak lit a tinderbox that could overshadow his administration's core aims? The row that has erupted this week lies at the intersection of two of the most contentious areas of debate in British politics: trans rights and Scottish devolution. To recap, in December Holyrood passed a Bill that would allow trans people in Scotland to legally change gender more easily, quickly and

The Scotsman 12 **Police Scotland must step up vetting says ex-chief amid shock over Carrick case** Police Scotland must step up the vetting of recruits amid warnings the profession is "hanging on by a thread", with a former chief calling for an independent body to be set up to look at complaints against officers in Scotland. Police chiefs have said legitimacy in the profession is "hanging by a thread" after rapist David Carrick was exposed - and called for reforms to make it easier to catch

The Scotsman 7 **Westminster urged to revoke order blocking gender bill** The UK Government has been urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking Scotland's controversial gender recognition legislation. SNP Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said the move was "harmful to trans people" and the Scottish Government was "absolutely determined to vigorously defend the Bill". However, she said ministers were still "digesting" the UK Government's reasons for the decision. MSPs passed the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill by 86 votes to 39

The Scotsman 6 **Nicola Sturgeon accuses Alister Jack of acting like 'governor-general'** Nicola Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a "governor-general" by blocking her controversial gender reforms. The First Minister said Alister Jack was treating the Scottish Parliament "as a subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". It came as the UK Government was urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking royal assent for the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. MSPs passed the legislation by

Daily Express (Scotland) 22 **Escalation in vetting a must for Scots force** A FORMER top officer has said Police Scotland would look "stupid" if it did not increase its vetting procedures. Angela Wilson's comments come in the wake of the Scottish Daily Express exclusive yesterday that such a move is being planned by the force's hierarchy. Every police force in the UK is being told to re-check backgrounds of its officers and employees in the wake of the David Carrick scandal. The

Daily Express (Scotland) 8 **Joy as Anne reopens refurbished poppy plant** THE Princess Royal has officially re-opened the site which is the cornerstone of the Poppyscotland's multi-million pound annual fundraising campaign. Her Royal Highness was in Edinburgh yesterday to see the changes to Lady Haig's Poppy Factory following a two-year refurbishment. Thirty-three disabled veterans work there making more than three million poppies each year for the Scottish Poppy Appeal, as well as wreaths and other tributes. Princess Anne was given a

Daily Record 10 **Disposable vapes must be banned** WELL done to Humza Yousaf for listening to the Record's plea on the blight of disposable vapes. And credit to Green politician Gillian Mackay for raising our new campaign highlighting the shocking extent of e-cigs pollution in Scotland today. It's welcome that the Scottish Government will

now review the sale of these products, consult experts and consider implementing a ban. Our campaign to outlaw these singleuse devices is based on

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **Jack like a colonial governor, says Sturgeon** NICOLA Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a colonial "governor-general" after he vetoed her gender reforms over their impact on UK-wide protections for women. The First Minister said Alister Jack had treated the Scottish Parliament as a "subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". In a speech to a group of pro-independence businessmen and women, she claimed the decision signalled the start of

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Jack like a 'governorgeneral', says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a colonial "governor-general" after he vetoed her gender reforms over their impact on UK-wide protections for women. The First Minister said Alister Jack had treated the Scottish Parliament as a "subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". In a speech, she claimed the decision signalled the start of "a new and more dangerous phase for devolution" that showed

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **First Minister prepares to throw more taxpayer money down the drain** Signs are emerging that Nicola Sturgeon is fast losing the plot in her dispute with the Government over its veto on her gender reform bill. She accused Alister Jack, Scottish Secretary of behaving like a colonial era governor general and of a 'fullfrontal' Tory assault on the Scottish Parliament and devolution. She said that Jack wasn't interested in a partnership arrangement but wanted to treat Holyrood as a "subordinate body",

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **Fear of court delays as staff prepare for strike over low pay** "Fed up" court staff are due to strike over pay next month. The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) said bar officers and clerks employed at sheriff courts will halt work on February 1 due to low pay. It said "angry" workers feel they are being unfairly treated and taken for granted by the Scottish Government. While it is hoped essential services will be maintained "as far as possible", one

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Sturgeon governor jibe blast** NICOLA Sturgeon was slated last night after claiming Scottish Secretary Alister Jack is trying to act like a colonial-era "governor-general" over her gender self-ID Bill. Scots Tory MSP Donald Cameron accused her of trying to create a "constitutional spat" with her "absurd" remarks. And he insisted Westminster had "little option" but to block the trans rights reforms, adding: "She railroaded through legislation that impinges on equalities law in the rest

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Follow the drill** THE SNP government may want to wind down drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea — but it seems the public disagree. A poll yesterday showed that threequarters of Scots want the United Kingdom to meet demand for energy sources from domestic production. This is hardly surprising. Putin's war on Ukraine has highlighted the weaponising of oil and gas. So it is imperative that Britain takes major steps

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **'16 too young to change'** A CLEAR majority of people in the UK think 16 is too young to change gender, a survey has revealed. Reforms proposed by the SNP Government would lower the minimum age to seek a gender recognition certificate from 18 to 16. The PeoplePolling survey of 1,168 adults across the UK for GB News found that 61 per cent agree 16-year-olds are too young to change their legally recognised gender. Only

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Can't they just let our children be children?** AT an age when you might expect pupils to be mastering reading, writing and arithmetic, children as young as seven are being quizzed about their gender in a baffling new survey. After all, many adults would struggle to explain what 'non-binary' means - let alone youngsters who have spent just two years at primary school. As one parent campaigner wisely said, at the age of seven most children don't even

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **Scottish rugby in the dock over reaction to star player's abuse** RUGBY bosses were last night accused of an 'unfathomable' failure to show any concern for the victim of domestic abuse by one of their players. Glasgow Warriors and Scottish Rugby Union player Rufus McLean, 22, used trackers to keep tabs on his former girlfriend Cara Haston and also demanded passwords to her social media account. The 13-stone player admitted leaving his 21-year-old victim with a burst lip and black eye

The Herald 6 **Jack refuses to give evidence to MSPs over gender reforms** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to give evidence to a Holyrood committee over his decision to block Scotland's gender recognition reforms despite insisting amending the bill is up to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Secretary was branded an "absolute disgrace" after he insisted it was not his job to appear before Holyrood's Equalities Committee. Hundreds of trans rights protesters gathered outside the UK Government's Queen Elizabeth House in Edinburgh

The Herald 15 **Stakes couldn't be higher as Sunak takes a gamble** IT'S hard to recall a recent occasion when so much political heat has been expended by so many on so few. But now Rishi Sunak has decided to use the gender reform row to stoke Scotland's constitutional fire and in doing so is gambling with the future of the Union. Of all the subjects to spark yet another cross-border wrangle, this time around it is one that's already loaded with

The National (Scotland) 12 **Gender bill might well have faced legal challenge in an indie Scotland** Every one knows I am opposed to the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. However, I believe the problems it creates should be addressed in Scotland if not by our Parliament, then by our courts. That said, to describe the use of the Section 35 power to block the bill as an attack on devolution doesn't really make sense. It is of the essence of devolution that

The National (Scotland) 5 **Robison urges UK to U-turn on 'harmful' move** THE UK Government is being challenged to revoke the order it has made that will prevent reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland from becoming law. Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison argued that "immediately" revoking the order would "show the UK Government is serious about improving the lives of trans people and

respecting Scottish democracy". Earlier this week, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack confirmed he would make a Section 35

The National (Scotland) 4 **'Disgrace' as Jack snubs MSPs over S35 invite** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to provide evidence at a Holyrood committee on his decision to prevent Scotland's gender reform legislation from becoming law. It comes after the UK Government issued a Section 35 order to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from receiving royal

The National (Scotland) 17 **Tories won't hesitate to wield Section 35 again** THE UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill was unprecedented. It was a dark day for devolution, democracy, and the rights of trans people in Scotland. The reality is that this is one of the most scrutinised bills in the history of our Parliament. It passed following years of debate, including two consultations and a full committee scrutiny process. The three days of parliamentary debate saw MSPs

The National (Scotland) 6 **Opposition leaders dodge hot topics amid bumper news week** IT'S been a huge week for Scottish politics. The UK Government will - for the first time in the Scottish Parliament's history - use a Section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform Bill (GRR) from gaining royal assent. So it looks like we're headed for another court battle between the governments. In response, the SNP said that it is a democratic outrage that the UK Government is interfering in

The National (Scotland) 20 **Even biggest critics could not argue gender bill process was undemocratic** POLITICS is a brutal, bruising business and sometimes innocent, vulnerable people get hurt in the crossfire. This week those victims have included some of Scotland's most marginalised and discriminated-against people. The trans community has waited too long to have the process of legally changing their gender made simpler, in line with the system in many other countries in the world. It has been a long and often difficult journey which

The Times (Scotland) 27 **Crony Politics** The SNP moved from the fringes of Scottish politics to become the dominant party by effectively turning its guns on Labour. Scottish Labour, said the nationalists, had grown complacent and lazy after decades of taking for granted the support of Scots. If voters wished for a new, more honest kind of government, free of the cronyism and the lack of accountability that had corrupted the Labour Party, then the SNP

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Jack acting like Scots governor over gender bill, says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon has accused Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, of acting like a "governor-general" following his decision to block Holyrood's contentious gender recognition reforms. Jack's announcement on Tuesday that he would make a section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from going forward for royal assent prompted a furious response from the first minister, who accused him of a "full-frontal" assault on the constitutional settlement. She

The Times (Scotland) 9 **Police urged to review officers' records** Police Scotland must review the background of all existing officers to ensure they are not sex offenders, a former assistant chief constable has said. Angela Wilson, who held the

position with Tayside police, spoke out after David Carrick admitted carrying out dozens of rapes and sexual offences while working as an officer with the Metropolitan Police. The Home Office has said that every force in England will be asked to

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 14 **Concern over sale of vapes to youngsters** Trading Standards chiefs say there is still "work to do" to crack down on the number of youngsters being sold vapes on the high street. Concerns have grown that children as young as 12 are being sold, or are able to get their hands on, cheap, brightly-coloured vapes. The issue has become a priority for Trading Standards officials who help enforce regulations and offer advice to retailers on the sale

The Scotsman 1 **Vaccination plea after flu deaths hit a 20-year high** Health officials have pleaded with eligible Scots to get a flu jab, after attributing the highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years to "multiple types of infection" among people who are once again in close contact following the pandemic. Statistics released by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) yesterday show the deaths of 121 people from flu were registered last week - an increase of 91 from the

The Scotsman 5 **Ministers to consider disposable vapes ban** Ministers will give "consideration" to a potential ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has said. Asked about a new campaign against single-use vapes, he said an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. Green MSP Gillian Mackay raised the Daily Record newspaper's campaign against disposable vapes

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **Flu death rate hits highest for 20yrs** SCOTLAND recorded 121 flu deaths last week — up 30 in a week and the highest for a seven-day period in more than 20 years, figures show. The number of people dying from coronavirus also went up, from 84 to 101, National Records of Scotland revealed. Overall, 16,568 Covid deaths were registered as of last Sunday. The death rate for the virus last month rose to 59 per 100,000 cases

Daily Mail (Scotland) 3 **Feeling below par? Try golf on the NHS!** SCEPTICS of the game often refer to a round of golf as 'a good walk spoiled'. But doctors in Scotland are prescribing the pastime to patients in an attempt to help them live longer. Four Fife clubs are participating in a pilot scheme and around 30 people have so far taken part in the free six to eight week courses. The Golf for Health project has been developed in partnership

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Disposable vapes 'could be banned'** MINISTERS will consider banning disposable vape devices in Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has said. Asked about a campaign against their use, he said an expert group would examine the evidence. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning the 'wasteful' products, citing concerns over littering. Green MSP Gillian Mackay raised the issue at Holyrood, asking: 'Would the Cabinet Secretary support a ban on single-use vapes?' Mr Yousaf

Daily Record 11 **Weekly flu deaths soar to 20yr high** SCOTLAND has recorded the highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years, figures show. Statistics released by the National Records of Scotland yesterday showed the deaths of 121 people from flu were registered, an increase of 91 from the previous week. The number of people who died as a result of Covid-19 also increased last week, with 101 fatalities registered that mentioned the virus on the death certificate, up

Daily Record 1 **PUFF JUSTICE A BAN** on disposable vapes is in the pipeline after the Daily Record crackdown campaign hit Parliament. The SNP agreed to consider outlawing them after the issue was raised at Holyrood. Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, who praised the campaign, agreed that the litter-menace vapes cause "environmental harm". BIN VAPES FULL STORY PAGES 4&5

Daily Record 4 **BREATH OF FRESH AIR** THE Scottish Government will "consider" banning disposable vapes after the Daily Record's crackdown campaign was raised in Parliament. SNP Health Secretary Humza Yousaf said Holyrood was consulting experts on next steps including outlawing them. He was responding to Green MSP Gillian Mackay - who supports their prohibition - who quizzed him on the issue. The Record yesterday launched a campaign to ban the single-use devices which have turned our streets

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Yousaf 'considering' ban on throwaway vaping devices** Ministers will give "consideration" to a ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, the Health Secretary, Humza Yousaf, has said. Asked by Scottish Green MSP Gillian Mackay about a new campaign against single-use vapes, he said that an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. She said: "As well as being

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Highest weekly deaths from flu in 23 years** Weekly flu deaths in Scotland have reached their highest level since 2000, when records began. Figures from the National Records of Scotland showed that 121 deaths were registered last week where flu was mentioned on the death certificate, up from 91 the previous week, and 84 the week before that. Shortly before Christmas, health officials warned that Scotland was experiencing the highest levels of flu for five years. At that

Metro (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon hits out at Labour social care call** NICOLA STURGEON said she wants to increase pay in the social care sector in a 'properly funded way'. At first minister's questions, Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar (below) called for improved pay levels. He said the recent increase amounted to about 40p an hour which is 'nowhere near enough' and called for pay to immediately increase to £12 an hour, and then hiked further to £15. Ms Sturgeon said the

The Daily Mirror (Scotland) 12 **Defibs for every school** A SCHEME to place life-saving defibrillators in every school has begun, education chiefs are expected to confirm today. Ministers had vowed to have the vital items in place by June to combat cardiac arrests. The move is a welcome step in the Mirror's campaign to have defibrillators in all public buildings. Health experts hailed the scheme, expected to be announced by the Department for Education. The Resuscitation Council UK's director

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **£15k funding helps RGU launch first wheelchair basketball team** Robert Gordon University will launch its first wheelchair basketball team after securing £15,000 from Morrisons Foundation. The funding allows RGU SPORT, Scottish Disability Sport, Grampian Flyers and the university's Disability Sport Working Group to buy 10 sport wheelchairs as they hope to introduce a new audience to the sport across the north-east. Rory Anton, club development officer at RGU SPORT, said: "This investment is extremely positive for the region and

Daily Express (Scotland) 9 **Flu deaths in Scotland hit 20-year weekly high** SCOTLAND has recorded its highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years, latest figures show. Officials recorded 121 deaths attributed to influenza up to Sunday, January 15, a rise from 91 during the previous seven days. The number of people who died as a result of Covid-19 also increased during the same period, with 101 fatalities registering the virus on the death certificate. That is up 17 from the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **Scottish rugby in the dock over reaction to star player's abuse** RUGBY bosses were last night accused of an 'unfathomable' failure to show any concern for the victim of domestic abuse by one of their players. Glasgow Warriors and Scottish Rugby Union player Rufus McLean, 22, used trackers to keep tabs on his former girlfriend Cara Haston and also demanded passwords to her social media account. The 13-stone player admitted leaving his 21-year-old victim with a burst lip and black eye

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Twindemic** FLU deaths have soared to the highest level in 20 years as Scotland is gripped by a 'twindemic' also fuelled by Covid. A total of 121 people died with flu last week after Scottish cases reached record numbers. A further 101 people died with Covid, the highest toll since April. According to National Records of Scotland (NRS) figures, the total deaths from all causes across the country last week was

Metro (Scotland) 16 **Scottish Ballet creates dance centre for health** SCOTTISH Ballet has launched the UK's first dance centre for health in a bid to help people living with dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and long Covid. Stressed-out NHS staff and social care workers will also be able to try specially created sessions and workshops. Scottish Ballet said the work at the new national dance centre for health will help 'celebrate the dancer in each of us'. Christopher Hampson, Scottish

Metro (Scotland) 7 **Flu fatalities hit highest weekly rate in 20 years** SCOTLAND recorded its highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years last week, latest figures show. The rise in influenza cases helped take the total number of weekly deaths to 2,020, which is 29 per cent higher than the five-year average. Statistics released yesterday by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) show 121 flu fatalities were registered in the latest seven-day period, up by 30 from the week before.

The Herald 1 **Flu deaths in Scotland hit highest levels in 20 years** FLU deaths in Scotland hit their highest level in more than 20 years amid a dramatic resurgence in the virus following two winters in lockdown. National Records of Scotland (NRS) said it had registered 121 flu deaths last week, up from 91 in the previous week. A surge in

respiratory illnesses, including Covid, on top of A&E gridlock and other NHS pressures, have been blamed for a spike in excess

The National (Scotland) 3 **Farage to host GB News show from Scots pub** NIGEL Farage is set to host an episode of his GB News show from a pub in Scotland. The former Ukip leader has announced he will bring his programme to a pub in Aberdeen this April. The venue has yet to be revealed due to security concerns, with details to be released 24 hours before the event begins. However, tickets for the show have reportedly sold out less than 24

The National (Scotland) 19 **Ministers to consider banning disposable vapes** MINISTERS will give "consideration" to a potential ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has said. Asked about a new campaign against single-use vapes, he said an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. Green MSP Gillian Mackay raised the Daily Record newspaper's campaign against disposable vapes

The National (Scotland) 6 **A FM attacks Tories' 'staggering hypocrisy' over teacher strikes** NICOLA Sturgeon has branded the Tories "hypocrites" over their attacks on the Scottish Government's handling of teacher strikes while similar action in England "looms". During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Stephen Kerr criticised the Scottish Government for presiding over the first teacher strikes in Scotland for some 40 years. The Tory MSP accused Education Secretary Shirley Anne-Somerville of showing "no energy or urgency" to

The Times (Scotland) 4 **Spoken language crisis looms for children who lived in lockdowns** Covid-19 lockdowns led to more young children having difficulties communicating, a report has found, leading a speech therapist to warn that Scotland is facing a spoken language crisis. Since early January 2021 there has been an increase in speech, language and communication (SLC) developmental concerns recorded at health reviews for children aged 13-15 months old and 27-30 months old, compared with pre-pandemic levels, Public Health Scotland (PHS) said. Researchers said

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Ministers to consider ban on 'wasteful' disposable vapes** Ministers will give "consideration" to a potential ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, Humza Yousaf said yesterday. Asked about a campaign against single-use vapes, the health secretary said an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. Gillian Mackay, the Green MSP, raised the Daily Record's campaign against disposable vapes in

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Flu deaths hit 20-year high in lethal winter** Scotland has recorded the highest number of flu deaths in 20 years creating the biggest peak in overall fatalities since the outbreak of coronavirus, official statistics show. BRAZILIAN Belo December 15 was the deadliest single day in Scotland since coronavirus emerged in spring 2020, with resurgent flu and overcrowded hospitals pushing fatalities to critical levels. There were 253 deaths that day, more than the height of the second wave

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

The Scotsman 20 **Scottish Government to invest £14m in sustainable farming** The Scottish Government is set to invest more than £14 million in sustainable farming as a new funding round opens this month. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon announced the next round of the agri-environment climate scheme (AECS) during a visit to a farm in the Borders. Some 680 businesses will share in the funding, which this year will focus on agrienvironment support, organics and slurry storage. A further £5m will

The Scotsman 20 **Calanais in line for £6m upgrade amid rise in visitors and arrival of cruise ships** Around £6 million is to be spent on upgrading the Calanais Standing Stones experience amid an "enormous" rise in visitor numbers and the predicted arrival of thousands of cruise ship passengers to the Neolithic wonder. Urras nan Tursachan (UnT), the trust that runs the visitor centre at the site on the Isle of Lewis, is pushing ahead with its redevelopment plan after it received £2m from the Scottish Government this

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 3 **Crofters plan buyout after row over deer** Crofters involved in a land purchase in Assynt are considering another community buyout of a Highland mountain. A row broke out this month after NatureScot granted a licence to the John Muir Trust (JMT) for out-of-season and night shooting on its land on Quinag, leading the Assynt Crofters' Trust (ACT) to say deer fencing would effectively stop woodland damage "rather than indiscriminate killing". It has now complained to the Environmental

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 11 **Market facing buyers' boycott over new rules** Seafood buyers are being urged to boycott the fish market in Peterhead on Wednesdays in a dispute over "draconian" new rules. Fishing skippers are also being asked to avoid landing their catches in the Blue Toon on boycott days. Sources told The Press and Journal there were alternative ports, such as Fraserburgh, so supplies to fish and chip shops should be unaffected. The row was ignited by a letter from

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Fund grants local power to promote real devolution** FOR too long it has been the case that some people in Scotland are denied the chance to fulfil their potential through no fault of their own. We know that the qualities of talent, ability and drive are spread evenly across the country. Yet for reasons beyond their control some people don't get the life chances that others are able to make the most of. It is a defining mission of the

Daily Record 11 **Online food deliveries up amid Covid** ONLINE grocery shopping and ordering takeaways soared during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to analysis. Research from Food Standards Scotland (FSS) found online food shopping rose in value to £951million in 2021, an increase of 109.4 per cent compared to 2019. The takeaway and delivery market also grew considerably over this time, rising to a value of £1.5billion - an 88 per cent increase between 2019 and 2021. Using food technology

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Cross-border growth deal to invest £100m for islands** Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will benefit from a £100m growth

scheme agreed by the UK and Scottish Governments, which could create as many as 1,300 jobs. The Islands Growth Deal, which will be formally signed on Orkney today, is expected to attract a total of £393m of investment. Due to last for 10 years, it will invest in 16 projects with the aim of making the islands more

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Online ordering habits lead to bigger food buys** People in Scotland are buying more food than they used to before the Covid pandemic, according to analysis which also showed that online grocery shopping and takeaway ordering soared when people were required to stay at home. Food Standards Scotland (FSS), a governmental department, found online food shopping rose in value to £951m in 2021, an increase of 109.4 per cent compared to 2019. The takeaway and delivery market also

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Islands to benefit from investment into range of job-creating projects** Scotland's outer islands are to benefit from a share of up to £393 million during the next 10 years as UK and Scottish government initiatives breathe life into 16 projects. The Islands Growth Deal inked for Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will release nearly £400m, with claims that up to 1,300 jobs could be created by the investment. Brokered between Western Isles Council (WIC), Shetland Islands Council (SIC), Orkney

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The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **Fish market faces boycott in row over auction rules** THE fish market in Peterhead is facing a boycott from seafood buyers amid fears the industry could be "paralysed" as a storm brews over new "draconian" rules. The row was sparked by a letter from Peterhead Port Authority (PPA) chief executive Simon Brebner over bid sharing, where one trader purchases fish at a "shout auction" on behalf of others. The PPA has branded the practice anti-competitive and unfair and warned

The Sun (Scotland) 14 **COVID BOOST FOR NET GRUB ORDERS** THE amount of grocery shopping and ordering takeaways rocketed during the pandemic, analysis has revealed. Scots spent £951million buying grub on the net in 2021, up 109.4 per cent on 2019. And a whopping £1.5billion was splurged on fast food and deliveries, an increase of 88 per cent. Food Standards Scotland, using data from market research company Kantar, also found people continued to purchase more groceries in 2021 compared

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Edinburgh's become the vegan capital of Europe? Pass me a bacon roll to celebrate** ON my daughter's birthday we usually go out for a meal at the restaurant of her choice and, these last few years, the nominated establishment has always been vegan. 'An interesting selection,' I would say as the pattern took root.

'But how would it be if we went somewhere which catered for - how should I put it - a wider variety of dietary preferences?' She was having none of

Daily Mail (Scotland) 11 **Did everybody say just eat, as takeaways boom** IT was a time when many of us slipped into unhealthy habits. Now figures have proved the Covid-19 pandemic fuelled a boom in takeaway food across Scotland as the number of deliveries increased by almost 25 million. Driven by food apps such as Just Eat and Deliveroo, the takeaway and delivery market in the country thrived throughout the pandemic as many Scots were forced to spend more time indoors. Figures

The Herald 8 **Online food takeaways and shopping soared during lockdowns** ONLINE grocery shopping and ordering takeaways soared during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new analysis. Research from Food Standards Scotland (FSS) found online food shopping rose in value to £951 million in 2021, an increase of 109.4 per cent compared to 2019. The takeaway and delivery market also grew considerably over this time, rising to a value of £1.5 billion - an 88% increase between 2019 and 2021. FSS used

The Herald 5 **£100m deal to boost Scots island economies** SCOTLAND'S island communities are to receive £100 million in a landmark deal that could spark a jobs boom in areas battling depopulation. The funds will be invested in Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides after an agreement was signed by UK and Scottish government ministers and council leaders. Up to 1,300 jobs and £393m of investment is expected to result from the signing of the transformative Islands Growth Deal. Over

The National (Scotland) 3 **Farming investment** THE Scottish Government is set to invest more than £14 million in sustainable farming as a new funding round opens this month. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon announced the next round of the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) during a visit to a farm in the Borders. Some 680 businesses will share in the funding. A further £5m will be available for slurry storage support through the Agriculture Transformation Fund.

The Times (Scotland) 3 **Edinburgh 'leads the way' by endorsing vegan treaty** Edinburgh has become the first city in Scotland to endorse the "Plant Based Treaty" which promotes veganism. Councillors backed the treaty announced in 2021 at Cop26 in Glasgow which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture to tackle the climate emergency. They hope that where Edinburgh leads the country will follow and urged Nicola Sturgeon to adopt the treaty on behalf of the Scottish government. Suggestions to reduce

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Daily Mail 9 **At last, bottle deposit plan is here... but not for glass!** A DEPOSIT scheme for plastic bottles and cans will finally be announced by ministers today in a breakthrough against litter, pollution and waste. The scheme will see a small fee - perhaps 20p - charged on plastic bottles and cans, which would be reclaimed when the empty is returned. It is likely that supermarkets and other stores will install so-called reverse vending machines to allow shoppers to post in their

Daily Mail 12 **Keir: No more North Sea oil and gas fields** LABOUR plans to ban new investment in North Sea oil and gas fields in a major change from current Government policy. Party leader Sir Keir Starmer said the UK must instead focus on renewable energy such as wind farms. But his pledge during the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday will spell uncertainty for thousands employed in the once-thriving sector - as well as investors currently looking at new projects.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **Majority back native drilling** More than threequarters of people in Scotland think the UK should aim to meet its demand for oil and gas from domestic production, a poll shows. The research by Survation suggests 76% of people in Scotland think North Sea drilling is preferable to importing oil and gas. Just 11% think the UK should import oil and gas while 13% are undecided. It puts pressure on Nicola Sturgeon, whose government has

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Doubt over dualling deadline** Aformer SNP government minister claimed he will eat his hat if Nicola Sturgeon meets the deadline to fully upgrade the A9 Perth- Inverness road. Fergus Ewing said colleagues in the government owe an apology for how long it has taken to dual the notorious road. Government agency Transport Scotland still lists the road for completion by 2025 on its website, despite only two of 11 sections being dualled so far.

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The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Ewing: I'll eat my hat if A9 gets dualled on time** A NORTH SNP politician said he would eat his hat if his own government gets the A9 fully dualled on time. The Inverness and Nairn MSP Fergus Ewing made the claim in a heated exchange at Holyrood over the route between Inverness and Perth. Government agency Transport Scotland still lists the road as being scheduled for completion by 2025 on its website, despite only two of 11 sections being finished

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 2 **Up to 1,300 jobs in sight with Islands Growth Deal cash** Scotland's outer islands are to cash in on a share of up to £393 million during the next 10 years as a slew of UK and Scottish government initiatives breathe life into 16 projects. The Islands Growth Deal inked for Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will release nearly £400m, with claims that up to 1,300 jobs could be created by the investment. It comes hot on the heels of

The Scotsman 8 **Ministers 'must come clean' over A9 dualling delay** Former SNP rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing has demanded ministers apologise for failing to meet their pledge to complete dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness on time. In his most blatant attack on the Scottish Government for delays to the project,

which is due to be finished by 2025, Mr Ewing called on ministers to "come clean" on when one of the SNP's longest-standing pledges would be realised.

The Scotsman 5 **Ministers to consider disposable vapes ban** Ministers will give "consideration" to a potential ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has said. Asked about a new campaign against single-use vapes, he said an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. Green MSP Gillian Mackay raised the Daily Record newspaper's campaign against disposable vapes

The Scotsman 20 **Scottish Government to invest £14m in sustainable farming** The Scottish Government is set to invest more than £14 million in sustainable farming as a new funding round opens this month. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon announced the next round of the agri-environment climate scheme (AECS) during a visit to a farm in the Borders. Some 680 businesses will share in the funding, which this year will focus on agrienvironment support, organics and slurry storage. A further £5m will

The Scotsman 23 **Inside Transport** The Caledonian Sleeper is something of a curiosity - a train that not many people have experienced but which many are curious to try. It's also a service that few even see, the carriages often not rolling into their departure stations until late in the evening before disappearing again shortly after their morning arrivals. That adds to the mystery and romance associated with overnight trains fuelled by classic films

The Scotsman 1 **Starmer rules out new investment in oil and gas under Labour government** Sir Keir Starmer has pledged there will be no new investment in oil and gas under a Labour government as he called for a "clean power alliance" of countries to accelerate action and bring down energy prices. The Labour leader also criticised Rishi Sunak's absence at the World Economic Forum in Davos, and said his own attendance alongside shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves was a "statement of intent" of the UK's

The Scotsman 8 **Scots ministers accused of being economical with the truth** Ministers were accused of being "economical with the truth" and misleading either Holyrood or the House of Commons following First Minister's Questions. Ivan McKee, the SNP minister for business, and Lorna Slater, the Green minister for green skills, were the focus of two points of order from Conservative MSPs, who criticised the accuracy of answers to questions in the Scottish Parliament. Ministers faced questions around Ms Slater's claim ministers were

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **Slater in eco row walkout** A SCOTTISH Greens minister was slammed yesterday for walking out of a Holyrood debate as she was accused of misleading parliament. Lorna Slater left as Tory MSP Liam Kerr rose to ask her to correct the record on the government's false claim that Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. The figure was debunked by a thinktank last November, and evidence suggested ministers had known since

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The Sun (Scotland) 8 **OIL RIGHT BY US** By RACHEL WATSON Political Editor THREE in four Scots signalled they want drilling in the North Sea to continue despite the SNP's push to wind down the linchpin industry. Some 76 per cent said in a poll they believe that the "UK should aim to meet its demand for oil and gas from domestic production". It comes after the Scottish Government announced a presumption against new exploration. As part of

The Times 40 **Harbour cuts investment in North Sea over windfall tax** Britain's biggest oil and gas producer has warned of lower output this year as it confirmed scaled-back investment plans in response to the North Sea windfall tax. Harbour Energy also warned investors that its annual results for 2022 would take a further hit from the energy profits levy (EPL) because it will book a significant non-cash accounting charge related to future tax payments. The FTSE 250 group has been one

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 26 **No excuse now not to finish A9 dualling** Some politicians toe the party line to laughable extremes, so it is refreshing to see Fergus Ewing defend the interests of his constituents and rightly criticise the SNP's failure to improve the A9 in a timely manner. Increasingly, the people of the north and north-east require representatives who fully understand their needs and are willing to fight for them, even when it may cause tension between colleagues. Ewing's Paddy Ashdown-esque

Daily Express (Scotland) 16 **Seabird numbers decline as butterflies rise** SCOTLAND'S seabirds are suffering long-term decline while butterflies are booming with warmer summers, research has revealed. Also, more moths have been sighted across the country in recent years. Experts believe this is due to the increasing warming of the planet. Research by NatureScot - the public body responsible for the country's natural heritage - shows breeding seabirds declined by 41 per cent between 1994 and 2019. From 2016 to 2019

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Fund grants local power to promote real devolution** FOR too long it has been the case that some people in Scotland are denied the chance to fulfil their potential through no fault of their own. We know that the qualities of talent, ability and drive are spread evenly across the country. Yet for reasons beyond their control some people don't get the lifechances that others are able to make the most of. It is a defining mission of the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 19 **Disposable vapes 'could be banned'** MINISTERS will consider banning disposable vape devices in Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has said. Asked about a campaign against their use, he said an expert group would examine the evidence. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning the 'wasteful' products, citing concerns over littering. Green

MSP Gillian Mackay raised the issue at Holyrood, asking: 'Would the Cabinet Secretary support a ban on single-use vapes?' Mr Yousaf

Daily Mail (Scotland) 26 **Prestwick 'will keep losing cash'** A NATIONALISED airport that has already cost the public millions will go on bleeding the taxpayer, a spending watchdog has warned. Audit Scotland said Prestwick Airport will need 'many millions' until the SNP Government, which paid £1 for it in 2013, finds a buyer. Auditor General Stephen Boyle told Holyrood's public audit committee: 'Many millions of pounds of public expenditure are being used to support the airport, to sustain jobs

Daily Mail (Scotland) 26 **A key transport project hit by farcical delays? No, not ferries... it's the A9** THE completion of a long-awaited upgrade of one of Scotland's most notorious roads faces the threat of delays, SNP ministers admit. Infrastructure Secretary Michael Matheson yesterday told MSPs the Scottish Government intends to look again at the 'forward timetable' for completing the remaining sections of the A9 from Perth to Inverness. Only 30 miles of the road, which is regarded as Scotland's most dangerous, have been turned into a dual

Daily Record 10 **SEABIRD numbers plummet** SEABIRD numbers plummeted by nearly a tenth before last year's huge bird flu outbreak, a survey has found. The NatureScot study said the numbers of 14 species of breeding seabirds had fallen by 41 per cent since 1994. That included a nine per cent drop in numbers from 2016-2019 despite other bird species staying stable and even thriving. That data doesn't capture the effects of the avian flu epidemic which

Daily Record 4 **BREATH OF FRESH AIR** THE Scottish Government will "consider" banning disposable vapes after the Daily Record's crackdown campaign was raised in Parliament. SNP Health Secretary Humza Yousaf said Holyrood was consulting experts on next steps including outlawing them. He was responding to Green MSP Gillian Mackay - who supports their prohibition - who quizzed him on the issue. The Record yesterday launched a campaign to ban the single-use devices which have turned our streets

Daily Record 1 **PUFF JUSTICE** A BAN on disposable vapes is in the pipeline after the Daily Record crackdown campaign hit Parliament. The SNP agreed to consider outlawing them after the issue was raised at Holyrood. Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, who praised the campaign, agreed that the litter-menace vapes cause "environmental harm". BIN VAPES FULL STORY PAGES 4&5

Daily Record 10 **Disposable vapes must be banned** WELL done to Humza Yousaf for listening to the Record's plea on the blight of disposable vapes. And credit to Green politician Gillian Mackay for raising our new campaign highlighting the shocking extent of e-cigs pollution in Scotland today. It's welcome that the Scottish Government will now review the sale of these products, consult experts and consider implementing a ban. Our campaign to outlaw these singleuse devices is based on

Daily Record 2 **IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE..** AN opinion poll has found Scots believe the cost of living crisis will get even worse this year. A clear majority are sceptical that the situation will get better, with two-thirds admitting to struggling with energy bills. Mortgages will almost certainly rise, taxes are going up, and the blanket

support to control gas and electricity prices will end soon. The new poll, carried out by Survation for advisory firm True

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Cross-border growth deal to invest £100m for islands** Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will benefit from a £100m growth scheme agreed by the UK and Scottish Governments, which could create as many as 1,300 jobs. The Islands Growth Deal, which will be formally signed on Orkney today, is expected to attract a total of £393m of investment. Due to last for 10 years, it will invest in 16 projects with the aim of making the islands more

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 13 **Yousaf 'considering' ban on throwaway vaping devices** Ministers will give "consideration" to a ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, the Health Secretary, Humza Yousaf, has said. Asked by Scottish Green MSP Gillian Mackay about a new campaign against single-use vapes, he said that an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. She said: "As well as being

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Islands to benefit from investment into range of job-creating projects** Scotland's outer islands are to benefit from a share of up to £393 million during the next 10 years as UK and Scottish government initiatives breathe life into 16 projects. The Islands Growth Deal inked for Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will release nearly £400m, with claims that up to 1,300 jobs could be created by the investment. Brokered between Western Isles Council (WIC), Shetland Islands Council (SIC), Orkney

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The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Follow the drill** THE SNP government may want to wind down drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea — but it seems the public disagree. A poll yesterday showed that threequarters of Scots want the United Kingdom to meet demand for energy sources from domestic production. This is hardly surprising. Putin's war on Ukraine has highlighted the weaponising of oil and gas. So it is imperative that Britain takes major steps

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Edinburgh's become the vegan capital of Europe? Pass me a bacon roll to celebrate** ON my daughter's birthday we usually go out for a meal at the restaurant of her choice and, these last few years, the nominated establishment has always been vegan. 'An interesting selection,' I would say as the pattern took root. 'But how would it be if we went somewhere which catered for - how should I put it - a wider variety of dietary preferences?' She was having none of

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Keir: No more North Sea oil and gas fields** LABOUR plans to ban new investment in North Sea oil and gas fields in a major change from current

Government policy. Party leader Sir Keir Starmer said the UK must instead focus on renewable energy such as wind farms. But his pledge during the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday will spell uncertainty for thousands employed in the once-thriving sector - as well as investors currently looking at new projects.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **How 'dodgy data' Slater ducked out of chamber** A GREEN minister has been accused of 'evasion' after leaving the Holyrood debating chamber as an opponent accused her of misleading parliament by using debunked figures about wind energy. Lorna Slater quickly exited the chamber after her claim was highlighted as an example of the 'endemic' problem of Scottish Government ministers 'ignoring and disrespecting the ministerial code'. SNP and Green ministers have been criticised for repeatedly claiming that Scotland has

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Sky-high airport bill** PRESTWICK Airport has turned out to be the ultimate white elephant - as many predicted when SNP ministers bought it. Nicola Sturgeon described it as a 'viable enterprise' when the Scottish Government made the purchase for £1 in 2013. Now the Auditor General has confirmed that it is costing the taxpayer 'many millions' of pounds a year and that this will continue to be the case while it remains in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **'Race against time' to save Scottish wildlife** CLIMATE change has triggered a race against time to save some of Scotland's most threatened wildlife. The number of seabirds has plummeted since the 1990s and other animals could be decimated by summer droughts. Seabirds declined by 41 per cent between 1994 and 2019, and there are fears of a sharper fall when last year's avian flu outbreak is taken into account. Arctic skuas, kittiwakes and guillemots are among the

Metro (Scotland) 7 **Climate and biodiversity change hits Scots wildlife** SCOTLAND'S wildlife is struggling to recover as the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change take effect, a report shows. Statistics published by NatureScot show the abundance and occupancy of 2,803 of marine and terrestrial species are at similar levels to the 1990s but below historic numbers. NatureScot said the average abundance for 337 species of birds, mammals, butterflies and moths was stable over the long term (1994-2019) and

The Herald 5 **£100m deal to boost Scots island economies** SCOTLAND'S island communities are to receive £100 million in a landmark deal that could spark a jobs boom in areas battling depopulation. The funds will be invested in Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides after an agreement was signed by UK and Scottish government ministers and council leaders. Up to 1,300 jobs and £393m of investment is expected to result from the signing of the transformative Islands Growth Deal. Over

The Herald 14 **Scottish politics have been transformed by the Greens. But for the better or worse?** IN the sporting world, we often ask who is the greatest of all time. Take boxing, for instance. It is common to look straight to the blue riband heavyweight division for the answer. Rocky Marciano. Joe Louis. Muhammad Ali. Mike Tyson. But to find the greatest of all time, in boxing, we need to look beyond the heavyweights. Who is the pound-for-pound greatest? Perhaps it is one of the Sugar

The Herald 4 **Private cash to help save habitats** A GREENS minister has said an investment plan is being drawn up to lever in "responsible private finance" to plug a £20 billion nature funding gap. Biodiversity Minister Lorna Slater told MSPs that specific details on how the Scottish Government will reach its nature and biodiversity targets will be set out in a plan to be published later this year. Speaking in Holyrood, the minister warned that Scotland and the

The Herald 23 **Harbour hits out at windfall tax as North Sea giant plans job cuts** HARBOUR Energy saw its shares fall by three per cent after the North Sea oil and gas giant underlined that the energy profits levy has led it to focus investment outside the UK, declaring that the country has become "less competitive" because of the tax. It came just hours after the company revealed it had begun consulting staff in the UK over an unspecified number of redundancies. Harbour, which is

The Herald 14 **The long and winding A82 sums up shambles of transport policy** IT winds its way along the banks of some of our most famous lochs and is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque roads in Scotland. But the A82 "low road" along the banks of Loch Lomond from Glasgow to Inverness via Fort William is also one of the most frustrating for drivers. At the height of the tourist season it is even more so as motorhomes enter the fray alongside the

The Herald 4 **The folk in the cheap seats aren't happy - and they aren't shy either** THE new year has brought a new twist to FMQs. Not insight, wit or any of those MSP allergens, but the skirl of the plebs. The folk in the cheap seats aren't happy - and they aren't shy about saying it. For the second week in a row, the session was interrupted by a protest about climate change and oil exploration, followed by a bonus one about gender recognition reform.

The Herald 2 **Prestwick still needs cash** EXECUTIVES at nationalised Prestwick Airport are expecting continued multi-million-pound public support to keep it in existence while spending auditors said it is not clear that Scottish Government intervention has provided value for the taxpayer's cash. Audit Scotland has said that the Scottish Government's propping up of the airport in loans has cost the taxpayer over £31 million - and that many millions more would be needed to sustain the airport

The Herald 6 **Anger in Glasgow at levelling-up cash snub as all bids fail** THE UK Government has defended the geographical spread of the most recent round of the Levelling Up Fund. Ministers have been criticised that the bulk of the £2 billion of spending has been handed to the south east. While the money is meant to help deprived areas level up, some of the projects announced are in relatively affluent areas including the town of Catterick Garrison in Rishi Sunak's wealthy Richmond

The National (Scotland) 3 **Farming investment** THE Scottish Government is set to invest more than £14 million in sustainable farming as a new funding round opens this month. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon announced the next round of the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) during a visit to a farm in the Borders. Some 680 businesses will share in the funding. A further £5m will be available for slurry storage support through the Agriculture Transformation Fund.

The National (Scotland) 10 **Shetland sends short-film plea to Norway over oil field plans** SHETLANDERS have sent a "message in a bottle" plea to Norway to oppose development of a controversial oil field. The short film by campaigners, titled Dear Norway, calls on their "siblings across the sea" to halt work on the Rosebank oil field, 80 miles off Shetland's coast. Rosebank is thought to hold the equivalent of 500 million barrels, making it the largest undeveloped oil and gas field in the North

The National (Scotland) 19 **Ministers to consider banning disposable vapes** MINISTERS will give "consideration" to a potential ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has said. Asked about a new campaign against single-use vapes, he said an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish Government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. Green MSP Gillian Mackay raised the Daily Record newspaper's campaign against disposable vapes

The Times (Scotland) 40 **Harbour cuts investment in North Sea over windfall tax** Britain's biggest oil and gas producer has warned of lower output this year as it confirmed scaled-back investment plans in response to the North Sea windfall tax. Harbour Energy also warned investors that its annual results for 2022 would take a further hit from the energy profits levy (EPL) because it will book a significant non-cash accounting charge related to future tax payments. The FTSE 250 group has been one

The Times (Scotland) 3 **Edinburgh 'leads the way' by endorsing vegan treaty** Edinburgh has become the first city in Scotland to endorse the "Plant Based Treaty" which promotes veganism. Councillors backed the treaty announced in 2021 at Cop26 in Glasgow which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture to tackle the climate emergency. They hope that where Edinburgh leads the country will follow and urged Nicola Sturgeon to adopt the treaty on behalf of the Scottish government. Suggestions to reduce

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Ministers to consider ban on 'wasteful' disposable vapes** Ministers will give "consideration" to a potential ban on disposable vape devices in Scotland, Humza Yousaf said yesterday. Asked about a campaign against single-use vapes, the health secretary said an expert group would examine evidence on the devices. In October, the Irish government launched a consultation on banning "wasteful" disposable vape products, citing concerns over littering. Gillian Mackay, the Green MSP, raised the Daily Record's campaign against disposable vapes in

The Times (Scotland) 2 **A9 dualled in 2025? I'll eat my hat, says former minister** A former Holyrood minister has claimed he will buy a hat and eat it if the government meets its target of dualling the A9 in 2025. Fergus Ewing said the government should offer an apology to the people of Scotland for failing to meet "one of its longest-standing pledges". The SNP vowed to upgrade the road shortly after it came to power in 2007 and then revealed a more detailed

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Glasgow fears industry exodus after losing out on freeports** Heavy manufacturing and haulage firms will look to quit the west of Scotland after its bid for a green freeport was unsuccessful, the leader of Glasgow city council fears. Susan Aitken is worried that the selection by Westminster and Holyrood of bids

in the Cromarty Firth and along the Firth of Forth will drive a shift in activity from other areas. In a letter to Michael Gove, the levelling-up secretary,

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

Daily Mail 12 **Keir: No more North Sea oil and gas fields** LABOUR plans to ban new investment in North Sea oil and gas fields in a major change from current Government policy. Party leader Sir Keir Starmer said the UK must instead focus on renewable energy such as wind farms. But his pledge during the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday will spell uncertainty for thousands employed in the once-thriving sector - as well as investors currently looking at new projects.

Daily Mail 24 **THE row in Scotland rumbles [...]** THE row in Scotland rumbles on, with Nicola Sturgeon pushing forward a Bill that would allow gender self-identification at the age of 16, and Rishi Sunak refusing to endorse it, while SNP supporters rub their hands with glee at what they see as a modern-day Bannockburn. All I can see is a leader stoking constitutional grievance for her own political ends. The Bill might be what Nicola wants, it might

Daily Mail 4 **16 'is too young to change gender'** MOST Britons believe that 16 is too young to change gender, in a fresh blow to SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon. The survey commissioned by GB News found that 61 per cent agreed that 16-year-olds were too young to legally change sex. Only 19 per cent said they disagreed with the statement. Experts said the findings showed that the public disagreed with the SNP's radical plan to let teenagers 'self-ID' as

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 26 **No excuse now not to finish A9 dualling** Some politicians toe the party line to laughable extremes, so it is refreshing to see Fergus Ewing defend the interests of his constituents and rightly criticise the SNP's failure to improve the A9 in a timely manner. Increasingly, the people of the north and north-east require representatives who fully understand their needs and are willing to fight for them, even when it may cause tension between colleagues. Ewing's Paddy Ashdown-esque

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Emergency legislation to cap rent hikes extended** Rent rises will be capped at 3% and evictions will still be banned, under Scottish Government plans to extend emergency provisions designed to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie announced the move - subject to parliamentary approval - yesterday, pledging to amend the emergency bill passed last year. Private landlords will only be allowed to raise rents by a maximum of 3% but they can apply to

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Doubt over dualling deadline** A former SNP government minister claimed he will eat his hat if Nicola Sturgeon meets the deadline to fully upgrade the A9 Perth-Inverness road. Fergus Ewing said colleagues in the government owe an apology for how long it has taken to dual the notorious road. Government agency Transport Scotland still lists the road for completion by 2025 on its website, despite only two of 11 sections being dualled so far.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **Majority back native drilling** More than threequarters of people in Scotland think the UK should aim to meet its demand for oil and gas from domestic production, a poll shows. The research by Survation suggests 76% of people in Scotland think North Sea drilling is preferable to importing oil and gas. Just 11% think the UK should import oil and gas while 13% are undecided. It puts pressure on Nicola Sturgeon, whose government has

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **'Tooth and nail' fight for school funding** Councillors and community groups yesterday came out swinging in response to a shock decision to cancel the Highland Council capital budget meeting. The local authority says it can't set its investment priorities until the Scottish Government confirms it will fund some of its longawaited new schools. Privately, some senior representatives fear the government may offer the council a far smaller sum than it had hoped, leaving members to fight in

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 2 **Up to 1,300 jobs in sight with Islands Growth Deal cash** Scotland's outer islands are to cash in on a share of up to £393 million during the next 10 years as a slew of UK and Scottish government initiatives breathe life into 16 projects. The Islands Growth Deal inked for Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will release nearly £400m, with claims that up to 1,300 jobs could be created by the investment. It comes hot on the heels of

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 16 **Help for charities struggling with cost of living** Help is at hand for charities in Scotland struggling to cope with the cost-of-living crisis. Like many businesses and individuals, charities have seen their overheads soar right at a time when demand is high. Scottish charity regulator OSCR last year reported that 80% of charities named financial issues surrounding funding and running costs as their top challenges. Helen Wray, head of philanthropy and quality at Foundation Scotland which has helped

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Ewing: I'll eat my hat if A9 gets dualled on time** A NORTH SNP politician said he would eat his hat if his own government gets the A9 fully dualled on time. The Inverness and Nairn MSP Fergus Ewing made the claim in a heated exchange at Holyrood over the route between Inverness and Perth. Government agency Transport Scotland still lists the road as being scheduled for completion by 2025 on its website, despite only two of 11 sections being finished

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **FM seeking 'fair and affordable' pay deal for striking teachers** The Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland as soon as possible, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The first minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks

The Scotsman 1 **Starmer rules out new investment in oil and gas under Labour government** Sir Keir Starmer has pledged there will be no new investment in oil and gas under a Labour government as he called for a "clean power alliance" of countries to accelerate action and bring down energy prices. The Labour leader also criticised

Rishi Sunak's absence at the World Economic Forum in Davos, and said his own attendance alongside shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves was a "statement of intent" of the UK's

The Scotsman 20 **Calanais in line for £6m upgrade amid rise in visitors and arrival of cruise ships** Around £6 million is to be spent on upgrading the Calanais Standing Stones experience amid an "enormous" rise in visitor numbers and the predicted arrival of thousands of cruise ship passengers to the Neolithic wonder. Urras nan Tursachan (UnT), the trust that runs the visitor centre at the site on the Isle of Lewis, is pushing ahead with its redevelopment plan after it received £2m from the Scottish Government this

The Scotsman 8 **Scots ministers accused of being economical with the truth** Ministers were accused of being "economical with the truth" and misleading either Holyrood or the House of Commons following First Minister's Questions. Ivan McKee, the SNP minister for business, and Lorna Slater, the Green minister for green skills, were the focus of two points of order from Conservative MSPs, who criticised the accuracy of answers to questions in the Scottish Parliament. Ministers faced questions around Ms Slater's claim ministers were

The Scotsman 6 **Scottish budget failing housing** The Scottish Government's budget could "completely derail" efforts to tackle the housing emergency, a charity has warned. Shelter Scotland says it is "deeply concerned" by cuts to the housing capital budget and the freezing of funding for homelessness services. The charity hit out at plans to cut £112.8 million from the housing capital budget, the equivalent of 16 per cent. The Scottish Government's 2023/24 budget lists a total planned spending

The Scotsman 20 **Scottish Government to invest £14m in sustainable farming** The Scottish Government is set to invest more than £14 million in sustainable farming as a new funding round opens this month. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon announced the next round of the agri-environment climate scheme (AECS) during a visit to a farm in the Borders. Some 680 businesses will share in the funding, which this year will focus on agrienvironment support, organics and slurry storage. A further £5m will

The Scotsman 8 **Pledge to help crisis-hit arts groups - if alarm is raised early enough** Scottish culture secretary Angus Robertson has pledged that help will be offered to arts organisations facing major financial problems - so long as they do not leave it too late to raise the alarm. Mr Robertson said everything possible would be done by the Scottish Government and its agencies to help arts organisations facing financial difficulties. But he said there was a need for greater awareness of where the "greatest

The Scotsman 8 **Ministers 'must come clean' over A9 dualling delay** Former SNP rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing has demanded ministers apologise for failing to meet their pledge to complete dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness on time. In his most blatant attack on the Scottish Government for delays to the project, which is due to be finished by 2025, Mr Ewing called on ministers to "come clean" on when one of the SNP's longest-standing pledges would be realised.

The Scotsman 9 **Fears universities will depend on foreign students for funding** The Scottish Government is facing a "geopolitical risk" in relying on foreign students to subsidise universities, a key body has warned, as figures show the number of people studying in Scotland from outside Europe rocketed by more than a third in the past year. The latest Higher Education Student Statistics found the number of non-European Union students from overseas rose by 37.1 per cent to 65,300 in the last academic

The Scotsman 42 **Scotland is facing another devolution row over strikes bill** The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill was introduced into the UK parliament last week and makes provision for minimum service levels to be stipulated for health services, fire and rescue services, education services, transport services, decommissioning of nuclear installations and management of radioactive waste and spent fuel, and border security, but the detail of the minimum service levels themselves will be outlined in further regulations. The government has said

The Scotsman 6 **Sturgeon 'should be embarrassed' amid reports of teacher cuts in Glasgow** Nicola Sturgeon has been told she should be "embarrassed" following reports 800 teachers could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The First Minister sought to downplay a leaked document from SNP-run Glasgow City Council after it was raised during First Minister's Questions [FMQs] yesterday. Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said she should be "embarrassed, if not disgraced" by the reports. Glasgow is reportedly considering shutting primary schools early on

Daily Mail (Scotland) 26 **Prestwick 'will keep losing cash'** A NATIONALISED airport that has already cost the public millions will go on bleeding the taxpayer, a spending watchdog has warned. Audit Scotland said Prestwick Airport will need 'many millions' until the SNP Government, which paid £1 for it in 2013, finds a buyer. Auditor General Stephen Boyle told Holyrood's public audit committee: 'Many millions of pounds of public expenditure are being used to support the airport, to sustain jobs

Daily Mail (Scotland) 26 **A key transport project hit by farcical delays? No, not ferries... it's the A9** THE completion of a long-awaited upgrade of one of Scotland's most notorious roads faces the threat of delays, SNP ministers admit. Infrastructure Secretary Michael Matheson yesterday told MSPs the Scottish Government intends to look again at the 'forward timetable' for completing the remaining sections of the A9 from Perth to Inverness. Only 30 miles of the road, which is regarded as Scotland's most dangerous, have been turned into a dual

The Scotsman 14 **Fears for 'unraveling' smelter deal** The lack of audited accounts from the embattled GFG Alliance-owned Lochaber smelter are a "concern", the Auditor General has said. Stephen Boyle, speaking to the Scottish Parliament's public audit committee, also warned the deal could "unravel potentially quite quickly" due to the "really volatile set of circumstances". The 2016 deal between businessman Sanjeev Gupta and the Scottish Government involved ministers guaranteeing the power purchase obligations of the smelter from the

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **OIL RIGHT BY US** By RACHEL WATSON Political Editor THREE in four Scots signalled they want drilling in the North Sea to continue despite the SNP's push to wind down the linchpin industry. Some 76 per cent said in a poll

they believe that the "UK should aim to meet its demand for oil and gas from domestic production". It comes after the Scottish Government announced a presumption against new exploration. As part of

Daily Record 2 **RENT RISES TO BE CAPPED AT 3%** RENT rises will be capped at three per cent and evictions will still be banned under Scottish Government plans to extend emergency provisions to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie announced the move - which will be subject to parliamentary approval - yesterday. Private landlords will only be allowed to raise rents by a maximum of three per cent, but they can apply to Rent Service Scotland

Daily Record 2 **IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE..** AN opinion poll has found Scots believe the cost of living crisis will get even worse this year. A clear majority are sceptical that the situation will get better, with two-thirds admitting to struggling with energy bills. Mortgages will almost certainly rise, taxes are going up, and the blanket support to control gas and electricity prices will end soon. The new poll, carried out by Survation for advisory firm True

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **LEVEL SHREDDER** Rishi Sunak was last night accused of favouritism after handing the bulk of Levelling Up cash to south east England. Glasgow City Council chief Susan Aitken claimed deprived towns and cities were losing out as the UK Government distributed community regeneration cash to 111 UK regions. It came as more affluent areas, including the PM's own North Yorkshire constituency of Richmond, got bumper boosts. Westminster has insisted all projects

The Times 40 **Harbour cuts investment in North Sea over windfall tax** Britain's biggest oil and gas producer has warned of lower output this year as it confirmed scaled-back investment plans in response to the North Sea windfall tax. Harbour Energy also warned investors that its annual results for 2022 would take a further hit from the energy profits levy (EPL) because it will book a significant non-cash accounting charge related to future tax payments. The FTSE 250 group has been one

Metro (Scotland) 1 **BRAIN DRAIN** SCOTTISH Tory leader Douglas Ross hit out at plans to axe 800 teachers in Scotland's biggest city yesterday - as he accused Nicola Sturgeon's government of already stripping schools of 900 teaching posts. A leaked document reportedly shows SNP-run Glasgow City Council is looking at the teaching cuts, as well as plans to shut primary schools early on Fridays, as it seeks to plug a £68million budget shortfall. Unions fear

Metro (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon hits out at Labour social care call** NICOLA STURGEON said she wants to increase pay in the social care sector in a 'properly funded way'. At first minister's questions, Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar (below) called for improved pay levels. He said the recent increase amounted to about 40p an hour which is 'nowhere near enough' and called for pay to immediately increase to £12 an hour, and then hiked further to £15. Ms Sturgeon said the

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 12 **Doubt over dualling deadline** A former SNP government minister claimed he will eat his hat if Nicola Sturgeon meets the deadline to fully upgrade the A9 Perth-Inverness road. Fergus Ewing said colleagues in the government owe an apology for how long it has taken to

dual the notorious road. Government agency Transport Scotland still lists the road for completion by 2025 on its website, despite only two of 11 sections being dualled so far.

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 13 **Emergency legislation to cap rent hikes extended** Rent rises will be capped at 3% and evictions will still be banned, under Scottish Government plans to extend emergency provisions designed to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie announced the move - subject to parliamentary approval - yesterday, pledging to amend the emergency bill passed last year. Private landlords will only be allowed to raise rents by a maximum of 3% but they can apply to

The Sun (Scotland) 14 **COVID BOOST FOR NET GRUB ORDERS** THE amount spent on grocery shopping and ordering takeaways rocketed during the pandemic, analysis has revealed. Scots spent £951million buying grub on the net in 2021, up 109.4 per cent on 2019. And a whopping £1.5billion was splurged on fast food and deliveries, an increase of 88 per cent. Food Standards Scotland, using data from market research company Kantar, also found people continued to purchase more groceries in 2021 compared

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Follow the drill** THE SNP government may want to wind down drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea — but it seems the public disagree. A poll yesterday showed that threequarters of Scots want the United Kingdom to meet demand for energy sources from domestic production. This is hardly surprising. Putin's war on Ukraine has highlighted the weaponising of oil and gas. So it is imperative that Britain takes major steps

Daily Express (Scotland) 21 **Tax tips via texts** CALLERS to HM Revenue and Customs who have a routine question can have it answered by text. A trial that began yesterday will direct standard inquiries calls to online services. Texts will be triggered based on customers' reasons for calling. Throughout January, HMRC expects around 170,000 calls from customers. HMRC says the move will free advisers to deal with people with more complex queries and boost its service. MPs recently

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Fund grants local power to promote real devolution** FOR too long it has been the case that some people in Scotland are denied the chance to fulfil their potential through no fault of their own. We know that the qualities of talent, ability and drive are spread evenly across the country. Yet for reasons beyond their control some people don't get the life chances that others are able to make the most of. It is a defining mission of the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Scottish landlords handed power to enforce capped rent increases** PRIVATE landlords in Scotland will be permitted to make limited rent increases from April after Nicola Sturgeon's government scrapped a controversial freeze. Patrick Harvie, the tenants' rights minister, announced that landlords can increase private rents but only by up to 3 per cent, well below the rate of inflation. If the surge in interest rates leads to a rise in their mortgage payments, landlords can make an application to a

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **FM quiz dodge on strike** MS Sturgeon has refused to say if she'll step in on teacher pay talks in a bid to end strikes across Scotland. The First Minister didn't give a direct answer when quizzed by Tory MSP Stephen Kerr. But she insisted that her education secretary was working hard to resolve the dispute. She told Holyrood: "Shirley-Anne Somerville will continue to do everything possible to reach an agreement with Cosla and our

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Pad rent freeze to be lifted** A RENT freeze in Scotland will end on April 1, ministers have confirmed. The emergency measure, which included private lets, is set to be replaced with a three per cent cap on rises. Landlords will be able to apply for increases of up to six per cent in "defined and limited circumstances", the Scottish Government said. The freeze was introduced last year amid the cost of living crisis. An eviction

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **Fear of court delays as staff prepare for strike over low pay** "Fed up" court staff are due to strike over pay next month. The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) said bar officers and clerks employed at sheriff courts will halt work on February 1 due to low pay. It said "angry" workers feel they are being unfairly treated and taken for granted by the Scottish Government. While it is hoped essential services will be maintained "as far as possible", one

Daily Record 11 **Online food deliveries up amid Covid** ONLINE grocery shopping and ordering takeaways soared during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to analysis. Research from Food Standards Scotland (FSS) found online food shopping rose in value to £951million in 2021, an increase of 109.4 per cent compared to 2019. The takeaway and delivery market also grew considerably over this time, rising to a value of £1.5billion - an 88 per cent increase between 2019 and 2021. Using food technology

Daily Record 11 **GAP REMAINS OVER TEACHERS PAY DEAL** THE Scottish Government wants a deal to be done to end teachers' strikes across Scotland quickly, Nicola Sturgeon has said - but she conceded there is still a "gap" between union demands and what is affordable. The First Minister spoke out as industrial action by the EIS and AHDS unions continued to disrupt schools, with teachers in Moray and North Lanarkshire out of classes yesterday. More talks are scheduled to

Daily Record 11 **Do not shirk the blame for plan to scrap 800 teachers** 800 FACE NICOLA Sturgeon has claimed she does not know the "detail" of plans by Glasgow City Council to axe over 800 teaching posts. Officials in the SNPrun local authority have drawn up options for slashing £68million to fill a budget black hole. »»Leaked doc as part of council's The biggest chunk, £51million, would come from the education budget. The First Minister, who represents a seat in the city and

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 4 **Rent freeze to end in April but rises capped** Rent rises in Scotland will be capped at 3 per cent and evictions will remain banned for at least six months, after ministers extended a scheme to tackle the cost of living crisis. The plan, which is subject to approval by MSPs but is likely to go ahead, was announced by tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie at Holyrood yesterday. From 1 April the current freeze on rent increases in the

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Cross-border growth deal to invest £100m for islands** Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will benefit from a £100m growth scheme agreed by the UK and Scottish Governments, which could create as many as 1,300 jobs. The Islands Growth Deal, which will be formally signed on Orkney today, is expected to attract a total of £393m of investment. Due to last for 10 years, it will invest in 16 projects with the aim of making the islands more

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Islands to benefit from investment into range of job-creating projects** Scotland's outer islands are to benefit from a share of up to £393 million during the next 10 years as UK and Scottish government initiatives breathe life into 16 projects. The Islands Growth Deal inked for Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will release nearly £400m, with claims that up to 1,300 jobs could be created by the investment. Brokered between Western Isles Council (WIC), Shetland Islands Council (SIC), Orkney

Daily Mail (Scotland) 11 **Did everybody say just eat, as takeaways boom** IT was a time when many of us slipped into unhealthy habits. Now figures have proved the Covid-19 pandemic fuelled a boom in takeaway food across Scotland as the number of deliveries increased by almost 25 million. Driven by food apps such as Just Eat and Deliveroo, the takeaway and delivery market in the country thrived throughout the pandemic as many Scots were forced to spend more time indoors. Figures

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Nicola refuses to say if education is still No1 priority** NICOLA Sturgeon yesterday refused to say whether improving education remains her top priority. The First Minister dodged a question about her commitment to pupils after being grilled about her 'embarrassing' record on closing the attainment gap. The SNP leader in 2015 made eradicating the gulf between Scotland's richest and poorest pupils her 'defining mission' and promised to close it 'completely' by 2026. But she has now been accused of abandoning

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **How 'dodgy data' Slater ducked out of chamber** A GREEN minister has been accused of 'evasion' after leaving the Holyrood debating chamber as an opponent accused her of misleading parliament by using debunked figures about wind energy. Lorna Slater quickly exited the chamber after her claim was highlighted as an example of the 'endemic' problem of Scottish Government ministers 'ignoring and disrespecting the ministerial code'. SNP and Green ministers have been criticised for repeatedly claiming that Scotland has

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Sky-high airport bill** PRESTWICK Airport has turned out to be the ultimate white elephant - as many predicted when SNP ministers bought it. Nicola Sturgeon described it as a 'viable enterprise' when the Scottish Government made the purchase for £1 in 2013. Now the Auditor General has confirmed that it is costing the taxpayer 'many millions' of pounds a year and that this will continue to be the case while it remains in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Keir: No more North Sea oil and gas fields** LABOUR plans to ban new investment in North Sea oil and gas fields in a major change from current Government policy. Party leader Sir Keir Starmer said the UK must instead focus on renewable energy such as wind farms. But his pledge during the World Economic

Forum in Davos yesterday will spell uncertainty for thousands employed in the once-thriving sector - as well as investors currently looking at new projects.

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Goodbye, Mr (and take 799 friends with Chips of your you...)** AT Holyrood yesterday, Nicola Sturgeon was pressed on reports that Glasgow City Council is mulling a cut of 800 teachers. 'This is that time of year when we get lots of reports about the savings options that different councils are considering,' she assured Douglas Ross. Is it Mass Teacher Layoff Day already? It comes round earlier every year. The revelation that threats to axe 14 per cent of teachers in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **800 TEACHERS 'AT RISK IN SNP CUTS'** MORE than 800 teachers could be axed in Scotland's biggest city under cuts considered by councillors. Cash-strapped Glasgow City Council, which is controlled by the SNP, is contemplating moves to slash teacher numbers to save money, along with proposals to close schools early on Fridays. Class sizes would also rocket if teaching jobs were slashed, on top of more than 100 'support for learning jobs' being at risk. Council officials

The Herald 4 **Robertson listening to funding appeals** THE SNP Culture Secretary has said he hears the financial warnings coming from sector chiefs "loud and clear", amid significant budget cuts. Angus Robertson was responding to concerns after the culture sector was allocated just £64.2 million in the coming financial year - down from £69.3m in 2022-23 - with further constraints predicted. Iain Munro, chief executive of Creative Scotland, told a Holyrood committee last week that the financial settlement

The Herald 4 **Rent cap extended for six months but allows for three per cent rises from April** A CAP on private rents is set to be extended for at least another six months but it will allow for increases of up to three per cent, it has been confirmed. Currently, private and social rents are capped at 0% - effectively a freeze - but this is due to change after the end of March. From April 1 until September 30, private landlords will be able to increase

The Herald 2 **Prestwick still needs cash** EXECUTIVES at nationalised Prestwick Airport are expecting continued multi-million-pound public support to keep it in existence while spending auditors said it is not clear that Scottish Government intervention has provided value for the taxpayer's cash. Audit Scotland has said that the Scottish Government's propping up of the airport in loans has cost the taxpayer over £31 million - and that many millions more would be needed to sustain the airport

The Herald 23 **Harbour hits out at windfall tax as North Sea giant plans job cuts** HARBOUR Energy saw its shares fall by three per cent after the North Sea oil and gas giant underlined that the energy profits levy has led it to focus investment outside the UK, declaring that the country has become "less competitive" because of the tax. It came just hours after the company revealed it had begun consulting staff in the UK over an unspecified number of redundancies. Harbour, which is

The Herald 8 **Online food takeaways and shopping soared during lockdowns** ONLINE grocery shopping and ordering takeaways soared during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new analysis. Research from Food Standards Scotland (FSS) found online food shopping rose in value to £951 million in 2021, an increase of 109.4 per cent compared to 2019. The takeaway and delivery market also

grew considerably over this time, rising to a value of £1.5 billion - an 88% increase between 2019 and 2021. FSS used

The Herald 4 **All of Scotland's council leaders make direct plea to First Minister over budgets** THE leaders of all of Scotland's councils, including SNP politicians, have signed a letter to Nicola Sturgeon warning of looming financial problems and job cuts. With councils setting budgets in the coming weeks, the 32 leaders told the First Minister they were "deeply concerned" by Scottish Government underfunding. They warned the settlement would have a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the

The Herald 5 **£100m deal to boost Scots island economies** SCOTLAND'S island communities are to receive £100 million in a landmark deal that could spark a jobs boom in areas battling depopulation. The funds will be invested in Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides after an agreement was signed by UK and Scottish government ministers and council leaders. Up to 1,300 jobs and £393m of investment is expected to result from the signing of the transformative Islands Growth Deal. Over

The Herald 14 **The long and winding A82 sums up shambles of transport policy** IT winds its way along the banks of some of our most famous lochs and is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque roads in Scotland. But the A82 "low road" along the banks of Loch Lomond from Glasgow to Inverness via Fort William is also one of the most frustrating for drivers. At the height of the tourist season it is even more so as motorhomes enter the fray alongside the

The Herald 4 **Sturgeon under fire over schools amid proposals to cut teachers** NICOLA Sturgeon has refused to say whether education remains her number one priority after being put under pressure over whether her key pledge to eliminate the attainment gap remains intact. The row comes after proposals to cut hundreds of teachers at Scotland's largest council was revealed. The plans emerged after Deputy First Minister John Swinney told a Holyrood committee that public-sector job cuts are inevitable over the next four years.

The Herald 22 **Are older workers actually the solution to labour crisis made in Brexit Britain?** IN post-Brexit Britain, labour shortages remain a burning issue. And they were a hot topic again yesterday as Scottish Chambers of Commerce published its latest quarterly economic survey, in partnership with the University of Strathclyde's Fraser of Allander Institute. It was good to see the matter highlighted by Scottish Chambers president Stephen Leckie, who had simple but valuable suggestions for alleviating labour and skills shortages. His first suggestion is an

The Herald 6 **Anger in Glasgow at levelling-up cash snub as all bids fail** THE UK Government has defended the geographical spread of the most recent round of the Levelling Up Fund. Ministers have been criticised that the bulk of the £2 billion of spending has been handed to the south east. While the money is meant to help deprived areas level up, some of the projects announced are in relatively affluent areas including the town of Catterick Garrison in Rishi Sunak's wealthy Richmond

The Herald 1 **Councils make direct plea to First Minister** COUNCIL leaders from across Scotland have warned the First Minister of their fears over government

underfunding. The 32 leaders - including SNP politicians - wrote to Nicola Sturgeon to express their concerns of a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the cost-of-living crisis. They have now asked John Swinney, the acting Finance Secretary, to attend a special summit "as a matter of

The National (Scotland) 6 **A FM attacks Tories' 'staggering hypocrisy' over teacher strikes** NICOLA Sturgeon has branded the Tories "hypocrites" over their attacks on the Scottish Government's handling of teacher strikes while similar action in England "looms". During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Stephen Kerr criticised the Scottish Government for presiding over the first teacher strikes in Scotland for some 40 years. The Tory MSP accused Education Secretary Shirley Anne-Somerville of showing "no energy or urgency" to

The National (Scotland) 9 **Rent freeze set to be extended and capped at 3%** THE private sector rent freeze in Scotland is set to be extended for another six months at least, Tenants' Rights Minister Patrick Harvie has said. The emergency bill was passed in the last parliamentary term to stop landlords from raising rents during the cost of living crisis. If any landlord does choose to increase private rent between April and September, this will be limited to 3% of the overall rent,

The National (Scotland) 7 **The scandalous truth about UK 'levelling up'** SCOTLAND is still reeling from the Tories' blatant assault on democracy and the devolution settlement with Alister Jack's unprecedented use of a Section 35 order to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill from receiving royal assent. Meanwhile, as that alarming development threatens the integrity of the Scottish Parliament, the Tories are quietly getting on with subverting democracy and standards of governance in other ways. Today, a major tranche of funding

The National (Scotland) 3 **Farming investment** THE Scottish Government is set to invest more than £14 million in sustainable farming as a new funding round opens this month. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon announced the next round of the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) during a visit to a farm in the Borders. Some 680 businesses will share in the funding. A further £5m will be available for slurry storage support through the Agriculture Transformation Fund.

The National (Scotland) 2 **Council cuts could put 800 teaching jobs under threat** Pr o p o s a l s which could see 800 teaching posts cut to save money have been drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. They also propose shutting primary schools across Glasgow early on Fridays in a bid to save £51 million from the education budget, according to a document leaked to the Daily Record. Teaching unions have said they are "desperately worried" about the plans,

The National (Scotland) 8 **Sunak accused of favouritism on 'corrupt' levelling up funding** RISHI Sunak has been accused of "favouritism" after MPs blasted his government's l e v e l l i n g up agenda as "completely corrupt". Members of the Prime Minister's own party also expressed disappointment with numerous Tory MPs stating that their local councils had worked "really hard" on their bids only to be unsuccessful. Labour MP and former minister Chris

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Culture secretary defends reduction in arts budget** The culture secretary has insisted he wants Scotland's culture organisations "to flourish" after the SNP-led administration cut the national arts agency's budget by more than 10 per cent. Angus Robertson was responding to concerns after Creative Scotland had its funding slashed by £7 million to £56 million in the coming financial year, with further constraints predicted in future years. Iain Munro, chief executive of Creative Scotland, told a Holyrood committee

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Glasgow fears industry exodus after losing out on freeports** Heavy manufacturing and haulage firms will look to quit the west of Scotland after its bid for a green freeport was unsuccessful, the leader of Glasgow city council fears. Susan Aitken is worried that the selection by Westminster and Holyrood of bids in the Cromarty Firth and along the Firth of Forth will drive a shift in activity from other areas. In a letter to Michael Gove, the levelling-up secretary,

The Times (Scotland) 6 **First minister pressed on school cuts** Nicola Sturgeon has said that she would prefer to have "more teachers, not fewer", amid reports that 800 could be cut in Glasgow to save money. The Daily Record, reporting on a leaked document yesterday, said that SNP-run Glasgow city council was also considering shutting primary schools early on Fridays in an attempt to save £51 million from its education budget. Teaching unions said they were "desperately worried" about the

The Times (Scotland) 40 **Harbour cuts investment in North Sea over windfall tax** Britain's biggest oil and gas producer has warned of lower output this year as it confirmed scaled-back investment plans in response to the North Sea windfall tax. Harbour Energy also warned investors that its annual results for 2022 would take a further hit from the energy profits levy (EPL) because it will book a significant non-cash accounting charge related to future tax payments. The FTSE 250 group has been one

The Times (Scotland) 7 **Tory mayor despairs at 'begging bowl' culture for local funding** The most senior Tory outside London criticised Rishi Sunak's "begging bowl" approach to levelling up yesterday as a string of backbench MPs vented their frustration at missing out on regeneration funds. Andy Street, mayor of the West Midlands, said the process of allowing Whitehall to allocate £2 billion to more than 100 projects around the country was "flawed". Street, who has long argued for greater devolution of funding from Westminster,

The Times (Scotland) 2 **A9 dualled in 2025? I'll eat my hat, says former minister** A former Holyrood minister has claimed he will buy a hat and eat it if the government meets its target of dualling the A9 in 2025. Fergus Ewing said the government should offer an apology to the people of Scotland for failing to meet "one of its longest-standing pledges". The SNP vowed to upgrade the road shortly after it came to power in 2007 and then revealed a more detailed

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Daily Mail 24 **THE row in Scotland rumbles [...]** THE row in Scotland rumbles on, with Nicola Sturgeon pushing forward a Bill that would allow gender self-identification at the age of 16, and Rishi Sunak refusing to endorse it, while SNP supporters rub their hands with glee at what they see as a modern-day Bannockburn. All I can see is

a leader stoking constitutional grievance for her own political ends. The Bill might be what Nicola wants, it might

Daily Mail 4 **16 'is too young to change gender'** MOST Britons believe that 16 is too young to change gender, in a fresh blow to SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon. The survey commissioned by GB News found that 61 per cent agreed that 16-year-olds were too young to legally change sex. Only 19 per cent said they disagreed with the statement. Experts said the findings showed that the public disagreed with the SNP's radical plan to let teenagers 'self-ID' as

i (The paper for today) 21 **Gender row could derail Sunak's plans** In blocking Scotland's Gender Reform Bill, has Rishi Sunak lit a tinderbox that could overshadow his administration's core aims? The row that has erupted this week lies at the intersection of two of the most contentious areas of debate in British politics: trans rights and Scottish devolution. To recap, in December Holyrood passed a Bill that would allow trans people in Scotland to legally change gender more easily, quickly and

The Daily Telegraph 10 **Transitioning at 13 should be 'taken seriously', says Labour's Nandy** LABOUR was split on trans issues last night after Lisa Nandy suggested that children as young as 13 should be able to change their gender. It comes just days after Sir Keir Starmer said he thought that 16 was too young to legally change. In an interview with Times Radio yesterday, the shadow levelling-up secretary said 13-year-olds should be "taken seriously" if they want to selfidentify as another gender and

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 12 **Protest held over blocking of gender bill** More than a hundred protesters gathered at Castlegate in Aberdeen to oppose the UK Government's decision to block the Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The move on Monday by Westminster has caused outrage among many politicians and trans-rights groups. It is the first time a Section 35 order, which allows the UK Government to block a Holyrood bill from becoming law, has been used in the history of devolution.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 16 **Help for charities struggling with cost of living** Help is at hand for charities in Scotland struggling to cope with the cost-of-living crisis. Like many businesses and individuals, charities have seen their overheads soar right at a time when demand is high. Scottish charity regulator OSCR last year reported that 80% of charities named financial issues surrounding funding and running costs as their top challenges. Helen Wray, head of philanthropy and quality at Foundation Scotland which has helped

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **'Tooth and nail' fight for school funding** Councillors and community groups yesterday came out swinging in response to a shock decision to cancel the Highland Council capital budget meeting. The local authority says it can't set its investment priorities until the Scottish Government confirms it will fund some of its longawaited new schools. Privately, some senior representatives fear the government may offer the council a far smaller sum than it had hoped, leaving members to fight in

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 26 **Men are threat to women and children - not trans folk who seek happiness** It is important not to conflate the question of gender recognition with that of the constitution or devolution. They are separate issues. On the one hand, the UK Government clearly does not agree with the majority of MSPs concerning what the process should be for gender recognition. On the other, Nicola Sturgeon has accused Alister Jack of launching a "direct attack on the institution of the Scottish Parliament" by blocking

The Scotsman 6 **Scottish budget failing housing** The Scottish Government's budget could "completely derail" efforts to tackle the housing emergency, a charity has warned. Shelter Scotland says it is "deeply concerned" by cuts to the housing capital budget and the freezing of funding for homelessness services. The charity hit out at plans to cut £112.8 million from the housing capital budget, the equivalent of 16 per cent. The Scottish Government's 2023/24 budget lists a total planned spending

The Scotsman 6 **Nicola Sturgeon accuses Alister Jack of acting like 'governor-general'** Nicola Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a "governor-general" by blocking her controversial gender reforms. The First Minister said Alister Jack was treating the Scottish Parliament "as a subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". It came as the UK Government was urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking royal assent for the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. MSPs passed the legislation by

The Scotsman 7 **Westminster urged to revoke order blocking gender bill** The UK Government has been urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking Scotland's controversial gender recognition legislation. SNP Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said the move was "harmful to trans people" and the Scottish Government was "absolutely determined to vigorously defend the Bill". However, she said ministers were still "digesting" the UK Government's reasons for the decision. MSPs passed the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill by 86 votes to 39

The Scotsman 21 **The Gender Bill is being used as a culture war distraction by the Tories** These are troubled times, no question. In Davos, the world's great and good are discussing the end of the age of globalism and free trade we have taken for granted for so long, scuppered by a combination of pandemic pressures and looming war. In the UK, vital public services weakened by more than a decade of austerity are on the point of collapse; and across the planet, humanity faces

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **LEVEL SHREDDED** Rishi Sunak was last night accused of favouritism after handing the bulk of Levelling Up cash to south east England. Glasgow City Council chief Susan Aitken claimed deprived towns and cities were losing out as the UK Government distributed community regeneration cash to 111 UK regions. It came as more affluent areas, including the PM's own North Yorkshire constituency of Richmond, got bumper boosts. Westminster has insisted all projects

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Emergency legislation to cap rent hikes extended** Rent rises will be capped at 3% and evictions will still be banned, under Scottish Government plans to extend emergency provisions designed to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie announced the move - subject to parliamentary approval - yesterday, pledging to amend the

emergency bill passed last year. Private landlords will only be allowed to raise rents by a maximum of 3% but they can apply to

Daily Record 2 **RENT RISES TO BE CAPPED AT 3%** RENT rises will be capped at three per cent and evictions will still be banned under Scottish Government plans to extend emergency provisions to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie announced the move - which will be subject to parliamentary approval - yesterday. Private landlords will only be allowed to raise rents by a maximum of three per cent, but they can apply to Rent Service Scotland

Daily Record 2 **IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE..** AN opinion poll has found Scots believe the cost of living crisis will get even worse this year. A clear majority are sceptical that the situation will get better, with two-thirds admitting to struggling with energy bills. Mortgages will almost certainly rise, taxes are going up, and the blanket support to control gas and electricity prices will end soon. The new poll, carried out by Survation for advisory firm True

Metro (Scotland) 6 **Jack: Blocking gender bill is democratic right** ALISTER JACK insisted 'this is democracy' in action yesterday as he snubbed pleas to revoke his order blocking gender reforms in Scotland. The Scottish secretary this week issued a section 35 order under the Scotland Act to veto Holyrood's gender reform bill, over fears it would impact on the UK-wide Equality Act. The Scottish government claims the new law - which would make it easier for trans people to change

Daily Express (Scotland) 12 **Fund grants local power to promote real devolution** FOR too long it has been the case that some people in Scotland are denied the chance to fulfil their potential through no fault of their own. We know that the qualities of talent, ability and drive are spread evenly across the country. Yet for reasons beyond their control some people don't get the life chances that others are able to make the most of. It is a defining mission of the

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **SNP accused of discarding long-held pledge over attainment gap** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of ditching her long-standing commitment to closing the poverty-related attainment gap. During First Minister's Questions yesterday, Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross, right, criticised Ms Sturgeon's broken promise to close the gap completely. He said Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville, far right, had rubbished the pledge on Wednesday, when she told a committee that "it is exceptionally difficult, if not impossible, to achieve - to get it

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 8 **Protest held over blocking of gender bill** More than a hundred protesters gathered at Castlegate in Aberdeen to oppose the UK Government's decision to block the Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The move on Monday by Westminster has caused outrage among many politicians and trans-rights groups. It is the first time a Section 35 order, which allows the UK Government to block a Holyrood bill from becoming law, has been used in the history of devolution.

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Mend the gap** WEASEL words were the order of the day yesterday as Nicola Sturgeon appeared to row back from her totemic education pledge. Once upon a time, she promised to get rid of the poverty-related attainment

gap — that is, the difference between how well poor kids and their better-off classmates do at school. Indeed, the First Minister said of this "defining mission" that "I want to be judged on this". The

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **Strikes won't end until teachers win fair deal** FROM PAGE ONE anger after Ms Sturgeon praised her Education Secretary for doing "everything possible" to reach a solution. Union chiefs savagely dismissed the First Minister's opinion of the affair and its handling by Shirley-Anne Somerville. Ms Sturgeon was also under withering attack from critics after it emerged that the SNP-led council in Scotland's biggest city Glasgow was considering getting rid of 800 teachers in a desperate effort to balance

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Sturgeon governor jibe blast** NICOLA Sturgeon was slated last night after claiming Scottish Secretary Alistair Jack is trying to act like a colonial-era "governor-general" over her gender self-ID Bill. Scots Tory MSP Donald Cameron accused her of trying to create a "constitutional spat" with her "absurd" remarks. And he insisted Westminster had "little option" but to block the trans rights reforms, adding: "She railroaded through legislation that impinges on equalities law in the rest

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Jack like a 'governorgeneral', says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a colonial "governor-general" after he vetoed her gender reforms over their impact on UK-wide protections for women. The First Minister said Alistair Jack had treated the Scottish Parliament as a "subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". In a speech, she claimed the decision signalled the start of "a new and more dangerous phase for devolution" that showed

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **£15k funding helps RGU launch first wheelchair basketball team** Robert Gordon University will launch its first wheelchair basketball team after securing £15,000 from Morrisons Foundation. The funding allows RGU SPORT, Scottish Disability Sport, Grampian Flyers and the university's Disability Sport Working Group to buy 10 sport wheelchairs as they hope to introduce a new audience to the sport across the north-east. Rory Anton, club development officer at RGU SPORT, said: "This investment is extremely positive for the region and

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **First Minister prepares to throw more taxpayer money down the drain** Signs are emerging that Nicola Sturgeon is fast losing the plot in her dispute with the Government over its veto on her gender reform bill. She accused Alistair Jack, Scottish Secretary of behaving like a colonial era governor general and of a 'fullfrontal' Tory assault on the Scottish Parliament and devolution. She said that Jack wasn't interested in a partnership arrangement but wanted to treat Holyrood as a "subordinate body",

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Follow the drill** THE SNP government may want to wind down drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea — but it seems the public disagree. A poll yesterday showed that threequarters of Scots want the United Kingdom to meet demand for energy sources from domestic production. This is hardly surprising. Putin's war on Ukraine has highlighted the weaponising of oil and gas. So it is imperative that Britain takes major steps

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **NIC'S CLASS GAP VOW 'AXE' RAP** NICOLA Sturgeon was yesterday slammed for appearing to water down a flagship pledge to wipe out the poverty-related attainment gap in schools. The First Minister committed only to a vow that her government would "substantially eliminate" the academic divide by 2026. But in a 2015 keynote speech, she had promised to "completely" eradicate it. Scots Tory leader Douglas Ross pulled her up on the shift just 24 hours after

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Scottish landlords handed power to enforce capped rent increases** PRIVATE landlords in Scotland will be permitted to make limited rent increases from April after Nicola Sturgeon's government scrapped a controversial freeze. Patrick Harvie, the tenants' rights minister, announced that landlords can increase private rents but only by up to 3 per cent, well below the rate of inflation. If the surge in interest rates leads to a rise in their mortgage payments, landlords can make an application to a

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 4 **Rent freeze to end in April but rises capped** Rent rises in Scotland will be capped at 3 per cent and evictions will remain banned for at least six months, after ministers extended a scheme to tackle the cost of living crisis. The plan, which is subject to approval by MSPs but is likely to go ahead, was announced by tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie at Holyrood yesterday. From 1 April the current freeze on rent increases in the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **Auld trans sign Campaigners for [...]** Auld trans sign Campaigners for trans rights outside the UK Government Office in Edinburgh after Westminster opted to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, despite it being passed by the Scottish Government in December.

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Shock and law as Scots divided** THE SNP's Gender Recognition Reform Bill has courted controversy ever since it was put forward. MSPs voted to pass a change in the 2004 law, which sets out how people go about obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate. Under the updates, a trans person aged 16 or over would not need a psychological examination or diagnosis before being able to have their gender recognised in law. But the move has sparked

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Pad rent freeze to be lifted** A RENT freeze in Scotland will end on April 1, ministers have confirmed. The emergency measure, which included private lets, is set to be replaced with a three per cent cap on rises. Landlords will be able to apply for increases of up to six per cent in "defined and limited circumstances", the Scottish Government said. The freeze was introduced last year amid the cost of living crisis. An eviction

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 13 **Emergency legislation to cap rent hikes extended** Rent rises will be capped at 3% and evictions will still be banned, under Scottish Government plans to extend emergency provisions designed to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Tenants' rights minister Patrick Harvie announced the move - subject to parliamentary approval - yesterday, pledging to amend the emergency bill passed last year. Private landlords will only be allowed to raise rents by a maximum of 3% but they can apply to

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Goodbye, Mr (and take 799 friends with Chips of your you...)** AT Holyrood yesterday, Nicola Sturgeon was pressed on reports that Glasgow City Council is mulling a cut of 800 teachers. 'This is that time of year when we get lots of reports about the savings options that different councils are considering,' she assured Douglas Ross. Is it Mass Teacher Layoff Day already? It comes round earlier every year. The revelation that threats to axe 14 per cent of teachers in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **Pupils aged just seven quizzed on gender identity** PUPILS as young as seven are being asked if they identify as transgender or non-binary in a 'disgraceful' school survey. Primary school children taking part in the sex and wellbeing study are told an answer to the question is 'required' to move on to the next page of the survey. The pupils - who can select either 'male, female, non-binary, transgender or other' - are not required to have a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **'16 too young to change'** A CLEAR majority of people in the UK think 16 is too young to change gender, a survey has revealed. Reforms proposed by the SNP Government would lower the minimum age to seek a gender recognition certificate from 18 to 16. The PeoplePolling survey of 1,168 adults across the UK for GB News found that 61 per cent agree 16-year-olds are too young to change their legally recognised gender. Only

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **800 TEACHERS 'AT RISK IN SNP CUTS'** MORE than 800 teachers could be axed in Scotland's biggest city under cuts considered by councillors. Cash-strapped Glasgow City Council, which is controlled by the SNP, is contemplating moves to slash teacher numbers to save money, along with proposals to close schools early on Fridays. Class sizes would also rocket if teaching jobs were slashed, on top of more than 100 'support for learning jobs' being at risk. Council officials

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Can't they just let our children be children?** AT an age when you might expect pupils to be mastering reading, writing and arithmetic, children as young as seven are being quizzed about their gender in a baffling new survey. After all, many adults would struggle to explain what 'non-binary' means - let alone youngsters who have spent just two years at primary school. As one parent campaigner wisely said, at the age of seven most children don't even

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Edinburgh's become the vegan capital of Europe? Pass me a bacon roll to celebrate** ON my daughter's birthday we usually go out for a meal at the restaurant of her choice and, these last few years, the nominated establishment has always been vegan. 'An interesting selection,' I would say as the pattern took root. 'But how would it be if we went somewhere which catered for - how should I put it - a wider variety of dietary preferences?' She was having none of

Daily Mail (Scotland) 13 **Scottish rugby in the dock over reaction to star player's abuse** RUGBY bosses were last night accused of an 'unfathomable' failure to show any concern for the victim of domestic abuse by one of their players. Glasgow Warriors and Scottish Rugby Union player Rufus McLean, 22, used trackers to keep tabs on his former girlfriend Cara Haston and also demanded passwords to her social media account. The 13-stone player admitted leaving his 21-year-old victim with a burst lip and black eye

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **pupils aged just seven quizzed on gender identity** PUPILS as young as seven are being asked if they identify as transgender or non-binary in a 'disgraceful' school survey. Primary school children taking part in the sex and wellbeing study are told an answer to the question is 'required' to move on to the next page of the survey. The pupils - who can select either 'male, female, non-binary, transgender or other' - are not required to have a

The Herald 6 **Anger in Glasgow at levelling-up cash snub as all bids fail** THE UK Government has defended the geographical spread of the most recent round of the Levelling Up Fund. Ministers have been criticised that the bulk of the £2 billion of spending has been handed to the south east. While the money is meant to help deprived areas level up, some of the projects announced are in relatively affluent areas including the town of Catterick Garrison in Rishi Sunak's wealthy Richmond

The Herald 6 **Jack refuses to give evidence to MSPs over gender reforms** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to give evidence to a Holyrood committee over his decision to block Scotland's gender recognition reforms despite insisting amending the bill is up to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Secretary was branded an "absolute disgrace" after he insisted it was not his job to appear before Holyrood's Equalities Committee. Hundreds of trans rights protesters gathered outside the UK Government's Queen Elizabeth House in Edinburgh

The Herald 5 **£100m deal to boost Scots island economies** SCOTLAND'S island communities are to receive £100 million in a landmark deal that could spark a jobs boom in areas battling depopulation. The funds will be invested in Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides after an agreement was signed by UK and Scottish government ministers and council leaders. Up to 1,300 jobs and £393m of investment is expected to result from the signing of the transformative Islands Growth Deal. Over

The Herald 1 **Councils make direct plea to First Minister** COUNCIL leaders from across Scotland have warned the First Minister of their fears over government underfunding. The 32 leaders - including SNP politicians - wrote to Nicola Sturgeon to express their concerns of a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the cost-of-living crisis. They have now asked John Swinney, the acting Finance Secretary, to attend a special summit "as a matter of

The Herald 4 **Rent cap extended for six months but allows for three per cent rises from April** A CAP on private rents is set to be extended for at least another six months but it will allow for increases of up to three per cent, it has been confirmed. Currently, private and social rents are capped at 0% - effectively a freeze - but this is due to change after the end of March. From April 1 until September 30, private landlords will be able to increase

The Herald 4 **All of Scotland's council leaders make direct plea to First Minister over budgets** THE leaders of all of Scotland's councils, including SNP politicians, have signed a letter to Nicola Sturgeon warning of looming financial problems and job cuts. With councils setting budgets in the coming weeks, the 32 leaders told the First Minister they were "deeply concerned" by Scottish Government underfunding. They

warned the settlement would have a "detrimental impact on vital local services" and deny resources to communities already dealing with the

The Herald 6 **Labour suspends Glasgow selection after local party blocks candidates** SCOTTISH Labour has suspended the selection process for General Election candidates in two Glasgow seats after local activists tried to block candidates from standing. Four people had put themselves forward in the joint selection battle for Glasgow East and Glasgow North East - former Scottish Government minister Frank McAveety, Glasgow councillor Maureen Burke, trade unionist Shona Thomson, and activist Declan McLean. However, the executive of the local party only wanted

The Herald 15 **Stakes couldn't be higher as Sunak takes a gamble** IT'S hard to recall a recent occasion when so much political heat has been expended by so many on so few. But now Rishi Sunak has decided to use the gender reform row to stoke Scotland's constitutional fire and in doing so is gambling with the future of the Union. Of all the subjects to spark yet another cross-border wrangle, this time around it is one that's already loaded with

The Herald 7 **Tribunal rejects claim of university discrimination** AN academic has lost her sex discrimination fight against one of Scotland's oldest universities but the institution has been urged to review its promotion procedures. Jeanette Findlay claimed her application to be made a professor of economics was rejected by the University of Glasgow on account of her gender. The tribunal was told that, as of January 2020, there had never been a woman promoted to a chair in economics

The National (Scotland) 12 **Gender bill might well have faced legal challenge in an Indy Scotland** Everyone knows I am opposed to the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. However, I believe the problems it creates should be addressed in Scotland if not by our Parliament, then by our courts. That said, to describe the use of the Section 35 power to block the bill as an attack on devolution doesn't really make sense. It is of the essence of devolution that

The National (Scotland) 7 **The scandalous truth about UK 'levelling up'** SCOTLAND is still reeling from the Tories' blatant assault on democracy and the devolution settlement with Alister Jack's unprecedented use of a Section 35 order to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill from receiving royal assent. Meanwhile, as that alarming development threatens the integrity of the Scottish Parliament, the Tories are quietly getting on with subverting democracy and standards of governance in other ways. Today, a major tranche of funding

The National (Scotland) 5 **Robison urges UK to U-turn on 'harmful' move** THE UK Government is being challenged to revoke the order it has made that will prevent reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland from becoming law. Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison argued that "immediately" revoking the order would "show the UK Government is serious about improving the lives of trans people and respecting Scottish democracy". Earlier this week, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack confirmed he would make a Section 35

The National (Scotland) 1 **"A DISGRACE": JACK SNUBS MSPs OVER S35 MOVE** Wee Ginger Dug The scandalous truth about levelling • M a n who announced

UK was blocking gender bill says I f s not my job⁷ in response to Holyrood invite
•SNP's Roddick: He clearly knows there are no grounds for this unprecedented attack on Scots Parliament

The National (Scotland) 4 **'Disgrace' as Jack snubs MSPs over S35 invite** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to provide evidence at a Holyrood committee on his decision to prevent Scotland's gender reform legislation from becoming law. It comes after the UK Government issued a Section 35 order to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from receiving royal

The National (Scotland) 4 **We are here to say that S35 is wrong'** HUNDREDS of protesters gathered outside the UK Government's hub in Edinburgh yesterday calling on Westminster to reverse its decision to block Scotland's gender reform legislation. Campaigners turned the street pink, white and blue as they accused the Tories of a twin attack on trans rights and democracy. Activists held placards reading "the Scottish Parliament has spoken", "trans rights are human rights" and "hit the road Jack" - a reference to

The National (Scotland) 8 **Sunak accused of favouritism on 'corrupt' levelling up funding** RISHI Sunak has been accused of "favouritism" after MPs blasted his government's levelling up agenda as "completely corrupt". Members of the Prime Minister's own party also expressed disappointment with numerous Tory MPs stating that their local councils had worked "really hard" on their bids only to be unsuccessful. Labour MP and former minister Chris

The National (Scotland) 2 **Council cuts could put 800 teaching jobs under threat** PROPOSALS which could see 800 teaching posts cut to save money have been drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. They also propose shutting primary schools across Glasgow early on Fridays in a bid to save £51 million from the education budget, according to a document leaked to the Daily Record. Teaching unions have said they are "desperately worried" about the plans,

The National (Scotland) 20 **Even biggest critics could not argue gender bill process was undemocratic** POLITICS is a brutal, bruising business and sometimes innocent, vulnerable people get hurt in the crossfire. This week those victims have included some of Scotland's most marginalised and discriminated-against people. The trans community has waited too long to have the process of legally changing their gender made simpler, in line with the system in many other countries in the world. It has been a long and often difficult journey which

The National (Scotland) 17 **Tories wont hesitate to wield Section 35 again** THE UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill was unprecedented. It was a dark day for devolution, democracy, and the rights of trans people in Scotland. The reality is that this is one of the most scrutinised bills in the history of our Parliament. It passed following years of debate, including two consultations and a full committee scrutiny process. The three days of parliamentary debate saw MSPs

The National (Scotland) 9 **Rent freeze set to be extended and capped at 3%** THE private sector rent freeze in Scotland is set to be extended for another six months at

least, Tenants' Rights Minister Patrick Harvie has said. The emergency bill was passed in the last parliamentary term to stop landlords from raising rents during the cost of living crisis. If any landlord does choose to increase private rent between April and September, this will be limited to 3% of the overall rent,

The National (Scotland) 6 **Opposition leaders dodge hot topics amid bumper news week** IT'S been a huge week for Scottish politics. The UK Government will - for the first time in the Scottish Parliament's history - use a Section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform Bill (GRR) from gaining royal assent. So it looks like we're headed for another court battle between the governments. In response, the SNP said that it is a democratic outrage that the UK Government is interfering in

The Times (Scotland) 3 **Edinburgh 'leads the way' by endorsing vegan treaty** Edinburgh has become the first city in Scotland to endorse the "Plant Based Treaty" which promotes veganism. Councillors backed the treaty announced in 2021 at Cop26 in Glasgow which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture to tackle the climate emergency. They hope that where Edinburgh leads the country will follow and urged Nicola Sturgeon to adopt the treaty on behalf of the Scottish government. Suggestions to reduce

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Jack acting like Scots governor over gender bill, says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon has accused Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, of acting like a "governor-general" following his decision to block Holyrood's contentious gender recognition reforms. Jack's announcement on Tuesday that he would make a section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from going forward for royal assent prompted a furious response from the first minister, who accused him of a "full-frontal" assault on the constitutional settlement. She

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Glasgow fears industry exodus after losing out on freeports** Heavy manufacturing and haulage firms will look to quit the west of Scotland after its bid for a green freeport was unsuccessful, the leader of Glasgow city council fears. Susan Aitken is worried that the selection by Westminster and Holyrood of bids in the Cromarty Firth and along the Firth of Forth will drive a shift in activity from other areas. In a letter to Michael Gove, the levelling-up secretary,

The Times (Scotland) 7 **All quiet on the death of democracy front** Political Sketch You could scarcely hear yourself think at Holyrood yesterday, what with the noise of all the dogs that were not barking. Amid the usual litany of woes paraded at first minister's questions, the most salient feature of this week's exchanges was the topic that was not mentioned at all. Even the first minister's tame backbenchers declined to ask a question about the death of democracy in Scotland. Holyrood

The Times (Scotland) 27 **Crony Politics** The SNP moved from the fringes of Scottish politics to become the dominant party by effectively turning its guns on Labour. Scottish Labour, said the nationalists, had grown complacent and lazy after decades of taking for granted the support of Scots. If voters wished for a new, more honest kind of government, free of the cronyism and the lack of accountability that had corrupted the Labour Party, then the SNP

10. CORPORATE

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **Slater in eco row walkout** A SCOTTISH Greens minister was slammed yesterday for walking out of a Holyrood debate as she was accused of misleading parliament. Lorna Slater left as Tory MSP Liam Kerr rose to ask her to correct the record on the government's false claim that Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind energy potential. The figure was debunked by a thinktank last November, and evidence suggested ministers had known since

The Scotsman 8 **Scots ministers accused of being economical with the truth** Ministers were accused of being "economical with the truth" and misleading either Holyrood or the House of Commons following First Minister's Questions. Ivan McKee, the SNP minister for business, and Lorna Slater, the Green minister for green skills, were the focus of two points of order from Conservative MSPs, who criticised the accuracy of answers to questions in the Scottish Parliament. Ministers faced questions around Ms Slater's claim ministers were

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **How 'dodgy data' Slater ducked out of chamber** A GREEN minister has been accused of 'evasion' after leaving the Holyrood debating chamber as an opponent accused her of misleading parliament by using debunked figures about wind energy. Lorna Slater quickly exited the chamber after her claim was highlighted as an example of the 'endemic' problem of Scottish Government ministers 'ignoring and disrespecting the ministerial code'. SNP and Green ministers have been criticised for repeatedly claiming that Scotland has

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

i (The paper for today) 21 **Gender row could derail Sunak's plans** In blocking Scotland's Gender Reform Bill, has Rishi Sunak lit a tinderbox that could overshadow his administration's core aims? The row that has erupted this week lies at the intersection of two of the most contentious areas of debate in British politics: trans rights and Scottish devolution. To recap, in December Holyrood passed a Bill that would allow trans people in Scotland to legally change gender more easily, quickly and

The Daily Telegraph 17 **The three threats to Rishi Sunak's fitful relaunch** Slowly, slowly, after three months under the new Prime Minister, the Conservative Party's will to govern is cranking back into life. Efforts to modernise and turbo-charge the motor have been abandoned, and the hope now is just that it runs reasonably smoothly, if necessary at low revs, through to election day in 2024. Like an old traction engine coaxed back into life, it may be inefficient, it may be lumbering,

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **MP says funding snub is a 'major disappointment'** Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross admits failing to win Tory Government funds for his region is a "major disappointment". His colleagues in the UK Government awarded funding to 10 projects across Scotland but Moray Council's bid to bring new jobs and investment to Elgin was unsuccessful. The Moray MP is now seeking "urgent" meetings with Tory ministers to find out what went wrong with the region's £18 million bid. The

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 26 **Men are threat to women and children - not trans folk who seek happiness** It is important not to conflate the

question of gender recognition with that of the constitution or devolution. They are separate issues. On the one hand, the UK Government clearly does not agree with the majority of MSPs concerning what the process should be for gender recognition. On the other, Nicola Sturgeon has accused Alister Jack of launching a "direct attack on the institution of the Scottish Parliament" by blocking

The Scotsman 20 **Calanais in line for £6m upgrade amid rise in visitors and arrival of cruise ships** Around £6 million is to be spent on upgrading the Calanais Standing Stones experience amid an "enormous" rise in visitor numbers and the predicted arrival of thousands of cruise ship passengers to the Neolithic wonder. Urras nan Tursachan (UnT), the trust that runs the visitor centre at the site on the Isle of Lewis, is pushing ahead with its redevelopment plan after it received £2m from the Scottish Government this

The Scotsman 42 **Scotland is facing another devolution row over strikes bill** The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill was introduced into the UK parliament last week and makes provision for minimum service levels to be stipulated for health services, fire and rescue services, education services, transport services, decommissioning of nuclear installations and management of radioactive waste and spent fuel, and border security, but the detail of the minimum service levels themselves will be outlined in further regulations. The government has said

The Scotsman 6 **Nicola Sturgeon accuses Alister Jack of acting like 'governorgeneral'** Nicola Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a "governor-general" by blocking her controversial gender reforms. The First Minister said Alister Jack was treating the Scottish Parliament "as a subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". It came as the UK Government was urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking royal assent for the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. MSPs passed the legislation by

The Scotsman 7 **Westminster urged to revoke order blocking gender bill** The UK Government has been urged to "immediately revoke" its order blocking Scotland's controversial gender recognition legislation. SNP Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said the move was "harmful to trans people" and the Scottish Government was "absolutely determined to vigorously defend the Bill". However, she said ministers were still "digesting" the UK Government's reasons for the decision. MSPs passed the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill by 86 votes to 39

The Scotsman 13 **Edinburgh concert hall work to begin this year** A final hurdle has been cleared to allow work to begin within weeks on Edinburgh's first new purpose-built concert hall for more than a century. The Royal Bank of Scotland has handed over a site behind its historic New Town headquarters, which is earmarked for the new Dunard Centre. Empty offices occupying the land, between St Andrew Square and the new St James Quarter, will be demolished to make way

The Scotsman 8 **Pledge to help crisis-hit arts groups - if alarm is raised early enough** Scottish culture secretary Angus Robertson has pledged that help will be offered to arts organisations facing major financial problems - so long as they do not leave it too late to raise the alarm. Mr Robertson said everything possible would be done by the Scottish Government and its agencies to help arts organisations facing

financial difficulties. But he said there was a need for greater awareness of where the "greatest

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **LEVEL SHREDDER** Rishi Sunak was last night accused of favouritism after handing the bulk of Levelling Up cash to south east England. Glasgow City Council chief Susan Aitken claimed deprived towns and cities were losing out as the UK Government distributed community regeneration cash to 111 UK regions. It came as more affluent areas, including the PM's own North Yorkshire constituency of Richmond, got bumper boosts. Westminster has insisted all projects

Daily Express (Scotland) 22 **Child sex charges for 2 more Met men** TWO retired Metropolitan Police officers have been charged with child sex offences - days after a serving chief inspector in the force died before he could be charged. Jack Addis, 63, from Perthshire, Scotland, and Jeremy Laxton, 62, from Lincolnshire, will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court next month. Addis is charged with conspiracy to distribute or show indecent images of children. Laxton faces this charge, as well as three counts of

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Cross-border growth deal to invest £100m for islands** Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will benefit from a £100m growth scheme agreed by the UK and Scottish Governments, which could create as many as 1,300 jobs. The Islands Growth Deal, which will be formally signed on Orkney today, is expected to attract a total of £393m of investment. Due to last for 10 years, it will invest in 16 projects with the aim of making the islands more

Metro (Scotland) 6 **Jack: Blocking gender bill is democratic right** ALISTER JACK insisted 'this is democracy' in action yesterday as he snubbed pleas to revoke his order blocking gender reforms in Scotland. The Scottish secretary this week issued a section 35 order under the Scotland Act to veto Holyrood's gender reform bill, over fears it would impact on the UK-wide Equality Act. The Scottish government claims the new law - which would make it easier for trans people to change

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **SNP 'disappointed' over drop in EU students** THE SNP has claimed it is "bitterly disappointing" European Union students have deserted Scotland's universities, despite the exodus helping to deliver a record number of places for home grown teenagers. Figures show that there was a dramatic drop in the number of enrollments from EU countries in the last academic year, after European students were charged tuition fees for the first time in two decades. While the number

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **Jack like a colonial governor, says Sturgeon** NICOLA Sturgeon has accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a colonial "governor-general" after he vetoed her gender reforms over their impact on UK-wide protections for women. The First Minister said Alister Jack had treated the Scottish Parliament as a "subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". In a speech to a group of pro-independence businessmen and women, she claimed the decision signalled the start of

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **Auld trans sign Campaigners for [...]** Auld trans sign Campaigners for trans rights outside the UK Government Office in Edinburgh after

Westminster opted to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, despite it being passed by the Scottish Government in December.

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Jack like a 'governorgeneral', says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon accused the Scottish Secretary of acting like a colonial "governor-general" after he vetoed her gender reforms over their impact on UK-wide protections for women. The First Minister said Alister Jack had treated the Scottish Parliament as a "subordinate body and deciding which democratic decisions and laws to veto". In a speech, she claimed the decision signalled the start of "a new and more dangerous phase for devolution" that showed

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 7 **First Minister prepares to throw more taxpayer money down the drain** Signs are emerging that Nicola Sturgeon is fast losing the plot in her dispute with the Government over its veto on her gender reform bill. She accused Alister Jack, Scottish Secretary of behaving like a colonial era governor general and of a 'fullfrontal' Tory assault on the Scottish Parliament and devolution. She said that Jack wasn't interested in a partnership arrangement but wanted to treat Holyrood as a "subordinate body",

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 13 **'Disappointment' for Tory chief as £18m bid rejected** Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross admits failing to win Tory Government funds for his region is a "major disappointment". His colleagues in the UK Government awarded funding to 10 projects across Scotland but Moray Council's bid to bring new jobs and investment to Elgin was unsuccessful. The Moray MP is now seeking "urgent" meetings with Tory ministers to find out what went wrong with the region's £18 million bid. The

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 8 **Protest held over blocking of gender bill** More than a hundred protesters gathered at Castlegate in Aberdeen to oppose the UK Government's decision to block the Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The move on Monday by Westminster has caused outrage among many politicians and trans-rights groups. It is the first time a Section 35 order, which allows the UK Government to block a Holyrood bill from becoming law, has been used in the history of devolution.

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Islands to benefit from investment into range of job-creating projects** Scotland's outer islands are to benefit from a share of up to £393 million during the next 10 years as UK and Scottish government initiatives breathe life into 16 projects. The Islands Growth Deal inked for Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides will release nearly £400m, with claims that up to 1,300 jobs could be created by the investment. Brokered between Western Isles Council (WIC), Shetland Islands Council (SIC), Orkney

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Sturgeon governor jibe blast** NICOLA Sturgeon was slated last night after claiming Scottish Secretary Alister Jack is trying to act like a colonial-era "governor-general" over her gender self-ID Bill. Scots Tory MSP Donald Cameron accused her of trying to create a "constitutional spat" with her "absurd" remarks. And he insisted Westminster had "little option" but to block the trans rights reforms, adding: "She railroaded through legislation that impinges on equalities law in the rest

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Follow the drill** THE SNP government may want to wind down drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea — but it seems the public disagree. A poll yesterday showed that threequarters of Scots want the United Kingdom to meet demand for energy sources from domestic production. This is hardly surprising. Putin's war on Ukraine has highlighted the weaponising of oil and gas. So it is imperative that Britain takes major steps

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **'16 too young to change'** A CLEAR majority of people in the UK think 16 is too young to change gender, a survey has revealed. Reforms proposed by the SNP Government would lower the minimum age to seek a gender recognition certificate from 18 to 16. The PeoplePolling survey of 1,168 adults across the UK for GB News found that 61 per cent agree 16-year-olds are too young to change their legally recognised gender. Only

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Can't they just let our children be children?** AT an age when you might expect pupils to be mastering reading, writing and arithmetic, children as young as seven are being quizzed about their gender in a baffling new survey. After all, many adults would struggle to explain what 'non-binary' means - let alone youngsters who have spent just two years at primary school. As one parent campaigner wisely said, at the age of seven most children don't even

Metro (Scotland) 16 **Uni support deal with Ukraine counterpart** A SCOTS university has partnered with a war-torn Ukrainian counterpart to provide a range of support for students and staff. University of the West of Scotland is teaming up with the Ukrainian State University of Railway Transport in Kharkiv as part of a scheme to help Ukrainian universities and researchers. Marcus Ross, vice-principal of planning at UWS, said: 'UWS will support USURT through the provision of various items of hardware,

Metro (Scotland) 16 **Scottish Ballet creates dance centre for health** SCOTTISH Ballet has launched the UK's first dance centre for health in a bid to help people living with dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and long Covid. Stressed-out NHS staff and social care workers will also be able to try specially created sessions and workshops. Scottish Ballet said the work at the new national dance centre for health will help 'celebrate the dancer in each of us'. Christopher Hampson, Scottish

The Herald 5 **£100m deal to boost Scots island economies** SCOTLAND'S island communities are to receive £100 million in a landmark deal that could spark a jobs boom in areas battling depopulation. The funds will be invested in Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides after an agreement was signed by UK and Scottish government ministers and council leaders. Up to 1,300 jobs and £393m of investment is expected to result from the signing of the transformative Islands Growth Deal. Over

The Herald 3 **Thrown several lifelines over the years, but what's next?** ON a misty October day in 1946, the Waverley was launched on the Clyde by Lady Matthews, the wife of the chairman of the then-owners London and North Eastern Railway. With her maiden voyage on June 16, 1947, the Waverley cruised up Loch Long and Loch Goil to the villages of Lochgoilhead and Arrochar. For more than two decades, she sailed along the coast stopping off at villages along the

The Herald 15 **Stakes couldn't be higher as Sunak takes a gamble** IT'S hard to recall a recent occasion when so much political heat has been expended by so many on so few. But now Rishi Sunak has decided to use the gender reform row to stoke Scotland's constitutional fire and in doing so is gambling with the future of the Union. Of all the subjects to spark yet another cross-border wrangle, this time around it is one that's already loaded with

The Herald 6 **Jack refuses to give evidence to MSPs over gender reforms** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to give evidence to a Holyrood committee over his decision to block Scotland's gender recognition reforms despite insisting amending the bill is up to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Secretary was branded an "absolute disgrace" after he insisted it was not his job to appear before Holyrood's Equalities Committee. Hundreds of trans rights protesters gathered outside the UK Government's Queen Elizabeth House in Edinburgh

The Herald 4 **Robertson listening to funding appeals** THE SNP Culture Secretary has said he hears the financial warnings coming from sector chiefs "loud and clear", amid significant budget cuts. Angus Robertson was responding to concerns after the culture sector was allocated just £64.2 million in the coming financial year - down from £69.3m in 2022-23 - with further constraints predicted. Iain Munro, chief executive of Creative Scotland, told a Holyrood committee last week that the financial settlement

The National (Scotland) 1 **"A DISGRACE": JACK SNUBS MSPs OVER S35 MOVE** Wee Ginger Dug The scandalous truth about levelling • M a n who announced UK was blocking gender bill says I f s not my job7 in response to Holyrood invite • SNP's Roddick: He clearly knows there are no grounds for this unprecedented attack on Scots Parliament

The National (Scotland) 12 **Gender bill might well have faced legal challenge in an indy Scotland** Ev e r y o n e knows i am opposed to the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. However, I believe the problems it creates should be addressed in Scotland if not by our Parliament, then by our courts. That said, to describe the use of the Section 35 power to block the bill as an attack on devolution doesn't really make sense. It is of the essence of devolution that

The National (Scotland) 11 **Hu deaths hit highest level for 20 years** SCOTLAND recorded the highest weekly number of flu deaths in 20 years last week, figures show. Statistics released by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) yesterday show the deaths of 121 people from flu were registered, an increase from 91 in the previous week. The number of people who died as a result of Covid-19 also increased last week, with 101 fatalities registered that mentioned the virus on the death

The National (Scotland) 4 **'Disgrace' as Jack snubs MSPs over S35 invite** ALISTER Jack has snubbed an invitation to provide e v i d e n c e at a Holyrood committee on his decision to prevent Scotland's gender r e f o r m l e g i s l a t i o n f r o m becoming law. It comes after the UK Government issued a Section 35 order to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from receiving royal

The National (Scotland) 3 **Don't miss our great new polling series** BREXIT, the NHS, a de facto referendum on Scottish independence. These are some of the key issues

defining Scotland's - and the UK's - political landscape. But rather than listen on as politicians trade blows and point fingers, The National wanted to find out what people in Scotland were actually thinking. Does the Tories' rhetoric about the NHS crisis being entirely the fault of the Scottish Government reflect the views

The National (Scotland) 6 **Opposition leaders dodge hot topics amid bumper news week** IT'S been a huge week for Scottish politics. The UK Government will - for the first time in the Scottish Parliament's history - use a Section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform Bill (GRR) from gaining royal assent. So it looks like we're headed for another court battle between the governments. In response, the SNP said that it is a democratic outrage that the UK Government is interfering in

The National (Scotland) 20 **Even biggest critics could not argue gender bill process was undemocratic** POLITICS is a brutal, bruising business and sometimes innocent, vulnerable people get hurt in the crossfire. This week those victims have included some of Scotland's most marginalised and discriminated-against people. The trans community has waited too long to have the process of legally changing their gender made simpler, in line with the system in many other countries in the world. It has been a long and often difficult journey which

The National (Scotland) 5 **Robison urges UK to U-turn on 'harmful' move** THE UK Government is being challenged to revoke the order it has made that will prevent reforms of the gender recognition process in Scotland from becoming law. Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison argued that "immediately" revoking the order would "show the UK Government is serious about improving the lives of trans people and respecting Scottish democracy". Earlier this week, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack confirmed he would make a Section 35

The National (Scotland) 3 **Farage to host GB News show from Scots pub** NIGEL Farage is set to host an episode of his GB News show from a pub in Scotland. The former Ukip leader has announced he will bring his programme to a pub in Aberdeen this April. The venue has yet to be revealed due to security concerns, with details to be released 24 hours before the event begins. However, tickets for the show have reportedly sold out less than 24

The National (Scotland) 15 **Site for new concert hall handed over** BANK bosses have handed over the site which will become home to Edinburgh's first new concert hall for more than 100 years. The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) transferred the land, at the rear of its Dundas House building in the New Town, to Impact Scotland - the charity taking the project forward. Work to clear the site is expected to be completed during 2023, with building starting after that.

The National (Scotland) 4 **We are here to say that S35 is wrong'** HUNDREDS of protesters gathered outside the UK Government's hub in Edinburgh yesterday calling on Westminster to reverse its decision to block Scotland's gender reform legislation. Campaigners turned the street pink, white and blue as they accused the Tories of a twin attack on trans rights and democracy. Activists held placards reading "the Scottish Parliament has spoken", "trans rights are human rights" and "hit the road Jack" - a reference to

The National (Scotland) 8 **Sunak accused of favouritism on 'corrupt' levelling up funding** RISHI Sunak has been accused of "favouritism" after MPs blasted his government's levelling up agenda as "completely corrupt". Members of the Prime Minister's own party also expressed disappointment with numerous Tory MPs stating that their local councils had worked "really hard" on their bids only to be unsuccessful. Labour MP and former minister Chris

The National (Scotland) 7 **The scandalous truth about UK 'levelling up'** SCOTLAND is still reeling from the Tories' blatant assault on democracy and the devolution settlement with Alister Jack's unprecedented use of a Section 35 order to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill from receiving royal assent. Meanwhile, as that alarming development threatens the integrity of the Scottish Parliament, the Tories are quietly getting on with subverting democracy and standards of governance in other ways. Today, a major tranche of funding

The National (Scotland) 17 **Tories wont hesitate to wield Section 35 again** THE UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill was unprecedented. It was a dark day for devolution, democracy, and the rights of trans people in Scotland. The reality is that this is one of the most scrutinised bills in the history of our Parliament. It passed following years of debate, including two consultations and a full committee scrutiny process. The three days of parliamentary debate saw MSPs

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Culture secretary defends reduction in arts budget** The culture secretary has insisted he wants Scotland's culture organisations "to flourish" after the SNP-led administration cut the national arts agency's budget by more than 10 per cent. Angus Robertson was responding to concerns after Creative Scotland had its funding slashed by £7 million to £56 million in the coming financial year, with further constraints predicted in future years. Iain Munro, chief executive of Creative Scotland, told a Holyrood committee

The Times (Scotland) 27 **Crony Politics** The SNP moved from the fringes of Scottish politics to become the dominant party by effectively turning its guns on Labour. Scottish Labour, said the nationalists, had grown complacent and lazy after decades of taking for granted the support of Scots. If voters wished for a new, more honest kind of government, free of the cronyism and the lack of accountability that had corrupted the Labour Party, then the SNP

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Jack acting like Scots governor over gender bill, says Sturgeon** Nicola Sturgeon has accused Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, of acting like a "governor-general" following his decision to block Holyrood's contentious gender recognition reforms. Jack's announcement on Tuesday that he would make a section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from going forward for royal assent prompted a furious response from the first minister, who accused him of a "full-frontal" assault on the constitutional settlement. She

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Item 16:

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To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot; Shirley-Anne.Somerville2@parliament.scot; Yousaf H (Humza) <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>; keith.brown.msp@parliament.scot; Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot; Harvie P (Patrick) <Patrick.Harvie@gov.scot>; mairi.mcallan.msp@parliament.scot; Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot

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Press Summary For Scottish Government

19 January 2023

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1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express 4 **Sunak vow to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak has insisted he is blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation"

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Sunak: I've blocked bill to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak insisted he was blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring"

The Herald 15 **Gender law is the biggest step towards indy since 2014** THIS week will be seen as Scotland's Naked Lunch moment. When William Burroughs, the Beat Generation's bard, was asked why he had called his infamous novel Naked Lunch, he said it was because the book was about that "frozen moment when everyone sees what's on the end of every fork". In other words: the moment everything becomes clear, when everything we knew, but didn't want to admit, comes into focus.

The Herald 8 **Minister opens rehab centre aimed at keeping mothers with their children** A NATIONAL residential rehabilitation service designed to support women and their children through recovery has opened in Dundee. Experts say that women with problematic drug use often avoided support services due to the fear of having their children taken into care. But at the Cowan Grove recovery house, developed in partnership with Hillcrest Homes, the children of women who are receiving support for drug or alcohol addiction can stay with

Daily Express (Scotland) 13 **Nats being led down the road to nowhere** THEY are highly unlikely to stop trying, but Nicola Sturgeon and her dwindling army of followers are desperate to prove that Alister Jack used base political tricks to call a halt to their gender reform plan. But it's just not working, even after their pretty hysterical showing in the Commons earlier this week. In exchange after exchange they cried 'foul', but not for a second did the Secretary of State

Daily Mail 41 **Sorry Nicola, but 16 is dangerously young to change your gender** YES, it's a brave and controversial move, but I have no doubt Rishi Sunak has made the right decision in blocking the much discussed Scottish Bill. The legislation would enable self-identification with a Gender Recognition Certificate from the age of 16 for those who wish to present themselves as the opposite sex to that in which they were born. It's the first time British ministers have used powers in the Scotland

Daily Mail 17 **When will the REAL Rishi stand up?** HOW I cheered when Rishi Sunak summoned the courage to tell Nicola Sturgeon to think again about her ill-judged Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Scottish Nationalist First Minister and her allies evidently believe that they are at liberty to promulgate whatever laws they like north of the Border as though Scotland were an independent fiefdom. Such are the perils of devolution. This is the first time since devolution began its

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Levelling Up brings £180m to Scotland** SCOTLAND is set to receive nearly £180million from Westminster's Levelling Up fund, giving the green light to a range of big projects. A new ferry for Fair Isle in Shetland and a £20m refurbishment of Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre and Grand Hall are among those to benefit from cash. The Scottish Conservatives hailed the funding - part of the biggest financial package Scotland has received since devolution - as "levelling up

The Herald 1 **Sarwar refuses to criticise Starmer on gender bill** ANAS Sarwar has refused to criticise the UK Labour leader after Sir Keir Starmer said he opposed a key principle of Scotland's gender recognition reforms. It comes as Sir Keir's shadow Scottish secretary criticised MSPs "slagging off" the UK leader of the party, but was branded "ludicrous" for claiming "there's nothing between the two parts of the Labour Party on this". Meanwhile, the Labour MSP who amended Scotland's gender recognition

The Herald 14 **Westminster triggered as Flynn flays PM for 'stoking culture war'** WE picture William Wallace and Robert the Bruce viewing the 21st century from their time machine. Bruce: "Aw great, Bill. The Scottish people are rising up against their English overlords." Wallace: "Aye, what's it a' about?" Bruce (consults copy of Herald): "It's about the right o' 16-year-olds to change gender without a doctor's note, ken?" Wallace: "Eh?" Bruce: "Says here it's about gender dysphoria." Wallace: "Diss what now?" Bruce: "Phoria."

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **sturgeon courtroom gamble is doomed** NICOLA Sturgeon's bid to launch a costly court battle over her gender reforms is doomed to failure and would be a 'mistake', legal experts have warned. Former Supreme Court Judge Lord Hope of Craighead said he believes the UK Government's case for imposing a section 35 order to block the SNP's overhaul of gender recognition laws is 'devastating'. He was backed by ex-honorary professor of law at Glasgow University, Alistair

Daily Mail 10 **Now Keir sides with Sturgeon on gender law** SIR Keir Starmer has sided with Nicola Sturgeon over Scotland's radical gender reforms. He opposes Westminster using its ultimate veto to block the SNP government's controversial plan to let people as young as 16 change their legal sex. The Labour leader does not think single-sex spaces are put at risk by making it easier for anyone to change sex, and his spokesman would not condemn the party's MPs who barracked

Daily Mail (Scotland) 9 **Edinburgh in meat ban** EDINBURGH has become the first capital city in Europe to commit to dropping meat from its menus in schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The city council has voted to adopt a 'plant-based treaty', which aims to promote vegan food over meat and dairy. It comes as Edinburgh prepares to celebrate Burns Night on January 25, with its centrepiece of haggis, although meat-free alternatives are available. Backing the move are Paul

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Why should WE keep paying for Sturgeon's court failures?** THE debacle over the SNP's transgender reforms is just the latest illustration of an inescapable truth - that the First Minister plainly believes her government is above the law. Time and time again, she has fought bitter legal battles in defence of the indefensible - at enormous cost to the taxpayer - almost always ending in failure and humiliation. According to former Supreme Court judge Lord Hope, Nicola Sturgeon's bid

The Herald 4 **Stephen Flynn tells PM Scotland on 'a slippery slope to direct rule'** THE SNP's leader at Westminster has claimed Scotland is on a "slippery slope from devolution to direct rule". Stephen Flynn's comment came as he challenged Rishi Sunak on the UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Aberdeen South MP started by asking the Prime Minister if he agreed that the use of the Section 35 was a "dangerous moment for devolution". Mr Sunak replied: "Let me

The Herald 13 **Stop rushing to the courts First Minister, and start talks** WAS it only a week ago that Rishi Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon dined together in Inverness? I'd like to think they toasted a new beginning in relations between their two governments. A calm of sorts after the storms, but a calm nevertheless. Ah well, it was nice while it lasted. As of Monday we are back to intergovernmental relations conducted as a pub fight in EastEnders, both sides out on

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Labour stance 'as clear as mud' as rift deepens** LABOUR'S position on controversial gender recognition reforms has been branded 'clear as mud' after further rifts opened within the party. The party's Scottish leader Anas Sarwar criticised the UK Government for blocking the Holyrood's Gender Recognition Act, claiming it was the 'wrong approach'. But Mr Sarwar refused to criticise his UK leader Keir Starmer, who had not opposed the Tory Government's unprecedented decision to prevent the changes becoming law. It

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **SNP minister raises white flag in battle to close attainment gap** CLOSING the attainment gap between Scotland's most deprived and affluent pupils may be 'impossible' to achieve, the Education Secretary has admitted. SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has repeatedly said it is her 'defining mission' to close the gulf between the academic achievements of the richest and poorest youngsters. The First Minister promised in 2016 to 'substantially eliminate the gap over the course of the next decade', saying it would be a

i (The paper for today) 18 **Government has provided boost for plan** The Daily Telegraph To her supporters, the blocking of Nicola Sturgeon's gender reform measure is a major crisis that will give a significant boost to her plans for independence. The reality, however, is that Sturgeon's prospects of achieving the break-up of Britain are fast disappearing. (Alan Cochrane) Press and Journal Sturgeon could find her position under threat. Her carefully cultivated reputation as a safe pair of hands, a woman in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Shameful failure** NICOLA Sturgeon once vowed to put her 'neck on the line' over closing the pupil attainment gap, but now her Education Secretary has admitted it may be 'impossible' to achieve. Shirley-Anne Somerville said the SNP Government now wants to get the gap 'down to as close to zero as possible' rather than completely eradicating it - a significant downgrading of the original goal. She argued it was 'exceptionally difficult, if

The National (Scotland) 6 **Labour MSP hits out with 'Viceroy Jack' jibe** A LABOUR MSP has branded Alister Jack a "viceroy" who must "get back in his box" over the move to block Holyrood's gender recognition reforms using a Section 35 order. Paul Sweeney made the comment to BBC Scotland's political editor Glenn Campbell, who appeared stunned in response. The MSP said: "It feels like a politically malicious act and I think it's about time that Viceroy Jack got back in his

The National (Scotland) 5 **Scotland's democracy is 'collateral in Tory 'culture war' Over reform bill** SCOTLAND'S democracy is "collateral damage" in a Tory "culture war", the leader of the SNP in Westminster has said. Stephen Flynn accused Rishi Sunak of creeping towards a policy of "direct rule" after the Scottish Secretary took the unprecedented step of blocking gender recognition reforms passed by Holyrood with a cross-party majority of MPs. Speaking in the Commons yesterday, Sunak defended the move, saying the Government was acting within the

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Public opinion 'Voters could turn against Sunak'** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to leading pollsters. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with voters in Scotland

i (The paper for today) 22 **A constitutional grenade and an act of vandalism** Who is Rishi Sunak? Not so long ago, he seemed like a return-to-normal Tory government - superficial perhaps, but broadly reasonable. But underneath it all, things are different. There's a continuation of the exact same culture war infantilism we witnessed during Brexit. This week, we've seen evidence for it in two separate issues: the senseless constitutional war triggered with Scotland and the lunacy of the Retained EU Law Bill. On

i (The paper for today) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading

pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Senior legal figures divided over chances of Sturgeon winning** The legal battle lines over the UK Government's decision to block Scotland's gender reforms have been drawn, with a former Supreme Court judge predicting that Nicola Sturgeon's chances of success in court were "very low". Lord Hope said the UK Government's statement of reasons for using a Section 35 order to veto the Bill passed by MSPs before Christmas was "devastating" for the Scottish Government. However, former UK Justice Secretary

The National (Scotland) 18 **First 'Vegan capital' with climate focus** EDINBURGH is to become the first "vegan capital" in Europe to tackle the climate crisis, joining cities such as Los Angeles. Councillors have endorsed The Plant Based Treaty, which promotes a shift to healthier, sustainable diets based on less consumption of meat and dairy products. The capital is the first Scottish city to sign up for the initiative, which has been backed by 20 cities around the world, scientists and

The National (Scotland) 12 **Section 35 order is not anti-democratic but the SNP have been for sometime** IN a normal, fully functioning democracy, it's reasonable to suggest that the SNP would have been pitched from office some time ago. And with them, the last hopes for an independent Scotland in the lifetimes of most of us. Scotland right now though, is not, by any measure, a fully functioning democracy. Instead, it's come to resemble an endless political pantomime where a small but anointed cast of players performs

Metro (Scotland) 5 **Sarwar: UK veto not the way to sort gender row** THE UK government's move to block Holyrood's gender change law is the 'wrong approach', Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said yesterday. Mr Sarwar also said his UK party leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday, blocking the gender recognition reform bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the UK and

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

The Daily Telegraph 2 **UK veto will destroy gender reforms, says Scottish judge** NICOLA STURGEON'S gender reforms will be "destroyed" by the UK Government's objections, one of Scotland's most senior judges has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". Ms Sturgeon's chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are now "very low" and she

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon battling in vain over gender reform veto, says law expert** NICOLA STURGEON'S chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are "very low" and she should think again about wasting public money on a court battle, Scotland's most eminent legal authority has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". He said

The National (Scotland) 4 **Rally speakers urge Scots to send reminder to the world** SPEAKERS for a Brexit Day rally are urging Scots to show up to remind "ourselves and the world" that Scotland's democracy is being "eroded" by Westminster. The call for Yes supporters to gather again at Holyrood in a fortnight comes as think tanks reveal the post-Brexit UK economy is facing a shortfall of 300,000 workers after axing the free movement of people with the EU. Broadcaster and co-organiser of the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **SNP 'using pandemic as excuse for NHS ills'** Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to stop using Covid to "mask her own failures" after it emerged that the vast majority of virus patients she claimed were fuelling an NHS crisis were in hospital for other reasons. She has repeatedly blamed a soaring number of coronavirus patients in recent weeks for unprecedented chaos in hospitals. Waiting times in the Scottish NHS have hit their worst ever levels and health boards

The Daily Telegraph 2 **How the trans row exposed a gaping chasm among Tory MPs** Rishi Sunak had it all planned out - he would take on Nicola Sturgeon to look tough on the trans issue and to open up a front against Labour. But within days these plans were derailed when public rifts opened in the Conservative Party on the issue of banning trans conversion therapy. Last night Tory MPs said "dozens" of backbenchers would oppose the ban unless the Government came forward with

The Daily Telegraph 14 **The Tories' latest betrayal shows why the party is facing extinction** For a moment this week, I forgot my first rule of British politics: never underestimate the Tory party's ability to turn every victory into a full-

blown out. Rishi Sunak's decision to veto Nicola Sturgeon's appalling gender self-ID legislation was a heroic move, or so it seemed, at once a sweeping counter-offensive in the culture wars and the first sign of a popular, muscular Unionism aligned with Scottish opinion. Sturgeon wants

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Time for talks** WHEN Scottish Secretary Alister Jack announced he would veto the SNP's gender self-ID law, it brought the hugely controversial issue back to the front pages. And while there was no dramatic movement in the 24 hours that followed, is still the story dominating politics — both north and south of the border. As yet, there is no confirmation of court action or word on just how Nicola Sturgeon will attempt

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **SUNAK: WE CAN WORK IT OUT, NIC** RISHI Sunak yesterday urged Nicola Sturgeon to work with him to find a way forward to save her gender self-ID law. The PM rejected SNP claims of a "culture war" and insisted his government's veto came amid fears it would have a "significant adverse effect" on UK-wide equalities legislation. Speaking for the first time since Scottish Secretary Alister Jack blocked the trans rights bid, he said any shake-up must ensure

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **SNP 'uses Covid crutch to mask NHS failure'** NICOLA STURGEON has been urged to stop using Covid to "mask her own failures" after it emerged that the vast majority of virus patients she claimed were fuelling an NHS crisis were in hospital for other reasons. The First Minister has repeatedly blamed a soaring number of coronavirus patients over recent weeks for unprecedented chaos on wards and in A&E departments. Waiting times in the Scottish NHS have hit their

The Guardian 2 **Constitutional battle over SNP's gender reforms that were once Tory pledges** The provision of identity lies at the heart of a modern state. But a person's sense of who they are is not as fixed as it once was. UK law has yet to catch up with the idea that people can identify in many ways. It's easier, perhaps, to continue with the status quo. Often reforms fail because legitimate concerns cannot be assuaged or they do not attract the support

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP's gender bill fight is a waste of public cash, lord says** A former Supreme Court judge has condemned as a waste of public money Nicola Sturgeon's threat to challenge Westminster's veto of her gender law. Lord Hope of Craighead, former deputy president of the final court of appeal, said the Scottish government's chances of winning a legal challenge were "very low". Hope, who also served as lord president of the Court of Session and lord justice general, Scotland's highest legal position,

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Gender bill lobbyists get millions from SNP** Scottish charities and civic groups that criticised the Westminster government's decision to block Holyrood's gender recognition laws receive millions in funding from the SNP-led administration. Fourteen groups signed a statement expressing "strong opposition" to Alister Jack, the secretary of state for Scotland, after he issued a Section 35 order preventing the passage of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. The Conservative government in London claims that it is at odds

The National (Scotland) 5 **Jack: 'No plan for veto whenever we choose'** THE UK Government is not seeking to veto Scottish Parliament legislation "whenever it chooses" by moving against controversial reforms of the gender recognition process passed by Holyrood, Alister Jack has claimed. The Scottish Secretary said the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill would have "serious adverse effects" on the operation of UK-wide equalities legislation. Giving a statement to MPs on the Government's decision to use Section 35 of the Scotland Act

The National (Scotland) 1 **'YOU HAVE MADE BIG MISTAKE'** ALL THE LATEST ON UK'S ATTACK ON HOLYROOD FM's warning to Westminster as she confirms the Scottish Government will go to courts over its veto of gender bill • MP tells Jack he 'hasn't a clue' after S35 move defended • European politicians issue condemnation • Labour civil war as MSP criticises Starmer comments

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Westminster plays right into the SNP's hands** Sometimes a single word gives the whole game away. Picking his way carefully through the Commons debate on Scotland's gender recognition bill, Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, said that his decision to block a piece of Holyrood legislation, for the first time since devolution, was based on legal grounds alone. It was absolutely not political, whatever Nicola Sturgeon said. Then, from his own back benches, came a question he should

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon vow 'challenging'** Scotland's education secretary has said it will be "exceptionally challenging" to fulfil Nicola Sturgeon's vow to dramatically improve schooling for poorer children by 2026. The first minister promised to substantially eliminate the attainment gap between rich and poor pupils. Shirley-Anne Somerville told Holyrood's education committee that it will be all but impossible to reduce the gap to zero. Sturgeon made her pledge in 2016 but saw little improvement and the

The National (Scotland) 4 **Court move over UK's block on January bill** FIRST MINISTER Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed the Scottish Government will seek a judicial review to appeal the UK Government's decision to veto gender reforms. She warned it would "inevitably end up in court" as Alister Jack gave a statement in the Commons outlining why the decision had been taken. A judicial review is a type of

The National (Scotland) 12 **Independence handbook imagines first 10 years of Scotland after a Yes vote** AFTER years of consistent feedback from its members asking for hope, Common Weal published its latest book in November. The 285-page handbook illustrates opportunities for Scotland with free, expansive and limitless thinking. It is based on a decade of work by Common Weal, and by organisations and authors the think tank is close to. Sorted: A Handbook For A Better Nation isn't to convince or provide arguments - it's to

The National (Scotland) 12 **We've tried to be sane legislators in the insane asylum that is Brexit UK** THEY say a week is a long time in politics - and this week has certainly felt it! Intent on further undermining the devolution settlement and Scottish democracy, the UK Government is pushing ahead with its flawed Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill later today. My inbox has been flooded with constituents getting in touch to express their concern about REUL. And no wonder; it is not so much a bonfire

The National (Scotland) 9 **Europe condemns UK's 'direct attack' on devolution** THE UK Government is being urged to "respect" Scotland's devolution settlement by politicians in Europe. The European Free Alliance (EFA) - a political organisation constituted of various nationalist and regionalist and autonomist parties across Europe - said that the UK Government's move to block gender reform legislation, which was overwhelmingly passed in the Scottish Parliament before Christmas, was a "direct attack" on devolution. The EFA represents 43 parties across the

The National (Scotland) 4 **How the world's top newspapers covered UK blocking gender reforms** THE National had a look at how the Tories' move to block the Scottish bill was reported in some of the world's international and national publications. UNITED STATES: The New York Times sent out a breaking news alert on Monday evening, telling some 8.6 million digital subscribers about Jack's decision. It said: "UK Government blocks Scottish Law making gender change easier." Its analysis quoted the campaign group Stonewall. The group

The National (Scotland) 8 **What now for gender reform? Possible outcomes as legal battle begins** THE battle between the UK and Scottish governments over the gender reform legislation could take months to resolve, a legal expert has said. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said the move to use a Section 35 order by UK ministers would "inevitably end up in court", adding the Scottish Government will "vigorously defend" the legislation. There is no process to appeal the issuing of the order and MPs will not

The National (Scotland) 20 **As a matter of urgency, the battle for indy must start now - not manana** "Mr MacNeil, do you have anything in your language which equates with the Spanish word manana?" "No sir," replies our Angus. "We have nothing in the Gaelic which quite reflects that sense of urgency." And yet, within the SNP just now, it is the aforesaid MacNeil who is expressing a sense of urgency while others seek to kick the independence can down the road, yet again. Many of us across

The National (Scotland) 9 **De facto indyref motion was leaked before I even had time to read it** EXCLUSIVE BY XANDER ELLIARDS IT was only a matter of hours after it had been sent out that a draft motion on the SNP's de facto referendum plan - shared only with members of the party's ruling body - appeared in the press. The high-level leak led to "spin", with reports over the weekend claiming that Nicola Sturgeon was to unilaterally change the SNP's plan for the next General Election.

The Scotsman 35 **Sunset for oil and gas on the horizon** In response to last week's Scottish Government Energy Strategy, one newspaper ran a front-page headline announcing the end of the oil and gas industry. The truth is less clear. The long-awaited new strategy is a draft and public responses are invited by early April. It foresees a rapid increase in renewable energy generation, continues to rule out fracking, and finally admits that hydrogen is never going to be heating people's

The Scotsman 6 **UK Government in 'stronger position' if Gender Reform goes to courts** The UK Government is in a "stronger position" if the battle over gender reform goes to the courts, a Scottish academic has claimed. Dr Michael Foran, a lecturer in public law at the University of Glasgow, said the case was not about agreeing with the decision of Scottish secretary Alister Jack to use a section 35 order to block the Bill, but rather whether a reasonable person could have come

The Scotsman 7 **UK Government move to block legislation 'wrong' - Anas Sarwar** The UK Government's move to block Scottish gender recognition legislation is the "wrong approach", Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar has said. Mr Sarwar also said Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need for reform and to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday evening, blocking Holyrood's Gender Recognition Reform Bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the

The Sun 17 **Wage war on the wokes and Rishi might get votes** THERE'S nothing quite like seeing Scottish National Party members jumping up and down with discomfort, as if someone had stuck stoats in their sporrans. That's what happened when the Government rightly blocked the ridiculous Scottish Gender Recognition Act. They went doolally. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak got this right — it is a dangerous and silly piece of legislation, the only point of which was to show how right-on the Scots

The Times 25 **Softly-softly Sunak must show fighting spirit** @iainmartin1 Towards the end of James Graham's latest play, the characters discuss who won. Best of Enemies centres on the televised clashes in 1968 between Gore Vidal and William F Buckley Jr. With America riven by the Vietnam war, fights for civil rights and the sexual revolution, Vidal the novelist and Buckley, creator of the modern conservative movement, went head to head on the struggling ABC news station during the

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Heavy blizzards bring travel chaos and shut schools for a third day** SCOTLAND will be hit by a third day of school closures and travel chaos today as more heavy snow sweeps in. With temperatures dropping as low as -10C last night, Met Office yellow warnings for snow and ice will remain in place until midday today. thundery showers The highest snow accumulation of the year so far - 14 inches - was recorded yesterday at Loch Glascamoch, Ross-shire. Snow and hail

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **Swinney won't rule out MORE costs** ANOTHER rise in the cost of Scotland's ferries fiasco has not been ruled out by the Deputy First Minister. John Swinney refused to guarantee that no more money will be needed in addition to the extra £61 million being provided to Ferguson Marine. Scottish Conservative transport spokesman Graham Simpson told Holyrood's economy committee the rising costs are 'like watching an edition of Ant and Dec's Limitless Win' and asked for a

Daily Record 5 **It's time to invest in our classrooms** Without teachers, schooling cannot take place. If Glasgow City Council was to go down the road of reducing teacher numbers, headteachers would have to teach, class sizes would go up and the choices of subjects would go down. Any young person with additional support needs would also be severely affected and it would widen the attainment gap. These decisions would cut opportunities for young people who would not fulfil their

Daily Record 4 **Cuts will write off the current generation of schoolchildren** A STAGGERING 800 teaching jobs could be axed under a "shocking" £51 million cuts plan drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. The plan is contained in a document leaked to the Daily Record showing options for slashing a total of £68 million from SNP-run Glasgow City Council's budget. It's understood education faces being the largest casualty, with options for cuts adding up to £51 million. Now council chiefs have been warned

Daily Record 1 **800 TEACHERS FACE AXE** MORE THAN 800 teaching posts face the axe as part of brutal £51 million cuts. The grim plan has been revealed in a leaked document from Scotland's biggest council. Seamus Searson, general secretary of the SSTA teachers' trade union, said: "This would potentially write off the current generation of young people." FULL STORY PAGES 4&5

The Herald 6 **Mason criticised for claiming NHS problems are 'somewhat exaggerated'** SNP MSP John Mason has claimed the problems in Scotland's NHS are being "somewhat exaggerated". The comments came during a debate in Holyrood after Labour's spokesperson read out warnings from a leading doctor that the health service may not survive. Jackie Baillie told MSPs that lives were "being put at risk due to the state of our health service". She said: "Every day, staff are being asked to perform miracles

The Herald 6 **Scottish teachers' pay strike continues** TEACHERS in North Lanarkshire and Moray will strike today in what is now a long-running dispute between unions, the Scottish Government and Scotland's 32 councils. Yesterday, as part of the 16-day programme of rolling strikes, schools in Orkney and Fife closed and tomorrow there will be no classes in East Dunbartonshire and Angus. EIS general secretary Andrea Bradley said there was a good turnout on the picket lines despite the

The Herald 2 **£160m bailout for ferries** NEARLY £160 million of public money bailouts has been set aside for the nationalised Ferguson Marine over three years to try to finally deliver Scotland's ferry fiasco ferries - but it might not be the end of it. The £60.9m the Scottish Government has said would be allocated in 2023/24 is £25m more than was budgeted for in this financial year as Ferguson Marine fights to deliver two lifeline ferries

Daily Record 8 **Betrayal of pupils** WE have reported extensively on the unprecedented crisis facing the health service on a range of fronts. Schools are not currently enduring the same pressures, but the service is slowly getting there. Teachers feel demoralised and pupils are not getting the resources they need. The attainment gap is stubbornly high and kids from deprived families are being let down every day. So it is deeply worrying that Glasgow council has

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 7 **NHS collapsed on Yousaf's watch, claims Labour** Opposition MSPs have accused the Health Secretary of presiding over the "collapse of the NHS". Scottish Labour led a Holyrood debate yesterday addressing the crisis facing the health and social care sectors amid significant waiting times in emergency departments. Latest data from Public Health Scotland shows 57.3 per cent of attendees at A&E in the week to 8 January were seen within the four-week target - a small improvement from

The Herald 4 **Investment bank boss search 'ongoing'** A CANDIDATE tipped to take over as head of Scotland's publicly funded investment bank turned down the role when it was offered, Deputy First Minister John Swinney said. Former chief executive Eilidh Mactaggart quit the Scottish National Investment Bank almost a year ago, prompting questions from opposition parties and a process to find her successor. Ms Mactaggart eventually said she left for "personal reasons". Asked for an update, Mr Swinney told

The Herald 6 **West coast freeport fears** THE leader of Glasgow City Council has warned that the decision to snub the region in the Green Freeport contest could lead to manufacturing and haulage firms quitting the west coast. In a scathing letter to Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove and Deputy First Minister John Swinney, Susan Aitken said the risks of displacement were "extremely significant and deeply concerning". She also said the decision meant major investment from the

Metro (Scotland) 15 **SNOW CLOSES SCHOOLS AGAIN** MORE than 100 schools and nurseries in the Highlands had to close for a third successive day yesterday as the cold snap continued. A yellow weather warning for snow and ice remains in place for much of northern Scotland until midday today. A separate yellow alert issued by the Met Office covers Shetland. Sub-zero temperatures overnight and heavy snowfall has affected much of the north of Scotland since Sunday, with

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **SNP 'using pandemic as excuse for NHS ills'** Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to stop using Covid to "mask her own failures" after it emerged that the vast majority of virus patients she claimed were fuelling an NHS crisis were in hospital for other reasons. She has repeatedly blamed a soaring number of coronavirus patients in recent weeks for unprecedented chaos in hospitals. Waiting times in the Scottish NHS have hit their worst ever levels and health boards

The National (Scotland) 2 **Freeport 'optimism'** DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney is "very optimistic" about the two green freeports announced in Scotland, as he sought to reassure MSPs on environmental standards and workers' rights. Updating MSPs yesterday, he said: "Creation of these two green freeports will support businesses to create large numbers of good green jobs; will promote growth and regeneration; and will make a significant contribution to our transition to net zero."

The National (Scotland) 19 **Swinney 'hopes ferry payment is the last'** SCOTLAND'S Deputy First Minister has said he hopes payments made to Ferguson Marine for the completion of two overdue and over-budget ferries will be the last. The Glen Sannox and as-yet unnamed Hull 802 are set to be delivered by May of this year and March of next, which is five and six years later than planned. The vessels have been a long-running sore for the Scottish Government, which brought the

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 4 **Truth behind failed bid for freeport** "I think we were maybe getting the mood music from government contacts last summer really that all was not necessarily well with how the northeast was scored versus the other bids," said one source connected to the losing bid team. "It wasn't hitting all the marks." Another insider at the north-east group noted: "The more it started prolonging, it felt like we were becoming more and more of an outside chance."

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **'Hope' of last ferry payment** JOHN Swinney yesterday refused to guarantee an extra £60.9million payment to a shipyard for two overdue, over-budget ferries will be the last. The Deputy First Minister said he hoped Ferguson Marine will get no more public cash — but told MSPs he could not give that commitment. The vessels are running five and six years late with costs last estimated to be £209.6million. The SNP Government has allocated the extra

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **'MORE CUTS NEEDED' TO END TEACHERS' STRIKES** THE SNP's Education Secretary yesterday signalled more cuts to public services would be needed to end teacher pay strikes. Shirley-Anne Somerville called for opposition parties to suggest where budgets should be chopped to plough into higher wage rises. And she warned MSPs that the Scottish Government "cannot fund everything" amid school walkouts across Scotland. Unions are digging in for a ten per cent uplift after rejecting an offer of between

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Unions reject compromise that cuts teachers' time in classroom** Union leaders rejected a compromise that would have cut classroom working hours for primary school teachers, the Scottish education secretary has said. Shirley-Anne Somerville offered to shave 90 minutes off primary class contact time as an interim measure until councils hire enough teachers to extend the deal to high schools. Unions rejected the offer but continued to publicly berate the SNP government for teachers' longer teaching hours. Scottish teachers spend

Daily Mail (Scotland) 17 **Hundreds of schools shut as blizzard batters North** MORE than 250 schools were forced to shut and motorists faced chaos as blizzards swept the country yesterday. Police Scotland said there was a 'high risk of disruption' amid a Met Office amber warning for snow and ice across a huge swathe of the North. It was put in place from 3pm until midnight for Angus, Perth and Kinross, Moray, Aberdeenshire, the Highlands and the Western Isles. It warned that

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Humza's 'pitiful dereliction of duty'** HEALTH Secretary Humza Yousaf has been accused of a 'pitiful dereliction of duty' and told to end his 'sticking plaster' approach to the NHS crisis. Scottish Labour health spokesman Jackie Baillie raised warnings from doctors who fear the health service has 'died already' and the SNP Government 'lacks the vision or the political will' to save it. Health unions have urged the Scottish Government to make 'real improvements' to the

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **10 Scottish projects share £177m levelling up cash** A new Fair Isle ferry, the restoration of Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre and the regeneration of a former Ministry of Defence site in Stirling are among 10 projects in Scotland to be awarded UK Government funding. Other initiatives include a plan to transform Arbuthnot House in Peterhead into a museum, library and cultural hub and the conversion of a multi-storey car park in Dundee into a sustainable transport hub with 350

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **SNP 'uses Covid crutch to mask NHS failure'** NICOLA STURGEON has been urged to stop using Covid to "mask her own failures" after it emerged that the vast majority of virus patients she claimed were fuelling an NHS crisis were in hospital for other reasons. The First Minister has repeatedly blamed a soaring number of coronavirus patients over recent weeks for unprecedented chaos on wards and in A&E departments. Waiting times in the Scottish NHS have hit their

The National (Scotland) 19 **MSPs' plea over men's sheds funding** MSPs from across the political spectrum have called on the Scottish Government to reverse a funding cut to men's sheds. A group of 40 MSPs joined with the Scottish Men's Shed Association (SMSA) in a plea to the Deputy First Minister John Swinney. They have written to the minister to urge him to reverse the funding cut, after a final £75,000 payment was made to the SMSA for the facilities.

The National (Scotland) 11 **More than 100 schools close due to snow** SNOW was continuing to cause disruption across some parts of Scotland yesterday, with more forecast over the next few days. More than 100 schools and nurseries in Shetland, the Highlands and Aberdeenshire were forced to close due to snow and icy conditions. Road temperatures were below 0C across the north and north-east, and Traffic Scotland advised drivers in Moray, Angus, the Highlands, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen city to use caution when

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 10 **Isle is 'saved' after £27m ferry funding approved** Fair Isle has been awarded £27 million to fund a new roll-on, roll-off ferry in a major boost. It is one of 10 projects across Scotland to receive levelling-up cash from the UK Government. Shetland Islands Council said the funding will "save" the island of approximately 60 residents, situated halfway between Orkney and Shetland. The current vessel Good Shepherd IV is more than 30 years old and does not meet

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Motorists warned as cold snap to continue** Motorists have been warned to be wary of treacherous wintry conditions on the roads following a spate of crashes across the north and north-east yesterday. A yellow weather warning for snow and ice has been extended to noon today by the Met Office as the freezing conditions continue. A 41-year-old man was airlifted to hospital following a one-car crash near Grantown-on-Spey yesterday morning. Emergency services, including a helicopter, were called to

The Scotsman 5 **Yousaf accused of 'presiding over NHS collapse' in heated Holyrood debate** Opposition MSPs have accused Scotland's Health Secretary of presiding over the "collapse of the NHS". Scottish Labour led a Holyrood debate yesterday addressing the crisis facing the health and social care sectors amid significant waiting times in emergency departments. Latest data from Public Health Scotland shows 57.3 per cent of attendees at A&E in the week to January 8 were seen within the four-week target - a small improvement from

The Scotsman 20 **Swinney 'very optimistic' about Scotland's two green freeports** John Swinney has said he is "very optimistic" about the two green freeports announced for Scotland, as he sought to reassure MSPs on environmental standards and workers' rights. Under a joint UK and Scottish government scheme, areas around Inverness and the River Forth were announced last week as winners of freeport status - which offers special tax incentives and lower tariffs, with the aim of stimulating economic growth. Updating MSPs

The Scotsman 8 **Swinney hopes latest ferry pay-out will be final** Scotland's Deputy First Minister has said he hopes payments made to Ferguson Marine for the completion of two overdue and over-budget ferries will be the last - but he refused to commit to it. The Glen Sannox and as yet unnamed Hull 802 are set to be delivered by May of this year and March of next, which is five and six years later than planned. The vessels have been a long-running

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Heavy blizzards bring travel chaos and shut schools for a third day** SCOTLAND will be hit by a third day of school closures and travel chaos today as more heavy snow sweeps in. With temperatures dropping as low as -10C last night, Met Office yellow warnings for snow and ice will remain in place until midday today. thundery showers The highest snow accumulation of the year so far - 14 inches - was recorded yesterday at Loch Glascamoch, Ross-shire. Snow and hail

Daily Record 4 **Cuts will write off the current generation of schoolchildren** A STAGGERING 800 teaching jobs could be axed under a "shocking" £51million cuts plan drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. The plan is contained in a document leaked to the Daily Record showing options for slashing a total of £68million from SNP-run Glasgow City Council's budget. It's understood education faces being the largest casualty, with options for cuts adding up to £51million. Now council chiefs have been warned

Daily Record 1 **800 TEACHERS FACE AXE MORE THAN 800** teaching posts face the axe as part of brutal £51million cuts. The grim plan has been revealed in a leaked document from Scotland's biggest council. Seamus Searson, general secretary of the SSTA teachers' trade union, said: "This would potentially write off the current generation of young people." FULL STORY PAGES 4&5

Daily Record 5 **It's time to invest in our classrooms** Without teachers, schooling cannot take place. If Glasgow City Council was to go down the road of reducing teacher numbers, headteachers would have to teach, class sizes would go up and the choices of subjects would go down. Any young person with additional support needs would also be severely affected and it would widen the attainment gap. These decisions would cut opportunities for young people who would not fulfil their

Daily Mail (Scotland) 20 **Camilla is happy to be 'home' in Scotland** FAR from the pressures and the duties of London, she and her husband have always enjoyed their time here. And yesterday, Queen Consort Camilla, revealed just how comfortable she and King Charles feel in the North-east. While paying a visit to Aberdeen University, Camilla, pictured, told staff and students: "Coming to this university, and to this city, has always felt a bit like coming home to me." Chancellor of the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Shameful failure** NICOLA Sturgeon once vowed to put her 'neck on the line' over closing the pupil attainment gap, but now her Education Secretary has admitted it may be 'impossible' to achieve. Shirley-Anne Somerville said the SNP Government now wants to get the gap 'down to as close to zero as possible' rather than completely eradicating it - a significant downgrading of the original goal. She argued it was 'exceptionally difficult, if

Daily Record 1 **800 TEACHERS FACE AXE MORE THAN 800** teaching posts face the axe as part of brutal £51million cuts. The grim plan has been revealed in a leaked document from Scotland's biggest council. Seamus Searson, general secretary of the SSTA teachers' trade union, said: "This would potentially write off the current generation of young people." FULL STORY PAGES 4&5

The Herald 11 **Princess Royal attends Scots project's launch of world's largest tidal blades** IT is a cheap and green method of producing electricity and is powered by the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun. Now the longstanding desire to harness the power of the tides for electricity has moved closer as a Scots project has started work on the world's largest tidal energy blades. The Princess Royal attended the launch of a project which is aiming to become a world leader in

Daily Record 8 **Betrayal of pupils** WE have reported extensively on the unprecedented crisis facing the health service on a range of fronts. Schools are not currently enduring the same pressures, but the service is slowly getting there. Teachers feel demoralised and pupils are not getting the resources they need. The attainment gap is stubbornly high and kids from deprived families are being let down every day. So it is deeply worrying that Glasgow council has

Metro (Scotland) 15 **SNOW CLOSES SCHOOLS AGAIN MORE** than 100 schools and nurseries in the Highlands had to close for a third successive day yesterday as the cold snap continued. A yellow weather warning for snow and ice remains in place for much of northern Scotland until midday today. A separate yellow alert issued by the Met Office covers Shetland. Sub-zero temperatures overnight and heavy snowfall has affected much of the north of Scotland since Sunday, with

The Herald 8 **Camilla reflects on 'precious time'** THE Queen Consort has spoken about the "precious time" she has spent in the north-east of Scotland, telling staff and students at Aberdeen University that it feels like she is "coming home" on visits to the institution. Camilla said it was a huge pleasure to visit the university's new science teaching hub yesterday. Addressing staff and students, she said: "Coming to this university, and to this city, has always felt

The Herald 7 **Call for action on student inequality** A NEW report has outlined measures which colleges and universities could take in an attempt to address the persistent inequalities in access to education. The joint report from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) identifies the main disadvantages facing people in further and higher education. They have published national equality outcomes which agree targets to address the inequalities around protected characteristics including age,

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Edinburgh council under fire over 'anti-farming' plan** COUNCIL leaders in Scotland's capital have been accused of being "anti-farming" after endorsing a treaty encouraging its half a million residents to drop animal products from their plates. Edinburgh city council has become only the second local authority in the UK and the first in Scotland to sign up to the "Plant Based Treaty", which aims to cut carbon emissions from food production by urging people to adopt a vegan

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **It feels like I'm coming home, says Camilla on Aberdeen visit** THE Queen Consort has spoken about the "precious time" she has spent in the north-east of Scotland, telling staff and students at Aberdeen University that it feels like she is "coming home". Camilla said it was a "huge pleasure" to visit the university's new science teaching hub yesterday, after it opened last year. Addressing staff and students, she said: "Coming to this university, and to this city, has always felt

The Herald 23 **Scottish university imagery spin-out acquired by pharmaceuticals giant Bayer** A SCOTTISH artificial intelligence spin-out has been acquired by global life sciences and pharmaceuticals giant Bayer. Blackford Analysis, a strategic imaging AI platform and solutions provider, has a presence in the UK and US. Spun out from the University of Edinburgh in 2010 and still headquartered in the city, the company said it will "remain accountable to advance its technology, channel partnerships and clinical application portfolio" while benefiting from the

The Herald 6 **Scottish teachers' pay strike continues** TEACHERS in North Lanarkshire and Moray will strike today in what is now a long-running dispute between unions, the Scottish Government and Scotland's 32 councils. Yesterday, as part of the 16-day programme of rolling strikes, schools in Orkney and Fife closed and tomorrow there will be no classes in East Dunbartonshire and Angus. EIS general secretary Andrea Bradley said there was a good turnout on the picket lines despite the

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 3 **Queen Consort visits new uni science hub** The Queen Consort marked her 10th year as Aberdeen University's chancellor by touring the new science teaching hub - telling staff and students that her visits always feel like she is "coming home". Camilla said it was a "huge pleasure" to see the university's new science teaching hub, which opened last year, in action. During her visit, she spoke about the "precious time" she has spent in the north-east. Addressing

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **'MORE CUTS NEEDED' TO END TEACHERS' STRIKES** THE SNP's Education Secretary yesterday signalled more cuts to public services would be needed to end teacher pay strikes. Shirley-Anne Somerville called for opposition parties to suggest where budgets should be chopped to plough into higher wage rises. And she warned MSPs that the Scottish Government "cannot fund everything" amid school walkouts across Scotland. Unions are digging in for a ten per cent uplift after rejecting an offer of between

The National (Scotland) 17 **New targets to address education inequality** A NEW report has outlined measures for colleges and universities to take in a bid to address persistent inequalities in access to education. The joint report from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) identifies the main disadvantages facing people in further and higher education. They have published national equality outcomes which agree on targets to address the inequalities facing protected characteristics, including age,

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Unions reject compromise that cuts teachers' time in classroom** Union leaders rejected a compromise that would have cut classroom working hours for primary school teachers, the Scottish education secretary has said. Shirley-Anne Somerville offered to shave 90 minutes off primary class contact time as an interim measure until councils hire enough teachers to extend the deal to high schools. Unions rejected the offer but continued to publicly berate the SNP government for teachers' longer teaching hours. Scottish teachers spend

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Legal protection offer for parents discussing gender with children** Parents will be given specific legal protection to discuss gender identity matters with their children under plans being considered by Kemi Badenoch, the equalities minister, for a ban on conversion therapy. The government said this week that it would legislate to ban the therapy relating to gender identity as well as sexuality. Almost a year ago, Boris Johnson's government said there was too much "complexity" for transgender people to be

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon vow 'challenging'** Scotland's education secretary has said it will be "exceptionally challenging" to fulfil Nicola Sturgeon's vow to dramatically improve schooling for poorer children by 2026. The first minister promised to substantially eliminate the attainment gap between rich and poor pupils. Shirley-Anne Somerville told Holyrood's education committee that it will be all but impossible to reduce the gap to zero. Sturgeon made her pledge in 2016 but saw little improvement and the

Daily Mail 20 **Edinburgh to take meat off the menu in city's schools** EDINBURGH is now the first European capital to commit to axing meat from its menus in schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The city has voted to adopt the 'plant-based treaty' - including a pledge to promote vegan food over animal products. The move comes days before Burns Night - the centrepiece of which is haggis, traditionally made from a sheep's liver, lungs, heart and stomach. Edinburgh is the second place

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **SNP minister raises white flag in battle to close attainment gap** CLOSING the attainment gap between Scotland's most deprived and affluent pupils may be 'impossible' to achieve, the Education Secretary has admitted. SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has repeatedly said it is her 'defining mission' to close the gulf between the academic achievements of the richest and poorest youngsters. The First Minister promised in 2016 to 'substantially eliminate the gap over the course of the next decade', saying it would be a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 17 **Hundreds of schools shut as blizzard batters North** MORE than 250 schools were forced to shut and motorists faced chaos as blizzards swept the country yesterday. Police Scotland said there was a 'high risk of disruption' amid a Met Office amber warning for snow and ice across a huge swathe of the North. It was put in place from 3pm until midnight for Angus, Perth and Kinross, Moray, Aberdeenshire, the Highlands and the Western Isles. It warned that

The Daily Telegraph 1 **Letting pupils 'socially transition' harms well-being, teachers told** TEACHERS are to be warned against "socially transitioning" children who question their gender, The Daily Telegraph has learnt. Allowing pupils to change their names and pronouns to match their preferred gender could have a major impact on their psychological well-being, schools will be told in new guidance. There has been growing concern about teachers allowing children to embrace a new gender identity at school, in some cases without the knowledge

The National (Scotland) 11 **More than 100 schools close due to snow** SNOW was continuing to cause disruption across some parts of Scotland yesterday, with more forecast over the next few days. More than 100 schools and nurseries in Shetland, the Highlands and Aberdeenshire were forced to close due to snow and icy conditions. Road temperatures were below 0C across the north and north-east, and Traffic Scotland advised drivers in Moray, Angus, the Highlands, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen city to use caution when

The National (Scotland) 19 **Support for autism commissioner role** A SURVEY has found overwhelming support for the appointment of a commissioner to promote and protect the rights of autistic people in Scotland. A report by National Autistic Society Scotland (NAS) and Scottish Autism found that in a survey of 1215 autistic people, carers and professionals, 96% backed the move. The report urges the Scottish Government to move forward on its commitment to establish

The National (Scotland) 20 **Wheelchair basketball team launches for students** A WHEELCHAIR basketball team is being launched to open up sport to more students with disabilities in Scotland's north-east. Robert Gordon University (RGU) SPORT, Scottish Disability Sport (SDS), Grampian Flyers and the University's Disability Sport Working Group have secured £15,000 funding from Morrisons Foundation for the purchase of 10 sport wheelchairs, with the hope that this will open the sport up to a new audience in the north-east. Sessions will

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Plans for much-needed new schools facing uncertainty** New schools in the north could hang in the balance after councillors cancelled a crucial meeting, with no new date set. Highland Council was due to agree its capital budget at a special meeting on February 1. But with just days to go, the administration has confirmed that the meeting will not go ahead. A spokesman for Highland Council says this is because the council still has not had confirmation

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 10 **Camilla's university hub visit** The Queen Consort marked her 10th year as Aberdeen University chancellor by touring the new science teaching hub - telling staff and students that her visits always feel like she is "coming home". Camilla said it was a "huge pleasure" to see the university's new centre, which opened last year, in action. Addressing staff and students, Her Majesty said: "Coming to this university, and to this city, has always felt

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Uncertainty over delayed schools cash** Plans to build new schools in the Highlands have been hit by an "unacceptable" delay as the council awaits a decision to see if it has secured Scottish Government funding. A meeting to discuss five new primaries - in Beaulie, Dunvegan, Invergordon, Dingwall and Tornagrain - has been cancelled due to fears over whether there will be enough cash to go ahead with projects. Full story: Page 4

The Scotsman 25 **Inside Health** Britain's strange, antiquated class system can have serious consequences for those born on the wrong side of the "postcode lottery". The standard of education you receive, the sports you play as a child, the jobs you are considered well-suited for, and your likelihood of one day becoming a Cabinet minister are all dramatically improved by being born to a rich household in Scotland. You could be forgiven for thinking

The Scotsman 8 **College issues £2m cuts warning** A college is set to cut jobs and working hours to save £2 million as part of "urgent action" to tackle the "severe" impact of a lack of funding from the Scottish Government. In an email to staff yesterday morning, and seen by The Scotsman, Jon Vincent, principal of Glasgow Clyde College, outlined the move, which he said was required to avoid a "significant deterioration" in the college's financial situation.

The Scotsman 18 **Camilla reflects on precious time in north east** The Queen Consort has spoken about the "precious time" she has spent in the north east of Scotland - telling staff and students at Aberdeen University that it feels like she is "coming home" on visits to the institution. Camilla said it was a "huge pleasure" to visit the university's new science teaching hub yesterday, after it opened last year. Addressing staff and students, she said: "Coming to this university,

4. JUSTICE

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Youngsters 'recruited by drug gangs as they won't be sent to jail'** A SHERIFF yesterday suggested young people are being recruited into the deadly drug trade because they will not be jailed in Scotland. Emmanuel Asamoah-Awuku-Addo was caught with nearly 50 deals of cocaine by police and admitted to officers he had been caught twice before. But the 20-year-old avoided jail at Perth Sheriff Court after being told he would have been hand-picked and exploited because his age meant he would not

The Herald 4 **Stephen Flynn tells PM Scotland on 'a slippery slope to direct rule'** THE SNP's leader at Westminster has claimed Scotland is on a "slippery slope from devolution to direct rule". Stephen Flynn's comment came as he challenged Rishi Sunak on the UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Aberdeen South MP started by asking the Prime Minister if he agreed that the use of the Section 35 was a "dangerous moment for devolution". Mr Sunak replied: "Let me

The Herald 14 **Westminster triggered as Flynn flays PM for 'stoking culture war'** WE picture William Wallace and Robert the Bruce viewing the 21st century from their time machine. Bruce: "Aw great, Bill. The Scottish people are rising up against their English overlords." Wallace: "Aye, what's it a' about?" Bruce (consults copy of Herald): "It's about the right o' 16-year-olds to change gender without a doctor's note, ken?" Wallace: "Eh?" Bruce: "Says here it's about gender dysphoria." Wallace: "Diss what now?" Bruce: "Phoria."

The Herald 13 **Stop rushing to the courts First Minister, and start talks** WAS it only a week ago that Rishi Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon dined together in Inverness? I'd like to think they toasted a new beginning in relations between their two governments. A calm of sorts after the storms, but a calm nevertheless. Ah well, it was nice while it lasted. As of Monday we are back to intergovernmental relations conducted as a pub fight in EastEnders, both sides out on

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Sunak: I've blocked bill to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak insisted he was blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring

Daily Express (Scotland) 13 **Nats being led down the road to nowhere** THEY are highly unlikely to stop trying, but Nicola Sturgeon and her dwindling army of followers are desperate to prove that Alister Jack used base political tricks to call a halt to their gender reform plan. But it's just not working, even after their pretty hysterical showing in the Commons earlier this week. In exchange after exchange they cried 'foul', but not for a second did the Secretary of State

The Herald 6 **MSPs to consider 'libel tourism' petition** HOLYROOD'S Petitions Committee is to investigate whether tougher action could be taken by the Scottish Government to limit so-called "libel tourism". The MSPs were discussing appeals from the public to regulate the use of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (Slapp). This is when wealthy individuals or organisations launch costly legal cases against critics or journalists in a bid to scare them off. In response to the petition, brought by former

The Herald 1 **Sarwar refuses to criticise Starmer on gender bill** ANAS Sarwar has refused to criticise the UK Labour leader after Sir Keir Starmer said he opposed a key principle of Scotland's gender recognition reforms. It comes as Sir Keir's shadow Scottish secretary criticised MSPs "slugging off" the UK leader of the party, but was branded "ludicrous" for claiming "there's nothing between the two parts of the Labour Party on this". Meanwhile, the Labour MSP who amended Scotland's gender recognition

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **Scots cops face strict vetting** POLICE Scotland is considering vetting checks on every employee to ensure anyone unfit to serve is removed from the force, it was revealed last night. The move follows the case of former Metropolitan Police officer David Carrick, who this week admitted 49 rapes in a decade-long reign of terror whilst a serving officer. The decision came after a ruling by the National Police Chiefs' Council yesterday. EVIL: David Carrick It

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **sturgeon courtroom gamble is doomed** NICOLA Sturgeon's bid to launch a costly court battle over her gender reforms is doomed to failure and would be a 'mistake', legal experts have warned. Former Supreme Court Judge Lord Hope of Craighead said he believes the UK Government's case for imposing a section 35 order to block the SNP's overhaul of gender recognition laws is 'devastating'. He was backed by ex-honorary professor of law at Glasgow University, Alistair

The Herald 8 **Minister opens rehab centre aimed at keeping mothers with their children** A NATIONAL residential rehabilitation service designed to support women and their children through recovery has opened in Dundee. Experts say that women with problematic drug use often avoided support services due to the fear of having their children taken into care. But at the Cowan Grove recovery house, developed in partnership with Hillcrest Homes, the children of women who are receiving support for drug or alcohol addiction can stay with

The Herald 4 **Ex-justice minister rejects UK Government reasons for blocking gender reform** A FORMER Labour UK justice secretary has suggested that the statement of reasons set out by the UK Government to block Scotland's

gender recognition reforms does not justify the unprecedented move. Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has issued a section 35 order to prevent the bill, overwhelmingly backed by Holyrood, from becoming law. Many of the reasons set out by the UK Government for using the action relate to Scotland having

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Why should WE keep paying for Sturgeon's court failures?** THE debacle over the SNP's transgender reforms is just the latest illustration of an inescapable truth - that the First Minister plainly believes her government is above the law. Time and time again, she has fought bitter legal battles in defence of the indefensible - at enormous cost to the taxpayer - almost always ending in failure and humiliation. According to former Supreme Court judge Lord Hope, Nicola Sturgeon's bid

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Labour stance 'as clear as mud' as rift deepens** LABOUR'S position on controversial gender recognition reforms has been branded 'clear as mud' after further rifts opened within the party. The party's Scottish leader Anas Sarwar criticised the UK Government for blocking the Holyrood's Gender Recognition Act, claiming it was the 'wrong approach'. But Mr Sarwar refused to criticise his UK leader Keir Starmer, who had not opposed the Tory Government's unprecedented decision to prevent the changes becoming law. It

The Herald 15 **Gender law is the biggest step towards indy since 2014** THIS week will be seen as Scotland's Naked Lunch moment. When William Burroughs, the Beat Generation's bard, was asked why he had called his infamous novel Naked Lunch, he said it was because the book was about that "frozen moment when everyone sees what's on the end of every fork". In other words: the moment everything becomes clear, when everything we knew, but didn't want to admit, comes into focus.

The National (Scotland) 5 **Scotland's democracy is 'collateral in Tory 'culture war' Over reform bill** SCOTLAND'S democracy is "collateral damage" in a Tory "culture war", the leader of the SNP in Westminster has said. Stephen Flynn accused Rishi Sunak of creeping towards a policy of "direct rule" after the Scottish Secretary took the unprecedented step of blocking gender recognition reforms passed by Holyrood with a cross-party majority of MPs. Speaking in the Commons yesterday, Sunak defended the move, saying the Government was acting within the

Daily Record 6 **THE VAPE CRUSADER** DISPOSABLE vapes should be banned as Scotland's streets become a plastic dumping ground, an MSP has demanded. The Daily Record today launches a campaign to highlight the shocking extent of disposable vape waste. City parks have become littered with the single-use devices, which experts say are a threat to children's health and a menace to wildlife. Today at the Scottish Parliament, Green MSP Gillian Mackay will highlight the Record's campaign

Daily Record 8 **THIS IS NOT A POWER GRAB** RISHI Sunak has denied a move to block Holyrood's gender reform bill is a power grab by Westminster. The Prime Minister told MPs yesterday he had halted the bill due to its impact on equality laws in the rest of the UK. At Prime Minister's Questions Sunak said the Scottish Secretary Alister Jack made the Section 35 order "with regret". He added later that he wants "to engage in a

The National (Scotland) 6 **Labour MSP hits out with 'Viceroy Jack' jibe** A LABOUR MSP has branded Alister Jack a "viceroy" who must "get back in his box" over the move to block Holyrood's gender recognition reforms using a Section 35 order. Paul Sweeney made the comment to BBC Scotland's political editor Glenn Campbell, who appeared stunned in response. The MSP said: "It feels like a politically malicious act and I think it's about time that Viceroy Jack got back in his

The National (Scotland) 8 **To find hope, think local: in praise of G20 in Maryhill** WATCHING the news is one of the most depressing activities to do at the moment. The negativity is overwhelming and even for me, a journalist, the need to switch off for my mental health arises regularly. At the moment, I find broadcast news particularly distressing. The stories of people's struggles to afford the very basics such as food and a decent, warm home have made me break out in tears

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Sarwar backs watchdog to rule on how law works** The equalities watchdog should be brought in to determine how Scotland's changes to gender recognition laws could work within the UK, the Scottish Labour leader has said. Anas Sarwar said the UK Government's move to block the reforms was the "wrong approach" but that the matter should not have to be determined by the courts. Labour supported the controversial Bill when it came to a vote at Holyrood before Christmas,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Prime Minister defends Bill decision** Rishi Sunak has denied that Scotland is on a "slippery slope from devolution to direct rule" following his Government's decision to block reforms to gender recognition laws. The Prime Minister was pressed about the UK Government's unprecedented use of a Section 35 order to veto the changes voted through by MSPs before Christmas. During Prime Minister's Questions, the SNP Westminster leader, Stephen Flynn, described the decision as "a dangerous moment

The National (Scotland) 19 **Rehabilitation centre opens** SCOTLAND'S Drugs Policy Minister Angela Constance has opened a national residential

The National (Scotland) 12 **Section 35 order is not anti-democratic but the SNP have been for sometime** IN a normal, fully functioning democracy, it's reasonable to suggest that the SNP would have been pitched from office some time ago. And with them, the last hopes for an independent Scotland in the lifetimes of most of us. Scotland right now though, is not, by any measure, a fully functioning democracy. Instead, it's come to resemble an endless political pantomime where a small but anointed cast of players performs

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Public opinion 'Voters could turn against Sunak'** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to leading pollsters. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with voters in Scotland"

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Senior legal figures divided over chances of Sturgeon winning** The legal battle lines over the UK Government's decision to block Scotland's gender reforms have been drawn, with a former Supreme Court judge predicting that Nicola Sturgeon's chances of success in court were "very low". Lord Hope said the UK Government's statement of reasons for using a Section 35 order to veto the Bill passed by MSPs before Christmas was "devastating" for the Scottish Government. However, former UK Justice Secretary

Metro (Scotland) 5 **'Sunak has to justify block'** FORMER first minister Henry McLeish yesterday warned the UK government decision to veto Holyrood's gender reform bill could set a dangerous precedent. The 74-year-old - who was central to getting the Scotland Act through Westminster - claimed prime minister Rishi Sunak's government had yet to justify its opposition to the bill. He said: 'It appears this bill is within the Scottish parliament's legislative competence but what's confusing, and the secretary

Metro (Scotland) 5 **Sarwar: UK veto not the way to sort gender row** THE UK government's move to block Holyrood's gender change law is the 'wrong approach', Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said yesterday. Mr Sarwar also said his UK party leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday, blocking the gender recognition reform bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the UK and

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon battling in vain over gender reform veto, says law expert** NICOLA STURGEON'S chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are "very low" and she should think again about wasting public money on a court battle, Scotland's most eminent legal authority has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". He said

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Time for talks** WHEN Scottish Secretary Alister Jack announced he would veto the SNP's gender self-ID law, it brought the hugely controversial issue back to the front pages. And while there was no dramatic movement in the 24 hours that followed, is still the story dominating politics — both north and south of the border. As yet, there is no confirmation of court action or word on just how Nicola Sturgeon will attempt

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **SUNAK: WE CAN WORK IT OUT, NIC** RISHI Sunak yesterday urged Nicola Sturgeon to work with him to find a way forward to save her gender self-ID law. The PM rejected SNP claims of a "culture war" and insisted his government's veto came amid fears it would have a "significant adverse effect" on UK-wide equalities legislation. Speaking for the first time since Scottish Secretary Alister Jack blocked the trans rights bid, he said any shake-up must ensure

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP's gender bill fight is a waste of public cash, lord says** A former Supreme Court judge has condemned as a waste of public money Nicola Sturgeon's threat to challenge Westminster's veto of her gender law. Lord Hope of Craighead, former deputy president of the final court of appeal, said the Scottish government's chances of winning a legal challenge were "very low". Hope, who also served as lord president of the Court of Session and lord justice general, Scotland's highest legal position,

Daily Express 4 **Sunak vow to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak has insisted he is blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation

Daily Express 18 **COMMENT** THE blanket ban on assisted dying forces people to choose between suffering unbearably against their wishes or taking matters into their own hands - either alone behind closed doors or overseas at eye-watering expense. Geoff and Charlie's cases are just two of many that the health committee must hear. This inquiry will not be a fair examination of the law if it does not. We can and should do better

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Gender bill lobbyists get millions from SNP** Scottish charities and civic groups that criticised the Westminster government's decision to block Holyrood's gender recognition laws receive millions in funding from the

SNP-led administration. Fourteen groups signed a statement expressing "strong opposition" to Alister Jack, the secretary of state for Scotland, after he issued a Section 35 order preventing the passage of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. The Conservative government in London claims that it is at odds

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Westminster plays right into the SNP's hands** Sometimes a single word gives the whole game away. Picking his way carefully through the Commons debate on Scotland's gender recognition bill, Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, said that his decision to block a piece of Holyrood legislation, for the first time since devolution, was based on legal grounds alone. It was absolutely not political, whatever Nicola Sturgeon said. Then, from his own back benches, came a question he should

Daily Mail 10 **Now Keir sides with Sturgeon on gender law** SIR Keir Starmer has sided with Nicola Sturgeon over Scotland's radical gender reforms. He opposes Westminster using its ultimate veto to block the SNP government's controversial plan to let people as young as 16 change their legal sex. The Labour leader does not think single-sex spaces are put at risk by making it easier for anyone to change sex, and his spokesman would not condemn the party's MPs who barracked

Daily Mail 17 **When will the REAL Rishi stand up?** HOW I cheered when Rishi Sunak summoned the courage to tell Nicola Sturgeon to think again about her ill-judged Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Scottish Nationalist First Minister and her allies evidently believe that they are at liberty to promulgate whatever laws they like north of the Border as though Scotland were an independent fiefdom. Such are the perils of devolution. This is the first time since devolution began its

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **32k families face attorney delays** SCOTLAND's beleaguered court system is struggling with a backlog of nearly 32,000 applications for the legal right to look after a relative's finance or health. Power of Attorney (PoA) allows people to manage a family member's financial affairs when they become unable to do so, and to make decisions about their care. But the requests have to be authorised by the courts and there are delays because of a build-up

Daily Record 2 **Starmer has reservations over gender reform Bill** KEIR Starmer has opened up a split with Scottish Labour over the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The UK Labour leader said he had "concerns" over Scotland's gender recognition law because he considers 16 to be too young to change gender. He also said that he was worried the legislation may break the Equalities Act. The Scottish Government passed legislation last month which will allow people to obtain a gender recognition

i (The paper for today) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

i (The paper for today) 22 **A constitutional grenade and an act of vandalism** Who is Rishi Sunak? Not so long ago, he seemed like a return to normal Tory government - superficial perhaps, but broadly reasonable. But underneath it all, things are different. There's a continuation of the exact same culture war infantilism we witnessed during Brexit. This week, we've seen evidence for it in two separate issues: the senseless constitutional war triggered with Scotland and the lunacy of the Retained EU Law Bill. On

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

The Daily Telegraph 2 **UK veto will destroy gender reforms, says Scottish judge** NICOLA STURGEON'S gender reforms will be "destroyed" by the UK Government's objections, one of Scotland's most senior judges has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". Ms Sturgeon's chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are now "very low" and she

The Daily Telegraph 14 **The Tories' latest betrayal shows why the party is facing extinction** For a moment this week, I forgot my first rule of British politics: never underestimate the Tory party's ability to turn every victory into a full-blown rout. Rishi Sunak's decision to veto Nicola Sturgeon's appalling gender self-ID legislation was a heroic move, or so it seemed, at once a sweeping counter-offensive in the culture wars and the first sign of a popular, muscular Unionism aligned with Scottish opinion. Sturgeon wants

The Daily Telegraph 2 **How the trans row exposed a gaping chasm among Tory MPs** Rishi Sunak had it all planned out - he would take on Nicola Sturgeon to look tough on the trans issue and to open up a front against Labour. But

within days these plans were derailed when public rifts opened in the Conservative Party on the issue of banning trans conversion therapy. Last night Tory MPs said "dozens" of backbenchers would oppose the ban unless the Government came forward with

The Guardian 2 **Constitutional battle over SNP's gender reforms that were once Tory pledges** The provision of identity lies at the heart of a modern state. But a person's sense of who they are is not as fixed as it once was. UK law has yet to catch up with the idea that people can identify in many ways. It's easier, perhaps, to continue with the status quo. Often reforms fail because legitimate concerns cannot be assuaged or they do not attract the support

The National (Scotland) 8 **Civil war erupts as Labour MSP criticises Starmer comments on bill** Divisions amongst the Labour Party are beginning to show after the UK Government decided to issue a Section 35 order and block gender reform legislation which was overwhelmingly passed by the Scottish Parliament. While a majority of Scottish Labour MSPs supported the bill in Holyrood,

The National (Scotland) 8 **What now for gender reform? Possible outcomes as legal battle begins** THE battle between the UK and Scottish governments over the gender reform legislation could take months to resolve, a legal expert has said. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said the move to use a Section 35 order by UK ministers would "inevitably end up in court", adding the Scottish Government will "vigorously defend" the legislation. There is no process to appeal the issuing of the order and MPs will not

The National (Scotland) 6 **Jack accused of 'not having a clue' over Section 35 move** ALISTER Jack was accused of "not having a clue" as he addressed the Commons over the UK Government's reasons for blocking Scotland's gender reform legislation. The Scottish Secretary gave a statement in which he told MPs the bill would have a "serious adverse impact" on the operation of the UK Equality Act 2010, including the operation of single-sex clubs, associations and schools, and protections such as equal pay. But during

The National (Scotland) 7 **Westminster has pressed the big nuclear button** BY THE WEE GINGER DUG ON MONDAY, the Conservative government in Westminster pressed the nuclear button and employed a so-called Section 35 order to prevent the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill - which received parliamentary approval last month - from receiving Royal Assent, thus blocking it from passing into law. Section 35 is a hitherto unused provision of the Scotland Act which gives the Secretary of State for

The National (Scotland) 1 **'YOU HAVE MADE BIG MISTAKE' ALL THE LATEST ON UK'S ATTACK ON HOLYROOD** FM's warning to Westminster as she confirms the Scottish Government will go to courts over its veto of gender bill • MP tells Jack he 'hasn't a clue' after S35 move defended • European politicians issue condemnation @ Labour civil war as MSP criticises Starmer comments

The National (Scotland) 6 **BBC's Adams forced into on-air correction after false SNP ministers' claim** THE BBC's Kaye Adams was forced to make an on-air correction yesterday after she interrupted a caller to wrongly make a claim about SNP ministers. Adams was hosting a phone-in on the UK Government's decision to use Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block gender reforms passed by Holyrood when the incident happened. She had been taking a call from a "Tommy in the Highlands", who was making the

The National (Scotland) 5 **Jack: 'No plan for veto whenever we choose'** THE UK Government is not seeking to veto Scottish Parliament legislation "whenever it chooses" by moving against controversial reforms of the gender recognition process passed by Holyrood, Alister Jack has claimed. The Scottish Secretary said the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill would have "serious adverse effects" on the operation of UK-wide equalities legislation. Giving a statement to MPs on the Government's decision to use Section 35 of the Scotland Act

The National (Scotland) 4 **How the world's top newspapers covered UK blocking gender reforms** THE National had a look at how the Tories' move to block the Scottish bill was reported in some of the world's international and national publications. UNITED STATES: The New York Times sent out a breaking news alert on Monday evening, telling some 8.6 million digital subscribers about Jack's decision. It said: "UK Government blocks Scottish Law making gender change easier." Its analysis quoted the campaign group Stonewall. The group

The National (Scotland) 4 **Court move over UK's block on January bill** FIRST Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed the Scottish Government will seek a judicial review to appeal the UK Government's decision to veto gender reforms. She warned it would "inevitably end up in court" as Alister Jack gave a statement in the Commons outlining why the decision had been taken. A judicial review is a type of

The Scotsman 1 **UK case "is stronger" in gender legal battle** The UK Government is "in a very strong position" ahead of a looming legal battle over the future of Scotland's gender laws. Glasgow University public law lecturer Dr Michael Foran told The Scotsman the government would have "dotted the i's and crossed the t's" before the Scottish Secretary blocked the bill by using a Section 35 order for the first time. 3 FULL STORY, PAGES 6&7

The Scotsman 15 **Scots police chief hits out at Met rapist** Scotland's chief constable has condemned the actions of a Metropolitan Police officer who was revealed as one of Britain's most prolific sex offenders. Sir Iain Livingstone described the actions of PC David Carrick as "absolutely outrageous and despicable conduct from an individual who should have never been in the police service". Carrick, 48, attacked at least a dozen women over an 18-year period throughout his career with the Met, using

The Scotsman 7 **UK Government move to block legislation 'wrong' - Anas Sarwar** The UK Government's move to block Scottish gender recognition legislation is the "wrong approach", Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar has said. Mr Sarwar also said Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need for reform and to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday evening, blocking Holyrood's Gender Recognition Reform Bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the

The Scotsman 6 **UK Government in 'stronger position' if Gender Reform goes to courts** The UK Government is in a "stronger position" if the battle over gender reform goes to the courts, a Scottish academic has claimed. Dr Michael Foran, a lecturer in public law at the University of Glasgow, said the case was not about agreeing with the decision of Scottish secretary Alister Jack to use a section 35 order to block the Bill, but rather whether a reasonable person could have come

The Scotsman 30 **Trans people are a political football** The constitutional row between the UK Tories and Holyrood's SNP/ Green government is a contrived spat which does neither party credit. The gender legislation is flawed, even dangerous in parts. It needs to be amended. There are many aspects, though, that are not only acceptable but required. The issues that cause the controversy and those, in particular, that threaten or conflict with other existing rights need reviewed. But the

The Sun 17 **Wage war on the wokes and Rishi might get votes** THERE'S nothing quite like seeing Scottish National Party members jumping up and down with discomfort, as if someone had stuck stoats in their sporrans. That's what happened when the Government rightly blocked the ridiculous Scottish Gender Recognition Act. They went doolally. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak got this right — it is a dangerous and silly piece of legislation, the only point of which was to show how right-on the Scots

The Times 25 **Softly-softly Sunak must show fighting spirit** @iainmartin1 Towards the end of James Graham's latest play, the characters discuss who won. Best of Enemies centres on the televised clashes in 1968 between Gore Vidal and William F Buckley Jr. With America riven by the Vietnam war, fights for civil rights and the sexual revolution, Vidal the novelist and Buckley, creator of the modern conservative movement, went head to head on the struggling ABC news station during the

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Herald 10 **Baby deaths probe 'will report back in autumn'** AN EXPERT review into an unusually high level of deaths among newborn babies in Scotland has begun and expects to report in the autumn. Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) confirmed that it has appointed retired consultant neonatologist Dr Helen Mactier to chair the expert group which will investigate the possible causes behind two unexplained spikes in neonatal mortality just six months apart, in September 2021 and March 2022, when a total

The Herald 8 **Minister opens rehab centre aimed at keeping mothers with their children** A NATIONAL residential rehabilitation service designed to support women and their children through recovery has opened in Dundee. Experts say that women with problematic drug use often avoided support services due to the fear of having their children taken into care. But at the Cowan Grove recovery house, developed in partnership with Hillcrest Homes, the children of women who are receiving support for drug or alcohol addiction can stay with

The Herald 1 **Probe into unborn baby deaths appoints chair** A RETIRED consultant has been appointed to chair a group looking at the unusually high level of deaths among unborn babies in Scotland. Healthcare Improvement Scotland confirmed that it has appointed Dr Helen Mactier to chair the expert group which will investigate the possible causes behind two unexplained spikes in neonatal mortality just six months apart, in September 2021 and March 2022, when a total of 39 infants died. Work

The Herald 9 **Drug in Scottish sleep sickness trial shows potential as leukaemia treatment** A DRUG that was being developed in Scotland to treat a neglected disease could be repurposed to treat leukaemia after it was given fast-track designation by US authorities. Researchers at the University of Dundee said they were delighted after the drug was given the designation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Originally known as DDD86481 and now named PCLX-001, it will be trialled in adult patients with relapsed

The Herald 6 **Mason criticised for claiming NHS problems are 'somewhat exaggerated'** SNP MSP John Mason has claimed the problems in Scotland's NHS are being "somewhat exaggerated". The comments came during a debate in Holyrood after Labour's spokesperson read out warnings from a leading doctor that the health service may not survive.

Jackie Baillie told MSPs that lives were "being put at risk due to the state of our health service". She said: "Every day, staff are being asked to perform miracles

The Herald 24 **Distiller declares advert ban threatens business** AN up-and-coming Scottish gin distiller has warned proposals to ban alcohol advertising in Scotland could put it "out of business". Scottish ministers stoked controversy in November when they launched a consultation on measures to restrict alcohol advertising and promotion. The proposals could lead to a ban on alcohol advertising outdoors, alcohol sponsorship being phased out, and curbs on alcohol promotion in shops. But the plans, which seek to reduce alcohol-related

The National (Scotland) 18 **Scots drug could fight leukaemia** A DRUG that was being developed in Scotland to treat a neglected disease could be repurposed to treat leukaemia after it was given fast-track designation by US authorities. Researchers at the University of Dundee said they are "delighted" after the drug was given the designation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Originally known as DDD86481 and now named PCLX-001, it will be trialled in adult patients with relapsed or

The National (Scotland) 19 **Rehabilitation centre opens** SCOTLAND'S Drugs Policy Minister Angela Constance has opened a national residential

Daily Record 6 **THE VAPE CRUSADER** DISPOSABLE vapes should be banned as Scotland's streets become a plastic dumping ground, an MSP has demanded. The Daily Record today launches a campaign to highlight the shocking extent of disposable vape waste. City parks have become littered with the single-use devices, which experts say are a threat to children's health and a menace to wildlife. Today at the Scottish Parliament, Green MSP Gillian Mackay will highlight the Record's campaign

Daily Record 8 **Time to ban the throwaway e-cigs** DISPOSABLE vapes and the pollution they cause is an issue that needs to be dealt with now. That's why the Daily Record is launching its campaign today to outlaw these products and shine a light on the scale of the problem. Too much fanfare last year, the Scottish Government announced a ban on most types of single-use plastics. But right under their noses, a litter epidemic of throwaway e-cigs has

Daily Record 8 **STREP A KILLS ANOTHER CHILD** FOUR more Scots have died from Strep A - including another young child under the age of 10. Latest figures from Public Health Scotland have shown three under-10s have died from invasive Group A Streptococcal infections (iGAS) since October 3 and 17 people in total have lost their lives. In the week ending January 15, there were 532 laboratory reports of GAS. The vast majority of infections are relatively mild

Daily Record 23 **£500k grant to help club boost men's Well-being** A PROJECT backed by a Scottish Premiership team which uses football to help save lives has received a £500,000 funding boost. The initiative gives men with poor mental health, and those at risk of suicide, the chance to be active, have fun and meet new friends. The Motherwell Football Club Community Trust scheme - which regularly hosts walking football and other events - will receive financing through the Scottish Government's

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 7 **NHS collapsed on Yousaf's watch, claims Labour** Opposition MSPs have accused the Health Secretary of presiding over the "collapse of the NHS". Scottish Labour led a Holyrood debate yesterday addressing the crisis facing the health and social care sectors amid significant waiting times in emergency departments. Latest data from Public Health Scotland shows 57.3 per cent of attendees at A&E in the week to 8 January were seen within the four-week target - a small improvement from

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 23 **Scottish Ballet to expand health initiatives** Scottish Ballet is to run a "national dance centre for health" to help people living with dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and long Covid. NHS staff and social care workers suffering from physical and mental stress will be able to join special sessions from Scottish Ballet, which says the centre's work will help "celebrate the dancer in each of us". The Glasgow-based company is significantly expanding its previous health and

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **SNP 'using pandemic as excuse for NHS ills'** Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to stop using Covid to "mask her own failures" after it emerged that the vast majority of virus patients she claimed were fuelling an NHS crisis were in hospital for other reasons. She has repeatedly blamed a soaring number of coronavirus patients in recent weeks for unprecedented chaos in hospitals. Waiting times in the Scottish NHS have hit their worst ever levels and health boards

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 15 **Worker, 52, dies at hospital build site** Aman has died while working on the construction of Aberdeen's new Baird Family Hospital. Emergency services, including two ambulances, a resuscitation rapid response unit and a trauma team, were called to the site, at Forestserhill, at 9.40am yesterday. However, the 52-year-old, who is believed to have suffered a head injury, could not be saved. Construction company Graham, which is leading the project, confirmed the incident involved one of their sub-contractors

The Times (Scotland) 15 **Dundee drug to be tested in US as treatment for leukaemia** A drug that was being developed in Scotland to treat sleeping sickness could be used to treat leukaemia after it was fast tracked by the

American authorities. Researchers at the University of Dundee said they were "delighted" after the drug was given fast-track designation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Originally known as DDD86481 and now named PCLX-001, the medication will be tested in adult patients with acute

Daily Record 6 **THE VAPE CRUSADER** DISPOSABLE vapes should be banned as Scotland's streets become a plastic dumping ground, an MSP has demanded. The Daily Record today launches a campaign to highlight the shocking extent of disposable vape waste. City parks have become littered with the single-use devices, which experts say are a threat to children's health and a menace to wildlife. Today at the Scottish Parliament, Green MSP Gillian Mackay will highlight the Record's campaign

Daily Express 18 **COMMENT** THE blanket ban on assisted dying forces people to choose between suffering unbearably against their wishes or taking matters into their own hands - either alone behind closed doors or overseas at eye-watering expense. Geoff and Charlie's cases are just two of many that the health committee must hear. This inquiry will not be a fair examination of the law if it does not. We can and should do better

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Strep A kills third child as tragic toll reaches 17** A THIRD child has died with the Strep A infection which is now linked to the deaths of 17 people in Scotland since October. Four more people - including the child under ten - with invasive Group A streptococcal (iGAS) infections have died in the past week, according to Public Health Scotland (PHS). Across the UK, the deaths of at least 30 under-18s have been linked to the invasive form

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Humza's 'pitiful dereliction of duty'** HEALTH Secretary Humza Yousaf has been accused of a 'pitiful dereliction of duty' and told to end his 'sticking plaster' approach to the NHS crisis. Scottish Labour health spokesman Jackie Baillie raised warnings from doctors who fear the health service has 'died already' and the SNP Government 'lacks the vision or the political will' to save it. Health unions have urged the Scottish Government to make 'real improvements' to the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **SNP 'uses Covid crutch to mask NHS failure'** NICOLA STURGEON has been urged to stop using Covid to "mask her own failures" after it emerged that the vast majority of virus patients she claimed were fuelling an NHS crisis were in hospital for other reasons. The First Minister has repeatedly blamed a soaring number of coronavirus patients over recent weeks for unprecedented chaos on wards and in A&E departments. Waiting times in the Scottish NHS have hit their

The National (Scotland) 19 **Support for autism commissioner role** A SURVEY has found overwhelming support for the appointment of a commissioner to promote and protect the rights of autistic people in Scotland. A report by National Autistic Society Scotland (NAS) and Scottish Autism found that in a survey of 1215 autistic people, carers and professionals, 96% backed the move. The report urges the Scottish Government to move forward on its commitment to establish

The National (Scotland) 20 **Wheelchair basketball team launches for students** A WHEELCHAIR basketball team is being launched to open up sport to more students with disabilities in Scotland's north-east. Robert Gordon University (RGU) SPORT, Scottish Disability Sport (SDS), Grampian Flyers and the University's Disability Sport Working Group have secured £15,000 funding from Morrisons Foundation for the purchase of 10 sport wheelchairs, with the hope that this will open the sport up to a new audience in the north-east. Sessions will

The National (Scotland) 20 **Walking awards to honour those making Scotland more active** NOMINATIONS have opened for the 2023 Scottish Walking Awards, which will honour the outstanding people, communities and organisations making Scotland a more active nation. The biennial awards will showcase a diverse range of inspiring walking projects - from businesses, councils and land managers to the journalists, NHS staff and volunteers who inspire others to step out. Organisers want to see nominations from all parts of Scotland and all sections of

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 27 **Winter blues can affect children's mental wellbeing as much as adults'** In January, a combination of post-Christmas blues and cold, long dark nights can affect our mental health as adults, but the mental wellbeing of children and young people can also be impacted. Their mental health is as important to their safety and wellbeing as their physical health. It can impact on all aspects of their life, including their education, relationships, and physical wellbeing. The state of a child's mental

The Scotsman 3 **Scottish Ballet creates national dance health centre for a variety of ailments** Scotland's flagship ballet company is to run a "National Dance Centre for Health" to help people living with dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and long Covid. NHS staff and social care workers suffering from physical and mental stress will be able to take advantage of specially-created sessions and workshops from Scottish Ballet, which says the new centre's work will help "celebrate the dancer in each of us". The company, which

The Scotsman 25 **Inside Health** Britain's strange, antiquated class system can have serious consequences for those born on the wrong side of the "postcode lottery". The standard of education you receive, the sports you play as a child, the jobs you are considered well-suited for, and your likelihood of one day becoming a Cabinet minister are all dramatically improved by being born to a rich household in Scotland. You could be forgiven for thinking

The Scotsman 28 **People with lived experience have a wealth of knowledge and skills to offer** Imagine a world where the learning and experiences from some of the darkest and most difficult times in your life are seen as something precious and valuable that can be used to help others. A world where we harness the knowledge of people with lived experience of mental health challenges in new employment opportunities. Where lived experience is more, or of equitable value to a traditional university degree or

The Scotsman 5 **Third child under ten years old dies in Scotland with Strep A** A third child aged under ten in Scotland has died with Strep A infection, Public Health Scotland has said. Public Health Scotland (PHS) said it was aware of 17 deaths amongst invasive group A streptococcal infections (iGAS) cases between October 3 and January 15 - an increase of four since the previous report. Three of these deaths were in children under ten, an increase of one since last week's report.

The Scotsman 5 **Yousaf accused of 'presiding over NHS collapse' in heated Holyrood debate** Opposition MSPs have accused Scotland's Health Secretary of presiding over the "collapse of the NHS". Scottish Labour led a Holyrood debate yesterday addressing the crisis facing the health and social care sectors amid significant waiting times in emergency departments. Latest data from Public Health Scotland shows 57.3 per cent of attendees at A&E in the week to January 8 were seen within the four-week target - a small improvement from

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

The Herald 24 **Distiller declares advert ban threatens business** AN up-and-coming Scottish gin distiller has warned proposals to ban alcohol advertising in Scotland could put it "out of business". Scottish ministers stoked controversy in November when they launched a consultation on measures to restrict alcohol advertising and promotion. The proposals could lead to a ban on alcohol advertising outdoors, alcohol sponsorship being phased out, and curbs on alcohol promotion in shops. But the plans, which seek to reduce alcohol-related

The Herald 1 **Upgrades planned for national park hotspots** NATURAL attractions in Scotland are in line for a raft of improvements ahead of a busy visitor season. Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park saw unprecedented numbers of visitors during the pandemic and numbers remained high in 2022 as people continued to enjoy the places they had discovered during lockdown. An upgrade of the Conic Hill path, a new bridge at Bracklinn Falls and a plan to improve the

The Herald 23 **Economic contribution of red meat industry pressed home at Scottish Parliament event** QUALITY Meat Scotland (QMS) has highlighted its plans to support and protect the growth of Scotland's red meat industry at a Scottish Parliament reception on Tuesday. The reception welcomed 130 attendees from the industry and a number of MSPs. During the event, attendees learned about the work QMS has been doing to promote and develop the Scottish red meat supply chain, with a focus on Scotland's wider society. Cabinet Secretary

The National (Scotland) 10 **Crofters threaten hostile 'takeover' of charity-owned land due to deer cull** ACROFTERS Trust has threatened to "buy out" a piece of land owned by a Scottish conservation charity because it doesn't agree with the organisation's management of deer on the property. Last week, the Assynt Crofters' Trust (ACT) complained that an out-of-season deer cull by the John Muir Trust (JMT)

The National (Scotland) 18 **First 'Vegan capital' with climate focus** EDINBURGH is to become the first "vegan capital" in Europe to tackle the climate crisis, joining cities such as Los Angeles. Councillors have endorsed The Plant Based Treaty, which promotes a shift to healthier, sustainable diets based on less consumption of meat and dairy products. The capital is the first Scottish city to sign up for the initiative, which has been backed by 20 cities around the world, scientists and

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **PRICES HELL HOPE** COST OF LIVING 1 INFLATION has started to fall — giving hope that the worst of painful price rises may be over. Official figures yesterday showed it dipped slightly at the end of the year as petrol prices fell and retailers discounted clothes. Inflation in December was at 10.5 per cent, down from November's 10.7 per cent. The falls came after a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Edinburgh council under fire over 'anti-farming' plan** COUNCIL leaders in Scotland's capital have been accused of being "anti-farming" after endorsing a treaty encouraging its half a million residents to drop animal products from their plates. Edinburgh city council has become only the second local authority in the UK and the first in Scotland to sign up to the "Plant Based Treaty", which aims to cut carbon emissions from food production by urging people to adopt a vegan

Daily Mail 20 **Edinburgh to take meat off the menu in city's schools** EDINBURGH is now the first European capital to commit to axing meat from its menus in schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The city has voted to adopt the 'plant-based treaty' - including a pledge to promote vegan food over animal products. The move comes days before Burns Night - the centrepiece of which is haggis, traditionally made from a sheep's liver, lungs, heart and stomach. Edinburgh is the second place

Daily Mail (Scotland) 9 **Edinburgh in meat ban** EDINBURGH has become the first capital city in Europe to commit to dropping meat from its menus in schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The city council has voted to adopt a 'plant-based treaty', which aims to promote vegan food over meat and dairy. It comes as Edinburgh prepares to celebrate Burns Night on January 25, with its centrepiece of haggis, although meat-free alternatives are available. Backing the move are Paul

The Daily Mirror 20 **Rise OF THE megafarm** THE number of US-style megafarms in the UK has rocketed to at least 1,100 - up from 800 five years ago. Critics have called it a "cruel and unnecessary" trend. Some of the massive locations hold over a million animals. Campaigners say the businesses are turning the countryside into intensive factory farms and causing pollution. Aerial photos taken by the Mirror show cows packed into US-style feedlots where they are

The Daily Telegraph 28 **Farmers save rare bird in Scotland** Farmers and landowners have stopped the corn bunting, one of Britain's rarest birds, from sliding towards extinction in one of its few remaining strongholds. The population in Fife, Scotland, has increased to 372 territories, which is three times more than at its lowest point in 2001. In Fife, numbers are up by 29 per cent since 2020 following a 70 per cent increase between 2014 and 2019. The entire eastern

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 34 **MSP alleges agri policy 'dithering'** Scottish Conservative shadow rural affairs secretary Rachael Hamilton has said "enough is enough" and the "dithering and delaying" should have stopped long ago as farmers and crofters continue to be left hanging by a thread with no certainty on future policy. Her message comes as almost two-thirds of all 555 respondents to NFU Scotland's (NFUS) 2023 Intentions Survey said the Scottish Government's failure to deliver a future agricultural policy was

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Nature group learns of community buyout from press amid dispute** One of Scotland's largest environmental groups said it has learned about a crofting group joining a community buyout of its land via the media, rather than from the community members themselves. The John Muir Trust (JMT) said it believes the move has been made by "a few individual office bearers" at the Assynt Crofters' Trust (ACT) and a "hostile" individual "who has a wider political agenda". The two organisations have

The Scotsman 14 **Fresh war of words over Assynt** One of Scotland's largest environmental groups said it has learned about a crofting group joining a community buyout of its land via the media, rather than from the community members themselves. The John Muir Trust (JMT) said it believes the move has been made by "a few individual office bearers" at the Assynt Crofters' Trust (ACT) and a "hostile" individual "who has a wider political agenda". The two organisations have

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Daily Mail 20 **Edinburgh to take meat off the menu in city's schools** EDINBURGH is now the first European capital to commit to axing meat from its menus in schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The city has voted to adopt the 'plant-based treaty' - including a pledge to promote vegan food over animal products. The move comes days before Burns Night - the centrepiece of which is haggis, traditionally made from a sheep's liver, lungs, heart and stomach. Edinburgh is the second place

Daily Mail (Scotland) 12 **Heavy blizzards bring travel chaos and shut schools for a third day** SCOTLAND will be hit by a third day of school closures and travel chaos today as more heavy snow sweeps in. With temperatures dropping as low as -10C last night, Met Office yellow warnings for snow and ice will remain in place until midday today. thundery showers The highest snow accumulation of the year so far - 14 inches - was recorded yesterday at Loch Glascamoch, Ross-shire. Snow and hail

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **UK sails past SNP fiasco to help give isle lifeline ferry** SCOTLAND is to get a new lifeline ferry service as part of a £177million cash boost from the UK Government. It will be one of ten Scottish projects to benefit from the 'Levelling Up' funding. Tory ministers have decided to step in and help improve links in Scotland amid concerns about the SNP's failure to stop a growing ferries crisis in parts of the country. They have pledged to provide

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **Swinney won't rule out MORE costs** ANOTHER rise in the cost of Scotland's ferries fiasco has not been ruled out by the Deputy First Minister. John Swinney refused to guarantee that no more money will be needed in addition to the extra £61million being provided to Ferguson Marine. Scottish Conservative transport spokesman Graham Simpson told Holyrood's economy committee the rising costs are 'like watching an edition of Ant and Dec's Limitless Win' and asked for a

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Edinburgh council under fire over "anti-farming" plan** COUNCIL leaders in Scotland's capital have been accused of being "anti-farming" after endorsing a treaty encouraging its half a million residents to drop animal products from their plates. Edinburgh city council has become only the second local authority in the UK and the first in Scotland to sign up to the "Plant Based Treaty", which aims to cut carbon emissions from food production by urging people to adopt a vegan

The Herald 1 **Upgrades planned for national park hotspots** NATURAL attractions in Scotland are in line for a raft of improvements ahead of a busy visitor season. Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park saw unprecedented numbers of visitors during the pandemic and numbers remained high in 2022 as people continued to enjoy the places they had discovered during lockdown. An upgrade of the Conic Hill path, a new bridge at Bracklinn Falls and a plan to improve the

The Herald 17 **Don't sideline wildlife in the race to net zero** THE "decline of oil and gas" dominated the headlines last week after the Scottish Government published its draft energy strategy. The shift away from fossil fuels and toward renewables is a welcome one if we are to help tackle the climate crisis. However, buried within the strategy was a reference to a tension that exists between renewables and nature, and there is a risk that this is overlooked in the

The Herald 6 **Slater 'misled' MSPs after Matheson reveals conflicting date over wind figure** A GREENS Government minister has been accused of having "misled" Holyrood after it emerged ministers were told of an inaccurate statistic months before she told MSPs that the Government was made aware. Lorna Slater told MSPs that ministers were informed of the inaccurate figure that Scotland holds 25 per cent of Europe's wind energy potential on November 8. But SNP Net Zero Secretary Michael Matheson has thrown doubt on this

The Herald 6 **West coast freeport fears** THE leader of Glasgow City Council has warned that the decision to snub the region in the Green Freeport contest could lead to manufacturing and haulage firms quitting the west coast. In a scathing letter to Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove and Deputy First Minister John Swinney, Susan Aitken said the risks of displacement were "extremely significant and deeply concerning". She also said the decision meant major investment from the

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Levelling Up brings £180m to Scotland** SCOTLAND is set to receive nearly £180million from Westminster's Levelling Up fund, giving the green light to a range of big projects. A new ferry for Fair Isle in Shetland and a £20m refurbishment of Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre and Grand Hall are among those to benefit from cash. The Scottish Conservatives hailed the funding - part of the biggest financial package Scotland has received since devolution - as "levelling up

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **UK delivers... as SNP ferry project founders** THE SNP's disastrous CalMac ferries project is millions of pounds over budget and running more than five years late - but at least the UK Government is taking the needs of islanders seriously. Nearly £27million has been earmarked for a new, lifeline roll-on, roll-off ferry for Fair Isle, Shetland, a move that will make a tangible difference to the lives of residents. It is a stark contrast to the SNP's

The Herald 2 **£160m bailout for ferries** NEARLY £160 million of public money bailouts has been set aside for the nationalised Ferguson Marine over three years to try to finally deliver Scotland's ferry fiasco ferries - but it might not be the end of it. The £60.9m the Scottish Government has said would be allocated in 2023/24 is £25m more than was budgeted for in this financial year as Ferguson Marine fights to deliver two lifeline ferries

The Herald 11 **Princess Royal attends Scots project's launch of world's largest tidal blades** IT is a cheap and green method of producing electricity and is powered by the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun. Now the longstanding desire to harness the power of the tides for electricity has moved closer as a Scots project has started work on the world's largest tidal energy blades. The Princess Royal attended the launch of a project which is aiming to become a world leader in

Daily Record 6 **THE VAPE CRUSADER** DISPOSABLE vapes should be banned as Scotland's streets become a plastic dumping ground, an MSP has demanded. The Daily Record today launches a campaign to highlight the shocking extent of disposable vape waste. City parks have become littered with the single-use devices, which experts say are a threat to children's health and a menace to wildlife. Today at the Scottish Parliament, Green MSP Gillian Mackay will highlight the Record's campaign

Daily Record 8 **Time to ban the throwaway e-cigs** DISPOSABLE vapes and the pollution they cause is an issue that needs to be dealt with now. That's why the Daily Record is launching its campaign today to outlaw these products and shine a light on the scale of the problem. Too much fanfare last year, the Scottish Government announced a ban on most types of single-use plastics. But right under their noses, a litter epidemic of throwaway e-cigs has

The National (Scotland) 2 **Freeport 'optimism'** DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney is "very optimistic" about the two green freeports announced in Scotland, as he sought to reassure MSPs on environmental standards and workers' rights. Updating MSPs yesterday, he said: "Creation of these two green freeports will support businesses to create large numbers of good green jobs; will promote growth and regeneration; and will make a significant contribution to our transition to net zero."

The National (Scotland) 10 **Crofters threaten hostile 'takeover' of charity-owned land due to deer cull** ACROFTERS Trust has threatened to "buy out" a piece of land owned by a Scottish conservation charity because it doesn't agree with the organisation's management of deer on the property. Last week, the Assynt Crofters' Trust (ACT) complained that an out-of-season deer cull by the John Muir Trust (JMT)

Daily Record 20 **6 out of 10 Scots support ban on greyhound racing** THE majority of Scots want to see the end of greyhound racing, according to a poll. The findings come ahead of next month's Scottish Animal Welfare Commission report which is expected to call for a ban on the sport and which the Scottish Government is expected to act on. The survey by pollsters Panelbase shows six in 10 Scottish adults would agree. A similar number said they have an unfavourable

Metro (Scotland) 15 **SNOW CLOSES SCHOOLS AGAIN** MORE than 100 schools and nurseries in the Highlands had to close for a third successive day yesterday as the cold snap continued. A yellow weather warning for snow and ice remains in place for much of northern Scotland until midday today. A separate yellow alert issued by the Met Office covers Shetland. Sub-zero temperatures overnight and heavy snowfall has affected much of the north of Scotland since Sunday, with

The National (Scotland) 5 **Sunak sets out projects for Levelling Up funds** THE UK Government has announced 10 projects in Scotland will share £177 million of Levelling Up funding. Almost £27m will be sent to Shetland for a new ferry for Fair Isle, £20m will help turn Arbuthnot House in Aberdeenshire into a museum and library as well as modernising Macduff Aquarium, and £20m will refurbish the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock. The announcement was made yesterday, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak saying

The National (Scotland) 18 **First 'Vegan capital' with climate focus** EDINBURGH is to become the first "vegan capital" in Europe to tackle the climate crisis, joining cities such as Los Angeles. Councillors have endorsed The Plant Based Treaty, which promotes a shift to healthier, sustainable diets based on less consumption of meat and dairy products. The capital is the first Scottish city to sign up for the initiative, which has been backed by 20 cities around the world, scientists and

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 4 **Truth behind failed bid for freeport** "I think we were maybe getting the mood music from government contacts last summer really that all was not necessarily well with how the northeast was scored versus the other bids," said one source connected to the losing bid team. "It wasn't hitting all the marks." Another insider at the north-east group noted: "The more it started prolonging, it felt like we were becoming more and more of an outside chance."

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **'Hope' of last ferry payment** JOHN Swinney yesterday refused to guarantee an extra £60.9million payment to a shipyard for two overdue, over-budget ferries will be the last. The Deputy First Minister said he hoped Ferguson Marine will get no more public cash — but told MSPs he could not give that commitment. The vessels are running five and six years late with costs last estimated to be £209.6million. The SNP Government has allocated the extra

The National (Scotland) 19 **Swinney 'hopes ferry payment is the last'** SCOTLAND'S Deputy First Minister has said he hopes payments made to Ferguson Marine for the completion of two overdue and over-budget ferries will be the last. The Glen Sannox and as-yet unnamed Hull 802 are set to be delivered by May of this year and March of next, which is five and six years later than planned. The vessels have been a long-running sore for the Scottish Government, which brought the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 17 **Hundreds of schools shut as blizzard batters North** MORE than 250 schools were forced to shut and motorists faced chaos as blizzards swept the country yesterday. Police Scotland said there was a 'high risk of disruption' amid a Met Office amber warning for snow and ice across a huge swathe of the North. It was put in place from 3pm until midnight for Angus, Perth and Kinross, Moray, Aberdeenshire, the Highlands and the Western Isles. It warned that

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **10 Scottish projects share £177m levelling up cash** A new Fair Isle ferry, the restoration of Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre and the regeneration of a former Ministry of Defence site in Stirling are among 10 projects in Scotland to be awarded UK Government funding. Other initiatives include a plan to transform Arbuthnot House in Peterhead into a museum, library and cultural hub and the conversion of a multi-storey car park in Dundee into a sustainable transport hub with 350

The Daily Telegraph 17 **Windfall tax blamed for hundreds of job cuts at North Sea driller** BRITAIN'S largest North Sea producer has blamed the new windfall tax as it prepares to cut hundreds of jobs and shift attention to outside the UK. Harbour Energy said it is reviewing its UK organisation "to align with lower future activity levels" after the tax rate on North Sea drillers was increased from 40pc to 75pc following months of soaring gas and oil prices. The FTSE 250 company told staff

The Daily Telegraph 28 **Farmers save rare bird in Scotland** Farmers and landowners have stopped the corn bunting, one of Britain's rarest birds, from sliding towards extinction in one of its few remaining strongholds. The population in Fife, Scotland, has increased to 372 territories, which is three times more than at its lowest point in 2001. In Fife, numbers are up by 29 per cent since 2020 following a 70 per cent increase between 2014 and 2019. The entire eastern

The National (Scotland) 20 **Walking awards to honour those making Scotland more active** NOMINATIONS have opened for the 2023 Scottish Walking Awards, which will honour the outstanding people, communities and organisations making Scotland a more active nation. The biennial awards will showcase a diverse range of inspiring walking projects - from businesses, councils and land managers to the journalists, NHS staff and volunteers who inspire others to step out. Organisers want to see nominations from all parts of Scotland and all sections of

The National (Scotland) 11 **More than 100 schools close due to snow** SNOW was continuing to cause disruption across some parts of Scotland yesterday, with more forecast over the next few days. More than 100 schools and nurseries in Shetland, the Highlands and Aberdeenshire were forced to close due to snow and icy conditions. Road temperatures were below 0C across the north and north-east, and Traffic Scotland advised drivers in Moray, Angus, the Highlands, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen city to use caution when

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 7 **Inverness Airport's new railway station opening date is revealed** An official opening date for the Inverness Airport Railway Station has been revealed. Aberdeen-Inverness trains will soon be serving the two-platform facility, which is located half a mile from the airport terminal, and some eight miles from Inverness and about nine miles from Nairn. The official opening date is expected for February 2, and it is understood Transport Minister Jenny Gilruth may be cutting the ribbon. Once it is fully

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 10 **Isle is 'saved' after £27m ferry funding approved** Fair Isle has been awarded £27 million to fund a new roll-on, roll-off ferry in a major boost. It is one of 10 projects across Scotland to receive levelling-up cash from the UK Government. Shetland Islands Council said the funding will "save" the island of approximately 60 residents, situated halfway between Orkney and Shetland. The current vessel Good Shepherd IV is more than 30 years old and does not meet

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Nature group learns of community buyout from press amid dispute** One of Scotland's largest environmental groups said it has learned about a crofting group joining a community buyout of its land via the media, rather than from the community members themselves. The John Muir Trust (JMT) said it believes the move has been made by "a few individual office bearers" at the Assynt Crofters' Trust (ACT) and a "hostile" individual "who has a wider political agenda". The two organisations have

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **Cash boost to help garden grow greener** Elgin Biblical Garden will be greener in more ways than one this year thanks to thousands of pounds worth of eco-friendly funding. The Friends group that cares for the garden, which is next to Elgin Cathedral, has secured £9,000 of Scottish Government cash to buy new lower-emission gardening gear. Group chairman John Sherry said he's excited to spend the money in local shops and replace all their ageing fossil fuel-powered

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Motorists warned as cold snap to continue** Motorists have been warned to be wary of treacherous wintry conditions on the roads following a spate of crashes across the north and north-east yesterday. A yellow weather warning for snow and ice has been extended to noon today by the Met Office as the freezing conditions continue. A 41-year-old man was airlifted to hospital following a one-car crash near Grantown-on-Spey yesterday morning. Emergency services, including a helicopter, were called to

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Upgrade call over junction accident figures** "Harrowing" figures should be "a wake-up call" for the Scottish Government to replace a notorious A96 junction with a roundabout following several crash-related injuries. Alexander Burnett, the Scottish Conservative MSP for Aberdeenshire West, has called for an upgrade to the A96 junction next to Huntly's Tesco after Police Scotland figures show that eight people, including a woman and young child, have been seriously hurt or sustained minor injuries over the

The Scotsman 8 **Levelling-up funding a £177m boost for ten projects across Scotland** A new ferry for Fair Isle, restoration of Kilmarnock's historic Palace Theatre, and regeneration in Stirling are just some of the transformational local projects across Scotland awarded a share of £2.1 billion from the UK government's landmark Levelling Up Fund. Some ten projects in Scotland have been allocated more than £177 million from round two of the fund, the government saying that the projects will create jobs, drive economic growth,

The Scotsman 14 **Fresh war of words over Assynt** One of Scotland's largest environmental groups said it has learned about a crofting group joining a community buyout of its land via the media, rather than from the community members themselves. The John Muir Trust (JMT) said it believes the move has been made by "a few individual office bearers" at the Assynt Crofters' Trust (ACT) and a "hostile" individual "who has a wider political agenda". The two organisations have

The Scotsman 1 **Oil and gas firm blames job cuts on windfall tax** A major independent oil and gas company blamed the government's windfall tax on profits yesterday as it announced jobs cuts and a review of its operations in the UK. Harbour Energy said it is "reassessing its future activity levels" in the country following an increase to the Energy Profits Levy (EPL) from 25 per cent to 35 per cent. The company, which is the country's biggest independent oil and gas

The Scotsman 34 **Add your voice to the sound of the crowd** A new year is upon us, and with that the potential for a fresh start and some renewed impetus to see action around some of the critical issues facing our society. The cost-of-living crisis is still in full swing, the NHS in crisis, and the war in the Ukraine continues. There is still a global emergency around nature, and we are still in the evermore evident throes of a climate emergency

The Scotsman 14 **Scotland now home to the world's largest tidal turbine blades** Scotland has once again boosted its green credentials with a new tidal energy project launched aiming to make the country home to the world's largest tidal turbine blades. The Princess Royal launched the project aimed at maximising tidal energy generation at the University of Edinburgh's FastBlade facility. Anne, who is Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, met staff at the institution's testing facility for the £8.7 million MAXBLADE project. The

The Scotsman 28 **The demand for smart buildings connectivity will only grow in year ahead** 2022 was the year Scottish businesses adopted hybrid working models and new ways of working as we all returned to the new normal postpandemic, only to be thrown into a period of soaring energy costs and inflation rises we haven't seen in over four decades. Many businesses have embraced the opportunity to re-establish how they operate and take a real look at their connectivity technology and how it can

The Scotsman 8 **Swinney hopes latest ferry pay-out will be final** Scotland's Deputy First Minister has said he hopes payments made to Ferguson Marine for the completion of two overdue and over-budget ferries will be the last - but he refused to commit to it. The Glen Sannox and as yet unnamed Hull 802 are set to be delivered by May of this year and March of next, which is five and six years later than planned. The vessels have been a long-running

The Scotsman 16 **SNP minister lets slip he knew wind energy stats were inaccurate** Scotland's energy minister has said he first became aware a statistic on the wind energy potential of Scotland was inaccurate in September last year, directly contradicting the Scottish Government's official line on the issue. Ministers were forced to admit the much-used claim Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind energy potential was incorrect and inaccurate following the publication of a report by the prounion think-tank These Islands. However,

The Scotsman 20 **Swinney 'very optimistic' about Scotland's two green freeports** John Swinney has said he is "very optimistic" about the two green freeports announced for Scotland, as he sought to reassure MSPs on environmental standards and workers' rights. Under a joint UK and Scottish government scheme, areas around Inverness and the River Forth were announced last week as winners of freeport status - which offers special tax incentives and lower tariffs, with the aim of stimulating economic growth. Updating MSPs

The Times 36 **Harbour Energy plans job cuts in wake of windfall tax** Britain's biggest oil and gas producer is planning to cut jobs as it scales back investment in response to the North Sea windfall tax. Harbour Energy told staff in Aberdeen yesterday that they could be at risk of redundancy. It is cutting plans for exploration in light of the energy profits levy imposed in May after oil and gas prices soared in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **Levelling Up brings £180m to Scotland** SCOTLAND is set to receive nearly £180million from Westminster's Levelling Up fund, giving the green light to a range of big projects. A new ferry for Fair Isle in Shetland and a £20m refurbishment of Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre and Grand Hall are among those to benefit from cash. The Scottish Conservatives hailed the funding - part of the biggest financial package Scotland has received since devolution - as "levelling up

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **Swinney won't rule out MORE costs** ANOTHER rise in the cost of Scotland's ferries fiasco has not been ruled out by the Deputy First Minister. John Swinney refused to guarantee that no more money will be needed in addition to the extra £61million being provided to Ferguson Marine. Scottish Conservative transport spokesman Graham Simpson told Holyrood's economy committee the rising costs are 'like watching an edition of Ant and Dec's Limitless Win' and asked for a

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Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Thousands needed for building trade** SCOTLAND'S construction sector faces a "major task" to recruit workers, with bosses estimating almost 20,000 more staff will be needed over the next five years. A report from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) showed some 19,550 extra workers - 3,910 a year - will be required to meet demand up to 2027. As part of its efforts to boost recruitment, the CITB has recently launched its employer network pilot

Daily Express (Scotland) 18 **Edinburgh pipped as priciest property zone** EAST Lothian has ended Edinburgh's reign as Scotland's most expensive area to buy a house - albeit by a relatively modest average of £1,300. A study published yesterday by property firm Walker Fraser Steele showed the Scottish property market in general bucked the UK trend for lower prices in November, by setting a new record average price of £224,644 - an increase of £40,800 since the pandemic began in March

Daily Record 1 **800 TEACHERS FACE AXE** MORE THAN 800 teaching posts face the axe as part of brutal £51million cuts. The grim plan has been revealed in a leaked document from Scotland's biggest council. Seamus Searson, general secretary of the SSTA teachers' trade union, said: "This would potentially write off the current generation of young people." FULL STORY PAGES 4&5

Daily Record 4 **Cuts will write off the current generation of schoolchildren** A STAGGERING 800 teaching jobs could be axed under a "shocking" £51million cuts plan drawn up by officials at Scotland's biggest council. The plan is contained in a document leaked to the Daily Record showing options for slashing a total of £68million from SNP-run Glasgow City Council's budget. It's understood education faces being the largest casualty, with options for cuts adding up to £51million. Now council chiefs have been warned

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **UK delivers... as SNP ferry project founders** THE SNP's disastrous CalMac ferries project is millions of pounds over budget and running more than five years late - but at least the UK Government is taking the needs of islanders seriously. Nearly £27million has been earmarked for a new, lifeline roll-on, roll-off ferry for Fair Isle, Shetland, a move that will make a tangible difference to the lives of residents. It is a stark contrast to the SNP's

Daily Record 8 **Betrayal of pupils** WE have reported extensively on the unprecedented crisis facing the health service on a range of fronts. Schools are not currently enduring the same pressures, but the service is slowly getting there. Teachers feel demoralised and pupils are not getting the resources they need. The attainment gap is stubbornly high and kids from deprived families are being let down every day. So it is deeply worrying that Glasgow council has

Daily Record 5 **It's time to invest in our classrooms** Without teachers, schooling cannot take place. If Glasgow City Council was to go down the road of reducing teacher numbers, headteachers would have to teach, class sizes would go up and the choices of subjects would go down. Any young person with additional support needs would also be severely affected and it would widen the attainment gap. These decisions would cut opportunities for young people who would not fulfil their

The Herald 6 **Slater 'misled' MSPs after Matheson reveals conflicting date over wind figure** A GREENS Government minister has been accused of having "misled" Holyrood after it emerged ministers were told of an inaccurate statistic months before she told MSPs that the Government was made aware. Lorna Slater told MSPs that ministers were informed of the inaccurate figure that Scotland holds 25 per cent of Europe's wind energy potential on November 8. But SNP Net Zero Secretary Michael Matheson has thrown doubt on this

Metro (Scotland) 15 **Construction sector 'needs 20,000 new workers'** SCOTLAND'S construction sector faces a 'major task' to recruit new workers - with industry bosses estimating almost 20,000 more staff will be needed over the next five years. The annual skills report by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) predicts some 19,550 extra workers - 3,910 a year - will be required to meet demand between now and 2027 in infrastructure projects, private housebuilding and repair and maintenance work. As

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 4 **Truth behind failed bid for freeport** "I think we were maybe getting the mood music from government contacts last summer really that all was not necessarily well with how the northeast was scored versus the other bids," said one source connected to the losing bid team. "It wasn't hitting all the marks." Another insider at the north-east group noted: "The more it started prolonging, it felt like we were becoming more and more of an outside chance."

The Herald 6 **Scottish teachers' pay strike continues** TEACHERS in North Lanarkshire and Moray will strike today in what is now a long-running dispute between unions, the Scottish Government and Scotland's 32 councils. Yesterday, as part of the 16-day programme of rolling strikes, schools in Orkney and Fife closed and tomorrow there will be no classes in East Dunbartonshire and Angus. EIS general secretary Andrea Bradley said there was a good turnout on the picket lines despite the

The Herald 6 **West coast freeport fears** THE leader of Glasgow City Council has warned that the decision to snub the region in the Green Freeport contest could lead to manufacturing and haulage firms quitting the west coast. In a scathing letter to Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove and Deputy First Minister John Swinney, Susan Aitken said the risks of displacement were "extremely significant and deeply concerning". She also said the decision meant major investment from the

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **Towns land levelling-up cash as city bid snubbed** AMBITIOUS plans to create a new cultural quarter in Peterhead and a revamp of Macduff Aquarium last night received a £20 million funding boost from the UK Government - but Aberdeen was snubbed again. The huge sum for

the north-east towns was among 10 projects in Scotland to be awarded the levelling-up cash. However, Aberdeen City Council's plea for £20m to go towards its beach regeneration was rejected. It comes

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **'MORE CUTS NEEDED' TO END TEACHERS' STRIKES** THE SNP's Education Secretary yesterday signalled more cuts to public services would be needed to end teacher pay strikes. Shirley-Anne Somerville called for opposition parties to suggest where budgets should be chopped to plough into higher wage rises. And she warned MSPs that the Scottish Government "cannot fund everything" amid school walkouts across Scotland. Unions are digging in for a ten per cent uplift after rejecting an offer of between

The Herald 4 **Investment bank boss search 'ongoing'** A CANDIDATE tipped to take over as head of Scotland's publicly funded investment bank turned down the role when it was offered, Deputy First Minister John Swinney said. Former chief executive Eilidh MacTaggart quit the Scottish National Investment Bank almost a year ago, prompting questions from opposition parties and a process to find her successor. Ms MacTaggart eventually said she left for "personal reasons". Asked for an update, Mr Swinney told

The Herald 4 **UK Government's Levelling Up fund to pay for new lifeline Scottish ferry** A NEW ferry for the Fair Isle has been named as one of the 10 projects to be funded through the UK Government's Levelling Up fund. It comes as ministers in Scotland face repeated criticism over the Ferguson Marine fiasco. Nearly £27 million has been guaranteed for the new roll-on, roll-off lifeline service. Other projects include £20m to help turn Arbutnot House in Aberdeenshire into a museum and library as

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **'Hope' of last ferry payment** JOHN Swinney yesterday refused to guarantee an extra £60.9million payment to a shipyard for two overdue, over-budget ferries will be the last. The Deputy First Minister said he hoped Ferguson Marine will get no more public cash — but told MSPs he could not give that commitment. The vessels are running five and six years late with costs last estimated to be £209.6million. The SNP Government has allocated the extra

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Unions reject compromise that cuts teachers' time in classroom** Union leaders rejected a compromise that would have cut classroom working hours for primary school teachers, the Scottish education secretary has said. Shirley-Anne Somerville offered to shave 90 minutes off primary class contact time as an interim measure until councils hire enough teachers to extend the deal to high schools. Unions rejected the offer but continued to publicly berate the SNP government for teachers' longer teaching hours. Scottish teachers spend

The Herald 2 **£160m bailout for ferries** NEARLY £160 million of public money bailouts has been set aside for the nationalised Ferguson Marine over three years to try to finally deliver Scotland's ferry fiasco ferries - but it might not be the end of it. The £60.9m the Scottish Government has said would be allocated in 2023/24 is £25m more than was budgeted for in this financial year as Ferguson Marine fights to deliver two lifeline ferries

The Herald 22 **Will consumers pay a heavy price for retailers' Christmas sales bonanza?** SEEMINGLY against expectations, major UK retailers have in recent days been reporting bumper sales from the all-important Christmas period. The cost-of-living crisis that has dominated headlines for months looked to have fallen down the agenda, temporarily at least, as high-street giants Next and Marks & Spencer confounded City expectations, posting revenues above forecasts for festive trading. The season of goodwill extended to the grocery retailers too, with Tesco, Sainsbury's, and

The Herald 24 **Immigration moves and return of older workers urged amid worry** SCOTTISH Chambers of Commerce's president says Westminster must introduce a flexible migration system so businesses can "hire and attract the international workforce" and the Scottish Government should take steps to attract older people back into the labour force. Stephen Leckie, presenting the findings of the business organisation's latest quarterly survey published today, declared that "persistent challenges over access to labour and retaining talent are beginning to take precedence as a

The Herald 1 **Crisis-hit Scots firms plan more price hikes** RECORD numbers of businesses in Scotland plan to raise prices over the next three months because of soaring wages and energy costs, a new survey has revealed. Research by the Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) has found that 82 per cent of businesses plan to raise prices in the coming months due to rising costs, despite the rate of inflation falling. But despite the rises, it is warned that new

The National (Scotland) 19 **Swinney 'hopes ferry payment is the last'** SCOTLAND'S Deputy First Minister has said he hopes payments made to Ferguson Marine for the completion of two overdue and over-budget ferries will be the last. The Glen Sannox and as-yet unnamed Hull 802 are set to be delivered by May of this year and March of next, which is five and six years later than planned. The vessels have been a long-running sore for the Scottish Government, which brought the

The National (Scotland) 2 **Freeport 'optimism'** DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney is "very optimistic" about the two green freeports announced in Scotland, as he sought to reassure MSPs on environmental standards and workers' rights. Updating MSPs yesterday, he said: "Creation of these two green freeports will support businesses to create large

numbers of good green jobs; will promote growth and regeneration; and will make a significant contribution to our transition to net zero."

The National (Scotland) 5 **Sunak sets out projects for Levelling Up funds** THE UK Government has announced 10 projects in Scotland will share £177 million of Levelling Up funding. Almost £27m will be sent to Shetland for a new ferry for Fair Isle, £20m will help turn Arbutnot House in Aberdeenshire into a museum and library as well as modernising Macduff Aquarium, and £20m will refurbish the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock. The announcement was made yesterday, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak saying

The National (Scotland) 19 **Construction industry body in call for thousands of workers** SCOTLAND'S construction sector faces a "major task ahead" to recruit workers - with industry bosses estimating almost 20,000 more staff will be needed over the next five years. A new report from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) showed some 19,550 extra workers will be required to meet demand in the sector between now and 2027 in Scotland. There is demand for workers for infrastructure projects, private housebuilding and repair

The National (Scotland) 4 1 **Striking torch-lit procession will mark Brexit day** A STRIKING torch-lit procession will lead protesters to a rally at the Scottish Parliament to mark the third anniversary of Scotland's forced removal from the EU. The procession, which is expected to make a "stunning impact in the darkness", will march through Holyrood Park lit by torches and flares used in Edinburgh Hogmanay celebrations. Campaign group Time for Scotland has also announced new speakers for its Lights

Daily Record 2 **Starmer has reservations over gender reform Bill** KEIR Starmer has opened up a split with Scottish Labour over the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The UK Labour leader said he had "concerns" over Scotland's gender recognition law because he considers 16 to be too young to change gender. He also said that he was worried the legislation may break the Equalities Act. The Scottish Government passed legislation last month which will allow people to obtain a gender recognition

Daily Record 2 **£2.5bn ships axe would be 'catastrophic'** SCOTLAND'S shipbuilding industry could be hit with "catastrophic" job losses if a major shipbuilding contract is axed. Cancelling the £2.5 billion pound order would put thousands of workers at risk of redundancy, the SNP has warned. The lucrative plan to build five new Type 32 frigates at Rosyth shipyard could be cancelled as Chancellor Jeremy Hunt plans to divert funding elsewhere. The order to make Britain "the foremost naval power in

i (The paper for today) 44 **Scotland facing worker shortages** Scotland's construction sector faces recruitment shortages despite current economic challenges. Nearly 20,000 more staff will be needed over the next five years according to the Construction Industry Training Board. It estimates 3,910 skilled workers a year will be required to meet demand in 2023-27.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 10 **Scottish projects share £177m levelling up cash** A new Fair Isle ferry, the restoration of Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre and the regeneration of a former Ministry of Defence site in Stirling are among 10 projects in Scotland to be awarded UK Government funding. Other initiatives include a plan to transform Arbutnot House in Peterhead into a museum, library and cultural hub and the conversion of a multi-storey car park in Dundee into a sustainable transport hub with 350

The Daily Telegraph 17 **Windfall tax blamed for hundreds of job cuts at North Sea driller** BRITAIN'S largest North Sea producer has blamed the new windfall tax as it prepares to cut hundreds of jobs and shift attention to outside the UK. Harbour Energy said it is reviewing its UK organisation "to align with lower future activity levels" after the tax rate on North Sea drillers was increased from 40pc to 75pc following months of soaring gas and oil prices. The FTSE 250 company told staff

The National (Scotland) 15 **Regeneration projects to create 1200 jobs** MORE than 1200 jobs will be created through regeneration projects that will work with people at risk of suicide and children who have been looked after. Around £27 million of investment from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) will support

The National (Scotland) 19 **MSPs' plea over men's sheds funding** MSPs from across the political spectrum have called on the Scottish Government to reverse a funding cut to men's sheds. A group of 40 MSPs joined with the Scottish Men's Shed Association (SMSA) in a plea to the Deputy First Minister John Swinney. They have written to the minister to urge him to reverse the funding cut, after a final £75,000 payment was made to the SMSA for the facilities.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 31 **Ferguson Marine recruits industry veteran** Ferguson Marine (FMPG) has appointed an industry veteran technical director and chief financial officer as the rows surrounding two overdue ferries continues to reverberate. The company says Eddie Purves has joined as technical director with 30 years' experience in commercial and naval shipbuilding, initially with Kvaerner Govan before the yard was taken over by BAE. He spent the last year as managing director of A&P Tyne, which operates the largest

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 10 **Isle is 'saved' after £27m ferry funding approved** Fair Isle has been awarded £27 million to fund a new roll-on, roll-off ferry in a major boost. It is one of 10 projects across Scotland to receive levelling-up cash from the UK Government. Shetland Islands Council said the funding will "save" the island of approximately 60 residents, situated halfway between Orkney and Shetland. The current vessel Good Shepherd IV is more than 30 years old and does not meet

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 31 **Ferguson Marine recruits industry veteran** Ferguson Marine (FMPG) has appointed an industry veteran technical director and chief financial officer as the row surrounding two overdue ferries continues to reverberate. The company says Eddie Purves has joined as technical director with 30 years' experience in commercial and naval shipbuilding, initially with Kvaerner Govan before the yard was taken over by BAE. He spent the last year as managing director of A&P Tyne, which operates the largest

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Uncertainty over delayed schools cash** Plans to build new schools in the Highlands have been hit by an "unacceptable" delay as the council awaits a decision to see if it has secured Scottish Government funding. A meeting to discuss five new primaries - in Beaully, Dunvegan, Invergordon, Dingwall and Tornagrain - has been cancelled due to fears over whether there will be enough cash to go ahead with projects. Full story: Page 4

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Plans for much-needed new schools facing uncertainty** New schools in the north could hang in the balance after councillors cancelled a crucial meeting, with no new date set. Highland Council was due to agree its capital budget at a special meeting on February 1. But with just days to go, the administration has confirmed that the meeting will not go ahead. A spokesman for Highland Council says this is because the council still has not had confirmation

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 7 **Inverness Airport's new railway station opening date is revealed** An official opening date for the Inverness Airport Railway Station has been revealed. Aberdeen-Inverness trains will soon be serving the two-platform facility, which is located half a mile from the airport terminal, and some eight miles from Inverness and about nine miles from Nairn. The official opening date is expected for February 2, and it is understood Transport Minister Jenny Gilruth may be cutting the ribbon. Once it is fully

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 15 **Cash boost to help garden grow greener** Elgin Biblical Garden will be greener in more ways than one this year thanks to thousands of pounds worth of eco-friendly funding. The Friends group that cares for the garden, which is next to Elgin Cathedral, has secured £9,000 of Scottish Government cash to buy new lower-emission gardening gear. Group chairman John Sherry said he's excited to spend the money in local shops and replace all their ageing fossil fuel-powered

The Scotsman 28 **People with lived experience have a wealth of knowledge and skills to offer** I imagine a world where the learning and experiences from some of the darkest and most difficult times in your life are seen as something precious and valuable that can be used to help others. A world where we harness the knowledge of people with lived experience of mental health challenges in new employment opportunities. Where lived experience is more, or of equitable value to a traditional university degree or

The Scotsman 20 **Swinney 'very optimistic' about Scotland's two green freeports** John Swinney has said he is "very optimistic" about the two green freeports announced for Scotland, as he sought to reassure MSPs on environmental standards and workers' rights. Under a joint UK and Scottish government scheme, areas around Inverness and the River Forth were announced last week as winners of freeport status - which offers special tax incentives and lower tariffs, with the aim of stimulating economic growth. Updating MSPs

The Scotsman 8 **College issues £2m cuts warning** A college is set to cut jobs and working hours to save £2 million as part of "urgent action" to tackle the "severe" impact of a lack of funding from the Scottish Government. In an email to staff yesterday morning, and seen by The Scotsman, Jon Vincent, principal of Glasgow Clyde College, outlined the move, which he said was required to avoid a "significant deterioration" in the college's financial situation.

The Scotsman 8 **Levelling-up funding a £177m boost for ten projects across Scotland** A new ferry for Fair Isle, restoration of Kilmarnock's historic Palace Theatre, and regeneration in Stirling are just some of the transformational local projects across Scotland awarded a share of £2.1 billion from the UK government's landmark Levelling Up Fund. Some ten projects in Scotland have been allocated more than £177 million from round two of the fund, the government saying that the projects will create jobs, drive economic growth,

The Scotsman 16 **SNP minister lets slip he knew wind energy stats were inaccurate** Scotland's energy minister has said he first became aware a statistic on the wind energy potential of Scotland was inaccurate in September last year, directly contradicting the Scottish Government's official line on the issue. Ministers were forced to admit the much-used claim Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind energy potential was incorrect and inaccurate following the publication of a report by the pro-union think-tank These Islands. However,

The Scotsman 35 **Sunset for oil and gas on the horizon** In response to last week's Scottish Government Energy Strategy, one newspaper ran a front-page headline announcing the end of the oil and gas industry. The truth is less clear. The long-awaited new strategy is a draft and public responses are invited by early April. It foresees a rapid increase in renewable energy generation, continues to rule out fracking, and finally admits that hydrogen is never going to be heating people's

The Scotsman 45 **Firms urged to harness resilience as economy 'falters'** Scottish businesses and the "under escalating cost pressures and falling confidence, with further state support "urgently" required, according to an influential report. Cashflow and profits are falling, investment decisions have paused, and firms are raising prices while struggling to recruit and retain staff, states the latest study from the Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC), which is billed as the longest-running economic survey of its kind north of the Border,

The Scotsman 29 **Small businesses in deprived areas are being held back** While the headwinds facing Scotland's economy have been well publicised, it is likely that the full impact is yet to be fully realised by smaller businesses. As we settle in to the new year, uncertain forecasts for 2023 mean that every firm will be focused on building resilience and maximising opportunities, including looking at how finance could support them in the months ahead. For Scottish firms, and indeed across the

The Scotsman 46 **Inflation cools but data masks worrying trends** On the face of it the UK's latest inflation data should be cause for celebration. The headline figures revealed a further decline in the consumer prices index (CPI) measure of inflation last month, to an annual rate of 10.5 per cent from 10.7 per cent in November. It comes after CPI jumped to a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in October as households felt the full brunt of the

The Scotsman 8 **Swinney hopes latest ferry pay-out will be final** Scotland's Deputy First Minister has said he hopes payments made to Ferguson Marine for the completion of two overdue and over-budget ferries will be the last - but he refused to commit to it. The Glen Sannox and as yet unnamed Hull 802 are set to be delivered by May of this year and March of next, which is five and six years later than planned. The vessels have been a long-running

The Scotsman 1 **Oil and gas firm blames job cuts on windfall tax** A major independent oil and gas company blamed the government's windfall tax on profits yesterday as it announced jobs cuts and a review of its operations in the UK. Harbour Energy said it is "reassessing its future activity levels" in the country following an increase to the Energy Profits Levy (EPL) from 25 per cent to 35 per cent. The company, which is the country's biggest independent oil and gas

The Times 36 **Harbour Energy plans job cuts in wake of windfall tax** Britain's biggest oil and gas producer is planning to cut jobs as it scales back investment in response to the North Sea windfall tax. Harbour Energy told staff in Aberdeen yesterday that they could be at risk of redundancy. It is cutting plans for exploration in light of the energy profits levy imposed in May after oil and gas prices soared in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Metro (Scotland) 5 **'Sunak has to justify block'** FORMER first minister Henry McLeish yesterday warned the UK government decision to veto Holyrood's gender reform bill could set a dangerous precedent. The 74-year-old - who was central to getting the Scotland Act through Westminster - claimed prime minister Rishi Sunak's government had yet to justify its opposition to the bill. He said: 'It appears this bill is within the Scottish parliament's legislative competence but what's confusing, and the secretary

Daily Record 8 **THIS IS NOT A POWER GRAB** RISHI Sunak has denied a move to block Holyrood's gender reform bill is a power grab by Westminster. The Prime Minister told MPs yesterday he had halted the bill due to its impact on equality laws in the rest of the UK. At Prime Minister's Questions Sunak said the Scottish Secretary Alister Jack made the Section 35 order "with regret". He added later that he wants "to engage in a

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Sunak: I've blocked bill to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak insisted he was blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Thousands needed for building trade** SCOTLAND'S construction sector faces a "major task" to recruit workers, with bosses estimating almost 20,000 more staff will be needed over the next five years. A report from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) showed some 19,550 extra workers - 3,910 a year - will be required to meet demand up to 2027. As part of its efforts to boost recruitment, the CITB has recently launched its employer network pilot

Daily Express (Scotland) 18 **Edinburgh pipped as priciest property zone** EAST Lothian has ended Edinburgh's reign as Scotland's most expensive area to buy a house - albeit by a relatively modest average of £1,300. A study published

yesterday by property firm Walker Fraser Steele showed the Scottish property market in general bucked the UK trend for lower prices in November, by setting a new record average price of £224,644 - an increase of £40,800 since the pandemic began in March

Daily Express (Scotland) 13 **Nats being led down the road to nowhere** THEY are highly unlikely to stop trying, but Nicola Sturgeon and her dwindling army of followers are desperate to prove that Alister Jack used base political tricks to call a halt to their gender reform plan. But it's just not working, even after their pretty hysterical showing in the Commons earlier this week. In exchange after exchange they cried 'foul', but not for a second did the Secretary of State

Daily Mail (Scotland) 14 **Shameful failure** NICOLA Sturgeon once vowed to put her 'neck on the line' over closing the pupil attainment gap, but now her Education Secretary has admitted it may be 'impossible' to achieve. Shirley-Anne Somerville said the SNP Government now wants to get the gap 'down to as close to zero as possible' rather than completely eradicating it - a significant downgrading of the original goal. She argued it was 'exceptionally difficult, if

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Labour stance 'as clear as mud' as rift deepens** LABOUR'S position on controversial gender recognition reforms has been branded 'clear as mud' after further rifts opened within the party. The party's Scottish leader Anas Sarwar criticised the UK Government for blocking the Holyrood's Gender Recognition Act, claiming it was the 'wrong approach'. But Mr Sarwar refused to criticise his UK leader Keir Starmer, who had not opposed the Tory Government's unprecedented decision to prevent the changes becoming law. It

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **sturgeon courtroom gamble is doomed** NICOLA Sturgeon's bid to launch a costly court battle over her gender reforms is doomed to failure and would be a 'mistake', legal experts have warned. Former Supreme Court Judge Lord Hope of Craighead said he believes the UK Government's case for imposing a section 35 order to block the SNP's overhaul of gender recognition laws is 'devastating'. He was backed by ex-honorary professor of law at Glasgow University, Alistair

Daily Mail 20 **Edinburgh to take meat off the menu in city's schools** EDINBURGH is now the first European capital to commit to axing meat from its menus in schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The city has voted to adopt the 'plant-based treaty' - including a pledge to promote vegan food over animal products. The move comes days before Burns Night - the centrepiece of which is haggis, traditionally made from a sheep's liver, lungs, heart and stomach. Edinburgh is the second place

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **UK sails past SNP fiasco to help give isle lifeline ferry** SCOTLAND is to get a new lifeline ferry service as part of a £177million cash boost from the UK Government. It will be one of ten Scottish projects to benefit from the 'Levelling Up' funding. Tory ministers have decided to step in and help improve links in Scotland amid concerns about the SNP's failure to stop a growing ferries crisis in parts of the country. They have pledged to provide

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Why should WE keep paying for Sturgeon's court failures?** THE debacle over the SNP's transgender reforms is just the latest illustration of an inescapable truth - that the First Minister plainly believes her government is above the law. Time and time again, she has fought bitter legal battles in defence of the indefensible - at enormous cost to the taxpayer - almost always ending in failure and humiliation. According to former Supreme Court judge Lord Hope, Nicola Sturgeon's bid

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Prime Minister defends Bill decision** Rishi Sunak has denied that Scotland is on a "slippery slope from devolution to direct rule" following his Government's decision to block reforms to gender recognition laws. The Prime Minister was pressed about the UK Government's unprecedented use of a Section 35 order to veto the changes voted through by MSPs before Christmas. During Prime Minister's Questions, the SNP Westminster leader, Stephen Flynn, described the decision as "a dangerous moment

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 10 **Edinburgh council under fire over "anti-farming" plan** COUNCIL leaders in Scotland's capital have been accused of being "anti-farming" after endorsing a treaty encouraging its half a million residents to drop animal products from their plates. Edinburgh city council has become only the second local authority in the UK and the first in Scotland to sign up to the "Plant Based Treaty", which aims to cut carbon emissions from food production by urging people to adopt a vegan

The Herald 1 **Sarwar refuses to criticise Starmer on gender bill** ANAS Sarwar has refused to criticise the UK Labour leader after Sir Keir Starmer said he opposed a key principle of Scotland's gender recognition reforms. It comes as Sir Keir's shadow Scottish secretary criticised MSPs "slagging off" the UK leader of the party, but was branded "ludicrous" for claiming "there's nothing between the two parts of the Labour Party on this". Meanwhile, the Labour MSP who amended Scotland's gender recognition

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Sarwar backs watchdog to rule on how law works** The equalities watchdog should be brought in to determine how Scotland's changes to gender recognition laws could work within the UK, the Scottish Labour leader has said. Anas Sarwar said the UK Government's move to block the reforms was the "wrong approach" but that the matter should not have to be determined by the courts. Labour supported the controversial Bill when it came to a vote at Holyrood before Christmas,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Public opinion 'Voters could turn against Sunak'** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to leading pollsters. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with voters in Scotland"

The Herald 14 **Westminster triggered as Flynn flays PM for 'stoking culture war'** WE picture William Wallace and Robert the Bruce viewing the 21st century from their time machine. Bruce: "Aw great, Bill. The Scottish people are rising up against their English overlords." Wallace: "Aye, what's it a' about?" Bruce (consults copy of Herald): "It's about the right o' 16-year-olds to change gender without a doctor's note, ken?" Wallace: "Eh?" Bruce: "Says here it's about gender dysphoria." Wallace: "Diss what now?" Bruce: "Phoria."

The Herald 15 **Gender law is the biggest step towards indy since 2014** THIS week will be seen as Scotland's Naked Lunch moment. When William Burroughs, the Beat Generation's bard, was asked why he had called his infamous novel Naked Lunch, he said it was because the book was about that "frozen moment when everyone sees what's on the end of every fork". In other words: the moment everything becomes clear, when everything we knew, but didn't want to admit, comes into focus.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Senior legal figures divided over chances of Sturgeon winning** The legal battle lines over the UK Government's decision to block Scotland's gender reforms have been drawn, with a former Supreme Court judge predicting that Nicola Sturgeon's chances of success in court were "very low". Lord Hope said the UK Government's statement of reasons for using a Section 35 order to veto the Bill passed by MSPs before Christmas was "devastating" for the Scottish Government. However, former UK Justice Secretary

Metro (Scotland) 5 **Sarwar: UK veto not the way to sort gender row** THE UK government's move to block Holyrood's gender change law is the 'wrong approach', Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said yesterday. Mr Sarwar also said his UK party leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday, blocking the gender recognition reform bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the UK and

The Herald 7 **Call for action on student inequality** A NEW report has outlined measures which colleges and universities could take in an attempt to address the persistent inequalities in access to education. The joint report from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) identifies the main disadvantages facing people in further and higher education. They have published national equality outcomes which agree targets to address the inequalities around protected characteristics including age,

The Herald 13 **Stop rushing to the courts First Minister, and start talks** WAS it only a week ago that Rishi Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon dined together in Inverness? I'd like to think they toasted a new beginning in relations between their two governments. A calm of sorts after the storms, but a calm nevertheless. Ah well, it was nice while it lasted. As of Monday we are back to intergovernmental relations conducted as a pub fight in EastEnders, both sides out on

Metro (Scotland) 15 **Construction sector 'needs 20,000 new workers'** SCOTLAND'S construction sector faces a 'major task' to recruit new workers - with industry bosses estimating almost 20,000 more staff will be needed over the next five years. The annual skills report by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) predicts some 19,550 extra workers - 3,910 a year - will be required to meet demand between now and 2027 in infrastructure projects, private housebuilding and repair and maintenance work. As

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon battling in vain over gender reform veto, says law expert** NICOLA STURGEON'S chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are "very low" and she should think again about wasting public money on a court battle, Scotland's most eminent legal authority has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". He said

The Herald 14 **Are we at breaking point when it comes to tackling misogyny?** EVERY so often, I find myself comparing notes with other women about sexual abuse. I often wonder how many have experienced it. Among those I've spoken to, the tally is 100 per cent. The abuse they describe ranges from unpleasant comments, up to and including rape; usually, people relate multiple incidents. Crude comments, groping, men exposing themselves, men threatening them, being followed in the street: these things are, or have

The Herald 4 **Ex-justice minister rejects UK Government reasons for blocking gender reform** A FORMER Labour UK justice secretary has suggested that the statement of reasons set out by the UK Government to block Scotland's gender recognition reforms does not justify the unprecedented move. Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has issued a section 35 order to prevent the bill, overwhelmingly backed by Holyrood, from becoming law. Many of the reasons set out by the UK Government for using the action relate to Scotland having

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **Towns land levelling-up cash as city bid snubbed** AMBITIOUS plans to create a new cultural quarter in Peterhead and a revamp of Macduff Aquarium last night received a £20 million funding boost from the UK Government - but Aberdeen was snubbed again. The huge sum for the north-east towns was among 10 projects in Scotland to be awarded the levelling-up cash. However, Aberdeen City Council's plea for £20m to go towards its beach regeneration was rejected. It comes

The Sun (Scotland) 8 **PRICES HELL HOPE** COST OF LIVING 1 INFLATION has started to fall — giving hope that the worst of painful price rises may be over. Official figures yesterday showed it dipped slightly at the end of the year as petrol prices fell and retailers discounted clothes. Inflation in December was at 10.5 per cent, down from November's 10.7 per cent. The falls came after a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in

The Herald 4 **Stephen Flynn tells PM Scotland on 'a slippery slope to direct rule'** THE SNP's leader at Westminster has claimed Scotland is on a "slippery slope from devolution to direct rule". Stephen Flynn's comment came as he challenged Rishi Sunak on the UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Aberdeen South MP started by asking the Prime Minister if he agreed that the use of the Section 35 was a "dangerous moment for devolution". Mr Sunak replied: "Let me

The National (Scotland) 5 **Sunak sets out projects for Levelling Up funds** THE UK Government has announced 10 projects in Scotland will share £177 million of Levelling Up funding. Almost £27m will be sent to Shetland for a new ferry for Fair Isle, £20m will help turn Arbuthnot House in Aberdeenshire into a museum and library as well as modernising Macduff Aquarium, and £20m will refurbish the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock. The announcement was made yesterday, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak saying

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Time for talks** WHEN Scottish Secretary Alister Jack announced he would veto the SNP's gender self-ID law, it brought the hugely controversial issue back to the front pages. And while there was no dramatic movement in the 24 hours that followed, it is still the story dominating politics — both north and south of the border. As yet, there is no confirmation of court action or word on just how Nicola Sturgeon will attempt

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **SUNAK: WE CAN WORK IT OUT, NIC** RISHI Sunak yesterday urged Nicola Sturgeon to work with him to find a way forward to save her gender self-ID law. The PM rejected SNP claims of a "culture war" and insisted his government's veto came amid fears it would have a "significant adverse effect" on UK-wide equalities legislation. Speaking for the first time since Scottish Secretary Alister Jack blocked the trans rights bid, he said any shake-up must ensure

The National (Scotland) 5 **Scotland's democracy is 'collateral in Tory 'culture war' Over reform bill** SCOTLAND'S democracy is "collateral damage" in a Tory "culture war", the leader of the SNP in Westminster has said. Stephen Flynn accused Rishi Sunak of creeping towards a policy of "direct rule" after the Scottish Secretary took the unprecedented step of blocking gender recognition reforms passed by Holyrood with a cross-party majority of MPs. Speaking in the Commons yesterday, Sunak defended the move, saying the Government was acting within the

The National (Scotland) 18 **First 'Vegan capital' with climate focus** EDINBURGH is to become the first "vegan capital" in Europe to tackle the climate crisis, joining cities such as Los Angeles. Councillors have endorsed The Plant Based Treaty, which promotes a shift to healthier, sustainable diets based on less consumption of meat and dairy products. The capital is the first Scottish city to sign up for the initiative, which has been backed by 20 cities around the world, scientists and

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP's gender bill fight is a waste of public cash, lord says** A former Supreme Court judge has condemned as a waste of public money Nicola Sturgeon's threat to challenge Westminster's veto of her gender law. Lord Hope of Craighead, former deputy president of the final court of appeal, said the Scottish government's chances of winning a legal challenge were "very low". Hope, who also served as lord president of the Court of Session and lord justice general, Scotland's highest legal position,

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Sturgeon vow 'challenging'** Scotland's education secretary has said it will be "exceptionally challenging" to fulfil Nicola Sturgeon's vow to dramatically improve schooling for poorer children by 2026. The first minister promised to substantially eliminate the attainment gap between rich and poor pupils. Shirley-Anne Somerville told Holyrood's education committee that it will be all but impossible to reduce the gap to zero. Sturgeon made her pledge in 2016 but saw little improvement and the

The National (Scotland) 17 **New targets to address education inequality** A NEW report has outlined measures for colleges and universities to take in a bid to address persistent inequalities in access to education. The joint report from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) identifies the main disadvantages facing people in further and higher education. They have published national equality outcomes which agree on targets to address the inequalities facing protected characteristics, including age,

The National (Scotland) 12 **Section 35 order is not anti-democratic but the SNP have been for some time** IN a normal, fully functioning democracy, it's reasonable to suggest that the SNP would have been pitched from office some

time ago. And with them, the last hopes for an independent Scotland in the lifetimes of most of us. Scotland right now though, is not, by any measure, a fully functioning democracy. Instead, it's come to resemble an endless political pantomime where a small but anointed cast of players performs

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Legal protection offer for parents discussing gender with children** Parents will be given specific legal protection to discuss gender identity matters with their children under plans being considered by Kemi Badenoch, the equalities minister, for a ban on conversion therapy. The government said this week that it would legislate to ban the therapy relating to gender identity as well as sexuality. Almost a year ago, Boris Johnson's government said there was too much "complexity" for transgender people to be

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Gender bill lobbyists get millions from SNP** Scottish charities and civic groups that criticised the Westminster government's decision to block Holyrood's gender recognition laws receive millions in funding from the SNP-led administration. Fourteen groups signed a statement expressing "strong opposition" to Alister Jack, the secretary of state for Scotland, after he issued a Section 35 order preventing the passage of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. The Conservative government in London claims that it is at odds

The National (Scotland) 17 **Festival set for milestone opening note** CELTIC Connections returns to Glasgow today with performances from some of Scotland and the world's top emerging musicians alongside returning favourites. The famed music festival will feature talent from countries including the US, Ireland and Morocco as they celebrate 30 years of showcasing traditional folk and world music. The festival, which runs until February 5, will welcome "hundreds of thousands" of visitors this year as the festival has quadrupled the

The National (Scotland) 6 **Labour MSP hits out with 'Viceroy Jack' jibe** A LABOUR MSP has branded Alister Jack a "viceroy" who must "get back in his box" over the move to block Holyrood's gender recognition reforms using a Section 35 order. Paul Sweeney made the comment to BBC Scotland's political editor Glenn Campbell, who appeared stunned in response. The MSP said: "It feels like a politically malicious act and I think it's about time that Viceroy Jack got back in his

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Westminster plays right into the SNP's hands** Sometimes a single word gives the whole game away. Picking his way carefully through the Commons debate on Scotland's gender recognition bill, Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, said that his decision to block a piece of Holyrood legislation, for the first time since devolution, was based on legal grounds alone. It was absolutely not political, whatever Nicola Sturgeon said. Then, from his own back benches, came a question he should

Metro (Scotland) 5 **'Sunak has to justify block'** FORMER first minister Henry McLeish yesterday warned the UK government decision to veto Holyrood's gender reform bill could set a dangerous precedent. The 74-year-old - who was central to getting the Scotland Act through Westminster - claimed prime minister Rishi Sunak's government had yet to justify its opposition to the bill. He said: 'It appears this bill is within the Scottish parliament's legislative competence but what's confusing, and the secretary

Daily Express 18 **COMMENT** THE blanket ban on assisted dying forces people to choose between suffering unbearably against their wishes or taking matters into their own hands - either alone behind closed doors or overseas at eye-watering expense. Geoff and Charlie's cases are just two of many that the health committee must hear. This inquiry will not be a fair examination of the law if it does not. We can and should do better

Daily Express 4 **Sunak vow to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak has insisted he is blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation

Daily Mail 17 **When will the REAL Rishi stand up?** HOW I cheered when Rishi Sunak summoned the courage to tell Nicola Sturgeon to think again about her ill-judged Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Scottish Nationalist First Minister and her allies evidently believe that they are at liberty to promulgate whatever laws they like north of the Border as though Scotland were an independent fiefdom. Such are the perils of devolution. This is the first time since devolution began its

Daily Mail 41 **Sorry Nicola, but 16 is dangerously young to change your gender** YES, it's a brave and controversial move, but I have no doubt Rishi Sunak has made the right decision in blocking the much-discussed Scottish Bill. The legislation would enable self-identification with a Gender Recognition Certificate from the age of 16 for those who wish to present themselves as the opposite sex to that in which they were born. It's the first time British ministers have used powers in the Scotland

Daily Mail (Scotland) 9 **Edinburgh in meat ban** EDINBURGH has become the first capital city in Europe to commit to dropping meat from its menus in schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The city council has voted to adopt a 'plant-based treaty', which aims to promote vegan food over meat and dairy. It comes as Edinburgh prepares to celebrate

Burns Night on January 25, with its centrepiece of haggis, although meat-free alternatives are available. Backing the move are Paul

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **SNP minister raises white flag in battle to close attainment gap** CLOSING the attainment gap between Scotland's most deprived and affluent pupils may be 'impossible' to achieve, the Education Secretary has admitted. SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has repeatedly said it is her 'defining mission' to close the gulf between the academic achievements of the richest and poorest youngsters. The First Minister promised in 2016 to 'substantially eliminate the gap over the course of the next decade', saying it would be a

Daily Record 2 **Starmer has reservations over gender reform Bill** KEIR Starmer has opened up a split with Scottish Labour over the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The UK Labour leader said he had "concerns" over Scotland's gender recognition law because he considers 16 to be too young to change gender. He also said that he was worried the legislation may break the Equalities Act. The Scottish Government passed legislation last month which will allow people to obtain a gender recognition

i (The paper for today) 22 **A constitutional grenade and an act of vandalism** Who is Rishi Sunak? Not so long ago, he seemed like a return-to-normal Tory government - superficial perhaps, but broadly reasonable. But underneath it all, things are different. There's a continuation of the exact same culture war infantilism we witnessed during Brexit. This week, we've seen evidence for it in two separate issues: the senseless constitutional war triggered with Scotland and the lunacy of the Retained EU Law Bill. On

i (The paper for today) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

The Daily Telegraph 2 **UK veto will destroy gender reforms, says Scottish judge** NICOLA STURGEON'S gender reforms will be "destroyed" by the UK Government's objections, one of Scotland's most senior judges has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". Ms Sturgeon's chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are now "very low" and she

The Daily Telegraph 2 **How the trans row exposed a gaping chasm among Tory MPs** Rishi Sunak had it all planned out - he would take on Nicola Sturgeon to look tough on the trans issue and to open up a front against Labour. But within days these plans were derailed when public rifts opened in the Conservative Party on the issue of banning trans conversion therapy. Last night Tory MPs said "dozens" of backbenchers would oppose the ban unless the Government came forward with

The Daily Telegraph 1 **Letting pupils 'socially transition' harms well-being, teachers told** TEACHERS are to be warned against "socially transitioning" children who question their gender, The Daily Telegraph has learnt. Allowing pupils to change their names and pronouns to match their preferred gender could have a major impact on their psychological well-being, schools will be told in new guidance. There has been growing concern about teachers allowing children to embrace a new gender identity at school, in some cases without the knowledge

The National (Scotland) 15 **Regeneration projects to create 1200 jobs** MORE than 1200 jobs will be created through regeneration projects that will work with people at risk of suicide and children who have been looked after. Around £27 million of investment from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) will support

The National (Scotland) 19 **MSPs' plea over men's sheds funding** MSPs from across the political spectrum have called on the Scottish Government to reverse a funding cut to men's sheds. A group of 40 MSPs joined with the Scottish Men's Shed Association (SMSA) in a plea to the Deputy First Minister John Swinney. They have written to the minister to urge him to reverse the funding cut, after a final £75,000 payment was made to the SMSA for the facilities.

The National (Scotland) 8 **Civil war erupts as Labour MSP criticises Starmer comments on bill** Divisions amongst the Labour Party are beginning to show after the UK Government decided to issue a Section 35 order and block gender reform legislation which was overwhelmingly passed by the Scottish Parliament. While a majority of Scottish Labour MSPs supported the bill in Holyrood,

The National (Scotland) 20 **Wheelchair basketball team launches for students** A WHEELCHAIR basketball team is being launched to open up sport to more students with disabilities in Scotland's north-east. Robert Gordon University (RGU) SPORT, Scottish Disability Sport (SDS), Grampian Flyers and the University's Disability Sport Working Group have secured £15,000 funding from Morrisons Foundation for the purchase of 10 sport wheelchairs, with the hope that this will open the sport up to a new audience in the north-east. Sessions will

The National (Scotland) 7 **Westminster has pressed the big nuclear button** BY THE WEE GINGER DUG ON MONDAY, the Conservative government in Westminster pressed the nuclear button and employed a so-called Section 35 order to prevent the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill - which received parliamentary approval last month - from receiving Royal Assent, thus blocking it from passing into law. Section 35 is a hitherto unused provision of the Scotland Act which gives the Secretary of State for

The National (Scotland) 1 **'YOU HAVE MADE BIG MISTAKE'** ALL THE LATEST ON UK'S ATTACK ON HOLYROOD FM's warning to Westminster as she confirms the Scottish Government will go to courts over its veto of gender bill •MP tells Jack he 'hasn't a clue' after S35 move defended •European politicians issue condemnation ©Labour civil war as MSP criticises Starmer comments

The National (Scotland) 6 **BBC's Adams forced into on-air correction after false SNP ministers' claim** THE BBC's Kaye Adams was forced to make an on-air correction yesterday after she interrupted a caller to wrongly make a claim about SNP ministers. Adams was hosting a phone-in on the UK Government's decision to use Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block gender reforms passed by Holyrood when the incident happened. She had been taking a call from a "Tommy in the Highlands", who was making the

The National (Scotland) 6 **Jack accused of 'not having a clue' over Section 35 move** ALISTER Jack was accused of "not having a clue" as he addressed the Commons over the UK Government's reasons for blocking Scotland's gender reform legislation. The Scottish Secretary gave a statement in which he told MPs the bill would have a "serious adverse impact" on the operation of the UK Equality Act 2010, including the operation of single-sex clubs, associations and schools, and protections such as equal pay. But during

The National (Scotland) 19 **Support for autism commissioner role** A SURVEY has found overwhelming support for the appointment of a commissioner to promote and protect the rights of autistic people in Scotland. A report by National Autistic Society Scotland (NAS) and Scottish Autism found that in a survey of 1215 autistic people, carers and professionals, 96% backed the move. The report urges the Scottish Government to move forward on its commitment to establish

The National (Scotland) 20 **Walking awards to honour those making Scotland more active** NOMINATIONS have opened for the 2023 Scottish Walking Awards, which will honour the outstanding people, communities and organisations making Scotland a more active nation. The biennial awards will showcase a diverse range of inspiring walking projects - from businesses, councils and land managers to the journalists, NHS staff and volunteers who inspire others to step out. Organisers want to see nominations from all parts of Scotland and all sections of

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 12 **Worker fears for trans rights** A transgender offshore worker has spoken out against the UK Government blocking Scottish gender recognition reform legislation. Samantha Nelson, who transitioned 14 years ago and works as an offshore installation manager, fears "dehumanising" rhetoric on trans people could lead to a broader loss of rights "hard won over decades". The Gender Recognition Reform Bill (GRB), passed at Holyrood last month by cross-party MSPs, is meant to streamline the process for changing

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **Uncertainty over delayed schools cash** Plans to build new schools in the Highlands have been hit by an "unacceptable" delay as the council awaits a decision to see if it has secured Scottish Government funding. A meeting to discuss five new primaries - in Beaulieu, Dunvegan, Invergordon, Dingwall and Tornagrain - has been cancelled due to fears over whether there will be enough cash to go ahead with projects. Full story: Page 4

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Plans for much-needed new schools facing uncertainty** New schools in the north could hang in the balance after councillors cancelled a crucial meeting, with no new date set. Highland Council was due to agree its capital budget at a special meeting on February 1. But with just days to go, the administration has confirmed that the meeting will not go ahead. A spokesman for Highland Council says this is because the council still has not had confirmation

The Scotsman 6 **MP defends 'transphobic' comment** A Labour MP has defended accusing a Conservative politician of making "transphobic" comments during a heated House of Commons debate. Lloyd Russell-Moyle said he wrote to Conservative MP Miriam Cates to acknowledge the tone of his remarks were a "mistake". He added he failed to control his "passion" but also insisted "I stand by the words that I said", noting he "profoundly" disagrees with Ms Cates. Penistone and Stocksbridge MP

The Scotsman 28 **400 ways you can help this winter** At the launch event of Financial Inclusion for Scotland (FIFS), the audience heard an urgent and heartfelt plea from one speaker. "This is an emergency", she said, "We need action not words." We heard that food banks are running out of food and that we risk returning to levels of hunger for some people not seen since Victorian times. In its Poverty in Scotland Report issued last October, the Joseph

The Scotsman 6 **Lords say bill used as 'distraction' from ills** The UK and Scottish governments have been accused of using the gender Bill as a "distraction" from the ills plaguing the nation. Peers in the House of Lords have accused the governments in both Holyrood and Westminster of using the topic as a political football in a devolution power struggle. It has also been claimed that they are using it as a distraction from the multitude of issues faced by

The Scotsman 6 **UK Government in 'stronger position' if Gender Reform goes to courts** The UK Government is in a "stronger position" if the battle over gender reform goes to the courts, a Scottish academic has claimed. Dr Michael Foran, a lecturer in public law at the University of Glasgow, said the case was not about agreeing with the decision of Scottish secretary Alister Jack to use a section 35 order to block the Bill, but rather whether a reasonable person could have come

The Scotsman 28 **The demand for smart buildings connectivity will only grow in year ahead** 2022 was the year Scottish businesses adopted hybrid working models and new ways of working as we all returned to the new normal postpandemic, only to be thrown into a period of soaring energy costs and inflation rises we haven't seen in over four decades. Many businesses have embraced the opportunity to re-establish how they operate and take a real look at their connectivity technology and how it can

The Scotsman 25 **Inside Health B** Britain's strange, antiquated class system can have serious consequences for those born on the wrong side of the "postcode lottery". The standard of education you receive, the sports you play as a child, the jobs you are considered well-suited for, and your likelihood of one day becoming a Cabinet minister are all dramatically improved by being born to a rich household in Scotland. You could be forgiven for thinking

The Scotsman 30 **Trans people are a political football** The constitutional row between the UK Tories and Holyrood's SNP/ Green government is a contrived spat which does neither party credit. The gender legislation is flawed, even dangerous in parts. It needs to be amended. There are many aspects, though, that are not only acceptable but required. The issues that cause the controversy and those, in particular, that threaten or conflict with other existing rights need reviewed. But the

The Scotsman 29 **Small businesses in deprived areas are being held back** While the headwinds facing Scotland's economy have been well publicised, it is likely that the full impact is yet to be fully realised by smaller businesses. As we settle in to the new year, uncertain forecasts for 2023 mean that every firm will be focused on building resilience and maximising opportunities, including looking at how finance could support them in the months ahead. For Scottish firms, and indeed across the

The Scotsman 7 **UK Government move to block legislation 'wrong' - Anas Sarwar** The UK Government's move to block Scottish gender recognition legislation is the "wrong approach", Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar has said. Mr Sarwar also said Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need for reform and to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday evening, blocking Holyrood's Gender Recognition Reform Bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the

The Scotsman 28 **People with lived experience have a wealth of knowledge and skills to offer** Imagine a world where the learning and experiences from some of the darkest and most difficult times in your life are seen as something precious and valuable that can be used to help others. A world where we harness the knowledge of people with lived experience of mental health challenges in new employment opportunities. Where lived experience is more, or of equitable value to a traditional university degree or

The Scotsman 1 **UK case "is stronger" in gender legal battle** The UK Government is "in a very strong position" ahead of a looming legal battle over the future of Scotland's gender laws. Glasgow University public law lecturer Dr Michael Foran told The Scotsman the government would have "dotted the i's and crossed the t's" before the Scottish Secretary blocked the bill by using a Section 35 order for the first time. 3 FULL STORY, PAGES 6&7

10. CORPORATE

The Herald 6 **Slater 'misled' MSPs after Matheson reveals conflicting date over wind figure** A GREENS Government minister has been accused of having "misled" Holyrood after it emerged ministers were told of an inaccurate statistic months before she told MSPs that the Government was made aware. Lorna Slater told MSPs that ministers were informed of the inaccurate figure that Scotland holds 25 per cent of Europe's wind energy potential on November 8. But SNP Net Zero Secretary Michael Matheson has thrown doubt on this

The Scotsman 16 **SNP minister lets slip he knew wind energy stats were inaccurate** Scotland's energy minister has said he first became aware a statistic on the wind energy potential of Scotland was inaccurate in September last year, directly contradicting the Scottish Government's official line on the issue. Ministers were forced to admit the much-used claim Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind energy potential was incorrect and inaccurate following the publication of a report by the pronoun think-tank These Islands. However,

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

Daily Record 8 **THIS IS NOT A POWER GRAB** RISHI Sunak has denied a move to block Holyrood's gender reform bill is a power grab by Westminster. The Prime Minister told MPs yesterday he had halted the bill due to its impact on equality laws in the rest of the UK. At Prime Minister's Questions Sunak said the Scottish Secretary Alister Jack made the Section 35 order "with regret". He added later that he wants "to engage in a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **UK sails past SNP fiasco to help give isle lifeline ferry** SCOTLAND is to get a new lifeline ferry service as part of a £177million cash boost from the UK Government. It will be one of ten Scottish projects to benefit from the 'Levelling Up' funding. Tory ministers have decided to step in and help improve links in Scotland amid concerns about the SNP's failure to stop a growing ferries crisis in parts of the country. They have pledged to provide

The Herald 24 **Immigration moves and return of older workers urged amid worry** SCOTTISH Chambers of Commerce's president says Westminster must introduce a flexible migration system so businesses can "hire and attract the international workforce" and the Scottish Government should take steps to attract older people back into the labour force. Stephen Leckie, presenting the findings of the business organisation's latest quarterly survey published today, declared that "persistent challenges over access to labour and retaining talent are beginning to take precedence as a

Metro (Scotland) 5 **Sarwar: UK veto not the way to sort gender row** THE UK government's move to block Holyrood's gender change law is the 'wrong approach', Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said yesterday. Mr Sarwar also said his UK party leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday, blocking the gender recognition reform bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the UK and

The Times (Scotland) 24 **Westminster plays right into the SNP's hands** Sometimes a single word gives the whole game away. Picking his way carefully through the Commons debate on Scotland's gender recognition bill, Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, said that his decision to block a piece of Holyrood legislation, for the first time since devolution, was based on legal grounds alone. It was absolutely not political, whatever Nicola Sturgeon said. Then, from his own back benches, came a question he should

The Herald 1 **Sarwar refuses to criticise Starmer on gender bill** ANAS Sarwar has refused to criticise the UK Labour leader after Sir Keir Starmer said he opposed a key principle of Scotland's gender recognition reforms. It comes as Sir Keir's shadow Scottish secretary criticised MSPs "slugging off" the UK leader of the party, but was branded "ludicrous" for claiming "there's nothing between the two parts of the Labour Party on this". Meanwhile, the Labour MSP who amended Scotland's gender recognition

The Herald 4 **Stephen Flynn tells PM Scotland on 'a slippery slope to direct rule'** THE SNP's leader at Westminster has claimed Scotland is on a "slippery slope from devolution to direct rule". Stephen Flynn's comment came as he challenged Rishi Sunak on the UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Aberdeen South MP started by asking the Prime Minister if he agreed that the use of the Section 35 was a "dangerous moment for devolution". Mr Sunak replied: "Let me

Metro (Scotland) 15 **£177m of 'levelling up' cash for Scots projects** THE UK government has revealed ten projects in Scotland will share £177million of 'levelling up' funds. Amongst the big winners, Shetland gets almost £27million for a new ferry for the Fair Isle, £20million will help turn Arbutnot House in Aberdeenshire into a museum and library, as well as modernising Macduff Aquarium, while £20million will refurbish the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock.

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **SUNAK: WE CAN WORK IT OUT, NIC** RISHI Sunak yesterday urged Nicola Sturgeon to work with him to find a way forward to save her gender self-ID law. The PM rejected SNP claims of a "culture war" and insisted his government's veto came amid fears it would have a "significant adverse effect" on UK-wide equalities legislation. Speaking for the first time since Scottish Secretary Alister Jack blocked the trans rights bid, he said any shake-up must ensure

The Herald 4 **Ex-justice minister rejects UK Government reasons for blocking gender reform** A FORMER Labour UK justice secretary has suggested that the statement of reasons set out by the UK Government to block Scotland's gender recognition reforms does not justify the unprecedented move. Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has issued a section 35 order to prevent the bill, overwhelmingly backed by Holyrood, from becoming law. Many of the reasons set out by the UK Government for using the action relate to Scotland having

The Herald 13 **Stop rushing to the courts First Minister, and start talks** WAS it only a week ago that Rishi Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon dined together in Inverness? I'd like to think they toasted a new beginning in relations between their two governments. A calm of sorts after the storms, but a calm nevertheless. Ah well, it was nice while it lasted. As of Monday we are back to intergovernmental relations conducted as a pub fight in EastEnders, both sides out on

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **sturgeon courtroom gamble is doomed** NICOLA Sturgeon's bid to launch a costly court battle over her gender reforms is doomed to failure and would be a 'mistake', legal experts have warned. Former Supreme Court Judge Lord Hope of Craighead said he believes the UK Government's case for imposing a section 35 order to block the SNP's overhaul of gender recognition laws is 'devastating'. He was backed by ex-honorary professor of law at Glasgow University, Alistair

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Why should WE keep paying for Sturgeon's court failures?** THE debacle over the SNP's transgender reforms is just the latest illustration of an inescapable truth - that the First Minister plainly believes her government is above the law. Time and time again, she has fought bitter legal battles in defence of the indefensible - at enormous cost to the taxpayer - almost always ending in failure and humiliation. According to former Supreme Court judge Lord Hope, Nicola Sturgeon's bid

The Herald 14 **Westminster triggered as Flynn flays PM for 'stoking culture war'** WE picture William Wallace and Robert the Bruce viewing the 21st century from their time machine. Bruce: "Aw great, Bill. The Scottish people are rising up against their English overlords." Wallace: "Aye, what's it a' about?" Bruce (consults copy of Herald): "It's about the right o' 16-year-olds to change gender without a doctor's note, ken?" Wallace: "Eh?" Bruce: "Says here it's about gender dysphoria." Wallace: "Diss what now?" Bruce: "Phoria."

The Herald 15 **Gender law is the biggest step towards indy since 2014** THIS week will be seen as Scotland's Naked Lunch moment. When William Burroughs, the Beat Generation's bard, was asked why he had called his infamous novel Naked Lunch, he said it was because the book was about that "frozen moment when everyone sees what's on the end of every fork". In other words: the moment everything becomes clear, when everything we knew, but didn't want to admit, comes into focus.

The Sun (Scotland) 10 **Time for talks** WHEN Scottish Secretary Alister Jack announced he would veto the SNP's gender self-ID law, it brought the hugely controversial issue back to the front pages. And while there was no dramatic movement in the 24 hours that followed, is still the story dominating politics — both north and south of the border. As yet, there is no confirmation of court action or word on just how Nicola Sturgeon will attempt

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Sarwar backs watchdog to rule on how law works** The equalities watchdog should be brought in to determine how Scotland's changes to gender recognition laws could work within the UK, the Scottish Labour leader has said. Anas Sarwar said the UK Government's move to block the reforms was the "wrong approach" but that the matter should not have to be determined by the courts. Labour supported the controversial Bill when it came to a vote at Holyrood before Christmas,

The Herald 6 **SNP MSP slams colleagues for 'devaluing' Scottish parliamentary motions** AN SNP MSP has criticised his colleagues for "devaluing" parliamentary motions. Graeme Dey, who last year left the Scottish Government to return to the backbenches, said the low quality had been troubling him for some time. Parliamentary motions can be tabled by MSPs on just about anything. They are not for debate, but rather to mark events. Recent subjects for motions include the proposed closure of the Amazon site in

The National (Scotland) 6 **Labour MSP hits out with 'Viceroy Jack' jibe** A LABOUR MSP has branded Alister Jack a "viceroy" who must "get back in his box" over the move to block Holyrood's gender recognition reforms using a Section 35 order. Paul Sweeney made the comment to BBC Scotland's political editor Glenn Campbell, who appeared stunned in response. The MSP said: "It feels like a politically malicious act and I think it's about time that Viceroy Jack got back in his

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Public opinion 'Voters could turn against Sunak'** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to leading pollsters. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with voters in Scotland

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sturgeon battling in vain over gender reform veto, says law expert** NICOLA STURGEON'S chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are "very low" and she should think again about wasting public money on a court battle, Scotland's most eminent legal authority has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". He said

The National (Scotland) 4 **Rally speakers urge Scots to send reminder to the world** SPEAKERS for a Brexit Day rally are urging Scots to show up to remind "ourselves and the world" that Scotland's democracy is being "eroded" by

Westminster. The call for Yes supporters to gather again at Holyrood in a fortnight comes as think tanks reveal the post-Brexit UK economy is facing a shortfall of 300,000 workers after axing the free movement of people with the EU. Broadcaster and co-organiser of the

The National (Scotland) 5 **Sunak sets out projects for Levelling Up funds** THE UK Government has announced 10 projects in Scotland will share £177 million of Levelling Up funding. Almost £27m will be sent to Shetland for a new ferry for Fair Isle, £20m will help turn Arbuthnot House in Aberdeenshire into a museum and library as well as modernising Macduff Aquarium, and £20m will refurbish the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock. The announcement was made yesterday, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak saying

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **Towns land levelling-up cash as city bid snubbed** AMBITIOUS plans to create a new cultural quarter in Peterhead and a revamp of Macduff Aquarium last night received a £20 million funding boost from the UK Government - but Aberdeen was snubbed again. The huge sum for the north-east towns was among 10 projects in Scotland to be awarded the levelling-up cash. However, Aberdeen City Council's plea for £20m to go towards its beach regeneration was rejected. It comes

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Labour stance 'as clear as mud' as rift deepens** LABOUR'S position on controversial gender recognition reforms has been branded 'clear as mud' after further rifts opened within the party. The party's Scottish leader Anas Sarwar criticised the UK Government for blocking the Holyrood's Gender Recognition Act, claiming it was the 'wrong approach'. But Mr Sarwar refused to criticise his UK leader Keir Starmer, who had not opposed the Tory Government's unprecedented decision to prevent the changes becoming law. It

The National (Scotland) 4 1 **Striking torch-lit procession will mark Brexit day** A STRIKING torch-lit procession will lead protesters to a rally at the Scottish Parliament to mark the third anniversary of Scotland's forced removal from the EU. The procession, which is expected to make a "stunning impact in the darkness", will march through Holyrood Park lit by torches and flares used in Edinburgh Hogmanay celebrations. Campaign group Time for Scotland has also announced new speakers for its Lights

The National (Scotland) 5 **Scotland's democracy is 'collateral in Tory 'culture war' Over reform bill** SCOTLAND'S democracy is "collateral damage" in a Tory "culture war", the leader of the SNP in Westminster has said. Stephen Flynn accused Rishi Sunak of creeping towards a policy of "direct rule" after the Scottish Secretary took the unprecedented step of blocking gender recognition reforms passed by Holyrood with a cross-party majority of MPs. Speaking in the Commons yesterday, Sunak defended the move, saying the Government was acting within the

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Senior legal figures divided over chances of Sturgeon winning** The legal battle lines over the UK Government's decision to block Scotland's gender reforms have been drawn, with a former Supreme Court judge predicting that Nicola Sturgeon's chances of success in court were "very low". Lord Hope said the UK Government's statement of reasons for using a Section 35 order to veto the Bill passed by MSPs before Christmas was "devastating" for the Scottish Government. However, former UK Justice Secretary

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Sunak: I've blocked bill to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak insisted he was blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring

The National (Scotland) 12 **Section 35 order is not anti-democratic but the SNP have been for sometime** IN a normal, fully functioning democracy, it's reasonable to suggest that the SNP would have been pitched from office some time ago. And with them, the last hopes for an independent Scotland in the lifetimes of most of us. Scotland right now though, is not, by any measure, a fully functioning democracy. Instead, it's come to resemble an endless political pantomime where a small but anointed cast of players performs

The National (Scotland) 7 **BBC Radio Scotland shows still facing axe despite review of cuts in England** BBC Scotland has confirmed specialist radio shows facing the axe are unaffected by the broadcaster reviewing plans for cuts in England. The BBC announced yesterday that more programmes would be produced to fill the air on local radio stations after previously announced cuts were blasted as threatening a "vital public service". In October, the BBC proposed local radio stations share more content and broadcast less programming unique to their areas

The Times (Scotland) 4 **SNP's gender bill fight is a waste of public cash, lord says** A former Supreme Court judge has condemned as a waste of public money Nicola Sturgeon's threat to challenge Westminster's veto of her gender law. Lord Hope of Craighead, former deputy president of the final court of appeal, said the Scottish government's chances of winning a legal challenge were "very low". Hope, who also served as lord president of the Court of Session and lord justice general, Scotland's highest legal position,

Daily Express (Scotland) 13 **Nats being led down the road to nowhere** THEY are highly unlikely to stop trying, but Nicola Sturgeon and her dwindling army of followers are desperate to prove that Alister Jack used base political tricks to

call a halt to their gender reform plan. But it's just not working, even after their pretty hysterical showing in the Commons earlier this week. In exchange after exchange they cried 'foul', but not for a second did the Secretary of State

The National (Scotland) 1 **TORCHES WILL LIGHT PATH FOR BREXIT DAY RALLY** EXCLUSIVE BBC REVISES WIDELY CRITICISED RADIO CUTS IN ENGLAND... BUT NO CHANGE IN SCOTLAND

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Gender bill lobbyists get millions from SNP** Scottish charities and civic groups that criticised the Westminster government's decision to block Holyrood's gender recognition laws receive millions in funding from the SNP-led administration. Fourteen groups signed a statement expressing "strong opposition" to Alister Jack, the secretary of state for Scotland, after he issued a Section 35 order preventing the passage of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. The Conservative government in London claims that it is at odds

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 23 **Scottish Ballet to expand health initiatives** Scottish Ballet is to run a "national dance centre for health" to help people living with dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and long Covid. NHS staff and social care workers suffering from physical and mental stress will be able to join special sessions from Scottish Ballet, which says the centre's work will help "celebrate the dancer in each of us". The Glasgow-based company is significantly expanding its previous health and

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Prime Minister defends Bill decision** Rishi Sunak has denied that Scotland is on a "slippery slope from devolution to direct rule" following his Government's decision to block reforms to gender recognition laws. The Prime Minister was pressed about the UK Government's unprecedented use of a Section 35 order to veto the changes voted through by MSPs before Christmas. During Prime Minister's Questions, the SNP Westminster leader, Stephen Flynn, described the decision as "a dangerous moment

Daily Express (Scotland) 6 **Burrell's art treasure house draws 500,000 visitors since revamp** SCOTLAND'S renowned Burrell Collection has welcomed its 500,000th visitor since it reopened just nine months ago. The Burrell, in Glasgow, was closed for nearly six years for a £70m restoration. Its return at the end of March last year was welcomed by the public and historians alike and in that short period of time it is estimated to have benefited the Scottish economy by more than £21m. The A-listed home

Daily Express 4 **Sunak vow to protect UK women** RISHI Sunak has insisted he is blocking a Scottish bill designed to make it easier to change gender because of the "safety of women and children". The Prime Minister infuriated Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by using Westminster powers to stop her law. But Mr Sunak said the SNP legislation would have an impact on equalities rights across the UK. He told MPs: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation

Daily Mail 10 **Now Keir sides with Sturgeon on gender law** SIR Keir Starmer has sided with Nicola Sturgeon over Scotland's radical gender reforms. He opposes Westminster using its ultimate veto to block the SNP government's controversial plan to let people as young as 16 change their legal sex. The Labour leader does not think single-sex spaces are put at risk by making it easier for anyone to change sex, and his spokesman would not condemn the party's MPs who barracked

Daily Mail 17 **When will the REAL Rishi stand up?** HOW I cheered when Rishi Sunak summoned the courage to tell Nicola Sturgeon to think again about her ill-judged Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The Scottish Nationalist First Minister and her allies evidently believe that they are at liberty to promulgate whatever laws they like north of the Border as though Scotland were an independent fiefdom. Such are the perils of devolution. This is the first time since devolution began its

i (The paper for today) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

i (The paper for today) 22 **A constitutional grenade and an act of vandalism** Who is Rishi Sunak? Not so long ago, he seemed like a return to normal Tory government - superficial perhaps, but broadly reasonable. But underneath it all, things are different. There's a continuation of the exact same culture war infantilism we witnessed during Brexit. This week, we've seen evidence for it in two separate issues: the senseless constitutional war triggered with Scotland and the lunacy of the Retained EU Law Bill. On

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **Block on trans rights Bill could backfire** Scottish voters could turn against Rishi Sunak after his decision to block Nicola Sturgeon's trans rights law - but the impact may not last, according to a leading pollster. The Prime Minister yesterday defended the controversial move, saying: "This is simply about protecting UK-wide legislation about ensuring the safety of women and children." But Chris Hopkins of Savanta said: "I don't think the move will go down very well with

The Daily Telegraph 2 **UK veto will destroy gender reforms, says Scottish judge** NICOLA STURGEON'S gender reforms will be "destroyed" by the UK Government's objections, one of Scotland's most senior judges has said. Lord Hope of Craighead, a former deputy president of the UK Supreme Court, said the Scottish Secretary's document detailing the reasons for blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill was "devastating". Ms Sturgeon's chances of overturning the UK Government's veto of her gender reforms are now "very low" and she

The Daily Telegraph 2 **How the trans row exposed a gaping chasm among Tory MPs** Rishi Sunak had it all planned out - he would take on Nicola Sturgeon to look tough on the trans issue and to open up a front against Labour. But within days these plans were derailed when public rifts opened in the Conservative Party on the issue of banning trans conversion therapy. Last night Tory MPs said "dozens" of backbenchers would oppose the ban unless the Government came forward with

The Daily Telegraph 14 **The Tories' latest betrayal shows why the party is facing extinction** For a moment this week, I forgot my first rule of British politics: never underestimate the Tory party's ability to turn every victory into a full-blown rout. Rishi Sunak's decision to veto Nicola Sturgeon's appalling gender self-ID legislation was a heroic move, or so it seemed, at once a sweeping counter-offensive in the culture wars and the first sign of a popular, muscular Unionism aligned with Scottish opinion. Sturgeon wants

The Guardian 2 **Constitutional battle over SNP's gender reforms that were once Tory pledges** The provision of identity lies at the heart of a modern state. But a person's sense of who they are is not as fixed as it once was. UK law has yet to catch up with the idea that people can identify in many ways. It's easier, perhaps, to continue with the status quo. Often reforms fail because legitimate concerns cannot be assuaged or they do not attract the support

The National (Scotland) 8 **Civil war erupts as Labour MSP criticises Starmer comments on bill** Divisions amongst the Labour Party are beginning to show after the UK Government decided to issue a Section 35 order and block gender reform legislation which was overwhelmed by the Scottish Parliament. While a majority of Scottish Labour MSPs supported the bill in Holyrood,

The National (Scotland) 7 **Westminster has pressed the big nuclear button** BY THE WEE GINGER DUG ON MONDAY, the Conservative government in Westminster pressed the nuclear button and employed a so-called Section 35 order to prevent the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill - which received parliamentary approval last month - from receiving Royal Assent, thus blocking it from passing into law. Section 35 is a hitherto unused provision of the Scotland Act which gives the Secretary of State for

The National (Scotland) 1 **'YOU HAVE MADE BIG MISTAKE' ALL THE LATEST ON UK'S ATTACK ON HOLYROOD** FM's warning to Westminster as she confirms the Scottish Government will go to courts over its veto of gender bill • MP tells Jack he 'hasn't a clue' after S35 move defended • European politicians issue condemnation • Labour civil war as MSP criticises Starmer comments

The National (Scotland) 6 **BBC's Adams forced into on-air correction after false SNP ministers' claim** THE BBC's Kaye Adams was forced to make an on-air correction yesterday after she interrupted a caller to wrongly make a claim about SNP ministers. Adams was hosting a phone-in on the UK Government's decision to use Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block gender reforms passed by Holyrood when the incident happened. She had been taking a call from a "Tommy in the Highlands", who was making the

The National (Scotland) 20 **As a matter of urgency, the battle for indy must start now - not manana** "Mr MacNeil, do you have anything in your language which equates with the Spanish word manana?" "No sir," replies our Angus. "We have nothing in the Gaelic which quite reflects that sense of urgency." And yet, within the SNP just now, it is the aforesaid MacNeil who is expressing a sense of urgency while others seek to kick the independence can down the road, yet again. Many of us across

The National (Scotland) 6 **Jack accused of 'not having a clue' over Section 35 move** ALISTER Jack was accused of "not having a clue" as he addressed the Commons over the UK Government's reasons for blocking Scotland's gender reform legislation. The Scottish Secretary gave a statement in which he told MPs the bill would have a "serious adverse impact" on the operation of the UK Equality Act 2010, including the operation of single-sex clubs, associations and schools, and protections such as equal pay. But during

The National (Scotland) 12 **Independence handbook imagines first 10 years of Scotland after a Yes vote** AFTER years of consistent feedback from its members asking for hope, Common Weal published its latest book in November. The 285-page handbook illustrates opportunities for Scotland with free, expansive and limitless thinking. It is based on a decade of work by Common Weal, and by organisations and authors the think tank is close to. Sorted: A Handbook For A Better Nation isn't to convince or provide arguments - it's to

The National (Scotland) 8 **What now for gender reform? Possible outcomes as legal battle begins** THE battle between the UK and Scottish governments over the gender reform legislation could take months to resolve, a legal expert has said. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said the move to use a Section 35 order by UK ministers would

"inevitably end up in court", adding the Scottish Government will "vigorously defend" the legislation. There is no process to appeal the issuing of the order and MPs will not

The National (Scotland) 2 **Axing bagpiping show would be 'an own goal'** THE former president of a top piping body has warned that "watering down" a flagship programme on BBC radio would be "just as bad" as axing it - while the SNP MSP who is Holyrood's official piper issued his own plea to the BBC. Pipeline - which has been running for more than 30 years - is set to be replaced, as part of a BBC

The National (Scotland) 17 **Shooglenifty docufilm to tour Scottish cinemas** A NEW documentary film about one of Scotland's most ground-breaking bands is to tour cinemas throughout Scotland. Heading West, which tells the story of Shooglenifty, will see screenings from January 31 after support from The National Lottery through Creative Scotland and Screen Scotland. The film, which premiered during the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2022, documents the band's career

The National (Scotland) 5 **Jack: 'No plan for veto whenever we choose'** THE UK Government is not seeking to veto Scottish Parliament legislation "whenever it chooses" by moving against controversial reforms of the gender recognition process passed by Holyrood, Alister Jack has claimed. The Scottish Secretary said the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill would have "serious adverse effects" on the operation of UK-wide equalities legislation. Giving a statement to MPs on the Government's decision to use Section 35 of the Scotland Act

The National (Scotland) 4 **How the world's top newspapers covered UK blocking gender reforms** THE National had a look at how the Tories' move to block the Scottish bill was reported in some of the world's international and national publications. UNITED STATES: The New York Times sent out a breaking news alert on Monday evening, telling some 8.6 million digital subscribers about Jack's decision. It said: "UK Government blocks Scottish Law making gender change easier." Its analysis quoted the campaign group Stonewall. The group

The National (Scotland) 4 **Court move over UK's block on January bill** FIRST Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed the Scottish Government will seek a judicial review to appeal the UK Government's decision to veto gender reforms. She warned it would "inevitably end up in court" as Alister Jack gave a statement in the Commons outlining why the decision had been taken. A judicial review is a type of

The National (Scotland) 9 **De facto indyref motion was leaked before I even had time to read it** EXCLUSIVE BY XANDER ELLIARDS IT was only a matter of hours after it had been sent out that a draft motion on the SNP's de facto referendum plan - shared only with members of the party's ruling body - appeared in the press. The high-level leak led to "spin", with reports over the weekend claiming that Nicola Sturgeon was to unilaterally change the SNP's plan for the next General Election.

The National (Scotland) 12 **We've tried to be sane legislators in the insane asylum that is Brexit UK** THEY say a week is a long time in politics - and this week has certainly felt it! Intent on further undermining the devolution settlement and Scottish democracy, the UK Government is pushing ahead with its flawed Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill later today. My inbox has been flooded with constituents getting in touch to express their concern about REUL. And no wonder; it is not so much a bonfire

The National (Scotland) 9 **Europe condemns UK's 'direct attack' on devolution** THE UK Government is being urged to "respect" Scotland's devolution settlement by politicians in Europe. The European Free Alliance (EFA) - a political organisation constituted of various nationalist and regionalist and autonomist parties across Europe - said that the UK Government's move to block gender reform legislation, which was overwhelmingly passed in the Scottish Parliament before Christmas, was a "direct attack" on devolution. The EFA represents 43 parties across the

The Scotsman 30 **Trans people are a political football** The constitutional row between the UK Tories and Holyrood's SNP/ Green government is a contrived spat which does neither party credit. The gender legislation is flawed, even dangerous in parts. It needs to be amended. There are many aspects, though, that are not only acceptable but required. The issues that cause the controversy and those, in particular, that threaten or conflict with other existing rights need reviewed. But the

The Scotsman 7 **UK Government move to block legislation 'wrong' - Anas Sarwar** The UK Government's move to block Scottish gender recognition legislation is the "wrong approach", Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar has said. Mr Sarwar also said Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer agrees with him on the need for reform and to protect devolution. Scottish secretary Alister Jack issued an unprecedented section 35 order on Monday evening, blocking Holyrood's Gender Recognition Reform Bill from becoming law and sparking a dispute between the

The Scotsman 6 **UK Government in 'stronger position' if Gender Reform goes to courts** The UK Government is in a "stronger position" if the battle over gender reform goes to the courts, a Scottish academic has claimed. Dr Michael Foran, a lecturer in public law at the University of Glasgow, said the case was not about agreeing with the decision of Scottish secretary Alister Jack to use a section 35 order to block the Bill, but rather whether a reasonable person could have come

The Scotsman 13 **Member's bill bid to reform Holyrood** How the Scottish Parliament scrutinises government legislation and operates could be set for a radical overhaul should a member's bill be backed by MSPs. Donald Cameron, the Conservative constitution spokesperson, yesterday announced his intention to lodge a member's bill focusing on parliamentary reform in Holyrood. It follows several years of complaints from opposition MSPs and former Cabinet ministers, such as the SNP's Alex Neil, who have called for reform of

The Scotsman 6 **Lords say bill used as 'distraction' from ills** The UK and Scottish governments have been accused of using the gender Bill as a "distraction" from the ills plaguing the nation. Peers in the House of Lords have accused the governments in both Holyrood and Westminster of using the topic as a political football in a devolution power struggle. It has also been claimed that they are using it as a distraction from the multitude of issues faced by

The Scotsman 1 **UK case "is stronger" in gender legal battle** The UK Government is "in a very strong position" ahead of a looming legal battle over the future of Scotland's gender laws. Glasgow University public law lecturer Dr Michael Foran told The Scotsman the government would have "dotted the i's and crossed the t's" before the Scottish Secretary blocked the bill by using a Section 35 order for the first time. 3 FULL STORY, PAGES 6&7

The Scotsman 30 **Too many politicians are centrists and careerists, and that's bad for democracy** My old friend Alex Neil, the former Health Secretary, raised hackles when saying there were too many careerists in the Scottish Parliament and MSPs were simply nodding donkeys for party whips. His fire was ranged across the Chamber, not just at Scottish Government benches. The ills of Holyrood are also a microcosm of Westminster, although greater numbers and different operating structures allow for more mavericks and dissent there. But

The Scotsman 19 **Burrell Collection welcomes 500,000th visitor in nine months since reopening** A "cherished" city museum has celebrated welcoming 500,000 visitors since it reopened nine months ago following a major refurbishment. The Burrell Collection, situated in Glasgow's Pollok Park, closed to the public in October 2016 and reopened on March 29 last year following a £68.25 million project that increased its gallery space by 35 per cent. The collection, which includes art, stained glass, ceramics and tapestries, was amassed by Sir William

The Scotsman 3 **Scottish Ballet creates national dance health centre for a variety of ailments** Scotland's flagship ballet company is to run a "National Dance Centre for Health" to help people living with dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and long Covid. NHS staff and social care workers suffering from physical and mental stress will be able to take advantage of specially-created sessions and workshops from Scottish Ballet, which says the new centre's work will help "celebrate the dancer in each of us". The company, which

The Scotsman 8 **Levelling-up funding a £177m boost for ten projects across Scotland** A new ferry for Fair Isle, restoration of Kilmarnock's historic Palace Theatre, and regeneration in Stirling are just some of the transformational local projects across Scotland awarded a share of £2.1 billion from the UK government's landmark Levelling Up Fund. Some ten projects in Scotland have been allocated more than £177 million from round two of the fund, the government saying that the projects will create jobs, drive economic growth,

The Sun 17 **Wage war on the wokes and Rishi might get votes** THERE'S nothing quite like seeing Scottish National Party members jumping up and down with discomfort, as if someone had stuck stoats in their sporrans. That's what happened when the Government rightly blocked the ridiculous Scottish Gender Recognition Act. They went doolally. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak got this right — it is a dangerous and silly piece of legislation, the only point of which was to show how right-on the Scots

The Times 25 **Softly-softly Sunak must show fighting spirit** @iainmartin1 Towards the end of James Graham's latest play, the characters discuss who won. Best of Enemies centres on the televised clashes in 1968 between Gore Vidal and William F Buckley Jr. With America riven by the Vietnam war, fights for civil rights and the sexual revolution, Vidal the novelist and Buckley, creator of the modern conservative movement, went head to head on the struggling ABC news station during the

[Redacted]

Media Monitor | Media Monitoring Unit

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[Redacted]

Item 17:

From: POLITICO London Playbook [Redacted]

Sent: 19 January 2023 07:06

To: Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]

Subject: High canapé bar — Leveling up and out — Mercer Twitter beef

LONDON Playbook *from* POLITICO

By EMILIO CASALICCHIO

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Good Thursday morning. This is Emilio Casalicchio. I'll be here Friday too.

SPOTTED at Speaker's House last night ... Near enough all the top political hacks in Britain (including a few former big names) as well as London-based foreign correspondents, House of Commons spinners and many, many others, for a drinks reception with the man himself, **Lindsay Hoyle**.

Speaker speaks: The Lancastrian host offered a sometimes humorous, sometimes heartfelt address, in which he paid tribute to two departing hacks: Retiring BBC radio legend **Carolyn Quinn** and Onward-bound former FT journo **Seb Payne**. The speaker's words about Quinn were particularly touching, likening her departure to "the ravens leaving the tower" and branding her one of the nicest, kindest and fairest journalists going. It was "here here" all round.

Biggest laugh of the night ... wasn't from Hoyle himself, but came when he noted that Payne has "an army of social media followers who call themselves ..." and the Sun on Sunday's **Kate Ferguson** chimed in from the back: "Tory MPs!"

Her timing was impeccable: Like an off-beat snare crack slipped between the quarter notes of a four on the floor. The ornate reception room, littered with paintings of speakers past, erupted in laughter.

But the star of the show ... was without doubt the excellent canapés the Commons chefs provided, all with a Lancashire theme and some still hot from the ovens. The chicken liver parfait on a brioche slice resembled a nuclear red button but gave with grace when pressed against the roof of the mouth with the tongue. The triangle chunklets of corned beef hash were the perfect balance of soft and squidge, with neither too much corned beef in flavor, nor too much hash. The transition, when chewed, of the blue cheese and sage "puffs" — from a soft feather pillow sporting a crisp laundered case, to a pulp of lip-smacking mush — was faultless.

And above all: The pièce de résistance was the Lancashire hotpot tartlet: a mini-roast dinner in a crisp crunch base that shifted through gears of flavor and texture. It sent the taste buds on a

careering joyride to the North West of England and back again. Let's hope the rest of SW1 has upped its canapé game too.

BIG NEWS DOWN UNDER: New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern is quitting as prime minister. She announced to a bewildered annual meeting of her Labour Party that she no longer has "enough in the tank" to do the job justice and will step down next month. Write-up from POLITICO [here](#).

1.18.1 DRIVING THE DAY

LEVELING/GAUGING/STEPPING UP ... AND OUT: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and a gaggle of his Cabinet ministers are fanning out across the nation this morning to sell the latest big government announcement about so-called leveling up funding. But the top team is locked in a battle with critics to control the narrative, with claims the poorest areas are once again being sold out and Conservative seats have been prioritized. Meanwhile, disgruntled Conservative MPs who had their funding bids refused are left gnashing their teeth as colleagues celebrate big wins in their patches. No one said the distribution of wealth would be painless.

First, the logistics: The PM is heading to three different spots in the north west and north east to areas granted new funding. In the afternoon, he'll deliver a short speech on camera and take a few questions from the press. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt is meanwhile off to seats in the north west that have been granted new projects, as are Communities Secretary Michael Gove and Home Secretary Suella Braverman. Gove is in Blackpool right now delivering the morning media soundbites for the government.

And there's more: Education Secretary Gillian Keegan is heading to the north east ... Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan is in the midlands ... Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch is in the south east ... Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton Harris and Work and Pensions Secretary Brandon Lewis are both in Northern Ireland ... Transport Secretary Mark Harper and Wales Secretary David TC Davies are in Wales ... and Scotland Secretary Alister Jack is in south west Scotland.

What all the fuss is about: The so-called starburst (in Whitehall speak) of ministers spreading to all corners of the U.K. is aimed at making as much noise as possible about the £2.1 billion fund and arguing the Conservatives are willing to dole the cash out with zeal to places officials reckon could do with a leg-up. A grand total of 111 areas have been awarded cash for various projects, including £10 million for new activities and music centers in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, £40 million for a new uni campus in Blackpool, Lancashire, and almost £50 million in Cornwall to improve train routes between towns.

Spreading the Rishis: "Through greater investment in local areas, we can grow the economy, create good jobs and spread opportunity everywhere," the PM said in a statement overnight. "That's why we are backing more than 100 projects with new transformational funding to level up local communities across the United Kingdom. By reaching even more parts of the country than before, we will build a future of optimism and pride in people's lives and the places they call home."

BUT BUT BUT: Journos and critics have been slicing the figures in various directions to question the motives of some of the funding. [The Times splash](#) notes that the new awards benefit the south east over the red wall, despite also admitting further down that the north of England is receiving more overall than the south. The Telegraph (not online) notes that Sunak is giving smaller percentages of the overall pot to some northern areas (compared with the first tranche of funding doled out under Boris Johnson) and bigger percentages of the pot to some southern areas. [The Yorkshire Post](#) points out that the south east has won almost twice as much as Yorkshire.

However however however: Government officials argue that when the cash is divided between the number of people living in the areas, the north is getting more. When the first and second tranches of the cash are combined, the north east is the highest recipient of funding and the north west the second. London and the south east won the lowest amount per capita when the two rounds are combined, while the north west and north east got twice the funding of London in the second round alone. Overall, the north got £913 million while the south got £712 million, according to one set of sums sent to Playbook.

Wales the big winner: Rob Parsons, northern agenda editor for Reach, [tweeted an interesting graph](#) last night showing Wales is in fact getting the most cash per head.

As ever with numbers: It's the measurement that counts. And numerous measurements are being used to fuel further criticisms.

WRONG PLACE WRONG TIME MEASUREMENT: Some argue awards have been given to areas that don't need it. Catterick Garrison, a town in Sunak's seat in Yorkshire and the 251st most deprived council area in England, [according to the Times](#), is getting £19 million to upgrade its high street. Meanwhile, part of Camden in Keir Starmer's London seat is getting £7 million to tackle health inequalities. The paper reckons out of 80 successful funding bids in England, just half are in the 100 most deprived areas. "Optics for some of the seats winning are dreadful," one north west Conservative MP said, adding that a number of awards will improve roads and bike lanes in nice areas, which is "not leveling up."

The response: Government officials argue all areas will have pockets of deprivation and specific projects will often benefit wider areas than their immediate locales.

PORK BARREL MEASUREMENT: In some assessments of the numbers, Conservative areas are getting more cash than Labour areas. The [Yorkshire Post writes](#) that two-thirds of the £1.6 billion given to places in England today are represented by Conservative MPs. Other numbers passed to Playbook suggest 20 project awards went to Labour seats compared with 52 to Conservative seats. Government officials argue around 45 percent of the cash across both rounds was allocated to areas held by opposition parties, and that notable opposition MPs like Starmer have seen their areas awarded funds. To further complicate matters, [the Times](#) cites number-crunching from Bradshaw Advisory that found Labour-controlled councils did better than Tory-held ones across the U.K.

WHY NOT IN MY BACK YARD MEASUREMENT: A number of Conservative MPs who were overlooked for awards are not happy puppies. Red wallers met Chancellor Jeremy Hunt on Wednesday morning to air complaints about the distribution, Playbook hears. One person with knowledge of the discussions said those who missed out "are massively f*cked off."

Hunted and Marked: Playbook's Eleni Courea hears Ipswich MP Tom Hunt and Bolsover MP Mark Fletcher are among those seething at having their bids rejected while leafier and more heavily Tory-voting seats won funding. One MP told her: "They were all told to shout and scream about the bids — now they look like chumps."

Nevertheless: Government aides will hope there are more happy Tory MPs than unhappy ones, and will urge those who missed out to apply for round three of the fund when it opens later in 2023. One Whitehall official noted that the cash pot is super popular and there just isn't enough for all MPs to get some. "MPs want to stand up for their area but when you do the analysis on the spread and areas getting the funding it's those areas most in need that get it," the person added.

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE MEASUREMENT: Another take is that not enough cash is being handed out to make much difference. Henri Murison, director of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership lobbying group, said the amount for the north was “a long way off the radical economic transformation we were promised, and will not make a material difference to closing the north-south divide in productivity overall.” Labour takes a similar view, arguing that for every £4 the Conservatives have cut from local budgets since 2010, just £1 has been returned via leveling up funds, and that the bids (lots of which fail) [cost a lot to put together](#).

The Labour line: “It takes an extraordinary arrogance to expect us to be grateful for a partial refund on the money they have stripped out of our communities, which has decimated vital local services like childcare, buses and social care,” Shadow Leveling Up Secretary Lisa Nandy said in a statement overnight. “It is time to end this Hunger Games-style contest where communities are pitted against one another and Whitehall ministers pick winners and losers.” Nandy is on the broadcast round for Labour.

TAKE IT TO THE COMMONS: Michael Gove has a written statement prepared for later setting out the funding awards. But Labour wants him to make a full statement on the floor of the House so that MPs from both sides can air their grievances. If he doesn’t seem willing, expect calls for an urgent question.

1.18.2 LABOUR LAND

MEA CULPA: The Keir Starmer one-sided-conversation political broadcast was in fact aired last night and not the night before, despite what some idiot wrote in Wednesday’s Playbook. The clip, in which Starmer said he “came into politics to do things and change things,” is watchable [here](#).

KICKING OFF ON TWITTER LAST NIGHT: Veterans Minister Johnny Mercer launched a furious attack on Starmer last night, demanding the Labour leader apologize to the ambulance service in his Plymouth patch after the [high-profile clash at PMQs](#) about a patient who died. Mercer [issued a full statement](#) accusing Starmer of offending paramedics for saying they “couldn’t prioritize” a 26-year-old cancer patient who died after waiting more than an hour for an ambulance.

Details, details: Mercer said the 999 call was considered a category 2 case (which should receive an ambulance in 18 minutes, according to government targets) but after an hour of waiting the patient worsened and it was escalated to category 1. The ambulance then arrived in 8 minutes. “Weak politicians masquerading as serious leaders should reflect on using my constituents’ personal tragedies for their own personal advancement,” Mercer fumed.

But but but: Labour argues Mercer is making their point for them. “The response time for a category 2 ambulance call should be 18 minutes,” a spokesperson said. “An hour later an ambulance still hadn’t arrived.” Labour rejected the suggestion Starmer was blaming ambulance workers rather than the government for allowing waiting times to slip.

Overall: This row appears to be about the use of the word “prioritize,” with Mercer arguing the patient was prioritized correctly as category 2 until the situation changed, and Labour arguing the failure to meet category 2 response targets shows that all patients aren’t getting the promised and required prioritization. Let’s see if either side ends up backing down.

TODAY IN DAVOS: Starmer is speaking on a panel about the global fuel crisis at the Swiss resort alongside Dutch PM Mark Rutte and others from 1 p.m. U.K. time. Details [here](#). Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves is meanwhile discussing whether the world is in a debt spiral at 2 p.m. U.K. time.

Details [here](#). The pair [gave an interview to the FT](#) before leaving, in which Starmer said he wanted closer ties with the EU on areas like science, tech, research and security.

The point of the exercise: In [her piece for this week's Spectator](#), Political Editor Katy Balls writes that Starmer's trip to Davos is part of his bid to prove Labour can offer economic competence. He also wants to show he can work with foreign leaders, Balls notes.

ELSEWHERE, IN DAVOS: Business Secretary Grant Shapps is delivering a speech to the CBI about boosting growth and innovation, including via helping start-ups expand. Blond-bucks-borrower Boris Johnson is also at the snow-dusted mountain summit, speaking at a breakfast panel on Ukraine right about now, which also includes Rutte, as well as First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Svyrydenko. David Maddox has a walk-up of that one [in the Express](#).

Speaking of BoJo: Labour has written to the Commons standards watchdog demanding a probe into the now infamous £800,000 credit set-up the former PM had access to while in office, according to Ben Glaze [in the Mirror](#). That's to go with the Cabinet investigation [Labour wants](#) into Tory Chairman Nadhim Zahawi and his [apparent settlement](#) with the taxman. An aide to Zahawi last night gave the stock answer about his tax affairs being up to date.

****Since its launch, POLITICO's London Playbook has quickly become the most influential newsletter in British politics.** We're going to be taking the product even further, but we'd love to hear your thoughts as we think about its future! [Take our one minute survey today](#).**

1.18.3 TODAY IN WESTMINSTER

HOUSE OF COMMONS: Sits from 9.30 a.m. with transport questions, followed by any UQs before Commons leader Penny Mordaunt delivers the weekly business statement. The main business will be backbench-led debates on the imprisonment of Jagtar Singh Johal and the long-term strategy on Russia.

COMMITTEE CORRIDOR: The public accounts committee will be looking at Defra's aging digital services with the department's Permanent Secretary **Tamara Finkelstein** (10 a.m.) and Welsh government Climate Change Minister **Julie James** will give evidence on floating offshore wind at the Welsh affairs committee (1.30 p.m.).

LORDS: Sits from 11 a.m. with questions on increasingly clever AI, Respiratory Syncytial Virus and the Times Health Commission. The main business will be debates on International Holocaust Memorial Day, the 75th anniversary of Windrush and on the relationship between the U.K. and India.

STILL HAPPENING: The second day of the latest nurses strike continues today. NHS staff gave Health Minister Helen Whately a tough time when she appeared in a Channel 4 health debate last night. "We are shouting and telling you that our patients are not safe," one nurse seethed to Whately, who appeared via video link after refusing to turn up at the Leeds event in person. The clips [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) of staff lamenting the state of the NHS aren't much better.

NOT SUCKING UP: Vacuum wizz James Dyson launches a brutal attack on Rishi Sunak this morning in the pages of [the true blue Telegraph](#). He writes that the "short-sighted" and "stupid" economic approach of the current government is keeping Britain in a state of "COVID inertia" and that the Conservatives appear to believe "penalizing the private sector is a free win at the ballot box." One for the Downing Street briefing.

MAY CAUSE TROUBLE: Former PM Theresa May urged Rishi Sunak to swerve a fight with the SNP over gender recognition to avoid the Tories being branded “the nasty party” again, [according to Iain Macwhirter](#) in the latest issue of the Spectator. But he adds that the PM was won over by Cabinet culture warriors Suella Braverman and Kemi Badenoch in the end. Also in culture wars news, [the Times reports](#) that Badenoch is planning a specific clause in the law banning conversion therapies to ensure parents can question the gender choices of their kids without ending up in the slammer, and Labour MP Rosie Duffield [has called on Keir Starmer](#) to stop “sitting on the fence” on gender issues.

SAMBA SUNAK: My POLITICO colleague Stefan Boscia hears the U.K. is in talks to host Brazilian President Lula da Silva this spring, in what the Foreign Office sees as a chance to improve relations after Sunak failed to call the Socialist president for two weeks after his election win — a move that did not go unnoticed in Brasília. Downing Street pointed out that Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey attended the Lula inauguration. So that’s alright then.

The bigger picture: “Lula’s seen as quite close to Putin,” a Foreign Office official told Stefan, “but Brazil has basically been neutral on Ukraine ... A part of the need for improved engagement is to try and influence them in the right direction.”

MARCH OF THE IR: The update to the government’s integrated review into defense, foreign and security policy should be published shortly before the budget in the spring, the i’s Hugo Gye and Arj Singh [report](#).

TANKS FOR NICHTS: U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace is in Estonia for talks with Eastern European and Baltic defense ministers in a bid to pile pressure on Berlin to send tanks to Ukraine. The Germans have indicated that training and maintenance of the war machines is all that can be offered, unless the U.S. is also willing to send tanks. My POLITICO colleagues over in Brussels [have more on the tanks row](#).

LAST NIGHT IN WESTMINSTER: MPs backed the controversial government plans to scrub all remaining EU laws still on the statute books by the end of the year, despite resistance from a handful of Conservative rebels. My POLITICO colleague Andrew McDonald [has a write-up](#).

COMING ATTRACTION: The government will need to respond to allegations it failed to act on Russian efforts to interfere in U.K. elections, after a legal challenge brought by three opposition MPs was given permission to proceed to the next stage.

E-MINUS SCORECARD: Environment watchdogs said the government doesn’t appear to be on track on a single one of its 23 environmental targets, including on clean air and water. The report from the Office for Environmental Protection is [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH TROUBLES: The government’s draft mental health bill must be stronger on tackling racial disparities and on ensuring adequate safeguards for people with autism and learning disabilities, the committee appointed to scrutinize the legislation [has warned](#).

ONTO PASTURES NEW: Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng have both registered new companies to manage their post-government activities, James Heale [reports in the Spectator](#), while Express journo Millie Cooke [reveals](#) Jacob Rees-Mogg has landed his own show on GB News.

CARRIE ON MESSAGING: Something something Carrie Symonds, something about DMs, sliding and a bloke called Toby Watkins that GenZ people might understand. [The Mail has a write-up](#).

ICYMI: Former Cabinet Minister George Eustice won't be standing again at the next election. [Guido has a write-up](#).

1.18.4 BEYOND THE M25

TODAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND: Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris is expected to today kibosh his latest deadline for reviving Stormont, POLITICO's Shawn Pogatchnik texts in. Shawn's government contacts in Belfast said Heaton-Harris — who will meet Irish Foreign Minister Micheál Martin for talks later — is likely to kick the deadline down the road for at least six to 12 weeks, with new enabling legislation to be presented in the coming days. Meanwhile, talks between London and Brussels on the Northern Ireland protocol continue in a modestly upbeat mood.

Back in London: The Sinn Féin leadership team remains in London to make its case about the protocol. All interview times are in the media round section.

UKRAINE HELICOPTER CRASH LATEST: There are “no accidents at war time,” Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [told the Davos audience](#) last night in the wake of the deadly helicopter crash in Kyiv. 14 people died in the incident, including Ukraine's interior minister along with his deputy and state secretary. There is no indication the crash was anything other than an accident. [More here](#) from POLITICO's Veronika Melkozerova.

1.18.5 MEDIA ROUND

Leveling Up Secretary Michael Gove broadcast round: Sky News (7.05 a.m.) ... Times Radio (7.20 a.m.) ... LBC (7.50 a.m.) ... ITV GMB (8.30 a.m.) ... talkTV (8.50 a.m.).

Shadow Leveling Up Secretary Lisa Nandy broadcast round: Times Radio (7.45 a.m.) ... Sky News (8.05 a.m.) ... LBC (8.50 a.m.).

Also on Kay Burley: Sinn Féin leader **Mary Lou McDonald** (8.30 a.m.).

Also on Nick Ferrari at Breakfast: Northern Powerhouse Partnership Vice Chair **Jim O'Neill** (8.20 a.m.).

Also on Times Radio Breakfast: Wales Ambulance Service CEO **Jason Killens** (7.05 a.m.) ... Royal College of Surgeons President **Neil Mortensen** (8.05 a.m.).

Also on talkTV breakfast: Tory MP **Craig Mackinlay** (8.05 a.m.) ... Labour MP **Lloyd Russell-Moyle** (9.21 a.m.).

Politics Live (BBC Two 12.15 p.m.): Tory MP **Nickie Aiken** ... Labour MP **Angela Eagle** ... Inequality economist **Gary Stevenson** ... The IEA's **Annabel Denham**.

Tonight with Andrew Marr (LBC 8 p.m.): Former Labour/Lib/Change MP **Luciana Berger**, the PM's trade envoy to Ukraine **Catherine Meyer** and Sinn Féin leader **Mary Lou McDonald**.

Question Time (iPlayer 8 p.m. and BBC One 10.40 p.m.): Health Minister **Will Quince** ... Shadow Health Secretary **Wes Streeting** ... Royal College of GPs President **Clare Gerada** ... Journalist **James Bartholomew** ... NHS Confederation Chairman **Victor Adebawale**.

Reviewing the papers tonight: Sky News (10.30 and 11.30 p.m.): Columnist **Carole Malone** and the Liverpool Echo's **Liam Thorp** ... TalkTV (10.30 p.m.): The Spectator's **Isabel Hardman** and former No. 10 chief of staff **Nick Timothy**.

1.18.6 TODAY'S FRONT PAGES

(Click on the publication's name to see its front page):

[Daily Express](#): Charles' £250m 'gift' to nation.

[Daily Mail](#): Cut taxes or lose election, Tories warned.

[Daily Mirror](#): Rich Tory tells skint nurses — budget better.

[Daily Star](#): Let us eat cake! No 10 officially urges us to ignore health chief's No Cakes At Work advice.

[Financial Times](#): Starmer heads for Davos on mission to repair ties with EU and global finance.

[i](#): Prepay meter scandal grows — 99.9 percent of court warrants are waved through.

[Metro](#): Mister coffee bean.

[POLITICO UK](#): Champagne, chocolates and gold — EU Parliament chief reveals massive gift haul.

[PoliticsHome](#): Government still hasn't finalised appointments for top leveling up jobs.

[The Daily Telegraph](#): Dyson — Stupid, short-sighted policies holding back economy.

[The Guardian](#): Nurses and ambulance staff to stage unprecedented joint strike.

[The Independent](#): Back off, Boris ... Or you'll consign Tories to 10 years in the wilderness — David Davis warns.

[The Sun](#): Yes! Yes! Yes! Lineker exclusive.

[The Times](#): Leveling-up cash favors southeast over red wall.

1.18.7 TODAY'S NEWS MAGS

[POLITICO Europe](#): The parable of the last corals on the planet — Red Sea reefs could be global warming's only survivors, if local political divisions don't kill them first.

[The New European](#): I [love heart] NHS.

[The New Statesman](#): How to fix Britain's public health crisis — (Without spending more money).

[The Spectator](#): Gender wars — Iain Macwhirter on the Union's new battle line.

1.18.8 LONDON CALLING

WESTMINSTER WEATHER: Still cold but should be dry. Highs of 5C.

SPOTTED: Playbook's Eleni Courea hears that on Tuesday night, after attending the launch of her new "Conservative Growth Group," **Liz Truss** was spotted at 5 Hertford Street having a private catch up with none other than ... **Boris Johnson**.

NEW GIG: Speechwriter **Josh Williams**, who set up The Draft speechwriting service with former Tony Blair speechwriter Philip Collins, has been appointed head of communications and publishing for activist network Labour Together.

BIRTHDAYS: Former Commons Speaker **John Bercow** ... Former Bosworth MP **David Tredinnick** ... South Cambridgeshire MP **Anthony Browne** ... Tory peer **Nat Wei** ... Former Alliance MLA **Chris Lyttle** ... Former Ofcom Chair **Patricia Hodgson** ... British Consul General to Shanghai **Chris Wood** ... Sun columnist **Trevor Kavanagh** ... FT Political Editor **George Parker** ... Sunday Times journo **Hannah Al-Othman** ... Former BBC Royal Editor **James Robbins** ... Former BBC journo **Martin Bashir**.

PLAYBOOK COULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT: My editor **Zoya Sheftalovich**, reporter **Andrew McDonald** and producer **Grace Stranger**.

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Item 18:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitor

Sent: 16 January 2023 10:32

To: Media Summaries [Redacted]

Cc: keith.brown.msp@parliament.scot; Communications MMU [Redacted]

Subject: This Morning's News - Monday 16 January 2023

Broadcast summaries

BBC Scotland

Scottish teachers begin wave of rolling strikes Teachers are starting a fresh wave of rolling strikes across Scotland. Over the next 16 days, the action will affect two local authorities per day, starting today with Glasgow and East Lothian. Unions are asking for a rise of ten per cent – something the Scottish Government says is 'unaffordable'.

Rep Scotland	<i>Clip</i>	Andrea Bradley (EIS)
GMS0700	<i>Report</i>	Jamie McIvor
GMS0706	<i>Interview</i>	Leanne McGuire (Glasgow City Parents Group)
GMS0730	<i>Clip</i>	Erica (Pupil in East Lothian)
GMS0747		Erica (Pupil in East Lothian)
GMS0800	<i>Clip</i>	Leanne McGuire (Glasgow City Parents Group)

GMS0806	<i>Interview</i>	Andrea Bradley (EIS)
GMS0830	<i>Report</i>	Jamie McIvor
GMS0851		

Emergency care in its ‘most challenging’ period Emergency care in Scotland’s NHS is going through its most challenging and difficult time in a generation, according to the Vice President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine in Scotland, Dr JP Loughrey. Last week, the Health Secretary, Humza Yousaf, set out a series of measures to deal with the situation, including extra cash for hospitals to book more care home beds to free up wards. Dr Loughrey said that is welcome, but he’s very concerned for patient safety.

Rep Scotland	<i>Clip</i>	Dr JP Loughrey (RCEM)
GMS0802	<i>Clip</i>	Dr JP Loughrey (RCEM)

Calls for an autism commissioner for Scotland Campaigners say Scotland needs an autism commissioner to hold public bodies like councils and the government to account. In a survey, some families and those living with autism have described waiting years to get a diagnosis based on the current system. The Scottish Government says it will look at the scope for creating a commissioner role, but the timescales involved with the consultation are lengthy.

Rep Scotland

GMS0701

GMS0715	<i>Report</i>	Fiona Stalker
	<i>Clip</i>	Kelly Given (Waited years for autism

diagnosis)

	<i>Clip</i>	Helen Cameron (Paid for private
diagnosis for son)		

	<i>Clip</i>	Charlene Tait (Scottish Autism)
	<i>Clip</i>	Rob Holland (The National Autistic

Society Scotland)

GMS0732	<i>Report</i>	Fiona Stalker
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GMS0747

GMS0802

GMS0817	<i>Interview</i>	Laura McConnell (Wrote foreword for
survey report)		

GMS0832	<i>Clip</i>	Rob Holland (The National Autistic
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Society Scotland)

GMS0851

Oxfam: Richest 1% have earned £21 trillion since 2020 The World Economic Forum kicks off in Davos later. It’s the first proper in-person forum for three years and takes place against a backdrop of the cost of living crisis. It comes as Oxfam publishes a report which claims the richest one per cent globally have pocketed £21 trillion of new wealth since 2020 – that’s nearly twice as much as the other 99 per cent of the world’s population. It’s calling for governments to reform tax in order to close the gap in wealth inequality. The Scottish Government says it’s already delivered the fairest and most progressive tax system in the UK while raising extra revenue to invest in public services and Scotland’s economy.

GMS0703	<i>Clip</i>	Jamie Livingstone (Oxfam Scotland)
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UK decision on Gender Recognition Reform Bill due This week, we should get the UK Government's decision on whether to grant Royal Assent to the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, passed by the Scottish Parliament last month, or whether they are going to attempt to block it.

GMS0736 *Interview*

Judith Duffy (The Sunday National)

Paul Hutcheon (Daily Record)

GMS0837 *Report*

Glenn Campbell

What can we do about feeling down on 'Blue Monday' The third Monday of January has been described as 'the most depressing day of the year' – or Blue Monday. The science behind this definition has been shown to be 'nonsensical', but what can we do about feeling down at this time of year?

GMS0751 *Interview*
Psychologist)

Dr Rachel Allan (Chartered Counselling

Good Morning Britain

Scottish teachers begin wave of rolling strikes Some primary and high schools will be closed in Glasgow and East Lothian today as teachers take part in the latest round of strikes. The EIS announced an additional 16 days of action last week in the ongoing pay dispute.

Patients waiting five years for diagnostic test Figures obtained through a freedom of information request show some NHS patients have waited almost five years for key diagnostic tests. It comes as the First Minister is due to hold a further briefing on winter pressures facing the NHS this morning. The Scottish Government insists clearing the backlog caused by the pandemic is a priority.

Clyde One

Scottish teachers begin wave of rolling strikes A new week and a new round of teachers' strikes. Schools in Glasgow are closed today as the biggest union, the EIS, switches to rolling local strikes. For the next three weeks, staff will be walking out in two councils at a time. Tomorrow, the industrial action switches to North Ayrshire. The Scottish Government says they remain absolutely committed to reaching an agreement on a pay deal.

Clyde One *Clip*
childminder)

Yasmin (Glasgow mother and

Radio 4

No further stories

Kaye Adams

- Do you support teachers in their strike action?

Press coverage

First Minister

Sunak avoids Bute House stunt It was smart of Rishi Sunak to avoid the trap of going to Bute House to talk with the First Minister. I am afraid her reputation preceded her, and her brusque and distinctly ungracious, high-handed "welcome" in order to grandstand Boris Johnson on the steps of the residence would make any UK leader stop and think. DR29

Humza a liability Why is Nicola Sturgeon protecting Humza Yousaf? He's doing a bad job as Health Minister. The NHS is at breaking point. It's sad to see the pressure on hospital staff. FM, sack Yousaf and get someone who can do the job. Stop the friends act. DR29

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Finance and the Economy

Councils warn of service cuts and job losses The voice of Scotland's local authorities has raised the spectre of hundreds of jobs being lost and savage service cuts while warning that a £1 billion deficit remains in the finances of councils. The Convention Of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) has previously warned that without additional cash from the Scottish Government councils will be "struggling to deliver even the basic, essential services that communities rely on". Deputy First Minister John... H2; Sun2

Private sector economy continues to decline Scottish private sector output fell for a fifth consecutive month in December but the rate of decline slowed sharply, while employment decreased for the first time in 21 months, a survey shows. The fall in employment, which was marginal, was driven by the services sector, with manufacturing overall showing a slight rise in headcount. H21

Gloom deepens for Scottish businesses as employment rate falls Scotland's private sector recorded a "grim performance" last month with the number of people in employment falling for the first time in almost two years, the Royal Bank of Scotland said. The continued drop in business and challenging conditions have resulted in the first fall in employment for 21 months, according to the bank's monthly purchasing managers' index (PMI) for December. Times6

Scots shipbuilding fears as £2.5bn order under threat A multi-billion order that the UK Government said would protect the long-term future of the shipbuilding industry in Scotland is expected to be either cut or dropped entirely in the Prime Minister's upcoming defence review. Two years after former prime minister Boris Johnson announced plans to build five new Type 32 frigates in a bid to make the... Nat3

Health and Social Care

Patients face waits of close to five years for key tests Some NHS patients have waited almost five years for key diagnostic tests, according to new figures. In NHS Grampian, one person waited 258 weeks for a CT scan and another had a 255-week

wait for an MRI scan. A patient in NHS Tayside waited almost four years for an upper endoscopy, with another waiting almost three years for a colonoscopy. SM1; H4; DR9; Sun2; DMail6; DExp1; DTel1; PJ1

Resource NHS or sepsis will keep taking a 'bitter toll', say Lib Dems Conditions such as sepsis will continue to take a "bitter toll" unless the NHS is properly resourced, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said. Figures from Public Health Scotland and analysed by the Lib Dems showed 52,545 continuous hospital stays with 835,314 days spent in hospital between April 2016 and March 2021 due to sepsis. The party's leader Alex Cole-Hamilton urged the Scottish Government to properly resource health boards to deal... SM4; H4; DR4; DExp4; PJ8

NHS health is in rapid decline due to 15 years of poor treatment by SNP The crisis in our NHS is putting lives at risk. But this pressure hasn't just materialised this winter, because of a spike in flu cases or a hangover from the pandemic. It is a crisis 15 years in the making and is a direct result of decisions made by the SNP. Today, across Scotland, A&E services are overwhelmed, health boards have cancelled surgeries and staff are left overworked and demoralised. DR19

Health 'reform bid KO' A top medic has claimed Scotland's NHS is in crisis because Holyrood snubbed reforms he proposed 18 years ago. David Kerr, professor of cancer medicine at Oxford Uni, said his team devised a 20-year plan to focus on long-term conditions, integrate better with the care sector and take advantage of advances such as telemedicine. Sun2; DExp4

Branding 'threat' in Nats' war on booze SNP chiefs have stepped up their war on booze with proposals to ban alcohol-branded pint glasses and T-shirts. Bar staff could be prevented from serving ale in Tennent's or Guinness jugs and wearing tops bearing brewery logos. Branded umbrellas may also be vetoed at sporting events and even Baileys flavoured ice-cream could be axed under the plans. Sun6; DMail18

Comment **NHS in need of emergency care** PJ28

Humza a liability *See First Minister*

Education and Skills

Global drive to 'normalise' Gaelic tongue More than 30 special events are to be staged across Scotland next month as part of a drive to "promote and normalise" the Gaelic language at home and abroad. Football, shinty, circus, cookery and filmmaking will all feature alongside ceilidh dancing, poetry, singing and storytelling in the World Gaelic Week programme. Arts centres, village halls and schools will be hosting events after grants of up to £500 were made available... SM11

Plea after fall in fostering Only 40 of the 400 children referred to Barnardo's fostering service in Glasgow and Edinburgh have been placed with families in the last year. The number of children and young people referred to the charity's foster care services increased by almost 50 per cent in the same period. In 2020-21 the number on the waiting list for foster care was 461, but in 2021-22 this rose to 691 – an... H5; DR11; DMail16; Times18; Nat11

Teachers 'urgent' talks plea SNP ministers were urged to treat teachers' pay rise demands with the same urgency as talks to end the NHS row. A union boss claimed the Scottish Government wasn't trying "as hard as they possibly could" to settle the schools dispute after calling a plea for 10 per cent unaffordable. Sun2; PJ5

Battle with the bottle in Scottish classrooms Children as young as ten were among hundreds suspended after being found drunk or caught with alcohol at schools in Scotland. More than 200 pupils have faced exclusion for booze-related incidents since April 2019 - including several aged just ten, 11 or 12. The exclusions included children aged ten to 14 in West Dunbartonshire, 11 to 14-year-olds who were found with wine in Fife and at least one 12-year-old in... DMail1

Half of our universities peddle their woke 'poison' to students More than half of Britain's universities are peddling controversial and radical 'woke' ideologies on students, a damning league table has revealed. Some of the nation's most prestigious institutions are 'poisoning the minds of generations to come', critics said last night, by subjecting undergraduates and academics to 'trigger warnings' and guidance on 'white privilege'. Elite Russell Group universities dominate the table, accounting for eight of the top ten spots. DMail8

Councils hoarding childcare cash, say private nurseries Private nurseries have accused council directors of starving them of cash to fund public crèches and demanded that childcare money is handed to parents rather than local authorities. They claim that councils are hoarding public funds and passing on 20 per cent of government money to the private enterprises, which provide 30 per cent of childcare across the country. Times12

Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Ferry fares frozen for 6 months Fares on ferries serving some of the most remote communities will be frozen for six months, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Ticket prices on the Northern Isles, Clyde and Hebrides ferry networks will be held at current levels from April until the end of September in an attempt to help people and businesses from rural and island communities recover from disruption to services amid chaotic ferry provision in recent times. H4; Times14; PJ7; Nat19

Ramping up wind farms a must to meet green targets Scotland will need up to 140 more large-scale wind farms before 2030 if the nation is to meet the Scottish Government's green targets, an energy giant has warned. The Holyrood administration is committed to ramping up offshore wind farms to meet its net zero ambitions. DExp7

Campaigners fear rise of skyscraper superturbines Hundreds of superturbines are being planned for some of Scotland's wildest land as wind farm developers seek approval for structures up to 850ft tall. At least 14 wind farm proposals are in front of ministers. The highest proposed turbines would be taller than any UK building except The Shard and the skyscraper 22 Bishopsgate in London. Environmental campaigners fear that Scotland's scenery, arguably its greatest tourism asset, will be harmed... Times7

Electric car drivers kept waiting for access to fast-charger hubs Drivers of electric vehicles in Scotland are waiting months to get access to new public fast-charging hubs because of delays connecting them to power grids, a developer has said. Motor Fuel Group (MFG), an operator of forecourts, is growing increasingly frustrated at the time taken to get its equipment working and has warned it may divert millions of pounds of spending to other parts of the UK. Times8

Fear of disruption on ferries as eight-week closure of pier begins Skye's key port is shut for eight weeks to enable the first phase of a major revamp to be carried out. Uig pier's closure will disrupt all direct ferry services between Skye and the Outer Hebrides. While the closure is "far from ideal", local representatives say it's the best option available. PJ4

Justice

Cons of living crisis Lags are pocketing a prison pay hike of up to 20 per cent eclipsing the raise offered to cash-strapped teachers and medics. Jail bosses will dish out an extra quid to cons in their weekly allowance in response to spiralling prices. The inflation-busting move comes after canteen grub costs were also slashed to make treats behind bars more affordable. Sun7

Police fail to answer quarter of 101 calls Almost a quarter of 101 calls to Police Scotland were disconnected in the first seven months of last year. Figures from the force show 216,979 calls to the non-emergency number went unanswered between January and July. It equates to an average of 30,997 calls disconnected each month. A total of 876,144 calls were received in the period, meaning 24.8 per cent of all calls were disconnected. Times12

Charities hail domestic abuse campaign for shift from victim-blaming Charities have praised a police campaign tackling domestic abuse for its focus on the perpetrators - after previous efforts were criticised for "victim-blaming". Police Scotland launched the "Is That Me?" campaign just prior to the New Year, looking to tackle domestic abuse before it starts by encouraging young men to recognise red-flag behaviours. Nat17

Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

Starmer: 16-year-olds should not be able to change gender Sir Keir Starmer has raised "concerns" about Scotland's controversial gender recognition legislation, arguing people are not old enough to change their legal gender at 16. The Labour leader also said he was concerned about the impact on the UK-wide Equality Act. SM1; Sun6; DMail4; DExp10; DTel1; Times1; Nat15

Stonewall warns PM not to step in Campaigners have warned of "calamitous consequences" for trans people and devolution if the UK government blocks Scotland's gender recognition law. LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall has written to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to voice its concerns as the UK Government considers legal advice about whether to use its powers to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from becoming law. SM6

Council spending decisions 'increasingly made by ministers' The body that represents Scotland's councils has said the spending decisions of local authorities are "increasingly directed" by the Scottish Government. Cosla also criticised ministers for confusing the public with their messaging. It previously hit out at the £38 million cash increase allocated to councils in the draft Scottish Budget, despite local authorities facing £1 billion of financial pressures. SM14

Ministers 'betraying' poor as social rent set to rise by 11% Ministers have been accused of betraying the poorest people in Scotland amid a cost-of-living crisis by planning to lift a ban on rent increases for those letting from social landlords, with tenants facing paying up to 11.1 per cent more after the current freeze on increases ends. It comes as analysis from the housing regulator has projected that social landlords' net operating surpluses will soar from £132 million in this... H1

1 million have to put heating before eating More than a million struggling Scots are putting heating over eating in a desperate attempt to pay soaring energy bills. Some are finding it so hard to make ends meet, they've resorted to showering in leisure centres and washing their clothes in the sink. Others are filling a flask once a day instead of boiling a kettle, wearing extra layers of clothing and using just candles for heat. DR8

MSP wants poverty-hit tenants to get hardship fund money Millions of pounds in unspent funding set aside for tenants must be used to help poverty-stricken renters, a north-east MSP has said. Official figures show more than 20% of a £10 million Tenant Grant Fund from the Scottish Government has not been allocated. PJ6

Comment **Why Sunak must block Scotland's gender reform bill** SM20
Comment **Gender debate need not have been toxic** SM20
Comment **Risks of Gender Bill** DMail18
Comment **Keep youngsters with autism and ADHD out of gender reform**
row PJ29

Councils warn of service cuts and job losses *See Finance and the Economy*
Councils hoarding childcare cash, say private nurseries *See Education and Skills*

Rural Affairs and Islands

Scots salmon farms post 'record-breaking death toll' in a year Salmon fatalities at fish farms in Scotland have almost doubled over the past year, according to the latest figures. Data from the Fish Health Inspectorate and fish farming industry reports shows the death rate of cultivated fish reached record levels in 2022, jumping to all-time monthly highs in September, October and November - statistics for December are not yet available. SM18

Bluebell battle Campaigners and MSPs have united to urge the Scottish Government to save the country's iconic ancient bluebell woods. Argyll-based group Help Trees Help Us (HTHU) says there has been unauthorised felling and deliberate burning of old trees in woodlands in its area. A Holyrood committee found Scottish Forestry hadn't pursued a single prosecution for illegal felling of ancient and native woodland in more than a decade. DR20

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

De facto referendum plan risks turning into an almighty mess It is fair to say Nicola Sturgeon's plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" independence referendum has caused a degree of disquiet in the SNP. The First Minister herself is clear that the best route forward is still an agreed vote along the lines of 2014. SM5
... **Sturgeon in pickle** DR29
... **Nicola's referendum 'muddle'** DMail10

Scottish Government

Scottish Parliament

Other

Local Broadcast Summaries (Provided by Precise)

Original 106 08:00 - 08:04

Blue Monday occurs every year on the third Monday in January. The meaning of this day is filled with controversy because it is supposedly the saddest day of the year. The Blue Monday concept surfaced in 2005 after a press release from British travel company, Sky Travel. Sky Travel cited a psychologist who used a formula pointing to the third Monday in January as the most depressing day of the year as a result of weather, Christmas bills and low motivation levels.

Westsound

Shortage of GPs causing higher degree of pressure to pharmacy. It is reported that a pharmacy is doing a month's worth of appointments in just one week. Health Secretary Humza Yousaf is promising to see if more GPs can be deployed to the area.

Schoolchildren will miss more lessons this week as teachers take further strike action in the continuing dispute over pay. Members of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) union are beginning 16 days of rolling strike action on Monday, with teachers in two of Scotland's 32 local authority areas walking out each day until February 6.

Tay

Teachers are launching a fresh wave of rolling strikes across Scotland as a union leader warned there was no end in sight to the current pay dispute. Over the next 16 days the action will affect two local authorities a day, starting on Monday with Glasgow and East Lothian.

Forth 1

Rishi Sunak is set to block Nicola Sturgeon's proposed new gender recognition laws in Scotland, it has been claimed. The Prime Minister reportedly intends to torpedo the legislation passed by Holyrood in a move which will spark a furious constitutional row with the SNP.

Teachers are launching a fresh wave of rolling strikes across Scotland as a union leader warned there was no end in sight to the current pay dispute. Over the next 16 days the action will affect two local authorities a day, starting on Monday with Glasgow and East Lothian.

Borders Radio

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is poised to block Scottish laws that make it easier for people to change their gender, The Times reported on Friday. New legal advice could pave the way for the government to stop Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's gender recognition laws from getting royal assent next week, the newspaper said, though it was unclear what that advice was.

Teachers are launching a fresh wave of rolling strikes across Scotland as a union leader warned there was no end in sight to the current pay dispute. Over the next 16 days the action will affect two local authorities a day, starting on Monday with Glasgow and East Lothian.

Moray Firth

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is poised to block Scottish laws that make it easier for people to change their gender, The Times reported on Friday. New legal advice could pave the way for the government to stop Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's gender recognition laws from getting royal assent next week, the newspaper said, though it was unclear what that advice was.

Northsound

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is poised to block Scottish laws that make it easier for people to change their gender, The Times reported on Friday. New legal advice could pave the way for the government to stop Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's gender recognition laws from getting royal assent next week, the newspaper said, though it was unclear what that advice was.

Item 19:

From: [Redacted] Media Monitor

Sent: 16 January 2023 07:45

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot; Shirley-

Anne.Somerville2@parliament.scot; Yousaf H (Humza) <Humza.Yousaf@gov.scot>;

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Subject: Media Digest - Monday 16 January 2023

Please do not reply to this email. For any questions related to the Media Digest mailing list, please email communicationsmmu@gov.scot

Press Summary For Scottish Government

16 January 2023

Compiled By Precise

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- [3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS](#)
- [4. JUSTICE](#)
- [5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE](#)
- [6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS](#)
- [7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT](#)
- [8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY](#)
- [9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT](#)
- [10. CORPORATE](#)
- [11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE](#)

1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Ramping up wind farms a must to meet green targets** SCOTLAND will need up to 140 more large-scale wind farms before 2030 if the nation is to meet the Scottish Government's green targets, an energy giant has warned. The Holyrood administration is committed to ramping up offshore wind farms to meet its net zero ambitions. But German company Energiekontor, which has applications across the country for controversial developments, has told ministers their plans do not go far enough. In a

Daily Mail (Scotland) 20 **A NEW UPRISING ... OVER WHISKY** LORD Robertson, who rose to become Nato Secretary General after serving as defence secretary under Tony Blair, has a new fight on his hands. This time with killjoy Nicola Sturgeon. Robertson has a house on the Inner Hebridean island ofIslay, a mecca for whisky drinkers the world over. With a population of just over 3,000, it has no fewer than nine malt whisky distilleries, and two more under construction

The Herald 4 **'Shameful' delays see some NHS patients wait years for key scans** PATIENTS are facing "shocking and shameful" delays for routine diagnostic tests, with figures revealing one person in Grampian waited nearly five years for a CT scan. Official guidelines stipulate no one referred for one of eight key tests - including endoscopies, colonoscopies and scans - should wait longer than six weeks. Patients with a suspected cancer are given highest priority, with the aim that their results should be carried out

Daily Mail 10 **Starmer: 16-year-olds too young to change gender** SIR Keir Starmer finally weighed in on the row over Nicola Sturgeon's controversial 'self-ID' Bill yesterday, saying 16-year-olds are too young to legally change their gender. After weeks of silence, the Labour leader admitted his 'concerns' over the legislation - but refused to say whether he would seek to block it. Ministers have until the end of Wednesday to decide whether to intervene to stop the SNP Bill - which

Daily Mail 10 **Nicola's referendum 'muddle'** NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of being 'in a muddle' over Scottish independence after backtracking on a pledge to turn the next general election into a de facto referendum. Last year, the First Minister vowed to treat the next UK election as an independence vote if the Supreme Court ruled - which it did - that she couldn't call a poll without Westminster's consent. But yesterday the SNP said it

The Herald 1 **Ministers 'betraying' poor as social rent set to rise by 11%** MINISTERS have been accused of betraying the poorest people in Scotland amid a cost-of-living crisis by planning to lift a ban on rent increases for those letting from social landlords, with tenants facing paying up to 11.1 per cent more after the current freeze on increases ends. It comes as analysis from the housing regulator has projected that social landlords' net operating surpluses will soar from £132 million in this

The Courier (Main Edition) 14 **Actor Cox backs 'canny Nicola' on independence** Dundee-born Hollywood star Brian Cox has backed Nicola Sturgeon's "canny" approach to Scottish independence despite reports she will row back on plans to use the next General Election as a defacto referendum. The actor, who has been a long-term supporter of breaking away from the rest of the UK, said he would like to see the four nations form a "united federation where each country comes into its own". Mr

Daily Mail 18 **A NEW UPRISING ... OVER WHISKY** LORD Robertson, who rose to become Nato Secretary General after serving as defence secretary under Tony Blair, has a new fight on his hands. This time with Nicola Sturgeon's killjoy SNP government. Robertson has a house on the Inner Hebridean island of Islay, a mecca for whisky drinkers the world over. With a population of just over 3,000, it has no fewer than nine malt whisky distilleries, and two more

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Unfortunate slip** LISTENERS will have choked on their porridge upon hearing BBC Scotland presenter Laura Maciver refer to Nicola Sturgeon as 'our leader'. Bosses say the slip, in an interview with Rishi Sunak, was 'unscripted'. Let's hope there is no repeat. The BBC is the national, not the Nationalist, broadcaster.

The Herald 6 **Flynn finally backs plan to go for 'de facto' referendum** THE SNP's Westminster leader Stephen Flynn has said using the next General Election as a "de facto independence referendum" is the "best option" for his party in the absence of an agreed referendum. Mr Flynn, who last year appeared to raise doubts about the plan, saying there were a number of options for the route ahead, gave his backing to the First Minister's preference during a BBC interview yesterday. He

The Herald 3 **Cox: JK critics 'bit high and mighty'** ACTOR Brian Cox has said he is "proud" of Scotland's new law on gender identification while also lending his support to JK Rowling, an opponent of the Bill. The 76-year-old, who has previously spoken of his support for the SNP, appeared on BBC 1's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, passed by MSPs, approved reforms that would allow trans people to obtain a gender recognition certificate

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Risks of Gender Bill** NICOLA Sturgeon was warned against pushing her Gender Recognition Reform Bill through Holyrood. The opposition said it stripped away vital safeguards. Critics claimed it could allow male predators to declare themselves women and access female-only facilities. Legal experts cautioned about its impact on reserved law. The First Minister refused to listen. As ever, she knew best. Only, she didn't. The UK Government is reportedly on the brink of blocking the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **This climbdown is a humiliation for Sturgeon, for her party... and for Scotland** THERE'S an old joke, sometimes attributed to Groucho Marx, about the cunning US politician who tells the voters: 'These are my principles, gentlemen, and if you don't like them, I can change them.' Nicola Sturgeon seems to have taken this philosophy to heart. We learned over the weekend that her de facto referendum strategy, unveiled in June, will now be rolled back in favour of a buy-one-get-one-free approach. SNP conference

The Herald 4 **Lowering voting age sees young 'keep habit'** REDUCING the voting age to 16 in local and Scottish Parliament elections has led to youngsters retaining a habit of voting in elections more than older first-time voters, a study suggests. Those able to vote at age 16-17 in Scotland were more likely to continue the habit of voting well into their twenties than those who were over 18, researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Sheffield said. Research was

The Herald 13 **God Save Scotland: an idea for the new National Anthem** ARE there any words more ominous than "now please stand for the National Anthem"? Perhaps your chest swells. Perhaps the hair on your neck stands to attention. Perhaps you feel pride in the primary organ of your cardiovascular system. But don't all reasonable people just think awkward? The essential problem is that, however you word an anthem, they only ever speak to some of the population, not all. God Save

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **SNP leaders at odds over 'de facto' indyref** THE SNP's Westminster leader has been branded 'out of touch' with Scots after claiming he still supports making the next general election a 'de facto' referendum. Stephen Flynn said he believes a UK general election is the best occasion for Nicola Sturgeon to seek a mandate for separation. It follows an embarrassing climbdown by the First Minister over the weekend, after she watered down her attempt to secure a mandate

Daily Mail (Scotland) 11 **New BBC bias row as presenter calls Nicola 'our leader'** BBC Scotland has faced criticism after one of its presenters referred to Nicola Sturgeon as 'our leader' during an interview with Rishi Sunak. Fresh concerns have been raised about pro-SNP bias after the comment was made on BBC Radio Scotland's flagship morning news show. Good Morning Scotland presenter Laura Maciver asked the Prime Minister: 'Are you pursuing a different relationship with our leader and with Holyrood from your predecessors?' BBC

The Herald 15 **Why Labour will do nothing to protect workers** AT Parkhead Cross in Glasgow's east end in May 2015 an elderly gentleman listed some of the reasons why he would be switching his lifelong support for Labour to the SNP at the forthcoming UK General Election. Chief among them was the failure of Tony Blair's Labour government to

reverse Margaret Thatcher's anti-trade union legislation. "In 1997," he said, "the Labour Party had an overwhelming mandate to throw out those

Daily Record 29 **Sturgeon in pickle** NICOLA Sturgeon is presiding over an independence movement that seems to change its mind on the way forward on an increasingly regular basis. Supporters are becoming dizzy. If even getting to a simple referendum is causing the Nationalists so much trouble, how can Scots be confident they would know what to do next if they won it? Gerald Edwards, Glasgow.. SO first, Nicola Sturgeon demanded another independence referendum in October

Daily Record 29 **Sunak avoids Bute House stunt** IT WAS smart of Rishi Sunak to avoid the trap of going to Bute House to talk with the First Minister. I am afraid her reputation preceded her, and her brusque and distinctly ungracious, high-handed "welcome" in order to grandstand Boris Johnson on the steps of the residence would make any UK leader stop and think. It was not what we expect of a regional leader of a coalition in

Daily Record 29 **Humza a liability** WHY is Nicola Sturgeon protecting Humza Yousaf? He's doing a bad job as Health Minister. The NHS is at breaking point. It's sad to see the pressure on hospital staff. FM, sack Yousaf and get someone who can do the job. Stop the friends act. Alan McGaw, Alloa

Daily Record 19 **NHS health is in rapid decline due to 15 years of poor treatment by SNP** THE crisis in our NHS is putting lives at risk. But this pressure hasn't just materialised this winter, because of a spike in flu cases or a hangover from the pandemic. It is a crisis 15 years in the making and is a direct result of decisions made by the SNP. Today, across Scotland, A&E services are overwhelmed, health boards have cancelled surgeries and staff are left overworked and demoralised.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Starmer raises 'concerns' about Scottish gender recognition moves** Labour has "concerns" about Scotland's new gender recognition reforms that the UK Government is considering blocking, Sir Keir Starmer has said. The Labour leader said he was particularly worried about the lowering of the age at which people can apply for a gender recognition certificate to 16. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill removes the need for people to get a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria before starting the change

The Daily Telegraph 4 **Starmer: sixteen too young to switch gender** SIR KEIR STARMER has said 16-year-olds should not be able to legally change their gender, with Rishi Sunak poised to veto Scotland's new trans law. The Labour leader voiced "concerns" over the planned reforms as Nicola Sturgeon prepares to take the Government to court for blocking them. Ministers are to review legal advice today which it is said will give them the green light to refuse royal assent to the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **SNP's independence plan 'is not deflating'** THE SNP's Westminster leader has denied that Nicola Sturgeon's independence strategy is collapsing after she staged an extraordinary climbdown over using the next general election as a "de facto" referendum. Stephen Flynn said SNP members should be given a choice over the next steps after the First Minister watered down her pledge to use next year's Westminster election to obtain a mandate for separation. He denied that Ms Sturgeon's

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sixteen too young to legally switch gender, says Starmer** SIR KEIR STARMER has said 16-year-olds should not be able to legally change their gender, with Rishi Sunak poised to veto Scotland's new trans law. The Labour leader voiced "concerns" over the planned reforms as Nicola Sturgeon prepares to take the Government to court for blocking them. His intervention was highly damaging for Scottish Labour, which backed the plans. A party spokesman refused to respond to requests for comment but

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Scottish patients wait years for routine tests** Patients in Scotland are being forced to wait years to undergo routine tests, it has been disclosed today amid growing calls for Nicola Sturgeon to sack her "failing" Health Secretary. The Scottish Tories obtained official figures under the Freedom of Information Act showing a patient in the NHS Grampian board area was forced to wait 258 weeks - almost five years - for a CT scan. Another patient in the

The Herald 14 **Unionist strategy that is most likely to keep independence at bay** WE live in a world of hyperbolic political rhetoric, from the laughable to the dangerous, from Liz Truss's "anti-growth coalition" - which seemed to include everyone except her and her chancellor - to the Daily Mail's "Enemies of the People" headline demonising the judiciary. It is no different in Scotland. The past decade has seen an escalation in anti-secessionist rhetoric from Labour's politically ancient Tartan Tories attack line, through the

The Herald 14 **Only the brave dare to forecast what political weather will be** IT is always a dangerous business to play the predictions game with politics, even when you are as clued up as Laura Kuenssberg. At the end of her show yesterday the former BBC political editor would only say she "hoped" to speak to Nicola Sturgeon next Sunday in the latest of a series of interviews with party leaders. With Rishi Sunak grilled last week and Sir Keir Starmer yesterday, it

The National (Scotland) 4 **SNP agree draft resolution for indyref2 meeting** SNP members will debate whether the next Westminster or Holyrood election should be used as a de facto independence referendum. The party's National Executive Committee (NEC) yesterday agreed the wording of a draft resolution to be discussed at its Special Democracy Conference in March. The option previously outlined by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon - for the SNP to fight the next General Election as a de facto referendum - is

The National (Scotland) 8 **How a shin left by SNP could boost Yes campaign** COMMENT BY PROFESSOR GREGOR GALL THE struggles for independence and against austerity will run alongside each other in Scotland for the next two years at least. But can they run in train together in order to become bigger than the sum of their parts? Or, will it be more a case of 'never the twain shall meet'? This is a key issue for all those looking for a permanent progressive

The National (Scotland) 6 **A De facto indyref is a gamble - but it's one worth taking** RISHI Sunak embarked on a blink-and-you'll-miss-it visit to Scotland last week. I think we're a fairly friendly bunch, but for some reason UK prime ministers treat trips up north as an obligation to be resentfully fulfilled: like a tax return, or a visit to see a difficult relative. Still, credit where it is due - he came: which is more than can be said for his predecessor Liz Truss. He

The National (Scotland) 4 **Cox: FM has been 'canny with approach to de facto referendum w EU** ACTOR and independence supporter Brian Cox has said that Nicola Sturgeon has been "canny" in her approach to a de facto independence referendum. It was revealed on Saturday that SNP members will debate whether the next Westminster or Holyrood election should be used as a de facto referendum following reports that "major changes" were set to be made to the original plans. The move has proved divisive, with the Alba

The National (Scotland) 8 **Anti-union plan won't work for Sunak** RISHI Sunak's attempt to emulate Margaret Thatcher's battle against the unions in the 1980s will not work amid the cost of living crisis and labour shortages, experts have said. The unveiling of UK Government proposals on anti-strike legislation - which will apply in Scotland - has prompted a huge backlash, with Nicola Sturgeon pledging to fight the proposals "every step of the way". The bill will require certain sectors to

The National (Scotland) 4 **Flynn supporting UK election as de facto indy vote** STEPHEN Flynn has backed the next Westminster General Election as a de facto referendum on independence, batting away the suggestion of dissolving Holyrood as unreasonable. The new SNP Westminster leader has come out in favour of fighting the next UK-wide poll on the single issue of independence after the party's ruling body put forward two options for members to debate at their upcoming special conference on the topic in March.

The Scotsman 5 **SNP denies rowing back on plan for de facto referendum at next general election** The SNP's Westminster leader has denied the party is rowing back on its plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" referendum as he insisted the scheme offers the best route forward. Stephen Flynn said the people of Scotland needed to be offered a choice "sooner rather than later", but added that debate is a good thing. The SNP is to hold a "special democracy conference" in

The Scotsman 20 **Why Sunak must block Scotland's gender reform bill** This week we shall learn what Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is made of. Is he willing to defend the devolution settlement - or is he content to let the SNP stretch it beyond its limits until it snaps and we collapse into gender wars? Secretary of State for Scotland, Alister Jack, and Equalities Minister, Kemi Badenoch, are right to be concerned the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, passed at Holyrood

The Scotsman 19 **Tories and SNP are failing the NHS as it's stretched to breaking point** There was a moment this week when I found myself briefly, very briefly, in agreement with Conservative minister Grant Shapps. In a statement to the Commons, he affirmed that: "The British people need to know that when they have a heart attack, a stroke or a serious injury, an ambulance will turn up, and that if they need hospital care, they have access to it." I could not have

The Scotsman 5 **De facto referendum plan risks turning into an almighty mess** It is fair to say Nicola Sturgeon's plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" independence referendum has caused a degree of disquiet in the SNP. The First Minister herself is clear that the best route forward is still an agreed vote along the lines of 2014. But the UK Government has refused to consent to this, and the Supreme Court unanimously ruled the Scottish Parliament does

The Scotsman 20 **Gender debate need not have been toxic** Whatever course of action Rishi Sunak chooses to take this week over the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, it seems highly likely the legislation will be challenged in the courts. The Prime Minister could apply a Section 35 order to prevent the Bill from gaining royal assent, which would then likely be challenged in court by the Scottish Government. Alternatively, Mr Sunak could do nothing, in which

The Scotsman 6 **Brian Cox 'proud' of Scotland's gender law and defends JK Rowling** Brian Cox has said he is "proud" of Scotland's new law on gender identification while also lending his support to JK Rowling, an opponent of the Bill. The 76-year-old Scottish actor, who has previously spoken of his support for the SNP, also talked about his view on the country's independence as he appeared on BBC One's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme. He told the political broadcaster: "I'm very, very proud

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Ticking timebomb puts lives at risk** SCOTLAND'S NHS was branded a "ticking timebomb" yesterday as patients face up to five-year delays for lifesaving tests — while a third are unhappy with services. Nicola Sturgeon has been warned lives are being "put at risk" by the soaring waits for key diagnostic checks. The shocking hold-ups were revealed in a freedom of information response obtained by the Scottish Conservatives. They included delays in NHS Grampian of 258 weeks

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Endurance tests** ANOTHER day and yet more worrying figures laying bare the state of our NHS. And it continues to go from bad to worse. We know the huge waits people are being forced to endure in A&E departments, and the stresses facing our health care workers. But now it's been revealed even those waiting for life-saving tests face long waits — years in fact. Look to the patient in NHS Grampian

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Be proud of gender law but don't be so hard on Rowling, says Cox** Brian Cox says he is proud of Scotland's new law on gender identification while also lending his support to JK Rowling, an opponent of the bill. The 76-year-old actor, who has previously spoken of his support for the SNP, also talked about his view on Scottish independence when he appeared on BBC 1's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg. He said: "I'm very, very proud of Scotland for doing the gender identification act,

The Times (Scotland) 7 **Campaigners fear rise of skyscraper superturbines** Hundreds of superturbines are being planned for some of Scotland's wildest land as wind farm developers seek approval for structures up to 850ft tall. At least 14 wind farm proposals are in front of ministers. The highest proposed turbines would be taller than any UK building except The Shard and the skyscraper 22 Bishopsgate in London. Environmental campaigners fear that Scotland's scenery, arguably its greatest tourism asset, will be harmed

The Times (Scotland) 19 **NHS isn't good for health of our opposition** The pace of politics as it is experienced by politicians leaves very little time to reflect. To ask the question: is this working? For governing parties that accountability mechanism is built in to the fabric of our democratic structures. Whether it's questions in parliament, a grilling from journalists or the incontrovertible truth of a set of statistics, there's no shortage of mechanisms to test the efficacy of public policy. The

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

The Herald 2 **Councils warn of service cuts and job losses** THE voice of Scotland's local authorities has raised the spectre of hundreds of jobs being lost and savage service cuts while warning that a £1 billion deficit remains in the finances of councils. The Convention Of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) has previously warned that without additional cash from the Scottish Government councils will be "struggling to deliver even the basic, essential services that communities rely on". Deputy First Minister John

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The Herald 2 **Under 150 drivers fined in three years for entering car-free zones near schools** FEWER than 150 drivers have been fined for breaching Glasgow's school car-free zones since its inception in 2019, it has emerged. A total of 40 schools are now enrolled in the School Streets scheme, which prohibits drivers from travelling along certain streets at set times throughout the day during the school term. The project was the idea of Glasgow City Council staff, with the aim of reducing heavily congested traffic

The Courier (Main Edition) 2 **Schools expected to close again as new strikes announced** Schools in Tayside and Fife are likely to be closed for another four days each in the latest round of strike action. The EIS teaching union has announced 22 more days of action, which will affect each school on two sets of two consecutive days. Members in all schools will strike on Tuesday February 28 and Wednesday March 1, which is likely to result in schools closing. And a 16-day

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **battle with the bottle in scottish classrooms** CHILDREN as young as ten were among hundreds suspended after being found drunk or caught with alcohol at schools in Scotland. More than 200 pupils have faced exclusion for booze-related incidents since April 2019 - including several aged just ten, 11 or 12. The exclusions included children aged ten to 14 in West Dunbartonshire, 11 to 14-year-olds who were found with wine in Fife and at least one 12-year-old in

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **Half of our universities peddle their woke 'poison' to students** MORE than half of Britain's universities are peddling controversial and radical 'woke' ideologies on students, a damning league table has revealed. Some of the nation's most prestigious institutions are 'poisoning the minds of generations to come', critics said last night, by subjecting undergraduates and academics to 'trigger warnings' and guidance on 'white privilege'. Elite Russell Group universities dominate the table, accounting for eight of the top ten spots. Cambridge and

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 6 **Scottish schools set for strikes as England's ballot result looms** A fresh round of rolling strikes by teachers in Scotland begins today, with schools in different parts of the country set to close. Under a

16-day programme of strikes by the nation's biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), teachers will strike in a staggered fashion, with two different council areas being affected each day. Secondary and primary schools in Glasgow and East Lothian will be closed on

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Schools out as teachers start 16 days of rolling strikes** THERE will be more disruption in schools today when members of the country's largest teaching union walk out on strike in two areas. EIS members in Glasgow and East Lothian will kick off 16 days of rolling action which will affect all of Scotland's council areas. The union also announced a further 22 additional days of strikes on Friday amid an ongoing pay dispute with the Scottish government and Cosla.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 5 **Mum urges resolution to end teacher strikes** Helen Smith is calling on her local parent council to write to the Scottish Government about the impact of teacher strikes. Mrs Smith says she has every sympathy with the teachers' cause, but children have already suffered enough disruption to their education. The Inverness mother is urging the Scottish Government and local authorities to prioritise education, and find a solution to the ongoing pay dispute. She has asked Highland Parent

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **High school to get new temporary classrooms** Welcome to our weekly round-up of the latest proposals lodged across Moray. Last week, planning chiefs gave the green light for temporary classrooms to be installed at Elgin High School to ease overcrowding. The two-classroom modular unit will hold 66 pupils and two full-time staff. Permission has been granted for three years. Elgin High School, which opened in October 2017 following a £30 million investment, initially began with a roll

The Scotsman 11 **Global drive to 'normalise' Gaelic tongue** More than 30 special events are to be staged across Scotland next month as part of a drive to "promote and normalise" the Gaelic language at home and abroad. Football, shinty, circus, cookery and filmmaking will all feature alongside ceilidh dancing, poetry, singing and storytelling in the World Gaelic Week programme. Arts centres, village halls and schools will be hosting events after grants of up to £500 were made available

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Teachers 'urgent' talks plea** SNP ministers were urged to treat teachers' pay rise demands with the same urgency as talks to end the NHS row. A union boss claimed the Scottish Government wasn't trying "as hard as they possibly could" to settle the schools dispute after calling a plea for 10 per cent unaffordable. Andrea Bradley of the EIS said: "We hope there is going to be the urgency to settle the teachers' dispute

The Times (Scotland) 12 **Councils hoarding childcare cash, say private nurseries** Private nurseries have accused council directors of starving them of cash to fund public crèches and demanded that childcare money is handed to parents rather than local authorities. They claim that councils are hoarding public funds and passing on 20 per cent of government money to the private enterprises, which provide 30 per cent of childcare across the country. The Scottish government provides funding for up to 1,140 hours of

4. JUSTICE

The Courier (Main Edition) 10 **101 calls wait sees quarter of people hang up** Scottish Labour has claimed people are being "put in danger" as figures revealed almost a quarter of 101 calls to police were disconnected in the first seven months of 2022. Figures released by Police Scotland show 216,979 calls to the non-emergency number went unanswered between January and July. It equates to an average of 30,997 calls disconnected each month. A total of 876,144 calls were received in the seven-month period,

The National (Scotland) 17 **Charities hail domestic abuse campaign for shift from victim-blaming** CHARITIES have praised a police campaign tackling domestic abuse for its focus on the perpetrators - after previous efforts were criticised for "victim-blaming". Police Scotland launched the "Is That Me?" campaign just prior to the New Year, looking to tackle domestic abuse before it starts by encouraging young men to recognise red-flag behaviours. The campaign urges people to reflect on their actions and seek help if they identify coercive control

The Scotsman 21 **Inside Justice** The case of Eleanor Williams was unusual to say the least. Ms Williams was the young lady from Barrow-in-Furness recently convicted of maliciously accusing a group of men of abducting and raping her. The details were lurid, the young woman had even inflicted injuries on herself to back up her claims. A strange case, but the consequences for the accused men were severe. One spent a considerable

The Sun (Scotland) 7 **CONS OF LIVING CRISIS** LAGS are pocketing a prison pay hike of up to 20 per cent Â— eclipsing the raise offered to cash-strapped teachers and medics. Jail bosses will dish out an extra quid to cons in their weekly allowance in response to spiralling prices. The inflation-busting move comes after canteen grub costs were also slashed to make treats behind bars more affordable. But the bumper sum is almost triple the 7.5 per

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **Branding 'threat' in Nats' war on booze** SNP chiefs have stepped up their war on booze Â— with proposals to ban alcohol-branded pint glasses and T-shirts. Bar staff could be prevented from serving ale in

Tennent's or Guinness jugs and wearing tops bearing brewery logos. Branded umbrellas may also be vetoed at sporting events and even Baileys flavoured ice-cream could be axed under the plans. But critics slammed the options, set out in a consultation aimed at protecting

The Times (Scotland) 12 **Police fail to answer quarter of 101 calls** Almost a quarter of 101 calls to Police Scotland were disconnected in the first seven months of last year. Figures from the force show 216,979 calls to the non-emergency number went unanswered between January and July. It equates to an average of 30,997 calls disconnected each month. A total of 876,144 calls were received in the period, meaning 24.8 per cent of all calls were disconnected. In July the longest

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Herald 4 **'Shameful' delays see some NHS patients wait years for key scans** PATIENTS are facing "shocking and shameful" delays for routine diagnostic tests, with figures revealing one person in Grampian waited nearly five years for a CT scan. Official guidelines stipulate no one referred for one of eight key tests - including endoscopies, colonoscopies and scans - should wait longer than six weeks. Patients with a suspected cancer are given highest priority, with the aim that their results should be carried out

The Courier (Main Edition) 15 **NHS test delays are 'ticking timebomb'** Patients in Tayside are having to wait more than three and a half years for key diagnostic tests, according to new analysis. Official figures show people across the region are facing "shocking and shameful" waits to undergo routine screenings. The longest recorded wait in Tayside last year was 196 weeks - around three years and nine months - for an upper endoscopy. Another person had to wait 154 weeks -

The Courier (Main Edition) 4 **'Give NHS resources it needs to tackle sepsis'** Conditions such as sepsis will continue to take a "bitter toll" unless the NHS is properly resourced, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said. Figures from Public Health Scotland and analysed by the Lib Dems showed 52,545 continuous hospital stays with 835,314 days spent in hospital between April 2016 and March 2021 due to sepsis. The party's leader Alex Cole-Hamilton urged the Scottish Government to properly resource health boards or conditions

Daily Mail (Scotland) 6 **Now NHS waiting times hit 5 YEARS** PATIENTS' lives are being put at risk as it emerged some are waiting almost five years to undergo vital diagnostic tests. Critics have called again for the Health Secretary Humza Yousaf to be sacked amid more revelations about long waits in the NHS. Freedom of information requests by the Scottish Conservatives have revealed the longest recorded delays for key tests. More than 150,000 Scots are waiting for scans such as

The Herald 4 **Fears 'bitter toll' of sepsis will continue without 'proper' health service funding** CONDITIONS such as sepsis will continue to take a "bitter toll" unless the NHS is properly resourced, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said, as the party called on the SNP to "take responsibility" for the crisis engulfing the service. Figures from Public Health Scotland and analysed by the Lib Dems showed 52,545 continuous hospital stays with 835,314 days spent in hospital between April 2016 and March 2021 due to sepsis. Alex

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **More cash urged in a bid to curb lethal sepsis** CONDITIONS such as sepsis will continue to take a "bitter toll" unless the NHS is resourced properly, the Scottish Lib Dems say. Figures from Public Health Scotland and analysed by the party showed 52,545 continuous hospital stays with 835,314 days spent in hospital between April 2016 and March 2021 due to the bacterial blood poisoning. Lib Dem leader Alex Cole-Hamilton urged the Scottish Government to provide more funding to reverse

Daily Express (Scotland) 1 **shocking five-year wait for a scan on nhs** LIVES are being put at risk with "scarcely believable" figures revealing up to five-year waits for key tests on the NHS, the Scottish Tories have warned. One patient in NHS Grampian waited 258 weeks - almost half a decade - for a CT scan while another in the health board had to endure a 255-week wait for an MRI scan. The Tories unearthed statistics highlighting the longest recorded waits for

Daily Express (Scotland) 4 **THE Scottish Government has been [...]** THE Scottish Government has been criticised for ignoring a 20-year plan that would have seen "sweeping reforms" to the NHS north of the Border David Kerr, a professor of cancer medicine at Oxford University, chaired a team to devise a longterm blueprint for Scotland's NHS aiming to transform a service seen as too "hospital-centred" to one capable of "serving all people". In 2005, for the Labour-Lib Dem Scottish executive led

Daily Mail (Scotland) 16 **Number of kids needing foster care up by 50pc** THE number of children in Scotland needing foster care has soared by 50 per cent in the past year. Barnardo's Scotland has revealed there are now nearly 700 children and young people on waiting lists for foster care - up from 461 in only a year. The charity believes the surge is due to a shortage of people becoming foster parents and many existing carers reaching retirement age. It is

Daily Record 9 **DOC PAID £1M TO STAY HOME** THE NHS has spent more than £1million on an A&E consultant after keeping him suspended for more than six years. Dr Richard MacCallum - cleared in 2020 of sexual impropriety with patients - languished at home on full pay while colleagues at NHS Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert were overrun by Covid. He remains off as the current NHS crisis ravages A&E departments. While MacCallum collects more than £115,000

Daily Record 11 **Foster care plea as kids losing out** JUST one in 10 kids referred to a fostering service has gone to a family in the last year, it has emerged. Barnardo's in Glasgow and Edinburgh said 40 of 400 children were placed. The number referred increased by almost 50 per cent in the same period, the charity revealed as it launched Fostering Focus Fortnight. In 2020-21, the number on the waiting list for foster care was 461 but

Daily Record 9 **5-YR WAIT FURY** PATIENTS' lives are at risk with five-year waits for key tests, the Scottish Tories claimed yesterday. One in NHS Grampian waited 258 weeks for a CT scan. Shadow health secretary Dr Sandesh Gulhane branded the figures "shameful". He added: "These tests are life-saving. The buck stops with (Health Secretary) Humza Yousaf."

Daily Record 4 **SEPSIS TO 'TAKE BITTER TOLL' WITHOUT FUNDS** CONDITIONS such as sepsis will continue to take a "bitter toll" unless the NHS is properly resourced, the Scottish Lib Dems have said. Figures from Public Health Scotland analysed by the Lib Dems showed 52,545 continuous hospital stays due to the condition, with 835,314 days spent in hospital, between April 2016 and March 2021. The party's leader Alex Cole-Hamilton urged the Scottish Government to properly fund health boards to deal

Daily Record 19 **NHS health is in rapid decline due to 15 years of poor treatment by SNP** THE crisis in our NHS is putting lives at risk. But this pressure hasn't just materialised this winter, because of a spike in flu cases or a hangover from the pandemic. It is a crisis 15 years in the making and is a direct result of decisions made by the SNP. Today, across Scotland, A&E services are overwhelmed, health boards have cancelled surgeries and staff are left overworked and demoralised.

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 7 **'Shocking' waits for tests put lives at risk, say Tories** Patients' lives are being "put at risk" after figures revealed some waited almost five years for key diagnostic tests, the Scottish Conservatives say. One patient in the NHS Grampian region waited 258 weeks for a CT scan, while another waited 255 weeks for an MRI scan in what the party says is a "ticking timebomb" for the NHS. Freedom of Information requests by the Scottish Tories have revealed the longest

Metro (Scotland) 8 **Appeal for foster carers as hundreds of kids lose out** JUST 40 of the 400 children referred to Barnardo's fostering service in Glasgow and Edinburgh have been placed with families in the last year, the charity has revealed. In September 2012, Barnardo's had 185 foster carers but by September 2022 this number was down to 164. Barnardo's has now issued an urgent appeal for potential recruits to sign up with them as the charity marks its Fostering Focus Fortnight. Martin

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Test delays putting 'lives at risk'** PATIENTS' lives are being 'put at risk' as figures reveal some waited almost five years for key diagnostic tests. One patient in NHS Grampian waited 258 weeks for a CT scan, while another had a 255-week delay for an MRI scan. Freedom of information requests by the Tories revealed the longest recorded waits for the eight key diagnostic tests on which Public Health Scotland publishes stats. Tory MSP Dr Sandesh

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Scottish patients wait years for routine tests** Patients in Scotland are being forced to wait years to undergo routine tests, it has been disclosed today amid growing calls for Nicola Sturgeon to sack her "failing" Health Secretary. The Scottish Tories obtained official figures under the Freedom of Information Act showing a patient in the NHS Grampian board area was forced to wait 258 weeks - almost five years - for a CT scan. Another patient in the

The Herald 5 **Plea after fall in fostering** ONLY 40 of the 400 children referred to Barnardo's fostering service in Glasgow and Edinburgh have been placed with families in the last year. The number of children and young people referred to the charity's foster care services increased by almost 50 per cent in the same period. In 2020-21 the number on the waiting list for foster care was 461, but in 2021-22 this rose to 691 - an

The National (Scotland) 11 **Plea for more foster carers** CHARITY Barnardo's has appealed for more people in Scotland to become foster carers, as it revealed a big rise in the number of children and young people on waiting lists. It says the figure is up from 469 to 700 in just a year. The appeal comes during Barnardo's Fostering Focus Fortnight, which runs until Saturday. Barnardo's Scotland director Martin Crewes said:

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 1 **'Lives put at risk' as patients wait years for key tests** PATIENTS' lives are being "put at risk" after figures revealed some waited almost five years for key diagnostic tests, the Scottish Conservatives say. One patient in the care of NHS Grampian waited 258 weeks for a CT scan while another waited 255 weeks for an MRI scan in what the party says is a "ticking timebomb" for the NHS. Freedom of information requests have revealed the longest recorded waits for

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 13 **Patients face five-year wait for key tests** Patients in Grampian are having to wait almost five years for key diagnostic tests, according to new analysis. Official figures show people across the region are facing "shocking and shameful" waits to undergo routine screenings. The longest recorded wait in Grampian last year was 258 weeks for a CT scan, while another patient had to wait 255 weeks for an MRI scan. Another person in NHS Grampian waited 107 weeks

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **NHS in need of emergency care** Another day, another NHS statistic that chills the blood. The latest figures show waits of up to 258 weeks for a CT scan. While it is only fair to acknowledge that that number is an outlier and most patients will be seen much sooner, it's nonetheless an indicator that things are far from right in our health service. Sadly, it looks like we'll have a much longer wait for a

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Lib Dems call for better resources for NHS** Conditions such as sepsis will continue to take a "bitter toll" unless the NHS is properly resourced, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said. Figures from Public Health Scotland and analysed by the Lib Dems showed 52,545 continuous hospital stays with 835,314 days spent in hospital between April 2016 and March 2021 due to sepsis. The party's leader Alex Cole-Hamilton urged the Scottish Government to properly resource health boards or conditions

The Scotsman 4 **Resource NHS or sepsis will keep taking a 'bitter toll', say Lib Dems** Conditions such as sepsis will continue to take a "bitter toll" unless the NHS is properly resourced, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have said. Figures from Public Health Scotland and analysed by the Lib Dems showed 52,545 continuous hospital stays with 835,314 days spent in hospital between April 2016 and March 2021 due to sepsis. The party's leader Alex Cole-Hamilton urged the Scottish Government to properly resource health boards to deal

The Scotsman 4 **Lives 'at risk' in five-year test wait** Patients' lives are being "put at risk" after figures revealed some waited almost five years for key diagnostic tests, the Scottish Conservatives say. One patient in NHS Grampian waited 258 weeks for a CT scan while another in the health board waited 255 weeks for an MRI scan in what the party says is a "ticking timebomb" for the NHS. Freedom of Information requests (Fol) by the party have revealed

The Scotsman 1 **Patients face waits of close to five years for key tests** Some NHS patients have waited almost five years for key diagnostic tests, according to new figures. In NHS Grampian, one person waited 258 weeks for a CT scan and another had a 255-week wait for an MRI scan. A patient in NHS Tayside waited almost four years for an upper endoscopy, with another waiting almost three years for a colonoscopy. The figures prompted claims from the Scottish Conservatives that lives

The Scotsman 19 **Tories and SNP are failing the NHS as it's stretched to breaking point** There was a moment this week when I found myself briefly, very briefly, in agreement with Conservative minister Grant Shapps. In a statement to the Commons, he affirmed that: "The British people need to know that when they have a heart attack, a stroke or a serious injury, an ambulance will turn up, and that if they need hospital care, they have access to it." I could not have

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **HEALTH'REFORM BID KO'** A TOP medic has claimed Scotland's NHS is in crisis because Holyrood snubbed reforms he proposed 18 years ago. David Kerr, professor of cancer medicine at Oxford Uni, said his team devised a 20-year plan to focus on long-term conditions, integrate better with the care sector and take advantage of advances such as telemedicine. But he alleged his report, commissioned by the then Labour/Lib Dem coalition in 2005, was never

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Endurance tests** ANOTHER day and yet more worrying figures laying bare the state of our NHS. And it continues to go from bad to worse. We know the huge waits people are being forced to endure in A&E departments, and the stresses facing our health care workers. But now it's been revealed even those waiting for life-saving tests face long waits — years in fact. Look to the patient in NHS Grampian

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Ticking timebomb puts lives at risk** SCOTLAND'S NHS was branded a "ticking timebomb" yesterday as patients face up to five-year delays for lifesaving tests — while a third are unhappy with services. Nicola Sturgeon has been warned lives are being "put at risk" by the soaring waits for key diagnostic checks. The shocking hold-ups were revealed in a freedom of information response obtained by the Scottish Conservatives. They included delays in NHS Grampian of 258 weeks

The Times (Scotland) 18 **Barnardo's in fostering appeal** Barnardo's has called for more people to become foster carers after only 40 of 400 children referred to the charity in Glasgow and Edinburgh were placed with families over the past year. The number of children and young people referred to the charity had risen by 50 per cent to 691 in 12 months, Barnardo's said. The number of registered foster carers has fallen by 12 per cent to 164

The Times (Scotland) 19 **NHS isn't good for health of our opposition** The pace of politics as it is experienced by politicians leaves very little time to reflect. To ask the question: is this working? For governing parties that accountability mechanism is built in to the fabric of our democratic structures. Whether it's questions in parliament, a grilling from journalists or the incontrovertible truth of a set of statistics, there's no shortage of mechanisms to test the efficacy of public policy. The

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

Daily Mail 18 **A NEW UPRISING ... OVER WHISKY** LORD Robertson, who rose to become Nato Secretary General after serving as defence secretary under Tony Blair, has a new fight on his hands. This time with Nicola Sturgeon's killjoy SNP government. Robertson has a house on the Inner Hebridean island of Islay, a mecca for whisky drinkers the world over. With a population of just over 3,000, it has no fewer than nine malt whisky distilleries, and two more

Daily Record 20 **BLUEBELL BATTLE** CAMPAIGNERS and MSPs have united to urge the Scottish Government to save the country's iconic ancient bluebell woods. Argyll-based group Help Trees Help Us (HTHU) says there has been unauthorised felling and deliberate burning of old trees in woodlands in its area. A Holyrood committee found Scottish Forestry hadn't pursued a single prosecution for illegal felling of ancient and native woodland in more than a decade. It comes after the

The Scotsman 18 **Scots salmon farms post 'record-breaking death toll' in a year** Salmon fatalities at fish farms in Scotland have almost doubled over the past year, according to the latest figures. Data from the Fish Health Inspectorate and fish farming industry reports shows the death rate of cultivated fish reached record levels in 2022, jumping to all-time monthly highs in September, October and November - statistics for December are not yet available. Estimates suggest the total number of deaths would be in

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

The Courier (Main Edition) 13 **Energy crisis hits hard for off-grid bill-payers** Campaigners demand a "new deal" for thousands of customers across Tayside and Fife hit the hardest by a crippling energy cost crisis. They claim bill-payers are treated as second-class citizens by the UK Government and regulator Ofgem just because they are not connected to the gas grid. Mains gas is cheaper than electric or alternative energy sources, and areas without access to gas are known to have far higher levels

The Herald 20 **Fast rising energy bills declared biggest challenge for businesses** THE UK Government has reduced the amount of energy bill support for non-domestic customers, including businesses, schools and charities, to £6.97 off for every megawatt hour (MWh) of gas used. Electricity bills, meanwhile, will be discounted by up to £19.61 per MWh. The announcement has led to Sir Tom Hunter and Lord Willie Haughey highlighting rising energy bills as the biggest financial challenge to businesses across Scotland in the months

The Courier (Main Edition) 26 **No fairness in relentless rise of energy bills** Everyone is struggling with rising energy costs - but for those living in "off-grid" areas the issue is particularly acute. A far from inconsiderable proportion of the population - some 15% - are on the wrong end of a desperately unfair postcode lottery, purely because they cannot access mains gas. In Perth and Kinross an estimated 33% are affected, while in Angus the figure stands at 26%. That means that,

The Herald 21 **Firms sharing their successes to help fight climate change** MAYBE it's because just over a year ago COP26 was on our doorstep, the world's biggest climate conference in our backyard, that it feels disappointing COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, seemed to pass without the public and media focus such a threat deserves. The coverage and analysis was there of course, but I would argue you had to be keen to find it, whereas Glasgow's conference coverage seemed omnipresent,

The Herald 4 **Ferry fares frozen for 6 months** FARES on ferries serving some of the most remote communities will be frozen for six months, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Ticket prices on the Northern Isles, Clyde and Hebrides ferry networks will be held at current levels from April until the end of September in an attempt to help people and businesses from rural and island communities recover from disruption to services amid chaotic ferry provision in recent times.

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Ramping up wind farms a must to meet green targets** SCOTLAND will need up to 140 more large-scale wind farms before 2030 if the nation is to meet the Scottish Government's green targets, an energy giant has warned. The Holyrood administration is committed to ramping up offshore wind farms to meet its net zero ambitions. But German company Energiewerk, which has applications across the country for controversial developments, has told ministers their plans do not go far enough. In a

Daily Record 20 **BLUEBELL BATTLE** CAMPAIGNERS and MSPs have united to urge the Scottish Government to save the country's iconic ancient bluebell woods. Argyll-based group Help Trees Help Us (HTHU) says there has been unauthorised felling and deliberate burning of old trees in woodlands in its area. A Holyrood committee found Scottish Forestry hadn't pursued a single prosecution for illegal felling of ancient and native woodland in more than a decade. It comes after the

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 5 **Scotland braced for hazardous conditions as heavy snow sweeps in** Motorists are facing difficult driving conditions today after heavy snow fell in some parts of the country. A Met Office yellow

warning for snow and ice is in force across northern and north-west Scotland until 10am on Wednesday. Southern Scotland, much of England and Northern Ireland also have yellow warnings in place for ice until 10am today. Traffic Scotland said that there were reports of several vehicles becoming stuck in

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 10 **Fares frozen for summer sailings** Fares on ferries serving some of the most remote communities in Scotland will be frozen for six months, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Ticket prices on the Northern Isles, Clyde and Hebrides ferry networks will be held at current levels from April until the end of September in an effort to help people and businesses from Scotland's rural and island communities recover from disruption to services. The fare announcement will

Metro (Scotland) 5 **WEATHER WARNING ISSUED AS COLD SPELL REPLACES RISK OF FLOODING** A 68-HOUR warning for ice and snow has been issued for northern Scotland in the first half of this week as wintry weather moves in again, forecasters say. The Met Office yellow weather warning lasts from 2pm yesterday until 10am on Wednesday morning. It covers a large part of northern Scotland, as well as nearly all of the country's islands. There is also a separate yellow warning for ice in

The Herald 7 **Yellow warning for ice and snow as Scots set to feel big chill at -10C** WINTRY showers are expected to create icy conditions across the United Kingdom this week as winter bites and temperatures in Scotland could fall to -10C, forecasters have warned. The Met Office yesterday issued a yellow warning for ice covering southern Scotland, Northern Ireland, northern England, northern Wales and the Midlands, while hundreds of flood warnings were put in place across the UK. The alert, which warns "wintry showers" will lead

The Herald 7 **Oil and gas sector is told to stop controversial flaring in two years** THE North Sea oil and gas sector has been told to end controversial routine flaring in just two years' time in a stark report demanding that the industry accelerates action to cut its climate impact. The review by Tory MP Chris Skidmore, commissioned by the UK Government, calls on the industry to electrify its operations after failing to commit to statutory adviser, the Climate Change Committee's (CCC), target of reducing

The National (Scotland) 19 **Ferry fares to be frozen until September** FARES on ferries serving some of the most remote communities in Scotland will be frozen for six months, the Scottish government has confirmed. Ticket prices on the Northern Isles, Clyde and Hebrides ferry networks will be held at current levels from April until the end of September in a bid to help people and businesses from Scotland's rural and island communities recover from disruption to services. Cancelled ferries over recent

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 2 **Cold snap sweeps in with snow and ice due this week** Wintry weather will return to the north-east this week with Met Office forecasters issuing warnings for snow and ice. Temperatures could fall as low as -7C for some inland communities late on Wednesday. A yellow warning for ice came into force across almost all of mainland Scotland on Saturday evening. And it was swiftly followed by a fresh Met Office warning for snow and ice last night. As the cold

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 7 **Fares are frozen for lifeline ferry services during summer months** Fares on ferry services to the Northern Isles and the Hebrides are being capped for six months in response to the ongoing disruption. Transport Scotland has announced that ticket prices on board both CalMac and NorthLink ferry services will be frozen at their current level from April until the end of September. The move has been prompted by both ongoing challenges facing CalMac's ageing fleet and the cost-of-living crisis. The

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Fear of disruption on ferries as eight-week closure of pier begins** Skye's key port is shut for eight weeks to enable the first phase of a major revamp to be carried out. Uig pier's closure will disrupt all direct ferry services between Skye and the Outer Hebrides. While the closure is "far from ideal", local representatives say it's the best option available. It had been due to shut for six months until a major backlash prompted a rethink by transport chiefs.

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 26 **SNP's approach to oil and gas a turn off for north-east voters** Sir, - More than 50 years ago I moved to the northeast to join the North East Scotland Development Authority in its mission to reverse population decline and promote the creation of new jobs. Shortly after I arrived BP announced a commercial oil discovery that turned out to be the Forties Field, stimulating a dramatic era of rapid development and ending the UK's dependence on imported oil and gas. It

The Scotsman 9 **Ice and snow warning for north as mercury plunges to minus 10** Arctic blizzards and blinding sunshine will divide Scotland this week, with the north under a 68-hour warning for snow and ice, lasting until at least Wednesday morning. With up to six inches (15cm) of snow forecast, this could affect road and rail journeys through the warning area, now extending to Grampian, Highlands and Islands, Orkney and Shetland and Argyll and Bute. However, sunshine will be the order of the day

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Electric car drivers kept waiting for access to fast-charger hubs** Drivers of electric vehicles in Scotland are waiting months to get access to new public fast-charging hubs because of delays connecting them to

power grids, a developer has said. Motor Fuel Group (MFG), an operator of forecourts, is growing increasingly frustrated at the time taken to get its equipment working and has warned it may divert millions of pounds of spending to other parts of the UK. MFG raised concerns

The Times (Scotland) 13 **Cold snap bites after storms bring floods** Days of rain and floods will be followed by snow and ice, forecasters say. More than 90 flood warnings and 160 flood alerts were in place yesterday after heavy rain fell on much of the country on Saturday. Drivers have been told to expect dangerous conditions this morning after temperatures plummeted overnight. A Met Office yellow warning is in force for ice in the Midlands and northern England, Wales and

The Times (Scotland) 7 **Campaigners fear rise of skyscraper superturbines** Hundreds of superturbines are being planned for some of Scotland's wildest land as wind farm developers seek approval for structures up to 850ft tall. At least 14 wind farm proposals are in front of ministers. The highest proposed turbines would be taller than any UK building except The Shard and the skyscraper 22 Bishopsgate in London. Environmental campaigners fear that Scotland's scenery, arguably its greatest tourism asset, will be harmed

The Times (Scotland) 14 **Fares frozen after islands' ferry chaos** Fares on ferries sailing to some of Scotland's most remote communities will be frozen this summer in an attempt to help islanders recover from widespread disruption to the service. Ticket prices on the Northern Isles, Clyde and Hebrides ferry networks will be held until the end of September by the Scottish government, following the combined impact of a succession of mechanical failures in the ageing, publicly owned fleet, and ministers'

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

The Herald 21 **Private sector economy continues to decline** SCOTTISH private sector output fell for a fifth consecutive month in December but the rate of decline slowed sharply, while employment decreased for the first time in 21 months, a survey shows. The fall in employment, which was marginal, was driven by the services sector, with manufacturing overall showing a slight rise in headcount. The business activity index in Royal Bank of Scotland's purchasing managers' index survey - a composite

The National (Scotland) 3 **Scots shipbuilding fears as £2.5bn order under threat** A MULTI-BILLION-POUND order that the UK Government said would protect the long-term future of the shipbuilding industry in Scotland is expected to be either cut or dropped entirely in the Prime Minister's upcoming defence review. Two years after former prime minister Boris Johnson announced plans to build five new Type 32 frigates in a bid to make the

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **Fear of disruption on ferries as eight-week closure of pier begins** Skye's key port is shut for eight weeks to enable the first phase of a major revamp to be carried out. Uig pier's closure will disrupt all direct ferry services between Skye and the Outer Hebrides. While the closure is "far from ideal", local representatives say it's the best option available. It had been due to shut for six months until a major backlash prompted a rethink by transport chiefs.

The Scotsman 14 **Council spending decisions 'increasingly made by ministers'** The body that represents Scotland's councils has said the spending decisions of local authorities are "increasingly directed" by the Scottish Government. Cosla also criticised ministers for confusing the public with their messaging. It previously hit out at the £38 million cash increase allocated to councils in the draft Scottish Budget, despite local authorities facing £1 billion of financial pressures. Katie Hagmann, Cosla's resources spokeswoman and an SNP councillor, said: "Given

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Gloom deepens for Scottish businesses as employment rate falls** Scotland's private sector recorded a "grim performance" last month with the number of people in employment falling for the first time in almost two years, the Royal Bank of Scotland said. The continued drop in business and challenging conditions have resulted in the first fall in employment for 21 months, according to the bank's monthly purchasing managers' index (PMI) for December. The fall was driven by lower staffing levels reported

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Herald 2 **Councils warn of service cuts and job losses** THE voice of Scotland's local authorities has raised the spectre of hundreds of jobs being lost and savage service cuts while warning that a £1 billion deficit remains in the finances of councils. The Convention Of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) has previously warned that without additional cash from the Scottish Government councils will be "struggling to deliver even the basic, essential services that communities rely on". Deputy First Minister John

The Herald 1 **Ministers 'betraying' poor as social rent set to rise by 11%** MINISTERS have been accused of betraying the poorest people in Scotland amid a cost-of-living crisis by planning to lift a ban on rent increases for those letting from social landlords, with tenants facing paying up to 11.1 per cent more after the current freeze on increases

ends. It comes as analysis from the housing regulator has projected that social landlords' net operating surpluses will soar from £132 million in this

The Courier (Main Edition) 5 **MSP calls for unspent fund cash to be used for renters** Millions of pounds in unspent funding set aside for tenants must be used to help poverty-stricken renters, according to a Dundee-based MSP. Official figures show more than 20% of a £10 million Tenant Grant Fund launched by the Scottish Government has not been allocated. A rent freeze is due to end on March 31, leading to calls for unused cash to go to those struggling most. Angus and Dundee were

The Courier (Main Edition) 14 **Starmer opposes Scottish Labour on gender** Sir Keir Starmer has set himself on a collision course with Scottish Labour after raising "concerns" about the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. The UK party boss did not rule out blocking the legislation if he becomes prime minister but said he wants to wait to see what legal advice the UK Government has received. The Scottish Government passed changes last month which will allow trans people to obtain a

The Herald 1 **Starmer: 16 too young to change gender** Political Correspondent SIR Keir Starmer has expressed "concerns" over reforms in Scotland allowing 16-year-olds to change their legal gender. The Labour Party leader said he believes 16 is too young for someone to make such a decision, though he said he was in favour of modernising British legislation to remove some of the "indignities" for trans people who want to legally change gender. He also stopped short of backing a

The Courier (Main Edition) 3 **Men's Shed eyes future as it searches for home** Montrose Men's Shed has had a "Ropey" existence from the start. But with the sale of their Union Street home, the group is now on the hunt for a new base as they take forward ambitions to establish a long-lasting role in the community. In the latest insight into the crucial role the movement is playing for men who are members of sheds in burghs across Angus, founder and chairman

Daily Express (Scotland) 10 **Starmer believes 16 is too young to self-ID gender** LABOUR leader Sir Keir Starmer said he has "concerns" over Scotland's gender recognition bill because he considers 16 to be too young to decide to change gender. The Holyrood administration passed legislation last month to allow trans people to obtain a gender recognition certificate without the need for a medical diagnosis - a process known as "self-identification". The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill also lowers the minimum age for applicants

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Starmer: Children aged 16 too young to change gender** SIR Keir Starmer has said that 16-year-olds are too young to change their gender, as pressure grows on the UK Government to block controversial SNP reforms. The Labour leader yesterday waded into the row about the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill by criticising the decision to lower the minimum age of transition to just 16. He also suggested that not enough has been done to ensure same-sex spaces can be

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Risks of Gender Bill** NICOLA Sturgeon was warned against pushing her Gender Recognition Reform Bill through Holyrood. The opposition said it stripped away vital safeguards. Critics claimed it could allow male predators to declare themselves women and access female-only facilities. Legal experts cautioned about its impact on reserved law. The First Minister refused to listen. As ever, she knew best. Only, she didn't. The UK Government is reportedly on the brink of blocking the

Daily Record 8 **1 MILLION HAVE TO PUT HEATING BEFORE EATING MORE** MORE than a million struggling Scots are putting heating over eating in a desperate attempt to pay soaring energy bills. Some are finding it so hard to make ends meet, they've resorted to showering in leisure centres and washing their clothes in the sink. Others are filling a flask once a day instead of boiling a kettle, wearing extra layers of clothing and using just candles for heat. Polling by

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Starmer raises 'concerns' about Scottish gender recognition moves** Labour has "concerns" about Scotland's new gender recognition reforms that the UK Government is considering blocking, Sir Keir Starmer has said. The Labour leader said he was particularly worried about the lowering of the age at which people can apply for a gender recognition certificate to 16. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill removes the need for people to get a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria before starting the change

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 8 **Think-tank backs halting Scots law** The UK Government should prevent the Scottish gender recognition Bill passed by MSPs from becoming law, a think-tank has said. Policy Exchange said the legislation would redefine the meaning of "sex" under the Equality Act, with implications for single-sex spaces, associations and schools, and women-only shortlists and scholarships. It argued in a paper that the legislation made "a very significant change to the operation of the Equality Act in Scotland",

Metro (Scotland) 4 **Starmer: 16 too young for teens to make gender call** LABOUR leader Sir Keir Starmer waded into the gender debate in Scotland yesterday by taking issue with the controversial law passed by MSPs at Holyrood. The SNP-led Scottish government pushed through legislation last month which will allow trans people to change gender without the need for a medical diagnosis - a process known as 'self-identification'. The gender recognition reform (Scotland) bill also lowers the minimum age to 16 and drops

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sixteen too young to legally switch gender, says Starmer** SIR KEIR STARMER has said 16-year-olds should not be able to legally change their gender, with Rishi Sunak poised to veto Scotland's new trans law. The Labour leader voiced "concerns" over the planned reforms as Nicola Sturgeon prepares to take the Government to court for blocking them. His intervention was highly damaging for Scottish Labour, which backed the plans. A party spokesman refused to respond to requests for comment but

The National (Scotland) 15 **Starmer 'concerns' over gender reform** KEIR Starmer has been accused of repeating Tory lines, after he said he has "concerns" about Scotland's gender recognition reforms. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill will allow trans people to change their gender on official documents without the need for medical diagnosis. The bill passed last month after three days of marathon debate which was subject to constant filibustering from

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **MSP wants poverty-hit tenants to get hardship fund money** Millions of pounds in unspent funding set aside for tenants must be used to help poverty-stricken renters, a north-east MSP has said. Official figures show more than 20% of a £10 million Tenant Grant Fund from the Scottish Government has not been allocated. A rent freeze is due to end on March 31, leading to calls for unused cash to go to those struggling most. Aberdeen was among the areas

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 29 **Keep youngsters with autism and ADHD out of gender reform row** Scotland's Gender Recognition Reform Bill was opposed by several MSPs citing risks to neurodivergent children. I'm autistic and have ADHD, and it was news to me that any of these MSPs had any interest in protecting neurodivergent people of any age. The Bill lets trans people get a gender recognition certificate without the agreement of a panel of doctors; they can self-identify - that's all. Opponents quoted Cass Review claims

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 28 **Off-grid energy users still need more cash help** It's hard to argue against campaigners' calls for off-grid energy customers to get a new deal to help them cope with soaring bills. The UK Government's announcement that the Alternative Fuel Payment will rise to £200 next month is a welcome development, but hopefully it doesn't stop there. For months now, fuel poverty campaigners have been saying this is an increasingly worrying issue for hundreds of thousands of households around

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Help urged for off-grid households** Campaigners are demanding a "new deal" for the 220,000 customers across northern Scotland hit hardest by the crippling energy cost crisis. They claim billpayers are treated as second-class citizens by the UK Government and regulator Ofgem just because they are not connected to the gas grid. Mains gas is cheaper than electric or alternative energy sources, and areas without access to gas are known to have far higher levels of

The Scotsman 6 **Brian Cox 'proud' of Scotland's gender law and defends JK Rowling** Brian Cox has said he is "proud" of Scotland's new law on gender identification while also lending his support to JK Rowling, an opponent of the Bill. The 76-year-old Scottish actor, who has previously spoken of his support for the SNP, also talked about his view on the country's independence as he appeared on BBC One's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme. He told the political broadcaster: "I'm very, very proud

The Scotsman 20 **Gender debate need not have been toxic** Whatever course of action Rishi Sunak chooses to take this week over the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, it seems highly likely the legislation will be challenged in the courts. The Prime Minister could apply a Section 35 order to prevent the Bill from gaining royal assent, which would then likely be challenged in court by the Scottish Government. Alternatively, Mr Sunak could do nothing, in which

The Scotsman 21 **Inside Justice** The case of Eleanor Williams was unusual to say the least. Ms Williams was the young lady from Barrow-in-Furness recently convicted of maliciously accusing a group of men of abducting and raping her. The details were lurid, the young woman had even inflicted injuries on herself to back up her claims. A strange case, but the consequences for the accused men were severe. One spent a considerable

The Scotsman 1 **Starmer: 16-year-olds should not be able to change gender** Sir Keir Starmer has raised "concerns" about Scotland's controversial gender recognition legislation, arguing people are not old enough to change their legal gender at 16. The Labour leader also said he was concerned about the impact on the UK-wide Equality Act. The comments put him at odds with the party in Scotland, which backed the legislation during a vote in the Scottish Parliament before Christmas and come as the

The Scotsman 20 **Why Sunak must block Scotland's gender reform bill** This week we shall learn what Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is made of. Is he willing to defend the devolution settlement - or is he content to let the SNP stretch it beyond its limits until it snaps and we collapse into gender wars? Secretary of State for Scotland, Alister Jack, and Equalities Minister, Kemi Badenoch, are right to be concerned the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, passed at Holyrood

The Scotsman 6 **Stonewall warns PM not to step in** Campaigners have warned of "calamitous consequences" for trans people and devolution if the UK government blocks Scotland's gender recognition law. LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall

has written to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to voice its concerns as the UK Government considers legal advice about whether to use its powers to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from becoming law. Stonewall said the move would be a "nuclear option" and start a

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Councils cash call** THE SNP must be open with the public and admit councils have less to spend than before, local authority chiefs have said. Umbrella body Cosla warned councils are being forced to carry out more services than ever — but with less money. And they hit out at Scottish Government claims of a funding boost, arguing rising costs result in a real-terms cut. The government acknowledged current financial challenges and said

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **KEIR & ANAS HEADING FOR GENDER BILL CLASH** SIR Keir Starmer has set himself at odds with his own MSPs over Scotland's gender reforms. The UK Labour leader yesterday said 16 is too young to self-identify in a damning intervention on the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. sex spaces access. He told the BBC: "I have concerns, in particular the age reduction to 16." Pressed on whether someone that age was old enough to choose a gender swap, he

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Same old story** IT looked like the days of glaring differences between the Labour party in Scotland and the UK were a thing of the past. But, unfortunately for Anas Sarwar things aren't going quite as simply as he had hoped. For the last few weeks Sir Keir Starmer's willingness to embrace Brexit and the idea of "taking back control" haven't been sitting quite right with some north of the border. And yesterday

The Times (Scotland) 1 **16-year-olds too young to alter gender, says Starmer** Sir Keir Starmer has said that 16-year-olds are too young to change their legal gender and raised "concerns" about the Scottish government's reforms which he fears could affect the UK's equality law. The UK Labour leader was speaking as the Westminster government considers whether to intervene to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from becoming law. The legislation was passed by Holyrood last month. The SNP-Green coalition, supported by

The Times (Scotland) 6 **Be proud of gender law but don't be so hard on Rowling, says Cox** Brian Cox says he is proud of Scotland's new law on gender identification while also lending his support to JK Rowling, an opponent of the bill. The 76-year-old actor, who has previously spoken of his support for the SNP, also talked about his view on Scottish independence when he appeared on BBC1's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg. He said: "I'm very, very proud of Scotland for doing the gender identification act,

10. CORPORATE

Daily Record 11 **YOUNG ONES MAKING VOTING ALL THE AGE** THE new generation of young voters in Scots elections are more likely to continue a ballot box habit, a study has revealed. Those able to vote at 16-17 were more inclined to continue into their 20s than those who were over 18, researchers at Edinburgh and Sheffield Universities said. The voting age was reduced to 16 in Scottish local and parliamentary elections as well as the 2014 independence election. Some

Metro (Scotland) 13 **KIDS IN POLL POSITION BY VOTING AT 16** YOUNGSTERS who vote for the first time aged 16 are more likely to retain the habit than older first-time voters, a study has found. In Scotland, the voting age was initially reduced to 16 for the 2014 independence referendum and MSPs then passed legislation to expand this to all local and parliamentary elections the following year. In the rest of the UK the minimum voting age is set at 18.

The National (Scotland) 7 **Tories bid to repeat battle over secret Union polling** THE UK Government is bidding for a repeat of a tribunal hearing it has already lost as the protracted battle to force the Tories to publish secret polling on the Union enters its fifth year. Tommy Sheppard MP, the SNP's constitution spokesperson at Westminster, said Rishi Sunak's government

The Sun (Scotland) 13 **Age cut vote lift** YOUNG Scots who began voting at 16 are more likely to keep having their say, a study found. It became the legal age in Scotland in 2015 for local and party elections, plus the 2014 indy vote. Researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Sheffield found many who first voted at 16 rather than 18 or older "retain a habit". Parliamentary Business Minister George Adam said it shows the rest

The Times (Scotland) 13 **Younger voters 'more likely to return to the ballot box'** Reducing the voting age to 16 in local and Scottish parliament elections has made the teenagers more likely to retain the habit than older first-time voters, a study has suggested. Those able to vote at 16 and 17 in Scotland were more likely to continue the habit of voting well into their twenties than those who were over 18, researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Sheffield said. The research

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

The National (Scotland) 15 **Starmer 'concerns' over gender reform** KEIR Starmer has been accused of repeating Tory lines, after he said he has "concerns" about Scotland's gender recognition reforms. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill will allow trans people to change their gender on official documents without the need for medical diagnosis. The bill passed last month after three days of marathon debate which was subject to constant filibustering from

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The Scotsman 6 **Stonewall warns PM not to step in** Campaigners have warned of "calamitous consequences" for trans people and devolution if the UK government blocks Scotland's gender recognition law. LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall has written to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to voice its concerns as the UK Government considers legal advice about whether to use its powers to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from becoming law. Stonewall said the move would be a "nuclear option" and start a

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Daily Express 10 **Trans women face ban from all female sport** MEN who have transitioned face a ban on competing in women's sports. Critics say trans women have natural physical advantages, such as strength and speed, that makes it unfair for them to compete against natural-born women. Female Olympians have warned that a generation of girls could miss out on medals because of "ludicrous" transgender policies. The controversy about those who live as women and want to take part in female

The Herald 6 **Starmer maintains stance on not returning to EU or single market under Labour** SIR Keir Starmer has insisted "there is no going back" into the EU or single market under Labour but that he would seek "a closer trading relationship" with the bloc if he became prime minister. The Labour leader, who campaigned for Remain in the 2016 vote, underlined his party's current position in an interview with the BBC yesterday. He said his party would seek to improve on the deal negotiated

Daily Mail (Scotland) 2 **SNP leaders at odds over 'de facto' indyref** THE SNP's Westminster leader has been branded 'out of touch' with Scots after claiming he still supports making the next general election a 'de facto' referendum. Stephen Flynn said he believes a UK general election is the best occasion for Nicola Sturgeon to seek a mandate for separation. It follows an embarrassing climbdown by the First Minister over the weekend, after she watered down her attempt to secure a mandate

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **This climbdown is a humiliation for Sturgeon, for her party... and for Scotland** THERE'S an old joke, sometimes attributed to Groucho Marx, about the cunning US politician who tells the voters: 'These are my principles, gentlemen, and if you don't like them, I can change them.' Nicola Sturgeon seems to have taken this philosophy to heart. We learned over the weekend that her de facto referendum strategy, unveiled in June, will now be rolled back in favour of a buy-one-get-one-free approach. SNP conference

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 9 **Flynn denies SNP rethinking indyref tactics** The SNP's leader at Westminster has denied the party is rowing back on its plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" referendum. At a "special democracy conference" in March, the SNP will decide the way forward to secure independence, whether through a de facto referendum, or by contesting the next Scottish Parliament election in 2026 on that basis. But speaking on the BBC's Sunday Show, Stephen

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **SNP's independence plan 'is not deflating'** THE SNP's Westminster leader has denied that Nicola Sturgeon's independence strategy is collapsing after she staged an extraordinary climbdown over using the next general election as a "de facto" referendum. Stephen Flynn said SNP members should be given a choice over the next steps after the First Minister watered down her pledge to use next year's Westminster election to obtain a mandate for separation. He denied that Ms Sturgeon's

The Herald 14 **Unionist strategy that is most likely to keep independence at bay** WE live in a world of hyperbolic political rhetoric, from the laughable to the dangerous, from Liz Truss's "anti-growth coalition" - which seemed to include everyone except her and her chancellor - to the Daily Mail's "Enemies of the People" headline demonising the judiciary. It is no different in Scotland. The past decade has seen an escalation in anti-secessionist rhetoric from Labour's politically ancient Tartan Tories attack line, through the

The National (Scotland) 4 **Cox: FM has been 'canny with approach to de facto referendum w EU**. ACTOR and independence supporter Brian Cox has said that Nicola Sturgeon has been "canny" in her approach to a de facto independence referendum. It was revealed on Saturday that SNP members will debate whether the next Westminster or Holyrood election should be used as a de facto referendum following reports that "major changes" were set to be made to the original plans. The move has proved divisive, with the Alba

The National (Scotland) 8 **Anti-union plan won't work for Sunak** RISHI Sunak's attempt to emulate Margaret Thatcher's battle against the unions in the 1980s will not work amid the cost of living crisis and labour shortages, experts have said. The unveiling of UK Government proposals on anti-strike legislation - which will apply in Scotland - has prompted a huge backlash, with Nicola Sturgeon pledging to fight the proposals "every step of the way". The bill will require certain sectors to

The National (Scotland) 8 **How a shin left by SNP could boost Yes campaign** COMMENT BY PROFESSOR GREGOR GALL THE struggles for independence and against austerity will run alongside each other in Scotland for the next two years at least. But can they run in train together in order to become bigger than the sum of their parts? Or, will it be more a case of 'never the twain shall meet'? This is a key issue for all those looking for a permanent progressive

The National (Scotland) 9 **Indy Scotland must challenge orthodoxy of Sunak and Starmer** IN this series of articles members of the Scottish Currency Group will outline the case for a separate Scottish currency - the Scottish Pound - to be established as soon as possible after independence; highlight the transformational opportunities this will enable to address present economic and social challenges facing Scotland; and answer questions about how the change is likely to affect households and businesses in practice THE independence movement is

The National (Scotland) 7 **MP sets out key points L to 'underpin' indyref debate** AN SNP MP has laid out six key points he says should "underpin" the debate on independence and de facto referendums. Stewart McDonald further said the world would be watching the decisions made by the SNP in their bid to give the Scottish people a second say on their constitutional future. It comes after the SNP's ruling body proposed two options for consideration at the "Special Democracy Conference" to be

The National (Scotland) 4 **SNP agree draft resolution for indyref2 meeting** SNP members will debate whether the next Westminster or Holyrood election should be used as a de facto independence referendum. The party's National Executive Committee (NEC) yesterday agreed the wording of a draft resolution to be discussed at its Special Democracy Conference in March. The option previously outlined by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon - for the SNP to fight the next General Election as a de facto referendum - is

The National (Scotland) 5 **'Scotland will be back', SNP say in message to EU** THE SNP have re-iterated their desire for an independent Scotland to return to the EU as it celebrates 30 years of the single market. This comes as MP Alyn Smith described the financial impact of Scotland leaving the EU as "catastrophic". He added that independence was the only way for the country to return. Speaking to The National, Smith said: "The SNP send their best wishes to our European allies

The National (Scotland) 17 **Clock is ticking L for PM's choice on democracy**

The National (Scotland) 4 **Flynn supporting UK election as de facto indy vote** STEPHEN Flynn has backed the next Westminster General Election as a de facto referendum on independence batting away the suggestion of dissolving Holyrood as unreasonable. The new SNP Westminster leader has come out in favour of fighting the next UK-wide poll on the single issue of independence after the party's ruling body put forward two options for members to debate at their upcoming special conference on the topic in March.

The National (Scotland) 6 **A De facto indyref is a gamble - but it's one worth taking** RISHI Sunak embarked on a blink-and-you'll-miss-it visit to Scotland last week. I think we're a fairly friendly bunch, but for some reason UK prime ministers treat trips up north as an obligation to be resentfully fulfilled: like a tax return, or a visit to see a difficult relative. Still, credit where it is due - he came: which is more than can be said for his predecessor Liz Truss. He

The Scotsman 1 **Flynn denies SNP retreat on 'de facto referendum'** Stephen Flynn, the SNP's leader at Westminster, has insisted the party is not rowing back on its pledge to fight the next general election as a "de facto referendum" on independence. The SNP will hold a "special democracy conference" in March after the Supreme Court ruled in November that Holyrood does not have the power to hold a vote without Westminster consent. 3 FULL STORY, PAGE 5

The Scotsman 5 **De facto referendum plan risks turning into an almighty mess** It is fair to say Nicola Sturgeon's plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" independence referendum has caused a degree of disquiet in the SNP. The First Minister herself is clear that the best route forward is still an agreed vote along the lines of 2014. But the UK Government has refused to consent to this, and the Supreme Court unanimously ruled the Scottish Parliament does

The Scotsman 5 **SNP denies rowing back on plan for de facto referendum at next general election** The SNP's Westminster leader has denied the party is rowing back on its plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" referendum as he insisted the scheme offers the best route forward. Stephen Flynn said the people of Scotland needed to be offered a choice "sooner rather than later", but added that debate is a good thing. The SNP is to hold a "special democracy conference" in

[Redacted]

Media Monitor | Media Monitoring Unit

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[Redacted]

Item 20:

From: [Redacted] Media Manager

Sent: 14 January 2023 09:57

To: Media Digest [Redacted]

Cc: John.Swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk; Shirley-anne.somerville2@parliament.scot; Humza.Yousaf.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Subject: Media digest: Saturday 14 December

Press Summary For Scottish Government

14 January 2023

Compiled By Precise

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- [4. JUSTICE](#)
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- [6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS](#)
- [7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT](#)
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- [10. CORPORATE](#)
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1. FIRST MINISTER

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **NHS staff pause strikes in hope of breakthrough** NHS strikes north of the Border have been put on hold to allow for further negotiations on pay. The GMB and Royal College of Nursing (RCN) are pausing moves for industrial action in an attempt to find an acceptable deal with the Scottish Government. If a compromise can be found, pay rises would be backdated to January. The negotiations are expected to take several weeks but the two unions

Daily Mail 18 **Stand up for women** MR Sunak has clearly decided to adopt a more placatory attitude towards Nicola Sturgeon than his predecessors. The chippy SNP leader was branded an 'attention seeker' by Liz Truss and there was no disguising her loathing for Boris Johnson. But however cordial their first meeting, the PM must not flinch from torpedoing her divisive transgender law. Ms Sturgeon's dangerous Bill - passed with Labour's help - makes it easier for

Daily Mail 8 **Sunak: I'm concerned over Scots gender law** RISHI Sunak is 'concerned' over Nicola Sturgeon's controversial Scottish law making it easier for trans people to change gender. The Bill allows trans people to self-identify without a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria, and lowers the minimum age that Scots can legally change their gender from 18 to 16. But it has provoked fears that abusive males could take advantage of the new system. Mr Sunak raised his concerns with

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Rishi's Scots triumph** RISHI Sunak's visit to Scotland has been an object lesson in political maturity and careful navigation of very choppy waters. The Prime Minister has not set a foot wrong, knowing that unforced errors can easily be turned into a fresh grievance by the SNP. A measured approach has not meant giving in to Nicola Sturgeon's every demand. The Prime Minister used his visit to roll out the latest sites for

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Why Sturgeon's smiling through gritted teeth** HOW very telling. You might have expected Nicola Sturgeon to have joined Rishi Sunak yesterday as the Prime Minister made his first trip to Scotland since moving into No 10. After all, their two governments were together unveiling a major new shared project that has the potential to create tens of thousands of well-paid jobs, in the form of two Scottish freeports. Yet when Mr Sunak's entourage rolled into Invergordon yesterday

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **New schism emerges in party over North Sea** THE SNP's Westminster leader has opened up a new split with Nicola Sturgeon by calling for the Cambo oil development to get the go-ahead. Stephen Flynn backed investment in the field 75 miles west of Shetland even though the First Minister has opposed it. He said it should only go ahead if it can pass a climate compatibility test, but he expects it would do so. Earlier this week, he

Daily Record 5 **The NHS 'played God' with my mum** FORMER nurse Lesley Roberts was furious when a hospital put a "do not resuscitate" order on her mum without the family's permission. Lesley, 50, from Greenock, claimed the NHS was "playing God" after the incident in June 2020. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at the time described the case involving her mother, Letitia, as "completely unacceptable" and said no orders should be signed without proper consultation. After her mum, Letitia, who

Daily Record 8 **Nat got your tongue?** RISHI Sunak dodged questions on independence and Prince Harry's controversial book on his first trip to Scotland as PM. The Prime Minister dismissed Nicola Sturgeon's demand to turn the general election into an independence vote - hours after a "constructive" relationship with her government. He claimed he would focus on "people's priorities" like the cost-of-living crisis. He also confirmed he is taking advice on whether the UK Government will block

Daily Record 9 **Behind the masks is a man you just can't trust** Rishi Sunak would probably dub his first trip to Scotland as Prime Minister as "operation nice Guy". the main reason for his fleeting visit was to announce two new green freeports. but he also wanted to hit reset on the poor relationship with the Scottish Government. his predecessor, Liz Truss, stupidly said First Minister Nicola Sturgeon should be ignored and dismissed her as an "attention seeker". by contrast, Sunak called

i (The paper for today) 11 **Ministers must conquer cross-border fear factor** Rishi Sunak's first trip to Scotland will have been agonised over by spin doctors and civil servants for weeks. The location choice of Cromarty certainly didn't go down particularly well with the journalists who found out that their Friday would involve a seven-hour round trip from Edinburgh. But the new Prime Minister has made a better start to his engagement with Scottish politics than his two immediate predecessors. In the

i (The paper for today) 2 **Government appoints business adviser** The Scottish Government has created a new role of chief business adviser, saying the move shows its commitment to working with the business community. Ellis Watson has been appointed by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Mr Watson has held senior positions at companies including John Menzies, First Group, News Corporation, Syco and DC Thomson.

The Daily Telegraph 19 **Nicola Sturgeon's failures** That there's no such thing as a free lunch has been a longstanding rule of life. However, Scots are now discovering that Nicola Sturgeon's policy of free university tuition fees also brings unwelcome outcomes. Results from Edinburgh University show that no middle-class pupil - or indeed any student from an ordinary family at an average school - gained admission to its law course. Only applicants from "socially deprived" backgrounds were

The Daily Telegraph 20 **Nicola Sturgeon's trans law is constitutional mischief, not another front in the culture war** In the war about sex and "gender", the two sides agree about only one thing: the stakes are high. It is about who each person is and how this can be determined. The fiery rhetorical atmosphere resembles that of Christian sects in 17th-century England, each believing they possess absolute truth and denouncing the other. In some ways, the ill feeling may actually be worse nowadays: in the 17th century, there

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 8 **Freeport means young need not leave home for work, says PM** FREEPORTS will help repopulate rural parts of the UK as young people will no longer have to move to the city to fulfil their career ambitions, Rishi Sunak has said as he unveiled one in the Scottish Highlands. The Prime Minister said the special economic zones would mean investment and jobs could be brought to youngsters rather than them having to leave home. He said they would help rural areas

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 8 **Sunak tries soft touch over SNP gender row** RISHI SUNAK has attempted to dial down a furious row over Nicola Sturgeon's controversial gender reforms but admitted he was concerned about their impact. Speaking on his first visit to Scotland as Prime Minister, he said it was "entirely reasonable and standard" to look at blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill, with a final decision expected next Wednesday. Despite the UK Government never having previously used its powers to

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sunak airs fears over SNP gender reforms** Rishi Sunak has attempted to dial down a furious row over Nicola Sturgeon's controversial gender reforms but said that he was concerned about their impact. Speaking on his first visit to Scotland as PM, he said it was "entirely reasonable" to look at blocking the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, with a final decision expected next Wednesday. He admitted he was worried about the potential effect of the legislation on the

The Guardian 9 **Private jets PM 'wasting public cash'** Rishi Sunak is accused by Labour of wasting taxpayers' money and making a mockery of the climate crisis strategy after taking a second private jet for a UK trip in a week. He made a journey in an RAF plane of roughly 90 minutes to Scotland for a two-day visit. He met the first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, in Inverness on Thursday before heading to nearby Cromarty Firth port, then returning

The Herald 21 **Our government must do more to support Scotland's vital industries** HUNDREDS of thousands of jobs. Billions of pounds in exports. Businesses that provide employment and investment to communities across the country. It would be hard to exaggerate the importance of our two biggest industries, oil and whisky, to Scotland's economic strength and resilience. And yet in the last few days a worrying question has become unavoidable for the men and women who work in these industries: is the Scottish Government

The Herald 21 **'I pure love the Irn-Bru, so I do'** As imagined by Brian Beacom JEEZY peeps - I've heard that's the phrase used in Scotland to describe a state of incredulity - and that's certainly how I felt when told I was coming up to meet your First Minister. Well, wouldn't you have reservations when your Scottish wingman Douglas uses the word 'despicable' to describe her actions? And, of course, my wife didn't help. "She could easily take you

The Herald 20 **A&E delays, excess deaths, and the 'new normal' for NHS** IT has been compared to playing "Russian roulette" with patients' lives and described by frontline healthcare workers as "inhumane", "horrific", and putting safety "at risk every day". Sir Robert Francis KC, chair of the inquiry into the Mid-Staffordshire Hospital scandal - a byword for

lethal negligence - warned in a letter to ministers last week that "what we are witnessing across the NHS is the Mid Staffs scandal playing out

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 7 **Westminster leader Flynn hints at SNP backing for Cambo** SNP Westminster chief Stephen Flynn claimed the Cambo oil field near Shetland should not be ruled out if it can successfully conform to climate change targets. The Aberdeen South MP hinted the controversial project would have the potential to boost Scotland's energy security during a cost-of-living crisis. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon previously signalled her opposition to the oil field in 2021 and said it should not be given the green

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 19 **Resilience committee meets to discuss NHS** Nicola Sturgeon has said "every possible step" will be taken to help the NHS, after the Scottish Government's resilience committee met yesterday to discuss rates of respiratory infections and efforts to clear delayed discharges in hospitals. As well as the first minister, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, the deputy first minister, the chief medical officer and NHS representatives attended the meeting. Earlier this week, Mr Yousaf announced an extra £8 million

The Scotsman 1 **NHS strikes put on hold after talks raise hopes** Threatened widespread strikes in the NHS in Scotland have been put on hold after a breakthrough in talks between unions and the Scottish Government. The Royal College of Nursing, which had been due to announce historic strike action within days, and the GMB union said last night they would not take action while new negotiations on a 2023 pay offer take place. The Royal College of Midwives, meanwhile, said it

The Scotsman 18 **Witch guide to Scotland** Last year Nicola Sturgeon gave one of these virtues signalling apologies to victims of persecution in the now distant past, in this case to the Scottish victims of witchhunts in, principally, the 16th and 17th centuries. The Church of Scotland offered its own apology, with a little more reason, since Kirk ministers were among the keenest witchhunters. Allyson Shaw, Scots by ancestry, Californian by upbringing, now a British citizen living in

The Scotsman 7 **On first visit to Scotland as PM, a noticeable break from precursors** Rishi Sunak's first trip to Scotland as Prime Minister marked a noticeable break from his predecessors. He was here to announce two new green freeports in areas around Inverness and the River Forth, a move he says will attract thousands of jobs and help tackle depopulation. Young people Mr Sunak had spoken to were "so pumped up" about the plans. On Thursday night, he had a working dinner with First

The Scotsman 22 **Co-operation is a hopeful sign** Rishi Sunak declared himself "absolutely delighted" to be making a joint announcement with Nicola Sturgeon about the location of Scotland's two new "excellent" green freeports. Meanwhile, Deputy First Minister John Swinney described the plans for the freeports in the Forth and Cromarty firths as a "milestone achievement". SNP and Tory leaders singing from the same hymn sheet, who would have thought it? Admittedly, Sturgeon's smile for the cameras seemed

The Scotsman 6 **Sunak dismisses Sturgeon's 'de facto' referendum plan** Rishi Sunak has dismissed Nicola Sturgeon's plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" referendum, hours after having a "robust" exchange with the First Minister on independence at a private dinner. The Prime Minister said "people vote for all sorts of things in general elections" as he insisted he was "passionately committed" to delivering for the people of Scotland. Mr Sunak was speaking in Invergordon on the

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Rishi v Nicola** RISHI Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon were all smiles as they shook hands before a private dinner on Thursday night. But it's anyone's guess if the First Minister will still be smiling after hearing the Prime Minister's views on her claim that the next General Election will be a "de facto referendum" on independence. No it won't, insisted Mr Sunak. The PM said that elections are multi-issue votes — and as

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **RISHI IN GENERAL REJECTION** RISHI Sunak dismissed Nicola Sturgeon's "de facto referendum" plans just hours after they met for dinner — as he insisted Scots voters are not a lost cause to the Tories. The Prime Minister yesterday rejected Ms Sturgeon's bid to turn the next General Election into a single issue Indy vote, claiming people cast their ballot on a number of issues. And he said he was "passionately committed" to delivering for

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **NHS STRIKES ON HOLD AMID PAY OFFER TALKS** HEALTH service unions last night put the threat of strikes on hold. NHS staff leaders revealed the pause after a breakthrough in talks with the Scottish Government. It was announced by the Royal College of Nursing's Pat Cullen after a meeting with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. She said: "Pressure from our members has been key to these negotiations moving forward." Bosses at the GMB and Royal College of Midwives also

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Gender Bill worry** PM IN SCOTLAND 2 MR Sunak revealed he is "concerned" about the new Scots gender law — but wouldn't say whether he plans to block it. The PM's government has until Wednesday to launch a legal challenge that could prevent the Bill coming into force. Mr Sunak said he was waiting on "final advice" but added: "What I'm concerned about is the impact of it across the United Kingdom." He

The Times 29 **Reunited Kingdom?** For much of the past eight years, the constituent parts of the United Kingdom have been engaged in a seemingly endless conflict. The Scottish independence referendum of 2014 begat a sharp rise in Scottish nationalism, which in turn fuelled a resurgence in English nationalism, which found expression in the Brexit referendum, whose outcome destabilised the fragile political balance in Northern Ireland. This turbulence has provided the backdrop to much of

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Nurses put strikes on hold after new pay dispute offer** The Royal College of Nursing Scotland has paused a formal announcement of strike action after further talks with SNP ministers. The Scottish government made new proposals including accelerated negotiations on the 2023 pay offer and an extra payment for staff. Talks took place yesterday between Nicola Sturgeon and Pat Cullen, the RCN chief executive and general secretary. This week the Scottish government met the RCN and the other trade unions

The Times (Scotland) 36 **'The UK needs a strategy for trans people rather than a tabloid war'** When Rishi Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon were pictured smiling together on Thursday evening the "optics" briefly delighted Iain Anderson. The garrulous Scot has been head of Stonewall only since November but for more than 20 years has run one of the UK's largest lobbying firms. He knows the body language of politics and all its verbal tics better than almost anyone "It all seemed entirely different," Anderson says. "I'm pleased

The Times (Scotland) 1 **SNP ready to row back on de facto referendum** Nicola Sturgeon is preparing to row back on her plan to make the next general election a "de facto referendum" on Scottish independence. The first minister said in June that she would begin negotiations to take Scotland out of the UK if parties that support leaving the union win more than 50 per cent of the popular vote at the next general election. The SNP's ruling national executive committee will

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Bed-blocking data 'hides scale of problem'** The scale of the bed-blocking crisis in Scottish hospitals is being hidden in official statistics, experts have said. In a joint response to the A&E crisis, leaders from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the British Geriatric Society Scotland warned that about 600 patients in "interim care places" had been excluded from the number of delayed discharges, which in November stood at nearly 2,000. This figure, the highest

The Times (Scotland) 12 **Sunak preparing to block Scottish gender bill** Rishi Sunak is poised to block Scottish laws that make it easier for people to change their gender, in an unprecedented move that will provoke a constitutional row. The Times has been told that new legal advice will pave the way for the government to stop Nicola Sturgeon's gender recognition laws from getting royal assent next week. The advice states that the legislation will have an adverse impact on UKwide

2. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND COVID RECOVERY

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Scottish NHS walkouts on hold** THE threat of Scottish NHS strike action was put on hold last night. Union leaders had rejected a 'best and final' 7.5 per cent average pay offer and vowed to walk out unless a better deal was put on the table. But after 'optimistic talks' yesterday with Deputy First Minister John Swinney and Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, agreement seemed closer. The GMB, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Royal College

Daily Record 9 **TIDE TURNS FOR Inverness & FORTH AREAS** around Inverness and the River Forth have been awarded green freeport status. The two winning zones were formally announced yesterday morning as Sunak visited Scotland. The status offers the two areas tax incentives and lower tariffs, with the aim of stimulating economic growth. Five regions in Scotland had bids for freeport status with the winners selected by both governments. The sites have been backed by up to £52million

i (The paper for today) 11 **Freeports in the Highlands will halt exodus of young people, says Sunak** The creation of a new low-tax "freeport" in the Scottish Highlands will help prevent depopulation by giving young people a reason to stay, the Prime Minister has claimed. Rishi Sunak said the tens of millions of pounds of investment being put into the Cromarty Firth would allow young people to "fulfil all their dreams and ambitions" without leaving home. He was speaking as he announced two new low-tax zones covering

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 8 **Freeport means young need not leave home for work, says PM** FREEPORTS will help repopulate rural parts of the UK as young people will no longer have to move to the city to fulfil their career ambitions, Rishi Sunak has said as he unveiled one in the Scottish Highlands. The Prime Minister said the special economic zones would mean investment and jobs could be brought to youngsters rather than them having to leave home. He said they would help rural areas

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 6 **North-east calls for aid after its freeport defeat** The North East Scotland Green Freeport (NESGF) consortium has said it is "bitterly disappointed" it failed in its bid to win special tax and regulation status in Aberdeen and Peterhead. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak yesterday confirmed Cromarty Firth and Forth Ports as the areas selected to be a green freeport by the UK and Scottish Governments. The NESGF consortium was led by Port of Aberdeen, Peterhead Port Authority, Aberdeen International

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Green freeport will bring 'huge economic boost'** The two Scottish bids to become job-creating "freeports" with special tax status have been confirmed by the UK and Scottish governments two days after we exclusively revealed the winners. Cromarty Firth, which operates in the Highlands, and Forth Ports were officially named as "green freeports" while Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visited Scotland. The new sites have been backed by up to £52 million in UK Government funding and ministers

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 6 **Green freeports: What are they and what are the pros and cons?** Green freeports are like buses - you wait a long time and then two come along at once. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was in Scotland for the first time since taking the top job to confirm the establishment of a green freeport on the Cromarty Firth and Inverness and another in the Central Belt. The status is seen as a win for the two areas as it is expected to

The Scotsman 6 **Green freeports 'will create 75,000 jobs and reverse depopulation'** Scotland's first green freeports will attract as many as 75,000 new jobs and help reverse depopulation in the Highlands, Rishi Sunak has claimed. Areas around Inverness and the River Forth have been awarded the status under a scheme agreed by the Scottish and UK governments. The two winning bids were announced yesterday as the Prime Minister made his first official visit to Scotland. Freeport status offers special tax incentives and

The Scotsman 22 **Co-operation is a hopeful sign** Rishi Sunak declared himself "absolutely delighted" to be making a joint announcement with Nicola Sturgeon about the location of Scotland's two new "excellent" green freeports. Meanwhile, Deputy First Minister John Swinney described the plans for the freeports in the Forth and Cromarty firths as a "milestone achievement". SNP and Tory leaders singing from the same hymn sheet, who would have thought it? Admittedly, Sturgeon's smile for the cameras seemed

The Scotsman 7 **On first visit to Scotland as PM, a noticeable break from precursors** Rishi Sunak's first trip to Scotland as Prime Minister marked a noticeable break from his predecessors. He was here to announce two new green freeports in areas around Inverness and the River Forth, a move he says will attract thousands of jobs and help tackle depopulation. Young people Mr Sunak had spoken to were "so pumped up" about the plans. On Thursday night, he had a working dinner with First

The Scotsman 4 **Drugs funding cut by £1m by SNP/Greens, documents reveal** SNP/Green ministers approved a cut of £1 million to the alcohol and drugs budget as part of their £1.2 billion spending reduction drive, documents have revealed. The figure comes just two days after drugs policy minister Angela Constance pledged £68m over the next three years as part of a new action plan on drug deaths in Holyrood, failing to mention the cut to the in-year budget. John Swinney announced the

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Green freeport snub 'will further damage northeast'** A billionaire businessman and philanthropist has accused the UK and Scottish governments of pursuing "economically damaging" policies after it was confirmed that Aberdeen would not be selected as a green freeport. Sir Ian Wood said Westminster's energy profits levy and Holyrood's presumption against new oil and gas licences would hinder investment in the northeast at a time when it is badly needed. Wood, 80, said he was "hugely disappointed" that

3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **Teachers plan more walkouts** CHILDREN across Scotland are set to miss more days of school as a teaching union has announced 22 additional days of strikes. The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) said the new strike days are in addition to the previously announced 16-day programme of strike action set to begin next week. Its executive committee met on Friday and agreed on two days of strikes in all schools and sectors on February

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Teachers pile on the misery for parents with 22 more strikes** TEACHERS have announced another 22 days of school-shutting strikes in an ongoing pay dispute. Union bosses said the three weeks of action will be in addition to the 16-day programme of rolling strikes starting next week. Scotland's biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), said it had agreed the strike action yesterday, which will include two days of walkouts in all schools on February 28 and March 1,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Scottish NHS walkouts on hold** THE threat of Scottish NHS strike action was put on hold last night. Union leaders had rejected a 'best and final' 7.5 per cent average pay offer and vowed to walk out unless a better deal was put on the table. But after 'optimistic talks' yesterday with Deputy First Minister John Swinney and Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, agreement seemed closer. The GMB, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Royal College

Daily Record 2 **TEACHERS' WALKOUT ON AS NEGOTIATIONS FAIL** The bad news.. A TEACHING union last night warned of further strike action unless the Scottish Government puts forward a suitable pay offer. The Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association (SSTA) said it has "no option" but to consider more walkouts and other measures after pay talks between the Scottish Government, local government body Cosla and teaching unions failed. Union leaders will meet next week to discuss new strike dates. The SSTA

The Daily Telegraph 19 **Nicola Sturgeon's failures** That there's no such thing as a free lunch has been a longstanding rule of life. However, Scots are now discovering that Nicola Sturgeon's policy of free university tuition fees also brings unwelcome outcomes. Results from Edinburgh University show that no middle-class pupil - or indeed any student from an ordinary family at an average school - gained admission to its law course. Only applicants from "socially deprived" backgrounds were

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Councillors' rift on school strike motion** An Aberdeen councillor has called for the head of the council's education committee to step down due to "split" opinions on the teaching strikes. Aberdeen Labour's motion on "the best way forward" during industrial action was discussed during a special meeting of Aberdeen City Council on Tuesday. Councillor Deena Tissera said missing class due to strikes is not in the best interest of children and young people. Group leaders were

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 14 **University issues content warning on Russian ballet** Aberdeen University has issued yet another content warning - this time over a ballet that depicts the death of a puppet. The 1911 Russian ballet *Petrushka* has been given a content warning due to the "potentially distressing" nature of an on-stage death in the show. It tells the story of a trio of magical puppets who have been brought to life but ends in tragedy after a character is killed

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 4 **ASN pupils 'used as pawns' against striking teachers** Parents at Drummond School filed an official complaint claiming that Highland Council discriminated against students at the additional support needs (ASN) school in Inverness. Their claim is based on the fact that Drummond was closed for two days, January 10 and 11, during this week's teacher strikes. Most schools across the region, including mainstream schools in Highland Council and ASN schools in the north east, only missed one day. Dave

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 19 **Teachers to strike for 22 more days in dispute over wages** Children across Scotland are to miss more days of school as a teaching union has announced 22 additional days of strikes in the ongoing pay dispute. The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) said the new strike days are in addition to the previously announced 16-day programme of rolling strike action, set to begin in schools across the country next week. The EIS executive committee met yesterday and agreed action that

The Scotsman 4 **Drugs funding cut by £1m by SNP/Greens, documents reveal** SNP/Green ministers approved a cut of £1 million to the alcohol and drugs budget as part of their £1.2 billion spending reduction drive, documents have revealed. The figure comes just two days after drugs policy minister Angela Constance pledged £68m over the next three years as part of a new action plan on drug deaths in Holyrood, failing to mention the cut to the in-year budget. John Swinney announced the

The Scotsman 4 **School sex abusers jailed** Two ex-employees of a residential school have been jailed for a total of 28 years for multiple charges of physical and sexual abuse of former pupils. Matthew George, 73, and John Muldoon, 69, physically and sexually abused children in their care while they were both employed at Kerelaw Residential School in Stevenston, North Ayrshire, which was then known as a "List D" secure establishment for vulnerable or troubled youngsters. The

The Scotsman 18 **University staff strikes could have 'damaging impact' on students, union warned** Planned strikes by university staff could have a damaging effect on students, employers have warned. More than 70,000 staff at 150 universities across the UK will strike for 18 days between February and March in disputes over pay, conditions and pensions. The University and College Union (UCU) said the precise dates of the action will be confirmed next week. The union will also re-ballot staff at all 150 universities to

The Scotsman 5 **Teaching union unveils 22 more days of school strike action** Children across Scotland are set to miss more days of school as a teaching union has announced 22 additional days of strikes in the ongoing pay dispute. The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) said the new strike days are in addition to the previously announced 16-day programme of rolling strike action, set to begin in schools across the country next week. The EIS executive committee met yesterday and agreed action

The Sun (Scotland) 14 **'HUGE GAPS' IN UNI SEX ASSAULT POLICY FEARS** FEARS have been raised over "huge gaps" in sex assault policies at unis. Rape victim Ellie Wilson, 25, insisted the system — which allowed her attacker to switch to another Scots institution — needs a "complete overhaul". Fellow student Daniel McFarlane, 24, was suspended by Glasgow Uni after being charged in 2020 with raping Ellie twice. But she was horrified to discover the predator had later been able to enrol

Times Higher Education 6 **Student visa crackdown 'would harm whole sector'** London-based universities and post-92 institutions would be hit hardest if a crackdown on UK international student visas goes ahead, analysis reveals. The UK sector is more reliant on international student revenue now than it was the last time there were serious threats to overseas recruitment, during the prime ministership of Theresa May (2016-19). In 2020-21, tuition fees from non-European Union students were worth about £7 billion to universities,

4. JUSTICE

The Herald 15 **As HMP Glasgow blueprints are drawn up, the notorious Barlinnie has served its time** TEENAGER Anthony Joseph Miller's last words before execution could scarcely have been more gut-wrenching. Just 19 years old, baby faced and with plans to finish his apprenticeship as a cabinet maker, he came from a respectable, hard-working family in the south-side of Glasgow. However, three days before Christmas 1960, Miller would become the last teenager to be executed in the UK and the last inmate to be led to the

Daily Mail (Scotland) 22 **Top judge: Give under-25 thugs less jail time, they lack self-control** YOUNG criminals should be given more lenient jail terms as they have no self-control until at least the age of 25, a High Court judge has said. Lady Dorrian said the 'areas of the brain governing emotion develop before those which assist with self-control' which she said explains the 'emotionally driven behaviour' of under-25s. She spoke out after the introduction of a controversial guideline devised by the Scottish Sentencing Council

The Times (Scotland) 13 **'Knock and run away' may qualify as hate incident** Police should record children knocking doors and running away as "hate incidents" if the resident claims they were deliberately targeted, it has emerged. Officials working for the Scottish Children's Commissioner are to meet Police Scotland to discuss minors accused of "non-crime hate incidents", which have the potential to trigger interventions from social services. In crime recording guidance "chapdoor-runaway" is given as the primary example of a potential non-crime hate incident.

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Daily Express (Scotland) 7 **NHS staff pause strikes in hope of breakthrough** NHS strikes north of the Border have been put on hold to allow for further negotiations on pay. The GMB and Royal College of Nursing (RCN) are pausing moves for industrial action in an attempt to find an acceptable deal with the Scottish Government. If a compromise can be found, pay rises would be backdated to January. The negotiations are expected to take several weeks but the two unions

Daily Mail (Scotland) 4 **Scottish NHS walkouts on hold** THE threat of Scottish NHS strike action was put on hold last night. Union leaders had rejected a 'best and final' 7.5 per cent average pay offer and vowed to walk out unless a better deal was put on the table. But after 'optimistic talks' yesterday with Deputy First Minister John Swinney and Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, agreement seemed closer. The GMB, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Royal College

Daily Record 2 **Beds plan 'might be impossible'** DOCTORS have applauded the Scottish Government's plan to free up hospital beds. But the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh believes it could be "almost impossible" to recruit the social care staff required under the proposals. It comes after Health Secretary Humza Yousaf pledged £8million to secure about 300 additional beds to alleviate "bed blocking" and reduce pressure on A&E services. Public Health Scotland data for November shows the average

Daily Record 1 **DO NOT RESUSCITATE** A SUPERFIT mum told of her shock on learning her medical file was marked: "Do not resuscitate." Teacher Fiona McVey, 44, has a heart condition which could cause cardiac arrest. After a flare-up last week she saw the file held by the 999 crew who picked her up. The keen skier and climber said: "I love life and I most certainly want medics to do all they can to bring

Daily Record 5 **The NHS 'played God' with my mum** FORMER nurse Lesley Roberts was furious when a hospital put a "do not resuscitate" order on her mum without the family's permission. Lesley, 50, from Greenock, claimed the NHS was "playing God" after the incident in June 2020. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at the time described the case involving her mother, Letitia, as "completely unacceptable" and said no orders should be signed without proper consultation. After her mum, Letitia, who

Daily Record 2 **HEALTH STAFF PUT STRIKES ON HOLD FOR FRESH TALKS** NURSES, midwives and ambulance workers have halted planned strike action after a last-ditch offer over next year's wage negotiations. The GMB, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Royal College of Midwives have been in talks with Health Secretary Humza Yousaf in a bid to find a compromise which would end threats of strikes. While there is no more money on the table for this year, an accelerated start to next

Daily Record 4 **I am just 44 and love life.. I was horrified to see I was marked DO NOT RESUSCITATE** AN ALL-ACTION teacher with a heart condition was shocked to find her medical records instructing paramedics not to give CPR if she suffered a cardiac arrest. Superfit Fiona McVey, 44, is now demanding to know if health authorities are routinely marking files with such instructions due to the current NHS crisis. Primary school teacher Fiona, from Clydebank, was taken to hospital in an ambulance after an infection caused a flare-up

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 23 **Labour calls for caution as Covid survey nears end** The Government should not end the Covid-19 infection survey without first consulting Sir Chris Whitty and Sir Patrick Vallance, Labour has warned. The study by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which shows how many people are infected with

coronavirus at any one time, will expire in March, and ministers have not yet decided whether to renew it. Wes Streeting, Labour's shadow Health Secretary, told i: "I would really like

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 7 **Nurses' strikes on hold as pay talks resume** The threat of widespread strikes in Scotland's NHS has been put on hold while health unions take part in intensive negotiations with ministers on a pay offer for this year. The GMB and Royal College of Midwives (RCM), which have been threatening industrial action similar to that taken in England, said last night they were optimistic of a breakthrough. The two unions and the Royal College of Nursing all rejected

The Herald 22 **Let refugees help care homes** HUMZA Yousof's proposal to alleviate the bed blocking crisis ("Extra £8m for care beds to ease winter crisis in NHS", The Herald, January 11) is facing the difficulty of attracting enough staff because of the low wages on offer. However, the Scottish Government could make a proposal to the Home Office to take on and train up refugees to fill the vacancies in some of Scotland's care homes. I'm sure

The Herald 20 **Helping to give patients a voice in our hospitals** A YOUNG lady named Iris visited her elderly father in hospital last year. She saw that the medical staff were taking great care of him, but as she was leaving she happened to overhear a conversation between two porters behind a screen in which they referred to her father and to other patients in the ward in a way which was deeply offensive. Iris was shocked and upset. She didn't

The Herald 20 **A&E delays, excess deaths, and the 'new normal' for NHS** IT has been compared to playing "Russian roulette" with patients' lives and described by frontline healthcare workers as "inhumane", "horrific", and putting safety "at risk every day". Sir Robert Francis KC, chair of the inquiry into the Mid-Staffordshire Hospital scandal - a byword for lethal negligence - warned in a letter to ministers last week that "what we are witnessing across the NHS is the Mid Staffs scandal playing out

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 19 **Resilience committee meets to discuss NHS** Nicola Sturgeon has said "every possible step" will be taken to help the NHS, after the Scottish Government's resilience committee met yesterday to discuss rates of respiratory infections and efforts to clear delayed discharges in hospitals. As well as the first minister, Health Secretary Humza Yousof, the deputy first minister, the chief medical officer and NHS representatives attended the meeting. Earlier this week, Mr Yousof announced an extra £8 million

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 19 **Bed blocking solution needs more staff, not just beds, say medics** Health experts have cautiously welcomed the Scottish Government's plan to free up hospital beds, but voiced fears it may be "almost impossible" to recruit the extra social care staff required. The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) and British Geriatric Society (BGS) Scotland issued a joint response to Health Secretary Humza Yousof's announcement earlier this week of extra funding to provide more interim care home beds. The £8 million

The Scotsman 4 **Drugs funding cut by £1m by SNP/Greens, documents reveal** SNP/Green ministers approved a cut of £1 million to the alcohol and drugs budget as part of their £1.2 billion spending reduction drive, documents have revealed. The figure comes just two days after drugs policy minister Angela Constance pledged £68m over the next three years as part of a new action plan on drug deaths in Holyrood, failing to mention the cut to the in-year budget. John Swinney announced the

The Scotsman 1 **NHS strikes put on hold after talks raise hopes** Threatened widespread strikes in the NHS in Scotland have been put on hold after a breakthrough in talks between unions and the Scottish Government. The Royal College of Nursing, which had been due to announce historic strike action within days, and the GMB union said last night they would not take action while new negotiations on a 2023 pay offer take place. The Royal College of Midwives, meanwhile, said it

The Scotsman 19 **Whisky industry outcry as Government 'dismisses heritage and culture'** Scottish Government officials have been slammed for claiming the only difference between a single malt whisky and any other drink is "good PR". The statement was made in an official Scottish Government document published in November to accompany a consultation on curbing alcohol advertising. It stated that, "without branding and other marketing strategies, alcohol products in each beverage sub-sector are essentially variations of the same thing". But whisky experts were

The Scotsman 16 **Union fury over care deal going private** Unions have claimed awarding another six-figure contract around the National Care Service to a private company would "make a mockery" of promises to 'co-design' the service, amid calls to abandon the plans altogether. It follows figures in October last year that showed £1.6 million had been paid to external, private consultancy firms by the Scottish Government on contracts connected to the National Care Service (NCS). Trade unions said then the

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **NHS STRIKES ON HOLD AMID PAY OFFER TALKS** HEALTH service unions last night put the threat of strikes on hold. NHS staff leaders revealed the pause after a breakthrough in talks with the Scottish Government. It was announced by the Royal College of Nursing's Pat Cullen after a meeting with First Minister Nicola

Sturgeon. She said: "Pressure from our members has been key to these negotiations moving forward." Bosses at the GMB and Royal College of Midwives also

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Bed-blocking data 'hides scale of problem'** The scale of the bed-blocking crisis in Scottish hospitals is being hidden in official statistics, experts have said. In a joint response to the A&E crisis, leaders from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the British Geriatric Society Scotland warned that about 600 patients in "interim care places" had been excluded from the number of delayed discharges, which in November stood at nearly 2,000. This figure, the highest

The Times (Scotland) 2 **Nurses put strikes on hold after new pay dispute offer** The Royal College of Nursing Scotland has paused a formal announcement of strike action after further talks with SNP ministers. The Scottish government made new proposals including accelerated negotiations on the 2023 pay offer and an extra payment for staff. Talks took place yesterday between Nicola Sturgeon and Pat Cullen, the RCN chief executive and general secretary. This week the Scottish government met the RCN and the other trade unions

6. RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

Daily Mail (Scotland) 7 **Backlash as SNP suggests 'all whiskies are the same'** It is worth billions of pounds every year to the economy, not to mention being Scotland's national drink. But the Scottish Government has been accused of dismissing 'centuries of heritage' by suggesting that all single malt whiskies are the same. A government consultation paper implied that any difference is due to public relations. Published as part of a bid to curb alcohol advertising, it said that, without branding, 'alcohol products

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 5 **Bird flu kills 1,000 birds in seventh reported outbreak in Buchan area** Another outbreak of bird flu has been reported at a property near Fraserburgh, resulting in the death of 1,000 hens. This most recent outbreak is the seventh to occur in the Banff and Buchan area, with concerns about the long-term viability of poultry farms across the north-east. The previous six outbreaks resulted in the deaths of 230,000 birds in the run-up to Christmas. Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer Jesus Gallego confirmed

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 3 **Farming so vital to our area** Farming is one of the most important sectors in the north and north-east economy, and a key component of your Saturday P&J. And I know that many of you buy this paper specifically for our farming coverage. Today, is our first weekend pull-out written and curated by our new farming editor, Katrina MacArthur. I am personally excited to see the contribution Katrina can make. Katrina is from a farming background

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 17 **Islanders' challenges outlined in radio show on ferries** The challenges faced by Scottish islanders who rely on ferry services have been explored in a radio documentary. In the BBC Radio 4 show, Scotland's Ships, journalist Michael Buchanan - originally from the Isle of Barra - explains how milestones are "wrapped up in the ferries". He has travelled around Barra, Mull and Coll to speak to those who rely on the sailings, including businesses such as Barra Atlantic who

The Scotsman 18 **Here's the catch: Call for anglers to help tackle invasion of alien fish in Scottish rivers** River managers and conservationists are calling for help as they warn of a potential invasion of foreign fish that pose a risk to Scotland's vanishing wild salmon. The plea comes as an influx of non-native pink salmon is anticipated to hit Scottish rivers this year. The species originates from the west coasts of the US, Canada and northern Asia, but was introduced to Russian rivers in the 1960s. The fish

The Scotsman 2 **Whisky industry could face triple whammy** Although the start of a year heralds things to look forward to - and in whisky this means new distillery openings and bottlings - it can also mean change that may not be as positive. August is scheduled to see the introduction of Scotland's deposit return scheme (DRS), which will involve consumers being charged a 20 pence deposit when they buy a drink that comes in a single-use container

The Times (Scotland) 38 **Distillers fear drinks marketing ban** Proposals to ban alcohol marketing in Scotland would "dismiss centuries of heritage, craft and skill" in Scotch whisky making, and risk distillery visitor centres being boarded up, an expert has said. The consultation for proposals to put alcoholic beverages on a similar footing to cigarettes states that "without branding and other marketing strategies, alcohol products in each beverage sub-sector are essentially variations of the same thing". The government document also

7. NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Why Sturgeon's smiling through gritted teeth** HOW very telling. You might have expected Nicola Sturgeon to have joined Rishi Sunak yesterday as the Prime Minister made his first trip to Scotland since moving into No 10. After all, their two governments were together unveiling a major new shared project that has the potential to create tens of thousands of well-paid jobs, in the form of two Scottish freeports. Yet when Mr Sunak's entourage rolled into Invergordon yesterday

Daily Mail (Scotland) 8 **New schism emerges in party over North Sea** THE SNP's Westminster leader has opened up a new split with Nicola Sturgeon by calling for the Cambo oil development to get the go-ahead. Stephen Flynn backed investment in the field 75 miles west of Shetland even though the First Minister has opposed it. He said it should only go ahead if it can pass a climate compatibility test, but he expects it would do so. Earlier this week, he

The Daily Mirror (Scotland) 8 **One-time use plastics ban from autumn** PLASTIC cutlery and polystyrene cups are to be banned in England. The ban on single-use plastics will also cover plates, takeaway dishes and balloon sticks. The ban, from October, will not apply to plates, trays, and bowls in shelf-ready pre-packaged items. There are 2.7 billion items of plastic cutlery used in England yearly, with only 10% recycled. Bans are already in force in Scotland and Wales. Environment Secretary Theresa Coffey said:

The Herald 6 **Laughing gas** NET Zero Secretary Michael Matheson appeared to have more appealing things on his mind as he delivered the Scottish Government's energy strategy on Tuesday. At one point, he tried to list four projects getting funding in the north-east, the last of which he said was "the Aberdeen hydrogen pub". As he and other MSPs sniggered, he added: "Sorry. Aberdeen hydrogen pub?! It's an idea, but I couldn't see the Scottish

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 10 **Bus depot can install electric charge stations** First Bus will install electric vehicle charging facilities at its Aberdeen depot - bringing 24 new zero-emission vehicles to the city. The firm lodged plans with the city council to install transformer substations, rapid battery chargers and power units at its King Street yard. It was submitted after First Bus revealed it placed an £8.1 million order for the new state-of-the-art electric vehicles in September. Acoustic fencing around the new

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 7 **Westminster leader Flynn hints at SNP backing for Cambo** SNP Westminster chief Stephen Flynn claimed the Cambo oil field near Shetland should not be ruled out if it can successfully conform to climate change targets. The Aberdeen South MP hinted the controversial project would have the potential to boost Scotland's energy security during a cost-of-living crisis. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon previously signalled her opposition to the oil field in 2021 and said it should not be given the green

The Scotsman 21 **Scotland's future as a 'renewables powerhouse' depends on the UK** As a fitting corrective on the day the Scottish Government published its energy strategy, figures emerged for payments to windfarms for not generating electricity. Last year, the cost was £227 million which was up from £143 million the year before. The vast majority came to Scotland including £100 million to two offshore windfarms, Beatrice and Moray East. The £227 million was borne by the broad shoulders of British consumers,

The Scotsman 25 **What will save us from demon drink?** One of the more depressing sights in Edinburgh at Christmas and New Year is the utter carnage induced by drink. More often than not, the city looks like the last days of Rome, mucky and covered in last night's sick, with drunks urinating in any darkened space they can find. That joy is followed by crowds piling into a kebab shop, getting into a fight, and falling over each

The Times (Scotland) 34 **Litter charity urges single-use vape ban** A Scottish environmental charity has called for a ban on single-use vapes to help tackle a "litter emergency". About 400,000 Scots are believed to vape regularly, and a large proportion buy the one-use variety. Anti-litter campaigners say that despite official advice to dispose of the plastic tubes responsibly, they are becoming a big problem. Keep Scotland Beautiful, a charity, is calling on the Scottish government to ban the single-use appliances,

8. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

Daily Express 15 **75,000 new jobs in freeports plan** THE Prime Minister says two new green freeports are about to "unleash" their potential by creating more than 75,000 jobs. Both the UK and Scottish governments yesterday confirmed new sites would be established in Firth of Forth and Inverness and Cromarty. Rishi Sunak, on a visit to Scotland, said: "In extending the benefits of freeports, we are unleashing the potential of the Firth of Forth and Inverness and Cromarty Firth,

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Why Sturgeon's smiling through gritted teeth** HOW very telling. You might have expected Nicola Sturgeon to have joined Rishi Sunak yesterday as the Prime Minister made his first trip to Scotland since moving into No 10. After all, their two governments were together unveiling a major new shared project that has the potential to create tens of thousands of well-paid jobs, in the form of two Scottish freeports. Yet when Mr Sunak's entourage rolled into Invergordon yesterday

Daily Mail (Scotland) 9 **Freeport jobs boost 'could stem exodus from Highlands'** THE creation of new Scottish freeports can help reverse Highland depopulation, Rishi Sunak has claimed. The Prime Minister confirmed that the Cromarty Firth and Forth areas will be Scotland's first 'green freeports'. Mr Sunak also claimed the one in the Cromarty Firth, pictured, would address fears about young people leaving the Highlands after a survey showed nearly half planned to do so by 2028. Companies will receive such benefits as

i (The paper for today) 2 **Government appoints business adviser** The Scottish Government has created a new role of chief business adviser, saying the move shows its commitment to working with the business community. Ellis Watson has been appointed by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Mr Watson has held senior positions at companies including John Menzies, First Group, News Corporation, Syco and DC Thomson.

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 8 **Freeport means young need not leave home for work, says PM** FREEPORTS will help repopulate rural parts of the UK as young people will no longer have to move to the city to fulfil their career ambitions, Rishi Sunak has said as he unveiled one in the Scottish Highlands. The Prime Minister said the special economic zones would mean investment and jobs could be brought to youngsters rather than them having to leave home. He said they would help rural areas

The Guardian 9 **Private jets PM 'wasting public cash'** Rishi Sunak is accused by Labour of wasting taxpayers' money and making a mockery of the climate crisis strategy after taking a second private jet for a UK trip in a week. He made a journey in an RAF plane of roughly 90 minutes to Scotland for a two-day visit. He met the first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, in Inverness on Thursday before heading to nearby Cromarty Firth port, then returning

The Herald 4 **Young people in Highlands 'pumped up' by chance of jobs in their region** THE creation of green freeports in Scotland could help combat depopulation in the Highlands, Rishi Sunak has said. Speaking in Invergordon on the Cromarty Firth, the Prime Minister said the new jobs attracted to the enterprise zones would help young people stay in the region. He said young people he had spoken to locally were "pumped up" about its arrival, and he "completely believed" it would help stem depopulation in

The Herald 20 **Freeport benefits bypass west of Scotland** TWO Scottish teams were celebrating after winning a controversial green freeport competition giving status that it is estimated will create 75,000 new jobs and generate £1.8 billion of investment. However, you have to ask if cap-in-hand cash prize contests are the best way to build a confident economy for growth with results that leave "Scotland's entire west coast overlooked" and the north east feeling the brunt of a double energy

The Herald 5 **Conservatives not 'lost cause' in Scotland** RISHI Sunak has insisted Scotland is not a "lost cause" for the Conservatives despite recent dire polling figures. The Prime Minister said he was "passionately committed" to delivering for everyone in Scotland, and intended to show his government was working for them. A YouGov poll in October found just 12 per cent of voters north of the Border would vote for the Tories if there was a General Election tomorrow,

The Herald 21 **Our government must do more to support Scotland's vital industries** HUNDREDS of thousands of jobs. Billions of pounds in exports. Businesses that provide employment and investment to communities across the country. It would be heard to exaggerate the importance of our two biggest industries, oil and whisky, to Scotland's economic strength and resilience. And yet in the last few days a worrying question has become unavoidable for the men and women who work in these industries: is the Scottish Government

The Press and Journal (Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire) 7 **Winners expect net-zero economic boom** Green freeports are like buses - you wait a long time and then two come at once. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was in Scotland for the first time since taking the top job to confirm the establishment of a green freeport on the Cromarty Firth and Inverness and another in the Central Belt. The status is seen as a win for the two areas as it is expected to attract

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 8 **Cromarty Firth's new freeport status raises environmental fears** Concerns have been raised the new freeport in Cromarty Firth would come at a cost to the environment. The newly announced freeport status for the Port of Cromarty Firth and Port of Inverness in the Highlands is expected to create hundreds of jobs through investment from energy companies and offshore wind. But there are fears it may also come with a cost to the environment. Greens finance spokesman Ross Greer

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 12 **Space race heats up with Scottish launch in sight** Scotland's space sector is soaring fast - and the UK's first orbital launch looks set to take place in one of the north's two spaceports. The sites at Unst in Shetland, and A'Mhoine in Sutherland, are gearing up for lift-off - and the recent failure of the Virgin Orbit launch in Cornwall hasn't dampened spirits. After taking off from Cornwall, the Virgin Orbit plane flew to 35,000ft over the Atlantic

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 42 **Concerns still remain after freeport choice** The official naming of Scotland's green freeports is a wonderful victory in many respects but it also marks the beginning of a journey. While the magnificent prospect of thousands of new Highland jobs is exciting, things won't change overnight; there is hard work to be done in order to fulfil the potential of the Cromarty Firth freeport. In the north-east, business leaders and locals are feeling disappointment and frustration over

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **PM: Freeport can halt north exodus** PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak said yesterday's freeports success for the Highlands can halt population decline in the region. Mr Sunak made a flying visit north to officially name Opportunity Cromarty Firth as one of Scotland's two winning bids for the special tax

status. He said it will support "the delivery of thousands of highquality green jobs for future generations" and that the region's full potential can be "unleashed". The prime

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 10 **Evri apology 'meaningless' as woes go on** An Inverness woman has stayed clear of Evri ever since the delivery firm blundered the delivery of five consecutive parcels. The company issued an apology this week as customers across the country are still not receiving packages on time or at all. They say staff shortages, Royal Mail strikes and bad weather have contributed to the problems and that they were working to sort them out. Back in November, Bex

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Freeport jobs joy** PM IN SCOTLAND 4 NEW green freeports will help combat depopulation in rural parts of Scotland, the PM claimed. Mr Sunak confirmed two low-tariff zones at Inverness and Cromarty Firth plus the Forth. Talking at Invergordon, Easter Ross, he said the plans will be backed by £52million in UK Government funding and will create up to 75,000 jobs. The Tory leader added: "We've seen them work around the world and

The Times (Scotland) 8 **Brexit issues drove revival** A lot has happened since Rishi Sunak announced plans by the Conservative government almost two years ago to bring back freeports, ditched in 2012. The prime minister's visit to Scotland this week coincided with the official announcement of the selection of Cromarty Firth and the Firth of Forth as the two Scottish green freeports. The revival of freeports came as a response to Brexit with the opportunity for reduced tariff barriers

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Daily Mail 18 **Stand up for women** MR Sunak has clearly decided to adopt a more placatory attitude towards Nicola Sturgeon than his predecessors. The chippy SNP leader was branded an 'attention seeker' by Liz Truss and there was no disguising her loathing for Boris Johnson. But however cordial their first meeting, the PM must not flinch from torpedoing her divisive transgender law. Ms Sturgeon's dangerous Bill - passed with Labour's help - makes it easier for

Daily Mail 8 **Sunak: I'm concerned over Scots gender law** RISHI Sunak is 'concerned' over Nicola Sturgeon's controversial Scottish law making it easier for trans people to change gender. The Bill allows trans people to self-identify without a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria, and lowers the minimum age that Scots can legally change their gender from 18 to 16. But it has provoked fears that abusive males could take advantage of the new system. Mr Sunak raised his concerns with

Daily Mail (Scotland) 9 **My concern at impact of SNP's gender reform - PM** RISHI Sunak said he is 'concerned' about the wider impact in the UK of the SNP's controversial gender reforms - as it looked ever more likely that they will be blocked by the UK Government. The Prime Minister raised his fears about the effect of the legislation passed by MSPs last month. It removes the need for a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria to apply for a gender recognition certificate,

i (The paper for today) (Scotland) 12 **Sunak 'concerned' about impact of gender laws** The Prime Minister has said he is "concerned" about the impact of Holyrood's gender recognition laws across the UK, as the deadline for Westminster to block the plan approaches. Rishi Sunak said he was expecting to receive final legal advice on the issue in the coming days and would set out the UK Government's "next steps" next week. If Westminster does decide to veto the legislation using powers in the

The Daily Telegraph 20 **Nicola Sturgeon's trans law is constitutional mischief, not another front in the culture war** In the war about sex and "gender", the two sides agree about only one thing: the stakes are high. It is about who each person is and how this can be determined. The fiery rhetorical atmosphere resembles that of Christian sects in 17th-century England, each believing they possess absolute truth and denouncing the other. In some ways, the ill feeling may actually be worse nowadays: in the 17th century, there

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Sunak airs fears over SNP gender reforms** Rishi Sunak has attempted to dial down a furious row over Nicola Sturgeon's controversial gender reforms but said that he was concerned about their impact. Speaking on his first visit to Scotland as PM, he said it was "entirely reasonable" to look at blocking the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, with a final decision expected next Wednesday. He admitted he was worried about the potential effect of the legislation on the

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 8 **Sunak tries soft touch over SNP gender row** RISHI SUNAK has attempted to dial down a furious row over Nicola Sturgeon's controversial gender reforms but admitted he was concerned about their impact. Speaking on his first visit to Scotland as Prime Minister, he said it was "entirely reasonable and standard" to look at blocking the Gender Recognition Reform (GRR) Bill, with a final decision expected next Wednesday. Despite the UK Government never having previously used its powers to

The Herald 5 **Sunak says gender reforms could cause UK 'impacts'** RISHI Sunak has refused to confirm whether his government will block Scotland's gender recognition reforms as he warned there may be "impacts across the UK" caused by the legislation. The deadline for UK Government ministers to challenge the legislation under Section 35 of

the Scotland Act, a move never carried out in the history of devolution, is next week. MSPs overwhelmingly backed the gender recognition reforms last month, which will

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Gender Bill worry PM** IN SCOTLAND 2 MR Sunak revealed he is "concerned" about the new Scots gender law — but wouldn't say whether he plans to block it. The PM's government has until Wednesday to launch a legal challenge that could prevent the Bill coming into force. Mr Sunak said he was waiting on "final advice" but added: "What I'm concerned about is the impact of it across the United Kingdom." He

The Times (Scotland) 36 **'The UK needs a strategy for trans people rather than a tabloid war'** When Rishi Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon were pictured smiling together on Thursday evening the "optics" briefly delighted Iain Anderson. The garrulous Scot has been head of Stonewall only since November but for more than 20 years has run one of the UK's largest lobbying firms. He knows the body language of politics and all its verbal tics better than almost anyone "It all seemed entirely different," Anderson says. "I'm pleased

The Times (Scotland) 12 **Sunak preparing to block Scottish gender bill** Rishi Sunak is poised to block Scottish laws that make it easier for people to change their gender, in an unprecedented move that will provoke a constitutional row. The Times has been told that new legal advice will pave the way for the government to stop Nicola Sturgeon's gender recognition laws from getting royal assent next week. The advice states that the legislation will have an adverse impact on UKwide

10. CORPORATE

The Times (Scotland) 13 **Police drop inquiry into Holyrood flasher** Police have dropped their investigation into a Scottish comedian who "flashed" in parliament in protest against the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. Elaine Miller, who is known online as Gussie Grips, lifted up her skirt to reveal fake pubic hair, known as a merkin, in Holyrood as it was about to pass the new law. She stood on her chair in the public gallery and shouted. Other women protesting in the

11. CONSTITUTION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

Daily Mail 18 **Stand up for women** MR Sunak has clearly decided to adopt a more placatory attitude towards Nicola Sturgeon than his predecessors. The chippy SNP leader was branded an 'attention seeker' by Liz Truss and there was no disguising her loathing for Boris Johnson. But however cordial their first meeting, the PM must not flinch from torpedoing her divisive transgender law. Ms Sturgeon's dangerous Bill - passed with Labour's help - makes it easier for

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Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Rishi's Scots triumph** RISHI Sunak's visit to Scotland has been an object lesson in political maturity and careful navigation of very choppy waters. The Prime Minister has not set a foot wrong, knowing that unforced errors can easily be turned into a fresh grievance by the SNP. A measured approach has not meant giving in to Nicola Sturgeon's every demand. The Prime Minister used his visit to roll out the latest sites for

Daily Record 10 **Creative chief tells Holyrood of cuts impact** THE public body supporting arts in Scotland has warned it may have to halve the number of firms and organisations it backs with long-term funding. Creative Scotland CEO Iain Munro said about 60 organisations could lose support - effectively putting 2500 jobs at risk - unless there is a rethink over funding. He added a further 300 organisations without long-term support would have cash bids refused if there are more

Daily Record 9 **Behind the masks is a man you just can't trust** RISHI Sunak would probably dub his first trip to Scotland as Prime Minister as "operation nice Guy". the main reason for his fleeting visit was to announce two new green freeports. but he also wanted to hit reset on the poor relationship with the Scottish Government. his predecessor, Liz Truss, stupidly said First Minister Nicola Sturgeon should be ignored and dismissed her as an "attention seeker". by contrast, Sunak called

Daily Record 8 **Nat got your tongue?** RISHI Sunak dodged questions on independence and Prince Harry's controversial book on his first trip to Scotland as PM. The Prime Minister dismissed Nicola Sturgeon's demand to turn

the general election into an independence vote - hours after a "constructive" relationship with her government. He claimed he would focus on "people's priorities" like the cost-of-living crisis. He also confirmed he is taking advice on whether the UK Government will block

i (The paper for today) 11 **Ministers must conquer cross-border fear factor** Rishi Sunak's first trip to Scotland will have been agonised over by spin doctors and civil servants for weeks. The location choice of Cromarty certainly didn't go down particularly well with the journalists who found out that their Friday would involve a seven-hour round trip from Edinburgh. But the new Prime Minister has made a better start to his engagement with Scottish politics than his two immediate predecessors. In the

The Daily Telegraph 20 **Nicola Sturgeon's trans law is constitutional mischief, not another front in the culture war** In the war about sex and "gender", the two sides agree about only one thing: the stakes are high. It is about who each person is and how this can be determined. The fiery rhetorical atmosphere resembles that of Christian sects in 17th-century England, each believing they possess absolute truth and denouncing the other. In some ways, the ill feeling may actually be worse nowadays: in the 17th century, there

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The Herald 21 **'I pure love the Irn-Bru, so I do'** As imagined by Brian Beacom JEEZY peeps - I've heard that's the phrase used in Scotland to describe a state of incredulity - and that's certainly how I felt when told I was coming up to meet your First Minister. Well, wouldn't you have reservations when your Scottish wingman Douglas uses the word 'despicable' to describe her actions? And, of course, my wife didn't help. "She could easily take you

The Scotsman 22 **Let's embrace 'losers' consent' idea** Conservatives are wont to warn of "another divisive referendum". But they've forgotten that elections are meant to be divisive: it's what happens after the votes are counted that matters. Division is the lifeblood of democracy. Underpinned by a system of rules, regulations, norms, and order, with political rhetoric restrained by the strength of argument, it's a hallmark of a confident, open society. Imagine, for a moment, an election where

The Scotsman 7 **On first visit to Scotland as PM, a noticeable break from precursors** Rishi Sunak's first trip to Scotland as Prime Minister marked a noticeable break from his predecessors. He was here to announce two new green freeports in areas around Inverness and the River Forth, a move he says will attract thousands of jobs and help tackle depopulation. Young people Mr Sunak had spoken to were "so pumped up" about the plans. On Thursday night, he had a working dinner with First

The Scotsman 22 **Co-operation is a hopeful sign** Rishi Sunak declared himself "absolutely delighted" to be making a joint announcement with Nicola Sturgeon about the location of Scotland's two new "excellent" green freeports. Meanwhile, Deputy First Minister John Swinney described the plans for the freeports in the Forth and Cromarty firths as a "milestone achievement". SNP and Tory leaders singing from the same hymn sheet, who would have thought it? Admittedly, Sturgeon's smile for the cameras seemed

The Scotsman 20 **Burns unit: Literature academics to lead centre for study of Scotland's bard** Two Scottish literature academics are to lead the University of Glasgow's Centre for Robert Burns Studies - the biggest concentration of Burns experts in the world. Dr Pauline Mackay, left, and Dr Rhona Brown are the new co-directors of the centre dedicated to research, scholarship and teaching in the area of Robert Burns, his cultural period and related literature. They are joined by associate director Dr Ronnie Young, senior lecturer

The Scotsman 8 **Celtic Connections chief and performers condemn BBC Scotland over music cuts** The figurehead of Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival and leading acts appearing at the event have joined the growing chorus of criticism of BBC Scotland over cuts to its specialist music programmes. Donald Shaw, creative producer of the event, said he was "very shocked and surprised" to discover the BBC was planning to drop the long-running radio shows Pipelines, Classics Unwrapped and Jazz Nights. Some of the best-known performers at Celtic

The Scotsman 6 **Sunak dismisses Sturgeon's 'de facto' referendum plan** Rishi Sunak has dismissed Nicola Sturgeon's plan to fight the next general election as a "de facto" referendum, hours after having a "robust" exchange with the First Minister on independence at a private dinner. The Prime Minister said "people vote for all sorts of things in

general elections" as he insisted he was "passionately committed" to delivering for the people of Scotland. Mr Sunak was speaking in Invergordon on the

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **RISHI IN GENERAL REJECTION** RISHI Sunak dismissed Nicola Sturgeon's "de facto referendum" plans just hours after they met for dinner — as he insisted Scots voters are not a lost cause to the Tories. The Prime Minister yesterday rejected Ms Sturgeon's bid to turn the next General Election into a single issue Indy vote, claiming people cast their ballot on a number of issues. And he said he was "passionately committed" to delivering for

The Sun (Scotland) 2 **Gender Bill worry** PM IN SCOTLAND 2 MR Sunak revealed he is "concerned" about the new Scots gender law — but wouldn't say whether he plans to block it. The PM's government has until Wednesday to launch a legal challenge that could prevent the Bill coming into force. Mr Sunak said he was waiting on "final advice" but added: "What I'm concerned about is the impact of it across the United Kingdom." He

The Sun (Scotland) 6 **Indy 'will stabilise energy bills' claim** THE SNP's Westminster leader yesterday insisted that energy bills and an independent Scotland are "inextricably linked". Stephen Flynn suggested a discussion about the nation's constitutional future is needed amid the cost of living crisis. But rivals branded his claim that Indy would bring stability as "laughable". Mr. Flynn said: "Bills and independence ... are inextricably linked. "Interest rates are at a level last seen in the early-2000s, real wages are

The Sun (Scotland) 12 **Rishi v Nicola** RISHI Sunak and Nicola Sturgeon were all smiles as they shook hands before a private dinner on Thursday night. But it's anyone's guess if the First Minister will still be smiling after hearing the Prime Minister's views on her claim that the next General Election will be a "de facto referendum" on independence. No it won't, insisted Mr Sunak. The PM said that elections are multi-issue votes — and as

The Times 29 **Reunited Kingdom?** For much of the past eight years, the constituent parts of the United Kingdom have been engaged in a seemingly endless conflict. The Scottish independence referendum of 2014 begat a sharp rise in Scottish nationalism, which in turn fuelled a resurgence in English nationalism, which found expression in the Brexit referendum, whose outcome destabilised the fragile political balance in Northern Ireland. This turbulence has provided the backdrop to much of

The Times (Scotland) 12 **Sunak preparing to block Scottish gender bill** Rishi Sunak is poised to block Scottish laws that make it easier for people to change their gender, in an unprecedented move that will provoke a constitutional row. The Times has been told that new legal advice will pave the way for the government to stop Nicola Sturgeon's gender recognition laws from getting royal assent next week. The advice states that the legislation will have an adverse impact on UK-wide

The Times (Scotland) 1 **SNP ready to row back on de facto referendum** Nicola Sturgeon is preparing to row back on her plan to make the next general election a "de facto referendum" on Scottish independence. The first minister said in June that she would begin negotiations to take Scotland out of the UK if parties that support leaving the union win more than 50 per cent of the popular vote at the next general election. The SNP's ruling national executive committee will

[Redacted] Media Manager
Social Justice, Housing & Local Government | Scottish Government
[Redacted]

Item 21:

From: [Redacted] International Futures Policy

Sent: 28 September 2022 15:01

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Crawford E (Ewan) [Redacted]; Wightman S (Scott) [Redacted]; Johnson M (Martin) [Redacted]; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) [Redacted]; Bain R (Russell) [Redacted]; Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division; [Redacted] Head of Policy Development; [Redacted] Senior Policy

Advisor

Subject: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted] Private Secretary

Many thanks for this.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] we have approached Energy colleagues who have provided the following advice:

“The claim about 25% of Europe's offshore wind resources is poorly evidenced and has recently been the subject of several FOIs challenging the basis of this claim. Whilst it is clear that Scotland has significant resources, as evidenced by the huge ambitions of the ScotWind winners and the level of interest in the ongoing INTOG round, the 25% claim does not account for changes in technology or use of marine space. As such officials would advise against using this statement and instead, would suggest highlighting the success of ScotWind, the largest floating wind leasing round in the world.”

[Redacted]

Please let me know if Cabinet Secretary has any further comments.

Many thanks

[Redacted] International Futures Policy

Item 22:

From: [Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist

Sent: 03 October 2022 19:32

To: [Redacted] Independence Prospectus Public Services Lead; [Redacted] Principal Researcher; [Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery Unit; [Redacted] Senior Spatial Analyst & Data Communication; [Redacted] Senior Economist; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager

Cc: [Redacted] Constitutional Futures – Economy Lead; Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division; Lead: [Redacted] Transition, Constitution and Rights; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division

Subject: RE: OFF SEN Economy prospectus marine energy reference check

Sorry [Redacted] Independence Prospectus Public Services Lead,

Checked with [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager and other than in an FOI response I don't think we have used the 60% thing specifically.

[Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager and [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy may have a better version for the general ScotWind programme but what about the below as a start?

“Scottish seas are roughly six times the size of our terrestrial area and account for 60% of the total UK marine area. With ample wind resources across this region we have a significant opportunity to maximise our offshore wind potential. This can be seen in the results of the recent ScotWind seabed leasing round with 27.6GW of potential projects identified, in the world’s largest floating offshore wind round. Building on that success we now in progress to deliver a new offshore wind leasing round to help decarbonise oil and gas production that is, through the Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas decarbonisation (INTOG) plan and leasing round” targeting a further 4.5GW of offshore wind generation.”

[Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist

From: [Redacted] Independence Prospectus Public Services Lead;

Sent: 03 October 2022 16:31

To: [Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist; [Redacted] Principal Researcher; [Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery Unit; [Redacted] Senior Spatial Analyst & Data Communication; [Redacted] Senior Economist; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager

Cc: [Redacted] Constitutional Futures – Economy Lead; Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division; Lead: [Redacted] Transition, Constitution and Rights; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division

Subject: RE: OFF SEN Economy prospectus marine energy reference check

Thanks [Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist – understood. That line keeps popping up in comms lines so would be good if you all try and put this one out to grass...

One final thing: you said this in your email last week:

It would be better, I think, to point to our significant resources – we have 60% of UK seas and the success of ScotWind being the world’s largest floating offshore wind leasing round and setting out a potential for up to 27.6GW.

Are there specific comms lines around this we could use? E.g. from a News Release? We’d have to rewrite your lines above but not sure how to make them understandable to a wide audience.

Any suggestions very welcome!

[Redacted] Independence Prospectus Public Services Lead

From: [Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist

Sent: 03 October 2022 15:31

To: [Redacted] Principal Researcher; [Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery

Unit; [Redacted] Senior Spatial Analyst & Data Communication; [Redacted] Senior Economist; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager; [Redacted] Independence Prospectus Public Services Lead

Cc: [Redacted] Constitutional Futures – Economy Lead; Dornan B (Brian)[Redacted]; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division; Lead: [Redacted] Transition, Constitution and Rights; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division
Subject: RE: OFF SEN Economy prospectus marine energy reference check

Hi [Redacted] Principal Researcher and [Redacted] Independence Prospectus Public Services Lead

Afraid there's been a bunch of urgent requests today so sorry for the delay in looking at this.

Unless [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager and [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy can point to something, I am not aware of any assessment of potential in the same style as the IEA report that would allow you to easily compare figures to get a potential share of resources.

The future offshore wind scenarios work by The Crown Estate and Crown Estate Scotland set out to identify options for development of up to 140GW (from the CCC) of offshore wind in the UK based on a (large) series of scenarios and assumptions. And I think that is where the issue of "potential" gets a bit difficult. Even the 140GW was something like 200 map options.

The IEA report looks at wind speed and assigns values across various regions. It does not appear to account for any existing uses or conflicts/constraints etc. The map at page 80 shows that overview for Europe but without access to the data or re-running it I don't think we could get a subset for Scotland. It also looks like they have excluded anything within 12NM, which automatically removes some of our operational windfarms in Scotland.

In A.3 they have set out the total TWh per year for Europe based on their analysis. If that could be converted back to generation capacity you could compare that to what we currently have in operation, consented and planned (see below) but that would be versus a potential with no timeline in the IEA.

Project Type	Total Consented (MW)	Total Installed Operational Capacity (MW)
Tidal	137.1	7.4
Wave	1.65	0
Wind (fixed)	5532.9	1775.2

Project Type	Total Consented (MW)	Total Installed Operational Capacity (MW)
Wind (floating)	92	77.5
Grand Total	5763.65	1860.1

Plus 4.1GW planned from round 3 (Berwick Bank) and 27.6GW from ScotWind.

I'm afraid this is probably not the answer you were looking for but it ties into the difficulty that colleagues are having around targets and ambitions for Scotland for the Energy Strategy.

[Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager and I have been asked to look at options for a figure to use in future but I'm afraid we have not had a chance to progress this work.

[Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist

From: [Redacted] Principal Researcher

Sent: 30 September 2022 13:46

To: [Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist; [Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery Unit; [Redacted] Senior Spatial Analyst & Data Communication; [Redacted] Senior Economist; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager

Cc: [Redacted] Constitutional Futures – Economy Lead; Dornan B (Brian)[Redacted]; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division; Lead: [Redacted] Transition, Constitution and Rights; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division

Subject: RE: OFF SEN Economy prospectus marine energy reference check

Hi [Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist,

Thanks for this. Can I just check, in case there still is a way of giving a feel for the relative scale of Scotland's offshore resource in an EU context, whether you or colleagues know whether we have a comparable Scotland-level figure for offshore wind technical potential that we could compare with the table below from the [2019 IEA report](#)?

The report details how they've calculated technical potential (and to confirm, EU still includes UK in their figures; Europe includes EU plus Norway, Iceland etc). So if we knew Scotland's offshore wind technical potential we might be able to provide an estimate of what proportion of EU offshore wind potential this constitutes?

Please excuse any ignorance on my part on this, and I appreciate this is maybe what colleagues have already looked at and discounted, or there may be better sources of the data, if not Imperial and IEA.

I'm just looking to confirm whether we're saying it's just not possible to estimate Scotland's offshore wind potential (and/or offshore wind, tidal and wave potential) as a proportion of EU or European potential, or whether there is something we can provide, with an explanatory footnote with the basis for the estimate?

Table A.3: Offshore wind technical potential (TWh per year)

	Shallow water		Deep water		Total potential
	Near shore	Far from shore	Near shore	Far from shore	
North America	9 907	13 238	22 819	58 937	104 901
Canada	3 033	1 172	15 952	32 312	52 469
Mexico	542	903	1 021	3 239	5 705
United States*	6 333	11 163	5 846	23 386	46 727
Central and South America	3 847	4 438	6 439	37 144	51 869
Brazil	1 692	1 622	1 011	6 122	10 448
Europe	2 629	2 390	14 817	52 009	71 845
European Union**	2 266	1 077	7 541	25 844	36 728
Africa	1 123	572	7 699	17 107	26 502
Middle East	478	673	600	1 791	3 543
Saudi Arabia	123	114	63	648	948
Eurasia	9 382	17 402	9 943	48 735	85 462
Russia	8 931	17 264	9 429	47 790	83 413
Asia Pacific	8 508	12 451	14 440	41 357	76 757
Australia	4 093	3 317	4 319	4 404	16 132
China	1 822	2 869	142	3 489	8 323
India	683	280	903	4 130	5 996
Japan	30	13	2 223	6 808	9 074
Korea	27	586	366	2 068	3 048
Southeast Asia	1 318	4 351	1 631	7 832	15 133
World	35 875	51 166	76 757	257 081	420 878

* Potential available including Alaska and Hawaii. ** Potential available excluding Greenland.

Source: IEA analysis developed in collaboration with Imperial College London.

Best wishes,

[Redacted] Principal Researcher

From: [Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist

Sent: 30 September 2022 10:23

To: [Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery Unit; [Redacted] Senior Spatial Analyst & Data Communication; [Redacted] Senior Economist; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager

Cc: [Redacted] Constitutional Futures – Economy Lead; Dornan B (Brian)[Redacted]; [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division; Lead: [Redacted] Transition, Constitution and Rights; [Redacted] Principal Researcher

Subject: RE: OFF SEN Economy prospectus marine energy reference check

Hi All,

[Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery Unit, we discussed on teams but copying to others here too.

The 25% figure has been used freely without much evidence or reference for a long time. SG has received multiple FOIs on the subject and challenging the claim. Colleagues in DECC have previously been able to arrive at the 25% using a few different reports to reach that total but it's not ideal. In completing the FOI requests we found that the references were very circular and none pointing to an actual source. I've copied [Redacted] Offshore Wind Policy Manager and [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy in as they have been dealing with questions about it too. we provided the paragraph below for another team:

"The claim about 25% of Europe's offshore wind resources is poorly evidenced and has recently been the subject of several FOIs challenging the basis of this claim. Whilst it is clear that Scotland has significant resources, as evidenced by the huge ambitions of the ScotWind winners and the level of interest in the ongoing INTOG round, the 25% claim does not account for changes in technology or use of marine space. As such officials would advise against using this statement and instead, would suggest highlighting the success of ScotWind, the largest floating wind leasing round in the world."

It would be better, I think, to point to our significant resources – we have 60% of UK seas and the success of ScotWind being the world's largest floating offshore wind leasing round and setting out a potential for up to 27.6GW.

On the tidal side, we have supplied an answer to that figures as part of the FOI response below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100132049/>

But essentially it is derived from these reports:

- Black & Veatch Consulting Ltd. (2005); "Phase II UK tidal stream energy resource assessment. Technical report 107799/D/2200/03, Carbon Trust, London.
- The Offshore Valuation Study (Public Interest Research Centre)
<https://www.publicinterest.org.uk/offshore/> (different download options available)

The "Europe" in that context is also not well defined but I would take it to be the EU as including Norway would reduce our share of the seas in question.

Not sure it's relevant here but we have some notes on our seas and coastline at [Facts and figures about Scotland's sea area \(coastline length, sea area in sq kms\) | Marine Scotland Information](#)

Hope that helps

[Redacted] Marine Planning and Assessment Specialist

Item 23:

From: [Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery Unit

Sent: 29 September 2022 17:38

To: [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division

Cc: [Redacted] Constitutional Futures – Economy Lead; Dornan B (Brian)[Redacted]; [Redacted] Principal Researcher; Crawford E (Ewan) [Redacted]

Subject: Economy paper - energy content - Mr Matheson amends

Hi [Redacted] Constitutional Futures Division,

I attach a revise of the energy content in the economy paper picking up comments from Mr Matheson this afternoon on reinforcing the scale of the renewable energy potential in Scotland (new box), and highlighting the scale of the opportunity in the hydrogen sector (new text). Both are highlighted in yellow for the master version that's currently being amended.

We're double checking one of the stats "Scotland has 25% of Europe's offshore tidal and wind potential and 10% of Europe's wave resources." We'll confirm this asap.

Hope this helps.

[Redacted] First Ministers Policy & Delivery Unit

Item 24:

From: [Redacted] Senior Media Manager

Sent: 10 December 2021 15:02

To: Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]; [Redacted] Head of Electricity Networks and Regulation; [Redacted] Economic Advisor; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewables Policy & Supply Chain; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewables Supply Chain Team; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] Energy Consents Unit Team Leader; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] Strategic Coordination Team Leader; [Redacted] Senior Economic Adviser; [Redacted] Senior Policy Advisor; [Redacted] Team Leader - Consumer Policy and Interventions; [Redacted] Branch Head; [Redacted] Team Leader; [Redacted] Policy Advisor; [Redacted] Briefings Officer; [Redacted] Lead: Transition, Constitution and Rights; Curtis PS (Penelope)[Redacted]; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) [Redacted]; [Redacted] Onshore Wind Policy Officer; [Redacted] Executive Assistant

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted]; News Desk [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media Query - Scottish independence/wind power - Sunday Times

Many thanks, both. I think this covers what we can say at this point. I'll put to SpAds in 30 minutes or so unless colleagues have any further/final thoughts.

[Redacted] Senior Media Manager

From: Dornan B (Brian) <Brian.Dornan@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 December 2021 13:41

To: [Redacted] Head of Electricity Networks and Regulation; [Redacted] Senior Media Manager; [Redacted] Economic Advisor; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewables Policy & Supply Chain; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewables Supply Chain Team; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] Energy Consents Unit Team Leader; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] Strategic Coordination Team Leader; [Redacted] Senior Economic Adviser; [Redacted] Senior Policy Advisor; [Redacted] Team Leader - Consumer Policy and Interventions; [Redacted] Branch Head; [Redacted] Team Leader; [Redacted] Policy Advisor; [Redacted] Briefings Officer; [Redacted] Lead: Transition, Constitution and Rights; Curtis PS (Penelope) [Redacted]; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) [Redacted]; [Redacted] Onshore Wind Policy Officer; [Redacted] Executive Assistant

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted]; News Desk [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media Query - Scottish independence/wind power - Sunday Times

[Redacted] Senior Media Manager

From a Constitution perspective we could add the line in red, below, to [Redacted] Head of Electricity Networks and Regulation text.

Happy to discuss.

Brian

Brian Dornan | Deputy Director Constitutional Futures | Directorate for Constitution and Cabinet | Scottish Government

[Redacted]



From: [Redacted] Head of Electricity Networks and Regulation

Sent: 10 December 2021 13:17

To: [Redacted] Senior Media Manager; [Redacted] Economic Advisor; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewables Policy & Supply Chain; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewable Policy; [Redacted] Head of Offshore Renewables Supply Chain Team; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] Energy Consents Unit Team Leader; [Redacted] No longer on staff directory; [Redacted] Strategic Coordination Team Leader; [Redacted] Senior Economic Adviser; [Redacted] Senior Policy Advisor; [Redacted] Team Leader - Consumer Policy and Interventions; [Redacted] Branch Head; [Redacted] Team Leader; [Redacted] Policy Advisor; [Redacted] Briefings Officer; [Redacted] Lead: Transition, Constitution and Rights; Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]; Curtis PS (Penelope) [Redacted]; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) [Redacted]; [Redacted] Onshore Wind Policy Officer

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted]; News Desk [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media Query - Scottish independence/wind power - Sunday Times

Hello [Redacted] Senior Media Manager,

I've added some lines below. [Redacted]

“Scotland already has a hugely positive story to tell in renewables and the growth of our onshore and offshore wind sectors over the next ten years will be transformative, delivering further good, green jobs, benefits for communities and strengthened energy security as we transition to becoming a net zero nation.

“Renewables provided the equivalent of 96% of Scotland’s gross electricity consumption in 2020, and our ambitions for the next decade include a 10-fold increase in installed Offshore Wind capacity – enough to power more than 8 million homes - and to more than double the country’s onshore wind capacity by 2030.

“Scotland produces more electricity than it consumes, and exported 19TWh of electricity - the equivalent to powering 5 million homes for a year – to the rest of the UK last year. A strong, integrated electricity system, including increased levels of interconnection will maintain the market for Scottish renewable generation across the UK, as well as a more secure system for all.

"In order to achieve net zero, regulation, planning and operation of the electricity system must be achieved through agreement and cooperation between countries.

“The Scottish Government will bring forward a detailed prospectus for an independent Scotland in good time before the independence referendum to allow members of the public an informed choice on their future.”

From: [Redacted] Senior Media Manager

Sent: 10 December 2021 11:13

To: [Redacted] Head of Electricity Networks and Regulation; Dornan B (Brian) [Redacted]; Curtis PS (Penelope)[Redacted]; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) [Redacted]

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [Redacted]; News Desk [Redacted]

Subject: Media Query - Scottish independence/wind power - Sunday Times

Morning all,

The Sunday Times is planning a piece this weekend on what wind power might look like in an independent Scotland.

[Redacted]

On that note, I'd be grateful to David and Constitution colleagues copied for a steer/suggested line on this, please.

Also pasting recent lines in this space... suggest the first two can be used,
[Redacted]

A Scottish Government Spokesperson said:

“Scotland already has a hugely positive story to tell in renewables and the growth of our onshore and offshore wind sectors over the next ten years will be transformative, delivering further good, green jobs, benefits for communities and strengthened energy security as we transition to becoming a net zero nation.

“Renewables provided the equivalent of 96% of Scotland’s gross electricity consumption in 2020, and our ambitions for the next decade include a 10-fold increase in installed Offshore Wind capacity – enough to power more than 8 million homes - and to more than double the country’s onshore wind capacity by 2030.

[Redacted]

“Scotland produces more electricity than it consumes, and exported 19TWh of electricity - the equivalent to powering 5 million homes for a year – to the rest of the UK last year. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks

[Redacted] Senior Media Manager