

This Lunchtime's News - Wednesday 12th March 2025

Broadcast Summaries

First Minister

Nicola Sturgeon to step down from Holyrood Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is to stand down from Holyrood at the next election. The Glasgow South Side MSP is Scotland's longest-serving first minister, and was one of the original MSPs elected in 1999.

Radio Scotland *Report* Kirsten Campbell

Voxpop Glasgow residents

Interview Brian Taylor (Political commentator)

Rep Scotland *Report* Phil Sim

Clip Nicola Sturgeon MSP (SNP)

Clyde One *Clip* First Minister

Voxpop Glasgow residents

Radio 4 *Report* David Wallace Lockhart

STV News *Report* Colin Mackay

Clip Nicola Sturgeon MSP (SNP)

More to do to tackle drug problem, says FM The North East's first government-funded residential rehab centre has opened in Aberdeenshire. The First Minister said it would help cut alcohol and drug-related deaths.

Rep Scotland *Report* Ben Philip

Clip Justin Taylor (Former service user)

Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

Finance and Local Government

Health and Social Care

More to do to tackle drug problem, says FM See First Minister

Education and Skills

Dundee University to cut 632 jobs to plug £35m deficit Opposition politicians are urging the Scottish government to take action after Dundee University announced 600 job losses, bosses are looking to make £75 million of savings to save the institution from collapse. Staff have spoken of their shock and anger at the scale of the cuts. The efficiencies will affect every department with fewer courses and research, leaving a much smaller university.

STV News

Radio Scotland *Interview* Sandy Begbie (Scottish Financial Enterprise)

Sai Shraddha Suresh Viswanathan (NUS Scotland)

Net Zero and Energy

Ministers scrap green heating for new homes The Scottish Government is to scrap flagship plans to make homeowners switch to greener heating soon after buying a new home. The acting Net Zero Secretary Gillian Martin said the legislation drafted by the Scottish Greens as part of the Bute House agreement would make people poorer.

Radio Scotland *Clip* Patrick Harvie MSP (Scottish Green Party)

Transport

Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Social Justice

Ministers urged on single-sex spaces guidance The Conservatives say they want ministers to give clear instructions to public organisations on providing single-sex toilets and changing rooms. That's come amid an employment tribunal involving NHS Fife, which suspended a nurse after she complained about having to share a changing room with a transgender colleague at Holyrood. This afternoon, the Conservatives will say the government's push to allow people to self-identify their legal sex has become embedded in public institutions, and they want public bodies to prioritise biological women. Ministers say public bodies should comply with equality laws.
Rep Scotland

Justice and Home Affairs

Scottish Government

Scottish Parliament

Other

Local Broadcast Summaries (Provided by Precise)

Tay

Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed she is stepping down as a member of the Scottish Parliament and will not be seeking re-election to Holyrood next year. The former First Minister expressed that while it was a tough decision, she felt it was the right time to close this chapter of her life and embrace new opportunities. Current First Minister John Swinney praised Sturgeon as a giant of Scottish politics, acknowledging her as Scotland's longest-serving and first female First Minister.

Workers at Dundee University may have to wait another two weeks to find out if their jobs are among the over 630 set to be cut. The university revealed the extent of the cuts needed to address a £35m budget deficit. Interim Principal Shane O'Neill stated that teaching staff reductions will be minimal, with fewer than 200 academic roles affected. Cuts will also impact professional service roles. Local consultations will be held with the schools and directorates to discuss the changes.

Heart Scotland West

Nicola Sturgeon is stepping down as an MSP ahead of next year's Scottish elections. She said she had known for some time that this was the right moment to move on and look for new opportunities. Sturgeon resigned as First Minister two years ago, and in her Glasgow Southside constituency, some residents felt recent events had affected her credibility.

Original 106

Plans for a £130m project to demolish homes in Torry affected by RAAC and build new social housing have been approved. The project will see the construction of over 500 new properties, with 372 earmarked for demolition and rebuilding starting as early as 2028. The plan will be carried out in four phases, beginning with vacant terraces or individual groups of properties. Designs for the rebuild master plan will be considered soon.

Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is stepping down as an MSP and will not seek re-election to Holyrood in May next year. The ex-SNP leader, who was one of the original MSPs elected in 1999, described her decision to leave the Scottish Parliament as a difficult one.

Moray Firth

Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced she will not seek re-election as an MSP next year. She has made significant contributions, being the longest-serving and first female First Minister of Scotland. Her achievements include expanding childcare and introducing the Scottish Child Payment. John Swinney, the current First Minister, paid tribute to her. Sturgeon stated she now wants to embrace different opportunities. Alex Cole-Hamilton, leader of the Scottish LibDems, views her departure as further proof of the SNP's decline.

Douglas Ross has introduced the Right to Recovery Bill, aimed at assisting individuals with addiction issues across both built-up and remote areas of Scotland.

Presenting the bill before Holyrood's finance committee, Ross emphasised that granting people the legal right to drug and alcohol treatment if professionally recommended is essential. He highlighted the importance of addressing this issue to prevent further decline and reduce the number of people suffering and dying needlessly from drug addiction.

Central FM

The average waiting time for colposcopy procedures in Forth Valley has risen to 49 days, a 96 per cent increase from 2019. This procedure follows abnormal smear test results and can detect cervical cancer. NHS Forth Valley acknowledges the delays and is working to improve the situation.

Nicola Sturgeon has announced she will not seek re-election as an MSP next year. She has been an MSP since 1999 and served as First Minister from 2014 to 2023.

Forth 1

Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed she is standing down as a Member of the Scottish Parliament and will not seek re-election next year. She said she wants to embrace new opportunities after years in public life. First Minister John Swinney described her as a giant of Scottish politics, highlighting her long service and role as Scotland's first female First Minister.

MSPs have voted on calls for clear rules regarding female-only spaces in hospitals.

Scotland's Conservatives are urging First Minister John Swinney to take action on the issue. This follows nurse Sandie Peggie's tribunal against NHS Fife after she refused to share a female changing room with a trans doctor at Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy.

The Scottish government is providing £300,000 in funding to the Edinburgh Fringe, its first support in seven years. The announcement comes as festival director Shona McCarthy prepares to step down this month and the first batch of shows is revealed.

TRANSGENDER EQUALITY

Redacted – Out of scope of the FOI request - [Redacted]

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19 Mar: Redacted - Section 30(b)(ii) – Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs – free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation – [Redacted]

18 Mar: Redacted - Section 30(b)(ii) – Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs – free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation

Redacted – Out of scope of the FOI request – [Redacted]

Redacted – Out of scope of the FOI request - [Redacted]

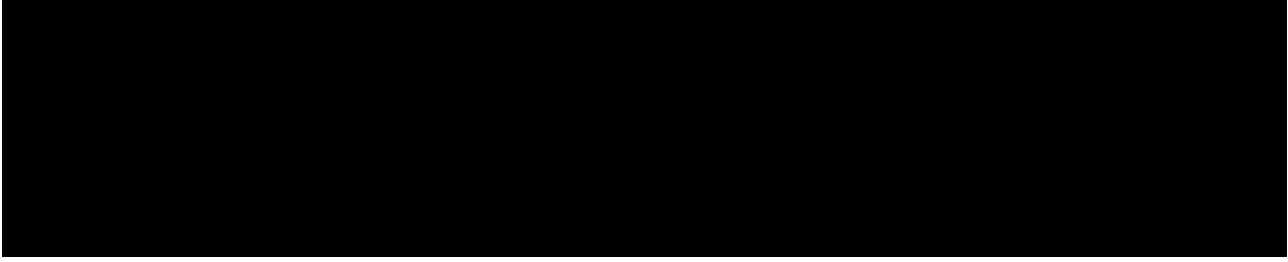
ON CALL: [Redacted - Section 38 (1)(b), personal data not disclosed]

LGBTQI+: [Redacted - Section 38 (1)(b), personal data not disclosed.] GRR: [Redacted - Section 38 (1)(b), personal data not disclosed.]

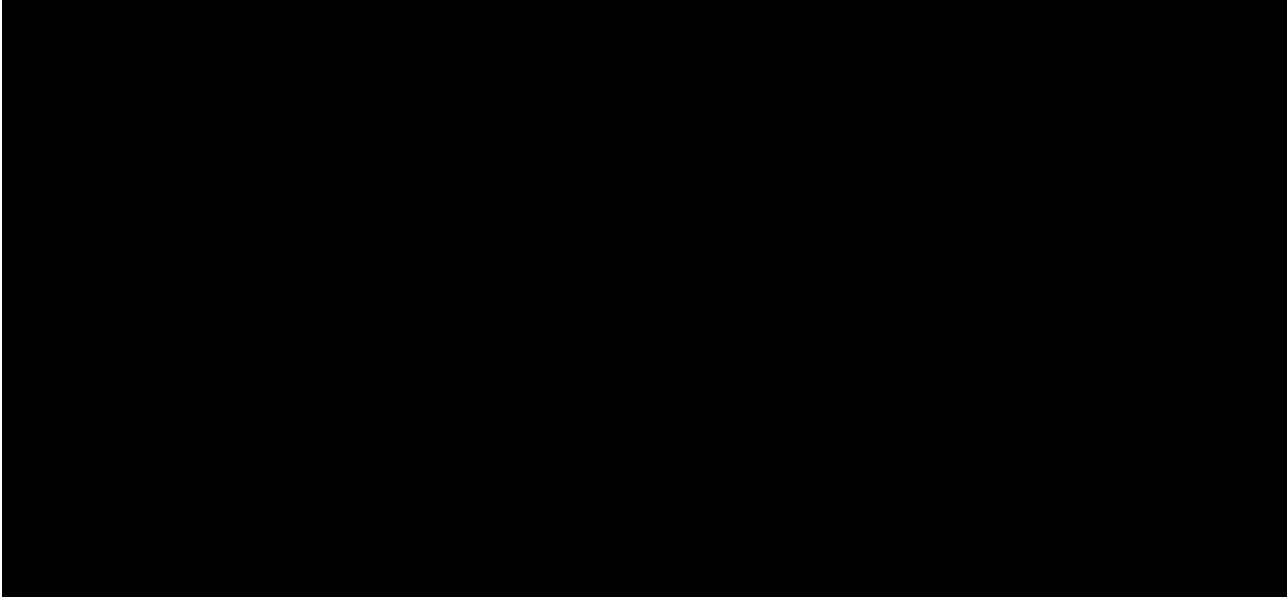
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TRANSGENDER EQUALITY

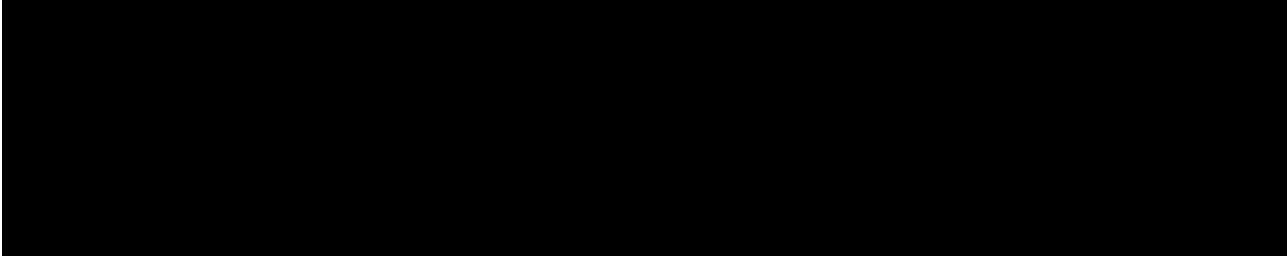
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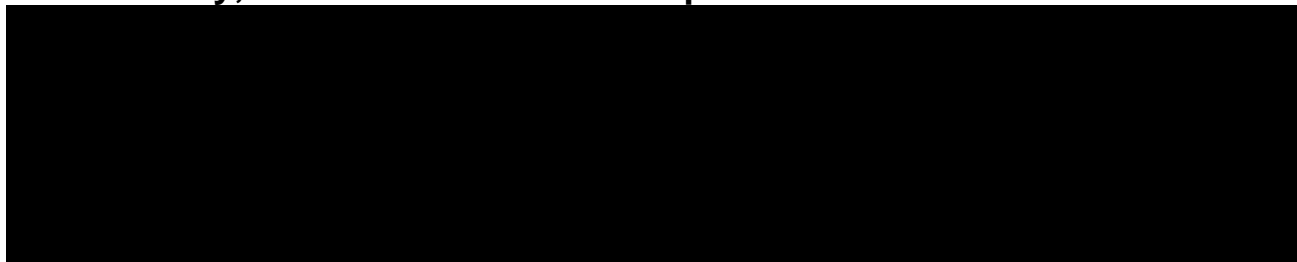


NHS FIFE EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

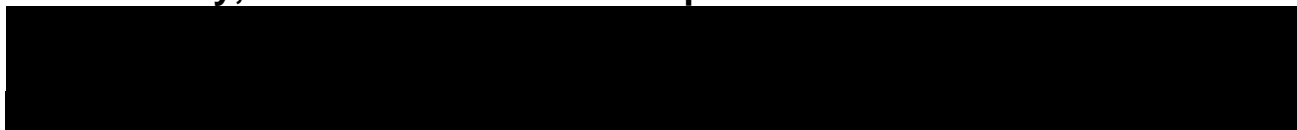
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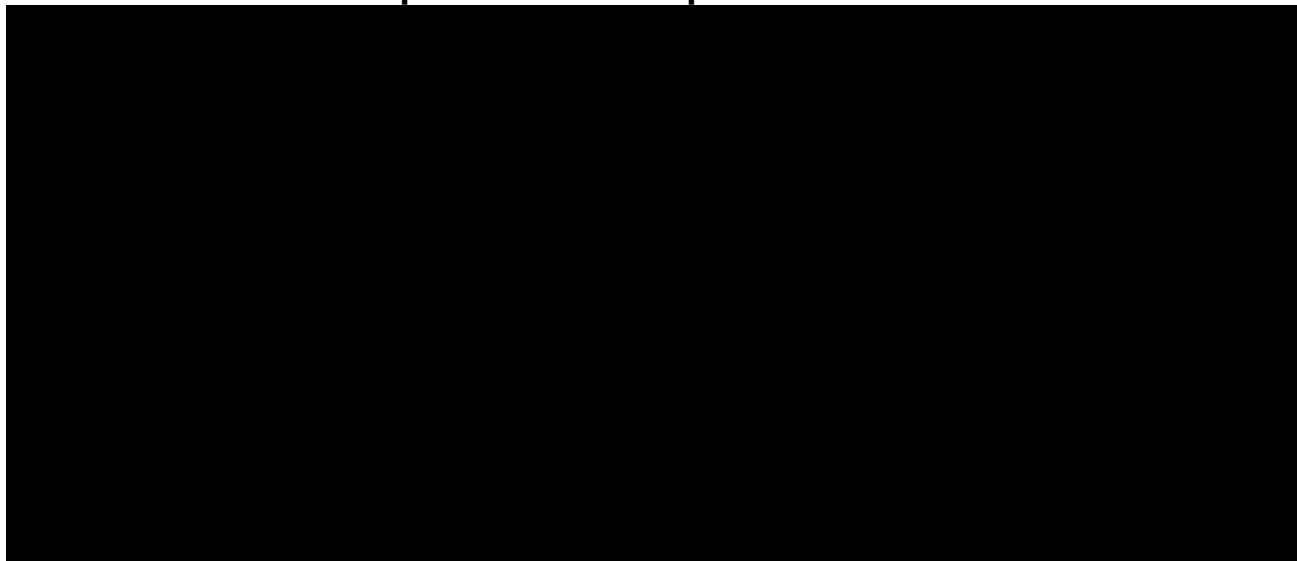
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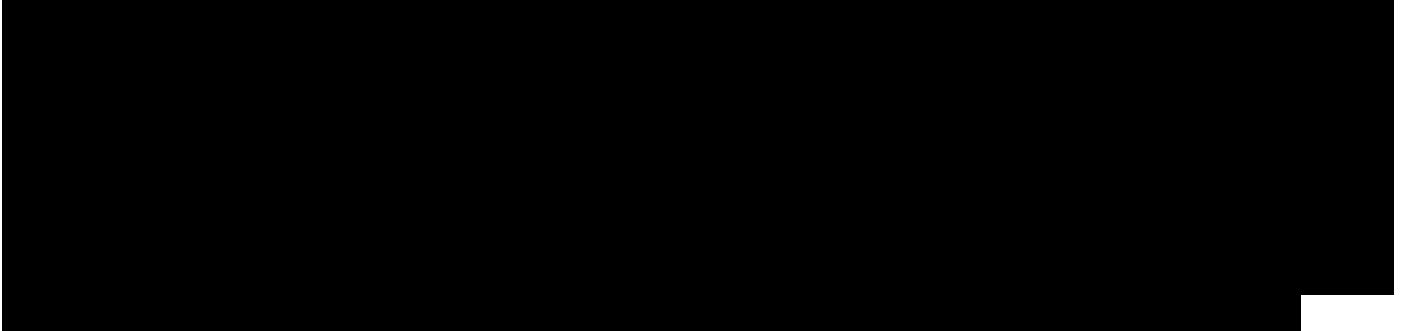
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HEALTH: [Redacted - Section 38 (1)(b), personal data not disclosed.] INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: [Redacted - Section 38 (1)(b), personal data not disclosed.]

BACKGROUND NOTE: NHS FIFE EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

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Core Directorates of the Scottish Government:

Director-General Communities
Director-General Corporate
Director-General Economy
Director-General Education and Justice
Director-General Health and Social Care
Director-General Net Zero
Director-General Scottish Exchequer
Director-General Strategy and External Affairs