



Holyrood Project

Blunder or Design

- 1997** The Devolution White Paper estimated that the cost of constructing a new building for the parliament would be between **£10 million and £40 million**. This was prior to the identification of the location or a design.
- 1997** Donald Dewar, as the Secretary of State for Scotland, repeatedly stressed the need for consensus with other political parties in securing a Yes vote for the creation of a Scottish Parliament. After the referendum he declined any consultation in deciding on a home for the Parliament.
- January 1998** The decision to choose the Holyrood site was taken by Donald Dewar on behalf of the UK Cabinet, just four weeks after he had personally included the Holyrood option in the short-list of sites.
- January 1998** The design and construction process for the proposed Holyrood Parliament commences with the launch of a design competition.
- January 1998** The Secretary of State, Donald Dewar, announced the membership of the Panel to select the Design Team for the Parliament building.
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| Donald Dewar | Secretary of State (Chair) |
| Joan O'Connor | Former President of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland. |
| Professor Andy McMillan | Former Director of the Mackintosh School of Architecture |
| Kirsty Wark | BBC Presenter |
| John Gibson | Chief Architect at the Scottish Office |
| Robert Gordon | Head of the Scottish Office Constitution Group. |
- July 1998** The Spanish architect Enric Miralles was chosen to design the new Parliament building. At this stage it was estimated that the cost of construction could be contained at **£55 million plus VAT, fees and extras**.
- January 1999:** Bovis Land Lease were appointed as construction managers for the project
- April 1999:** Pre-construction work started to prepare the site in readiness for construction to start in the summer.

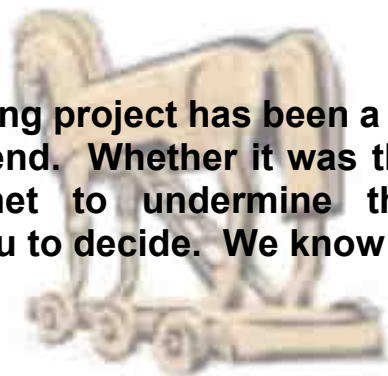
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TAKE OVER HOLYROOD PROJECT

- June 1999** The Holyrood Project was transferred from the Scottish Office to the Scottish Parliament's Corporate Body which also meant inheriting the 1999 contractual management arrangement, which was one of the main criticisms of the Fraser Report.
- June 1999** The Scottish Parliament first debated the building project. The cost was now estimated by the First Minister at **£109 million** including VAT, fees and fit-out.
- February 2000** The Parliament's Corporate Body commissioned an investigation to be conducted by independent architect John Spencely.
- April 2000** A Parliamentary debate on the project concluded that work should continue at the Holyrood site. Cost of completion now estimated at **£195 million**.
- June 2000** Work starts on the construction of the building.
- July 2003** Cost now estimated at **£373.9 million**.
- November 2004** The Scottish Parliament's Corporate Body estimates the total running cost for the Holyrood accommodation for the year 2005 –2006 at £5,994,600 (rent, rates and maintenance).

The final cost of the Holyrood Project is currently estimated at up to **£431 million**.

The project was funded from the Scottish Consolidated Fund, also known as the Block Grant.

The Holyrood building project has been a catalogue of disasters from beginning to end. Whether it was the intention of the UK Government Cabinet to undermine the fledging Scottish Parliament is for you to decide. We know what we think!



[Fraser inquiry](#)