

**28 January 2012**

**Herald**

[Cheap peak-time fares for elderly to be axed](#)

[Road safety fears after traffic police numbers are reduced](#)

[Rail costs higher north of Border](#)

[Bypass bridge options discussed](#)

[SPT manager is sacked for not disclosing 'affair'](#)

**UK Nationals**

[Costa Concordia passengers offered compensation settlement](#)

[Country diary: HS2 or more car chaos](#)

[Olympic Games will hit transport and energy projects](#)

**BBC Online**

[Bridge among options for new road](#)

[Eurostar cleaners plan to strike](#)

[Italian cruise firm offers payout](#)

**Evening News**

[Armed robbers pose as fares to ambush cabbies](#)

[Edinburgh trams on the right track at last](#) .

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**Scotland on Sunday**

[Leader: Powerhouse no more](#)

**UK Nationals**

[Thousands of passengers stranded as Spanair ceases operations](#)

[Bacon butties fuelling easyJet revenue boost](#)

[BBC Online](#)

[Van driver polluter fines revealed](#)

[30 January 2012](#)

[Scotsman](#)

[One in three to stop non-essential trips if fuel hits £1.50 a litre](#)

[Men need to park prejudices after being outmaneuvered by women](#)

[Russell McCullagh: We need high-speed tickets as well as trains](#)

[Blind bus passengers regularly miss their stops](#)

[UK Nationals](#)

[Schoolgirl, 15, is fourth person to be killed on path across rail track](#)

[Sorry, chaps, women are better parkers](#)

[Car parking? Best leave it to the missus!](#)

[Older cars cheaper to fix and 10% less likely to break down](#)

[Teenager killed on rail crossing 'was listening to music on headphones'](#)

[BBC Online](#)

[VIDEO: Travelling by train with a disability](#)

[VIDEO: London Transport brought to you by...](#)

[Holyrood](#)

[Future Meetings of the Parliament](#)

[Business Programme agreed by the Parliament on 25 January 2012](#)

[Wednesday 1 February 2012](#)

**2.30 pm** Time for Reflection – Shaykh Amer Jamil, teacher, Solas Foundation, and Family Support Consultant, Unity Family Services

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Higher Education and Further Education Governance Reports

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: The Year of Creative Scotland 2012

*followed by* Appointment of the Scottish Information Commissioner

*followed by* Business Motion

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5.00 pm** Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business – S4M-01644 Colin Keir: Drum Brae Library and Community Hub Project (*for text of motion see [Section F](#)*)

## **Thursday 2 February 2012**

**9.15 am** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate – College Funding

*followed by* Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate – Prison Visiting Committees

**11.40 am** General Question Time (*for text of General Questions see [Section D](#) of the Business Bulletin for Thursday 26 January 2012*)

**12.00 pm** First Minister's Question Time

**2.15 pm** Themed Question Time

Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth (*for text of Themed Questions see [Section D](#) of the Business Bulletin for Thursday 26 January 2012*)

**2.55 pm** Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5.00 pm** Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business – S4M-01655 Linda Fabiani: Assistance Dogs are Working Dogs Too (*for text of motion see [Section F](#)*)

## **Wednesday 8 February 2012**

**2.30 pm** Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motion

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5.00 pm** Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

## **Thursday 9 February 2012**

**9.15 am** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

**11.40 am** General Question Time (*for names of those Members selected for General Questions see [Section D](#) of the Business Bulletin for Thursday 26 January 2012*)

**12.00 pm** First Minister's Question Time

**2.15 pm** Themed Question Time

Justice and the Law Officers;  
Rural Affairs and the Environment (*for names of those Members selected for Themed Questions see [Section D](#) of the Business Bulletin for Thursday 26 January 2012*)

**2.55 pm** Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5.00 pm** Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

## **Written Questions**

**S4W-05285 Jamie McGrigor:** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to introduce new guidance relating to advertising signage being erected at the side of

roads and, if so, how it will ensure that businesses with existing advertising signs are not disadvantaged by any such guidance.

**S4W-05324 Colin Beattie:** To ask the Scottish Executive at what stage the plans are for redeveloping the Sherrifhall roundabout in Midlothian and how grade separation will be achieved.

### **Motions and Amendments**

**S4M-01799# John Lamont: Local Rail Services to Berwickshire and East Lothian**—That the Parliament commends the Rail Action Group, East of Scotland and what it considers to be its hard-working volunteers on campaigning for many years for improved rail services for Berwickshire and East Lothian; understands that there is strong cross-party support for the reintroduction of local services from Edinburgh to Berwick-upon-Tweed and the reopening of stations at Reston and East Linton; notes the September 2011 feasibility study commissioned by Transport Scotland, which concluded that there is a positive economic case for local services and the reopening of the proposed stations; notes that the study also highlighted the latest *East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy*, which said that there is no capacity constraint to reinstating local services on the existing line; understands that there is strong support from residents in all of the communities that would benefit from the reintroduction of local rail services and the improved access that this would confer on employment, education and leisure opportunities; welcomes the support and collaborative, proactive approach from East Lothian Council, Scottish Borders Council and partners SEStran to move this project to the next stage in completing the final elements of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance Part (STAG) 2 appraisal, and would welcome consideration of such a service should the STAG appraisal conclude that this would have positive economic, regeneration and environmental impacts for East Lothian and Berwickshire.

**Supported by: Paul Wheelhouse, Iain Gray, Nanette Milne, Jamie McGrigor, Patricia Ferguson, Roderick Campbell, Hanzala Malik, Jim Hume, Liz Smith, Richard Lyle, Jackson Carlaw, Mark McDonald, Kevin Stewart, Margaret Mitchell, Colin Beattie, Alison Johnstone, Graeme Pearson, Gil Paterson\***

**S4M-01765 Margaret McDougall: Ardrossan Town Station under Threat**—That the Parliament recognises the importance of local train services to commuters in Ardrossan; notes Transport Scotland's publication, *Rail 2014 - Public Consultation*, which calls into question the future of train stations within one mile of each other; expresses concern that Ardrossan Town station is under threat; understands that there has been no decline in passenger numbers using this station and that it is still well used; further understands that the Strategic Transport Projects Review Intervention 26, Rail Enhancements Between Inverclyde/Ayrshire and Glasgow, aims to deliver further improvements to passenger services and make a significant contribution to increasing rail capacity in Ayrshire, which is expected to encourage modal shift from road to rail, and expresses concern that the closing of Ardrossan Town station does not fit into this model and will

further reduce transport services in North Ayrshire, increasing journey times to work for commuters and cutting people off from work opportunities.

***Supported by: Anne McTaggart, John Lamont, Neil Findlay, Patricia Ferguson, Jackie Baillie, Neil Bibby, Alison Johnstone, John Pentland***

**S4M-01750 David Stewart: Road Equivalent Tariff for Commercial Vehicles**—That the Parliament notes with concern the Scottish Government's current proposals to remove road equivalent tariff from commercial vehicles using ferries that serve the communities of the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree; notes that in some cases the fare increase for small haulage companies from Tiree would more than double the fare and in the Western Isles may be up to 175% of the current fare; considers that in the current economic climate these fare increases are both extremely damaging to the local economy and completely unjustifiable; calls on the Scottish Government to urgently withdraw these plans, and believes that, if the Scottish Government chooses not to do so, this would seriously question its commitment to Scotland's most fragile island communities.

***Supported by: Rhoda Grant, Hanzala Malik, Hugh Henry, Elaine Murray, Anne McTaggart, Richard Simpson, Jackie Baillie, Claire Baker, Margaret McDougall***

**S4M-01750.1 John Finnie: Road Equivalent Tariff for Commercial Vehicles**—As an amendment to motion S4M-01750 in the name of David Stewart (Road Equivalent Tariff for Commercial Vehicles), leave out from "with concern" to end and insert "the ongoing representations by the haulage industry in the Western Isles to the Scottish Government to ensure the fairest possible system of fares for commercial vehicles on ferries in the islands on a basis that recognises the economic fragility of this part of Scotland; believes that, if a system of discounts is to replace the present road equivalent tariff (RET) fares for larger commercial vehicles, it must be on a fair basis that benefits small as well as larger companies and must operate more equitably than previous discount schemes for commercial vehicles; welcomes the indication in the ferries review that the Scottish Government will look at extending the definition of a small commercial vehicle on Hebridean and Clyde ferries from a maximum of five to six metres; understands that RET fares will continue for all passengers, cars and small commercial vehicles on routes between the mainland and the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree and that the Scottish Government will extend the scheme in the course of the current parliamentary session to cover other islands, starting with Colonsay, Gigha and Islay in 2012, as well as inter-island routes such as those on the Sound of Barra and Sound of Harris, and welcomes what it considers the contrast between these policies and the situation during eight years of a Labour-Liberal Democrat administration, when not one of the longstanding demands for RET in the islands was met."

***Supported by: Annabelle Ewing, Adam Ingram, Rob Gibson, Richard Lyle, Gordon MacDonald, David Torrance, Humza Yousaf, Kenneth Gibson, Bill Kidd, Margaret Burgess, Sandra White, Mark McDonald, Kevin Stewart, Gil Paterson, Angus MacDonald, Stuart McMillan, Colin Beattie, Jamie Hepburn, Jean Urquhart***

**SEStran Partnership Authorities**

**[W. Lothian - Road closures](#)**