

RESTRICTED

links and to raise awareness of modern Scotland. Mr Finnie will host an evening of Scottish culture focusing on food in Amsterdam on Thursday, 21 October. As part of the overall project, the First Minister is visiting China from Sunday, 10 October to Saturday, 16 October.

22. There are **continuing problems of access to NHS dentistry** and a number of dentists are de-registering NHS patients and increasing their proportion of private work. The Executive launched on 20 November 2003 a major consultation on the future of NHS dentistry, "Modernising NHS Dental Services in Scotland". The consultation closed on 2 April 2004 and the responses have been analysed and published on the consultation website. Ministers will be considering a paper on the possible way forward to enable a formal Executive response to the consultation later this year. In parallel, discussions and negotiations will take place with the profession on how NHS dental services will be provided in the future.

23. The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Community Health at Glasgow Caledonian University is part of a global network of **World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery**, one of only 2 in the UK. The Princess Royal will launch an event to mark the Glasgow centre's tenure of secretariat of the network for the next 4 years on Wednesday, 6 October. This is a prestigious appointment which gives the Glasgow centre the responsibility for co-ordinating the network activities of the 36 Centres across the world. The centre's role will be to guide the implementation of a global action plan for collaboration on practice development education and research. The school already works closely with the other WHO approved centres based in universities, research institutions and professional associations worldwide, and will develop these relationships further during its tenure as secretariat.

Parliamentary Business

24. Mr Peacock appeared before the Public Petitions Committee on Wednesday, 29 September to **explain and apologise for the delay in the Executive responding to the petition of Mr Daly seeking an Inquiry into abuse in List D and other residential establishments**. Mr Peacock reiterated that the Executive does not plan to hold an Inquiry and outlined actions that the Executive is taking to address the needs of survivors and to ensure such abuse cannot happen again. Mr Peacock acknowledged that abuse took place and expressed profound sorrow about the damage that had been caused to individuals. Mr Peacock told the Committee that the Scottish Law Commission had been asked by Ms Jamieson to undertake a review of the law on limitation which currently stops many survivors from bringing civil cases to court. The Committee expressed concern at the length of time any such review would take. Following the meeting the Committee decided to seek a debate in Parliament on allegations of historic abuse in List D and other residential establishments.

Bills Active in Parliament

25. **Annex C** tracks progress of Bills proceeding through Parliament and indicates any areas of controversy.

External Communications Group and Cabinet Secretariat
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