

## **City MSPs call for review of SNH decision**

In the first motion laid in the Scottish Parliament today, Sarah Boyack MSP for Edinburgh Central called on the Scottish Executive to reconsider the decision to relocate SNH from Edinburgh to Inverness. She was supported in her call by Susan Deacon MSP for Edinburgh East and Musselburgh.

Sarah Boyack MSP said:

**"This was a decision taken in the last days of the Parliament and I am concerned about the impact on staff and the operational effectiveness of SNH."**

Susan Deacon MSP said:

**"I have met with representatives of PCS and share their concerns both about the substance and handling of this decision."**

**"I believe that the incoming Scottish Executive should look again at this matter and support Sarah Boyack's call for a review of this decision at the earliest possible date."**

The Scottish Executive announced on 20 March that Scottish Natural Heritage's headquarters would be relocated in new accommodation in Inverness in 2005.

The relocation was announced as part of the Scottish Executive's commitment to dispersing public sector jobs across Scotland.

The Edinburgh base is currently split between two sites at Hope Terrace and Anderson Place where approximately 270 people work.

### Full Text of the Motion

This Parliament notes the decision by the Scottish Executive to relocate the Headquarters of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) from Edinburgh to Inverness; acknowledges the campaigning work of the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union to highlight the effect of this proposed relocation for SNH employees; considers that the operational effectiveness of SNH should be paramount in any decision to relocate SNH; therefore considers that the Scottish Executive to reconsider the decision to relocate SNH to Inverness.

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