

PRESS RELEASE

SCOTTISH PROTEST AT LIBRARY CUTS

A PROTEST ORGANISED BY SCOTTISH AUTHORS and ILLUSTRATORS AGAINST CUTS TO THE LIBRARY SERVICE
We urge everyone concerned about Library cuts to attend

SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2011

11a.m.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Julia Donaldson - multi-award winning international bestselling

writer of the *The Gruffalo* (nominated for an Oscar in the short film category) will hand in a Protest Statement.

Julia will be available for interview at the Parliament Building at 10.45a.m.

See below for copy of Protest Statement – supporters include:

Julia Donaldson*	James Kelman	Prof Alan Riach
Theresa Breslin*	Anne Fine OBE	Ian Brown President, ASLS
James Roberston	Scottish Book Trust	Gavin MacDougall
Bernard MacLaverty	Joan Lingard	The Saltire Society
Catherine MacPhail	Hugh C. Rae	Stewart Conn
Alison Prince	Margaret Ryan	Cathy Cassidy
Lari Don*	Sara Sheridan	Julie Bertagna
Vivian French	Norman Bissell	Nicola Morgan*
Alan Bissett	Liz Holt*	Duncan Wright*
Katie Grant	Keith Gray*	Liz Laird

Ali Bowden (Director, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust)

*Those who intend to be present on the day and who have agreed to be interviewed.

More information Email: breslinweb@ntlworld.com

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TEXT OF PROTEST STATEMENT

TO BE HANDED IN AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT DURING A PROTEST ORGANISED BY
SCOTTISH AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS – EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND

11a.m. ON SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2011

A day of U.K.-wide protest about Library Cuts.

To: The First Minister and all Members of the
Scottish Parliament

We would like to protest at the widespread cuts to the library service taking place throughout Scotland.

In addition to the promotion of knowledge, literacy, and information retrieval skills, a professionally delivered library service embeds the joy of reading in our young people, building self awareness, articulate self expression, confidence, validating their life and culture, and leads to social and emotional literacy.

In a society experiencing a widening gap in household incomes, our libraries, in the great tradition on which they were first inaugurated and enshrined in the law of the land, provide access for all.

The cuts to book budgets, library opening hours, mobile services, branches, and the drastic and unnecessary deletion of professional posts strike at those most in need of a library service and those least able to protest against the cuts in that service - the less affluent, the elderly, the frail, people who are challenged mentally and physically and their carers, those who look after babies and toddlers and, crucially, our children - who are our future.

END OF PROTEST STATEMENT