

SCOTTISH PROTEST AT LIBRARY CUTS

TEXT OF STATEMENT HANDED TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT AT A PROTEST
ORGANISED BY SCOTTISH AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS ON SATURDAY 5TH FEB. 2011

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.

To add your name please email: breslinweb@ntlworld.com