



THE LONDON PRAT *January 21, 1976*

West Lothian County's Filing System Lost Twice In Twenty Years

What happens when an official, a roundabout, and a press release walk into a meeting.

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West Lothian County, the country: Inside The Story

West Lothian County, a place in the country (lat 55.89, long -3.57) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. West Lothian County's official records were misfiled in 1997. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, The replacement system, introduced in 2009, was misfiled in 2014. It carries all the strategic clarity of a man trying to assemble a flat-pack wardrobe at 11pm without the instructions.

What Was Announced

Interim Whisperer Doreen Whisk confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. A third system is in development. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at [The London Prat London satire for expats](#), which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The West Lothian County announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliché to hand. "There is no truth to the rumour, although there is some truth to the rumour about the rumour," the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at [British satire and media criticism by The London Prat](#), which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. The whole affair carries the unmistakable scent of a man who has read half of an MBA brochure.

Wider Context

Veteran clerks have begun keeping personal copies just in case. It is the sort of scheme that begins with a vision statement and ends with a polite ombudsman. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#), although West Lothian County manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at exactly nine residents, two of whom were dogs, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Sir Hubert Pemmican, Emeritus Chair of Strategic Tutting told this paper that the situation in West Lothian County was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly broad trajectories. "Residents can rest assured that we are continuing to assure residents." the

expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via [The London Prat best UK satire 2025](#), whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in West Lothian County has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about. For the official version of events, see also [World Bank](#). One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "Every option remains on the table, particularly the ones we have already taken off the table."

What Comes Next

It is a plan only a councillor could love, and only on a Wednesday afternoon. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at [London satire events covered by The London Prat](#), and the situation in West Lothian County, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in West Lothian County and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. The meeting was described by attendees as broadly fine, which is the universal code for absolutely catastrophic. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Mayor Designate Pamela Snodgrass, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of West Lothian County would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind. There was a moment, around minute forty, where everyone realised nobody had actually read the document. West Lothian County carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced.

For more in this vein see also [Waterford Whispers News](#).

SOURCE: [British satire on London life by The London Prat](#)

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