

FINANCIAL TIMES

Scotland's lord advocate, Dorothy Bain KC, reassured sexual-assault victims that protections limiting intrusive questioning remain in place after a UK supreme court ruling criticised how Scottish courts apply "rape shield" laws. The UK court warned the current Scottish system may unfairly restrict evidence for the accused. Victim-support groups fear the ruling could deter women from reporting rape, while officials insist existing convictions are not automatically unsafe.

The debate comes as Holyrood abolished the "not proven" verdict, a legal anomaly thought to be a key factor in the country's significantly lower convictions rate for rape and sexual assault – as part of a raft of reforms designed to "put victims and witnesses at the heart of a modern and fair justice system".

BBC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnuSEkDcoK4>

The longest-ever US government shutdown has ended after 43 days.

The fallout forced around 1.4 million federal employees to go without pay for weeks, suspended food to many low-income Americans and delayed or cancelled thousands of flights for airline passengers.

The Republican-controlled House on Wednesday - day 43 of the shutdown - approved a new funding bill with a vote of 222 to 209. Six Democrats joined Republicans to vote yes.

The package passed the Senate two days earlier by a vote of 60-40, after seven Democrats and one independent senator sided with Republicans to approve it.

President Donald Trump signed it into law within hours, declaring, "It's a great day". But it may still take a few days, or even weeks, to fully reopen the government and restart some vital programmes.

ABC News

Trump signs bill to release Epstein files: What's next?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftpKUApI-Y>



NEWS IN BRIEF 5

November 7th-November 22nd, 2025

The Financial Times /fɑː'nænʃl/ is a British daily newspaper that focuses on business and economic affairs. It favours free markets and on social issues it tends to be centrist to center-left.

The lord 'advocate = Scotland's top legal officer

In'trusive questioning = questions about a victim's sexual history

▲ intrusive = *importun, indiscret, gênant*

A ruling = a court decision

To de'ter //dɪ'tɜː/ = *décourager, dissuader* ▲ deter someone from doing something

Rape shield laws = laws that protect complainers in sexual offence cases from humiliating questions about their sexual history or character

Holyrood = the Scottish Parliament, set in the Holyrood area in Edinburgh

▲ this figure of speech is a metonymy

A raft of = a large amount of - *une ribambelle /tripotée de*

A 'shutdown= A federal shutdown happens when the U.S. government runs out of legally approved funding, so many federal agencies must stop or reduce their activities until Congress passes a new budget. Essential services continue, but many employees are 'furloughed' /'fɜːləʊ/ (temporarily sent home without pay=au chômage technique).

A 'fallout /'fɔːləʊt/= consequence, repercussion

Low-income= à faible revenu ▲ *noter que le tiret est obligatoire lorsque les deux noms forment un adjectif épithète ; tandis que lorsqu'ils jouent le rôle d'attribut, le tiret n'est plus obligatoire : a high-speed train vs. The train is high speed.*

A funding bill= projet de loi de financement

To side with= to support, to align with

To sign into law= promulguer une loi

0:01 – **overnight**= du jour au lendemain : suddenly

0:13 – **to be the driving force behind sth**= être le moteur

0:17 – **to urge sb to do sth** = exhorter, inciter qq à faire qch

0:22 – **a hoax** /'həʊks/= une supercherie, un canular

0:24 – **to shift the 'focus to** /'fəʊkəs/= to move attention to

0:45 – **a provision to** = une clause

0:47 – **to jeopardize** /'dʒepə'daɪz/ = mettre en danger, compromettre

0:50 – **a prosecution** = une inculpation

0:51 – **a caveat** /'kæviæt/ = un avertissement, une mise en garde

0:59 – **Attorney General** = Procureur Général, l'équivalent en France du Garde des Sceaux ou du Ministre de la Justice

1:02 – **a response** = une réaction

1:02 – **to provide specifics** = give details

1:28 – **to withhold a whole trunch of files** = ne pas communiquer une série complète de dossiers

1:45 – **Treasury Secretary** = l'équivalent en France du Ministre de l'Économie et des Finances

Tech should help us be creative. AI rips our creativity away

Dave Schilling, Friday November 21st 2025, *The Guardian*

AI-generated songs are topping Spotify charts. This isn't about the 'democratization' of art – it's about scale

Making music is hard. Well, at least it used to be. I remember the old days, when you had to spend hours and hours honing skills, coming up with something clever or personal to say, then actually recording sounds that people would want to listen to. But that's the past. In our sparkling future, a pre-teen can dump a bunch of words into a machine and out comes a catchy tune. In 2025, a robot can be a pop star. [...]

- 5 Three AI-generated songs recently topped Spotify's "Viral 50" charts. One of the "creators" responsible for these songs, Broken Veteran, who squirted out a track about immigration policies, told the Guardian that AI is "just another tool for expression, particularly valuable for people like me who have something to say but lack traditional musical training". It used to be that if you didn't know how to do something, you wouldn't do it.
- 10 [...] Advocates for AI art always throw the word "democratization" around, claiming that these machine tools remove the barriers for entry to creativity. Those barriers were actually pretty valuable, because they prevented people from having to suffer through things that are objectively bad. But again, that's the old way of thinking. [...] Thousands of AI songs are uploaded to the internet every day, by people who aren't actual musicians. I struggle to see how that's a good thing. Why would I want *more music*? I don't have time to listen to the music
- 15 that exists now. There are over 100 million songs on Spotify. What is the point of that? Why do we need to add more onto that Hometown Buffet of music? Did the world really need an AI song called I Caught My Knackers in the Cutlery Drawer? The answer doesn't matter, because it's there anyway. [...] At the core of all this artificially generated misery is the big, scary S-word: scale. Corporations, especially ones in media and entertainment, prize size over curation. More widgets – songs, TV shows, movies, books – means more monetization opportunities. More clicks, more watch time, more engagement. It doesn't matter how it happens or why. Streaming video services prize the amount of time something is viewed. Whether or not a person finishes the show or movie is almost irrelevant, as long as they are spending more time on the platform. [...]
- 20 And that is the real tragedy of all this AI slop and obsession with scale. Human experience is made secondary to chunky bits of code or esoteric values on a spreadsheet. [...] When one gives their artistic voice over to a machine, they invite a mediator into that expression. Something else is literally doing the talking for you. You are not saying anything. The machine is, based on what you have asked it to create. When someone uses AI to write a thank you email or a personal essay, they are abdicating their responsibility to articulate honestly. Technology used to be seen as an instrument for our creativity. A pencil made it easier to record our thoughts.
- 30 A typewriter and a personal computer did the same, increasing our ability to say what we felt or wanted. Now, technology is actively interrupting our dreams. Artificial intelligence is not a tool for creativity, it's a wet nurse who burps little babies and feeds them mashed peas every few hours. If I don't have to spend time learning how to write or make music, then what do I even do with my creative life? I suppose I could spend more time engaging with content. I could devote my remaining days on this earth to listening to all 100 million songs on
- 35 Spotify. Doesn't that sound completely dreadful?

To rip something away: arracher quelque chose

compétences **clever:** intelligent, astucieux, rusé

To hone /'həʊn/ **skills:** perfectionner ses

sparkling: étincelant, pétillant

to dump a bunch of words [informal]: balancer un tas de mots

to squirt out/'skwɜːt/ [informal]: pondre rapidement

an 'advocate for: a supporter for/of

to claim: prétendre, affirmer

at the core of: au cœur de **curation:** une sélection qualitative

widget: gadget

chunky bits of: des morceaux grossiers, peu élégants

scale: **ici:** gamme musicale ▲ *noter la polysémie du mot « scale » selon qu'il est au singulier ou au pluriel ou sous forme verbale ou nominale : « scale » peut aussi vouloir dire « la taille », « une écaille », « du tartre », « gravir, escalader », et au pluriel, « scales » se traduit par « balance ou instrument de pesée »*

a spreadsheet: tableau, feuille de calcul de type Excel

a wet nurse: nourrice

to burp: roter

mashed: écrasé, en purée

to engage with: interagir activement, s'impliquer

dreadful: affreux, terrible, épouvantable

WATCH A VIDEO HERE : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqdoTB-YAE0>