



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**2020
2021**

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Annual Report
Aithisg Bhliadhnail

(12 May 2020 - 5 May 2021)

(12 Cèitean 2020 - 5 Cèitean 2021)

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Foreword by the Presiding Officer



As the final year of this parliamentary session has drawn to a close, we can look back and reflect on the extraordinary events that have capped a session that has been memorable from the outset.

We began in May 2016 with one of the largest intakes of new Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) since 1999. It was a time of optimism and hope, and the refreshing energy of so many new members resonated in the speeches of the opening ceremony.

The first part of the session was dominated politically by Brexit and, in terms of parliamentary procedures, by the embedding of the Commission on Parliamentary Reform's recommendations. These were designed to bring more flexibility and responsiveness to our proceedings while ensuring that the Parliament was always in a position to discuss the big issues of the day.

The workload of our committees increased substantially as members applied themselves to the vital task of ensuring that legislation was fit for purpose in a post-Brexit Scotland. The chamber, too, was at the heart of the debate, providing a focus for discussion, questions and statements as each new development emerged.

In the midst of all of this activity, the Parliament celebrated its 20th year, an occasion marked with numerous enjoyable events across the country, including a visit from Her Majesty The Queen to address the chamber.

This last year of the fifth session of the Scottish Parliament has of course been dominated by the onset of the Covid-19 global pandemic. This health emergency and the resultant lockdown demanded an immediate and vital response from the Parliament as we rapidly introduced measures to ensure that democracy continued to function. At the beginning, that largely involved scrutiny through virtual question sessions, but we were quickly able to develop systems to allow a fully functioning

hybrid Parliament, with both the chamber and committees able to meet partly in person and partly online, including for votes. The scale and significance of the Parliament's achievement in ensuring that constituents' concerns could still be raised and heard, and that legislation could be fully considered and passed, should not be underestimated. Members and colleagues from across the organisation worked tirelessly to keep the cogs of democracy turning, overcoming difficulties and solving numerous problems along the way. As we end this session, I am confident that our Parliament will emerge stronger and more resilient than ever and that we will continue to fulfil our democratic promise to the people of Scotland.



Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP

Ro-ràdh an Oifigeir Riaghlaidh



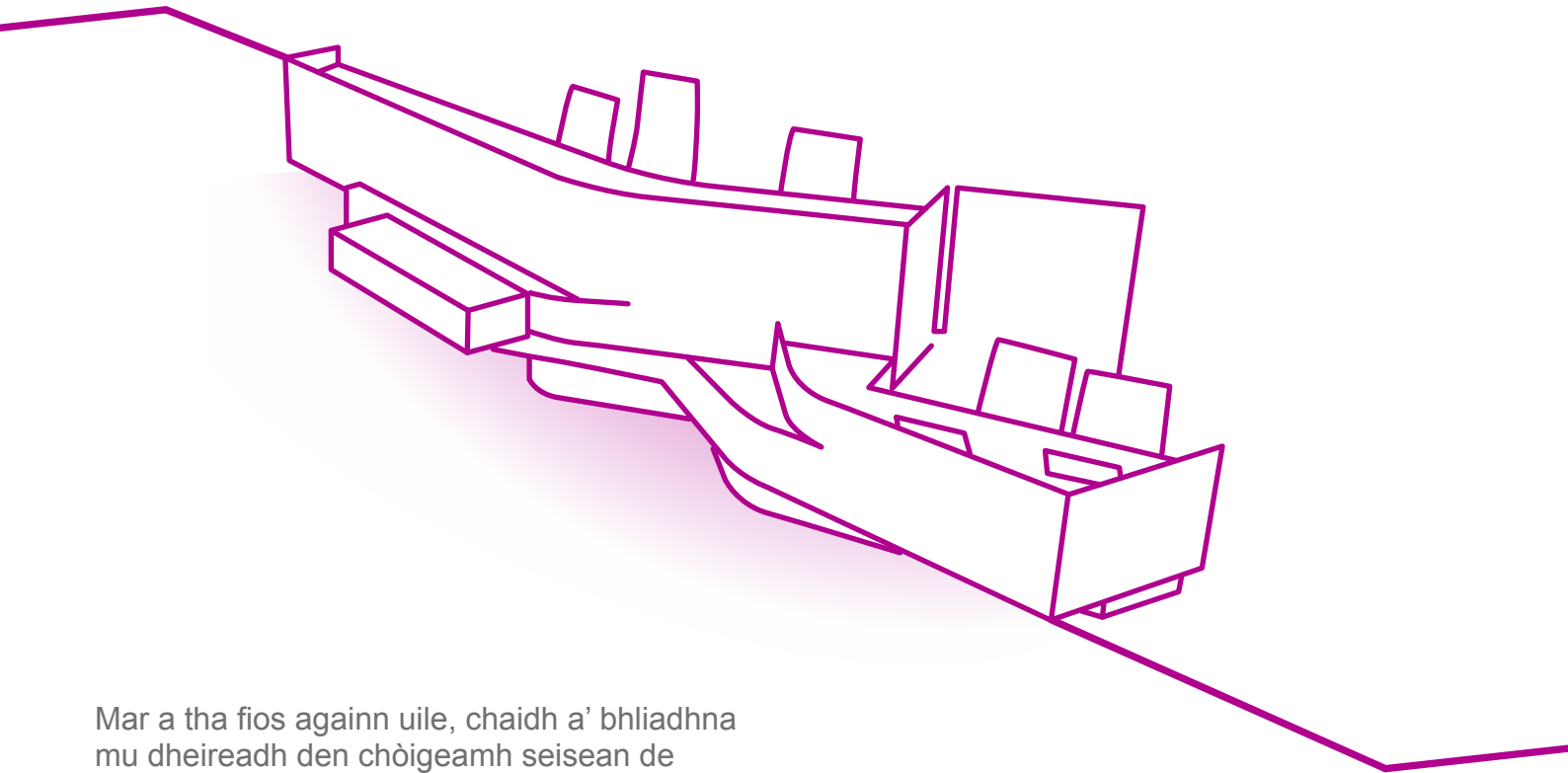
Leis a' bhliadhna mu dheireadh den t-seisean phàrlamaideach seo air a thighinn gu crìch faodaidh sinn coimhead air ais agus meòrachadh air na tachartasan iongantach a thàinig oirnn aig deireadh seisein a bha suaicheanta bhon fhìor thoiseach.

Thòisich sinn sa Chèitean 2016 le aon de na buidhnean as motha de Bhuill Pàrlamaid na h-Alba ùra a bh' againn bho 1999. B' e àm dòchais a bh' ann le spionnadh brosnachail na h-uimhir de Bhuill ùra follaiseach ann an òraidean na cuirm fosglaidh.

B' ann air Brexit a bu mhotha a bha aire phoilitigeach sa chiad phàirt den t-seisean agus a thaobh obrachadh na Pàrlamaid, b' e daingneachadh molaidhean a' Choimisein air Ath-leasachadh Pàrlamaideach a bha air thùs chùisean. Bha iad seo air an dealbhadh gus barrachd sùbailteachd agus freagairteachd a thoirt do na h-imeachdan againn ach a bhiodh aig an aon àm a' dèanamh cinnteach gum biodh a' Phàrlamaid an-còmhnaidh comasach air ceistean mòra an latha a dheasbad.

Dh'fhàs eallach obrach ar comataidhean gu mòr mar a chaidh Buill an sàs ann an obair dheamach a dhèanamh cinnteach gu robh reachdas ann an Alba freagarrach às dèidh Brexit. Bha an seòmar cuideachd aig cridhe na cùise, na fhòcas airson deasbad, ceistean agus aithrisean mar a nochd gach leasachadh ùr.

Am measg na bha seo, chomharraich a' Phàrlamaid an 20mh bliadhna aice, le iomadach tachartas tlachdmhor air feadh na dùthcha agus a' toirt a-steach turas bho A Mòrachd a' Bhanrigh gus òraid a libhrigeadh don t-seòmar.



Mar a tha fios againn uile, chaidh a' bhliadhna mu dheireadh den chòigeamh seisean de Phàrlamaid na h-Alba a ghabhail thairis le galar lèir-sgaoilte Covid-19. Bha an èiginn slàinte seo agus an glasadh sluaigh a dh'adhbhraicheadh leis feumach air freagairt sa bhad bhon Phàrlamaid, agus thug sinn a-steach ceumannan gu sgiobalta airson dèanamh cinnteach gun leanadh deamocrasaidh ag obair. Aig an toiseach bha seo gu ìre mhòr tro sheiseanan ceist bhiortail, ach chaidh againn air siostaman a chruthachadh gu luath agus Pàrlamaid haidhbrid làn-èifeachdach a dhèanamh comasach leis an t-seòmar agus na comataidhean a' coinneachadh ann am pàirt aghaidh ri aghaidh agus ann am pàirt air-loidhne, a' gabhail a-steach bhòtaichean. Tha a' Phàrlamaid gun teagamh airidh air moladh le mar a shoirbhich leotha a' dèanamh cinnteach gun gabhadh beachdan luchd-taghadh a thogail agus a chluinntinn fhathast, agus gum faodadh làn bheachdachadh a dhèanamh air reachdas agus gabhail

ris. Dh'obraich buill agus co-obraichean bho air feadh na buidhne gu cruaidh gus deamocrasaidh a chumail a' dol, a' faighinn thairis air staingean agus a' lorg fuasgladh air iomadh duilgheadas air an t-slighe. Nuair a chuireas sinn crìoch air an t-seisean seo, tha mi cinnteach gun nochd a' Phàrlamaid againn a-rithist nas làidire agus nas seasmhaiche na bha i a-riamh agus gun lean sinn oirnn a' coileanadh ar geallaidh dheamocrataich do mhuinntir na h-Alba.

Ken Macintosh

Am Fìor Urr Ken Mac an Tòisich BPA



First remote question taken during First Minister's question time

A' chiad ceist air astar rè Ceistean a' Phrìomh Mhinister

Part 1 | Pàirt 1

May 2020 to July 2020

Cèitean 2020 gu Iuchar 2020

Adapting to a new work environment under Covid-19

In a year like no other in its history, the Scottish Parliament constantly adapted and developed its procedures so that it could continue to operate effectively as the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the country.

Recognising the unprecedented nature of the pandemic, Lewis Macdonald MSP had been elected as an additional Deputy Presiding Officer to support the Presiding Officer and his two deputies until the election in May 2021.

Standing orders (the Parliament's rules of procedure) were changed to allow committees and the chamber to meet remotely, with the first formal hybrid meetings of Parliament taking place in May 2020. Hybrid meetings involve some MSPs 'dialling in' while some are present in the chamber in Edinburgh.

Virtual question times, introduced in April 2020, continued, and weekly virtual meetings became the new norm for committees.

A' freagradh ri àrainneachd obrach ùr fo Chovid-19

Chan fhacas a-riamh leithid na bliadhna a chaidh seachad, le èiginn galar lèir-sgaoilte Covid-19 a' ciallachadh gum b' fheudar do Phàrlamaid na h-Alba a bhith a' sìor atharrachadh is leasachadh gus am b' urrainn dhi cumail oirre ag obair gu h-èifeachdach.

Mar aithne air suidheachadh gun samhail, chaidh Lewis Dòmhnallach BPA a thaghadh mar Leas-oifigear Riaghlaidh a bharrachd gus taic a thoirt don Oifigear Riaghlaidh agus an dithis Leas-oifigear gus an taghadh sa Chèitean 2021.

Chaidh na gnàth-riaghailtean (riaghailtean na Pàrlamaid a thaobh dòighean-obrach) atharrachadh gus leigeil le comataidhean agus an seòmar coinneachadh air astar, agus chaidh a' chiad choinneamhan measgaichte foirmeil den Phàrlamaid a chumail sa Chèitean 2020. Ann an coinneamhan measgaichte bidh cuid de BhPA air astar fhad 's a tha cuid eile an làthair anns an t-Seòmar ann an Dùn Èideann.

Chaidh amannan ceist bhiortail a thoirt a-steach sa Ghiblean 2020, agus bhon àm sin b' e coinneamhan bhiortail seachdaineil an àbhaist ùr airson chomataidhean.



On 19 May, in a parliamentary first, members of the COVID-19 Committee voted remotely on amendments to the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill using the virtual meeting platform, and the bill completed its passage—following speedy work by the legislation clerks—during a hybrid plenary session in the chamber the following day.

Members and Parliament staff alike, along with the rest of the working world, grew familiar with the benefits—and the occasional frustrations—of online meetings. Thanks to the technological support of a boosted broadcasting team, committees continued taking evidence on matters of importance from a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties. Inevitable variations in the quality of broadband meant the occasional appearance in the Parliament's *Official Report* of the term “[Inaudible.]” One MSP, worried that a recent storm might prevent his being able to question a cabinet secretary from home, found support and a stronger signal at his local car dealership.

In addition to the work of the COVID-19 Committee, which was established specifically to consider and report on the Scottish Government's response to the pandemic, other committees sought views and took evidence on the impact of Covid-19 on the areas covered by their remits. An inquiry on the subject by the Equalities and Human Rights Committee received an excellent response on Twitter, while the Education and Skills Committee held several focus groups on the 2020 exam diet, which fed into an evidence session with the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

The Parliament's research and information centre, SPICe, continued to provide a full service to members and committees, producing numerous blogs and FAQs, pointing the public and members to trusted sources of information, and summarising the most up-to-date statistics on coronavirus.

Following a call for expertise on policy issues relating to Covid-19, 180 experts registered an interest in helping the Parliament. Sitting with SPICe, the register enabled the informal provision of advice and helped committees to identify potential witnesses.

Air 19 Cèitean, airson a' chiad uair sa Phàrlamaid, bhòt buill den Chomataidh COVID-19 air astar air atharrachaidhean do Bhile a' Choròna-bhìoras (Alba) (Àir 2) a' cleachdadh dòigh coinneimh bhìortail, agus chrìochnaich am bile a shlighe – às dèidh obair luath leis na clàrcan reachdais – ann an làn sheisean measgaichte anns an t-seòmar an ath latha.

Dh'fhàs na buill agus luchd-obrach na Pàrlamaid le chèile, a cheart mar a' chòrr den t-saoghal obrach, eòlach air na buannachdan – agus, aig amannan, na duilgheadasan – an lùib choinneamhan air-loidhne. Le taic theicneòlach bho sgioba craolaidh neartaichte, chùm comataidhean orra a' gabhail fianais air cùisean cudromach bho raon farsaing de luchd-ùidh. Nochd an abairt “[*chan urrainnear a chluinntinn*]” bho àm gu àm ann an Aithisg Oifigeil na Pàrlamaid mar thoradh air eadar-dhealachaidhean do-sheachanta ann an càileachd bann-leathainn. Bha aon BhPA, a bha iomagaineach gum faodadh stoirm a bhacadh bho a bhith a' ceasnachadh rùnaire caibineit bhon dachaigh, a lorg taic agus siognail nas làidire anns an àite reic chàraichean ionadail aige.

A bharrachd air obair na Comataidh COVID-19, a chaidh a stèidheachadh gu sònraichte gus beachdachadh agus aithris a dhèanamh air freagairt Riaghaltas na h-Alba don ghalar lèir-sgaoilte, bha comataidhean eile a' sireadh bheachdan agus a' gabhail fianais air buaidh COVID-19 air cùisean anns na raointean-ùghdarras aca. Fhuair rannsachadh a rinn a' Chomataidh Co-ionannachd is Còraichean Daonna air a' chuspair freagairt fhìor mhath air Twitter, agus chùm a' Chomataidh Foghlaim is Sgìlean grunn bhuidhnean fòcais air deuchainnean sgoile 2020, a chur ri seisean fianais le Ùghdarras Theisteanais na h-Alba.

Chùm ionad rannsachaidh is fiosrachaidh na Pàrlamaid, SPICe, air a' tabhann làn sheirbheis do bhuill agus chomataidhean, a' toirt a-mach grunn bhlogaichean agus Ceistean Cumanta, a' stiùireadh a' phobaill agus buill gu stòran fiosrachaidh earbsach, agus a' libhrigeadh geàrr-chunntas air an staitistearachd as ùire mun Choròna-bhìoras.

Às dèidh iarrtas airson eòlaichean air cùisean poileasaidh co-cheangailte ri Covid-19, chlàraich 180 eòlaiche ùidh ann a bhith a' cuideachadh na Pàrlamaid. Bha an clàr seo, a bha an lùib SPICe, ga dhèanamh comasach do dh'eòlaichean comhairle a thoirt seachad gu neo-fhoirmeil agus chuidich e comataidhean gus fianaisean a lorg.



The international relations office supported discussions between the Presiding Officer and colleagues from legislatures around the world, including those in Québec and Iceland, which focused on issues such as the Parliament's response to Covid-19, and the facilitation of participation and voting in remote meetings.

With workplaces the world over massively increasing their use of virtual platforms, the Parliament's web and social media team recorded informal interviews with the Presiding Officer and several committee conveners as podcasts.

Parliament staff were supported to work from home where possible, with the business information technology and facilities management teams assisting them to establish suitable home working environments. Wellbeing was always front and centre. The incident communications team co-ordinated all internal and external communications on the Parliament's response to the pandemic, ensuring that practical advice and information for MSPs and their staff, Parliament staff and contractors was joined up and consistent and met all users' needs.

A modified summer recess

The exceptional circumstances of this Covid-dominated year meant that the summer recess was shortened to six weeks, and special arrangements were made to allow the Parliament to sit a number of times during the recess to continue its scrutiny role. This enabled members to hear from and question the First Minister as she set out the Scottish Government's steps in relation to the legal requirement to review the lockdown restrictions every three weeks. At the hybrid meetings of Parliament on 9 and 30 July, in addition to those statements by the First Minister, her ministerial colleagues made statements on matters such as the support being provided for the further and higher education sector. Virtual meetings were also held over the recess period, including a keenly awaited update from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills on the Scottish Government's plans to reopen schools on a full-time basis from August.

While the focus of much of the Parliament's activities continued to be on the immediate response to Covid-19, with the move into summer, work began on preparing for the easing of lockdown restrictions. Risk assessments of access and movement were carried out throughout to ensure safe working could always be achieved within the Parliament building.



A hybrid meeting of the Scottish Parliament

Coinneamh mheasgaite aig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



PLEASE
STAY
2 METRES
APART ON
STAIRS

Thug an oifis dàimh eadar-nàiseanta taic do chòmhradh eadar an t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh agus co-obrachaidhean bho reachdadaireachdan air feadh an t-saoghail, feadhainn Québec agus Innis Tìle nam measg, a chuimsich air cùisean leithid freagairt na Pàrlamaid do Chovid-19, agus a dhèanamh comasach gabhail pàirt agus bhòtadh ann an coinneamhan air astar.

Le àiteachan-obrach air feadh an t-saoghail a' meudachadh dhòighean-obrach bhiortail gu mòr, chlàraich sgioba-lìn is meadhanan sòisealta na Pàrlamaid agallamhan neo-fhoirmeil leis an Oifigear Riaghlaidh agus grunn luchd-gairm comataidh ann an riochd phodcastan.

Chaidh taic a thoirt do luchd-obrach na Pàrlamaid a bhith ag obair bhon taigh far an robh sin comasach, leis na sgiobaidhean teicneòlas fiosrachaidh gnìomhachais agus stiùireadh ghoireasan gan cuideachadh gus àrainneachdan obrach freagarrach a stèidheachadh san dachaigh, le sunnd dhaoine an-còmhnaidh a' chùis as cudromaiche. Rinn an sgioba conaltradh tachartais co-òrdanachadh air a h-uile conaltradh taobh a-staigh agus taobh a-muigh mu fhreagairt na Pàrlamaid don ghalar lèir-sgaoilte, a' dèanamh cinnteach gun d' fhuair BPA agus na sgiobaidhean-obrach aca, luchd-obrach na Pàrlamaid agus cunnadairean comhairle agus fiosrachadh practaigeach a bha co-cheangailte agus cunbhalach agus a' coinneachadh ri feumalachdan gach neach-cleachdaidh.

Fosadh samhraidh atharraichte

Bha suidheachaidhean sònraichte na bliadhna seo fo bhuaidh Covid a' ciallachadh gun deach fosadh an t-samhraidh a ghiorrachadh gu sia seachdainean, agus chaidh rèiteachaidhean sònraichte a dhèanamh airson leigeil leis a' Phàrlamaid suidhe grunn thursan tron fhosadh gus leantainn air adhart leis an sgrùdadh aice. Thug seo cothrom do Bhuill cluinntinn bhon Phrìomh Mhinistear agus a ceasnachadh fhad 's a bha i a' mìneachadh ceumannan Riaghaltas na h-Alba a thaobh an riatanais laghail a thaobh ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air na cuingeadan glasaigh a h-uile trì seachdainean. Aig coinneamhan measgaichte na Pàrlamaid air 9 agus 30 Iuchar, a bharrachd air na h-aithrisean sin leis a' Phrìomh Mhinistear, rinn a ministearan aithrisean air cùisean leithid na taice a bhathar a' toirt don roinn foghlaim adhartach agus àrd-ìre. Chaidh coinneamhan bhiortail a chumail cuideachd thairis air fosadh, a' toirt a-steach naidheachd ris an robh mòran a' feitheamh bho Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlam agus Sgilean mu phlanaichean Riaghaltas na h-Alba gus sgoiltean ath-fhosgladh làn-ùine bhon Lùnastal.

Ged a bha mòran de ghnìomhachd na Pàrlamaid fhathast a' cuimseachadh air freagairt èiginneach do Covid-19, aig toiseach an t-samhraidh thòisich ullachadh airson an glasadh-sluaigh a lùghdachadh. Rinneadh làn mheasadh cunnairt air inntigeachd agus gluasad tron àm seo air fad gus am urrainnear obair gu sàbhailte taobh a-staigh togalach na Pàrlamaid.

Part 2 | Pàirt 2

August 2020 to October 2020

Lùnastal 2020 gu Dàmhair 2020

Immediately after the summer recess, members were able to use the secure browser-based system on their own mobile devices to vote on a number of matters whether they were in the chamber or participating remotely. The new voting system was first used on 12 August following a debate on an economic recovery implementation plan. This development was a crucial step forward in continuing the Parliament's scrutiny role during the pandemic. Following work by Parliament staff, the post-recess period also saw the successful introduction of hybrid committee meetings, involving a physically distanced layout for committee rooms.

As the parliamentary year moved into autumn, the pattern of business took on a more familiar appearance, with three hybrid sittings of the chamber taking place each week, First Minister's question time returning to a Thursday, non-Government business restarting, and members' business debates taking place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Dìreach às dèidh fosadh an t-samhraidh, bha e comasach do na buill an siostam tèarainte stèidhichte air brabhsair a chleachdadh air na h-innealan gluasadach aca fhèin gus bhòtadh air grunn chùisean ge bith an robh iad san t-seòmar no air astar. Chaidh an siostam bhòtaidh ùr a chleachdadh an toiseach air 12 Lùnastal às dèidh deasbad mu phlana buileachaidh airson ath-bheothachadh eaconamach. Bha an leasachadh seo na cheum deatamach gus leantainn air adhart le obair sgrùdaidh na Pàrlamaid aig àm a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte. Air sgàth oidhirpean luchd-obrach na Pàrlamaid, anns an ùine an dèidh fosadh chaidh coinneamhan comataidh measgaichte a thoirt a-steach gu soirbheachail, le astarachadh fiosaigeach ann an seòmraichean comataidh.

Mar a ghluais bliadhna na Pàrlamaid a-steach don fhoghar, bha coltas nas àbhaistich air a' phàtran gnothaich, le trì suidhe measgaichte den t-seòmar gach seachdain, Ceistean don Phrìomh Mhinistear a' tilleadh gu Diardaoin, gnothach neo-Riaghaltais ag ath-thòiseachadh, agus deasbadaan gnothaichean bhall a' gabhail àite Dimàirt agus Diciadain.





Scottish Parliament building
Togalach Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Committee on the Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints

Comataidh air Làimhseachadh Riaghaltas na
h-Alba air Gearanan Sàrachaidh

Committees continued to scrutinise policy and legislation within their remits. As part of its scrutiny work, the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee took evidence from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, whose *Cathraiche* (chair) and *Ceannard* (chief executive) made opening statements in Gaelic.

Committees also played their role in scrutinising the impact of Covid-19 on areas within their remits, and continued to hear from representatives of some of the many groups harshly affected by the pandemic.

- The COVID-19 Committee held frequent evidence sessions on the various coronavirus regulations with the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs, Michael Russell MSP, and Professor Jason Leitch, the Scottish Government's national clinical director, who was a regular presence on radio and television during the pandemic.
- The Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee held evidence sessions on the virus's pervasive impact on tourism, print journalism and the cultural, heritage and hospitality sectors.

As is usual in the final year of a parliamentary session, the legislative workload was heavy. That pressure was increased by the demands of scrutinising a raft of subordinate legislation—some associated with the pandemic, but much of it relating to the UK's rapidly approaching exit from the European Union.

The busy parliamentary timetable also had to make room for detailed deliberations by the Committee on the Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints, which was set up to investigate and report on the actions of the First Minister, Scottish Government officials and special advisers in dealing with complaints about former First Minister Alex Salmond. In September, the committee heard from key figures including the permanent secretary to the Scottish Government, Leslie Evans, and the Lord Advocate, James Wolffe. Its work culminated in lengthy evidence sessions in late February and early March with former First Minister Alex Salmond and current First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP respectively. All involved worked hard throughout to produce a report before the Parliament went into recess on 24 March 2021.

Chùm comataidhean orra a' sgrùdadh poileasaidh agus reachdas nan raon-ùghdarrais. Mar phàirt den obair sgrùdaidh aice, ghabh Comataidh Sgrùdadh Poblach fianais bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, far an d' thug an Cathraiche agus an Ceannard aithrisean tòiseachaidh seachad sa Ghàidhlig.

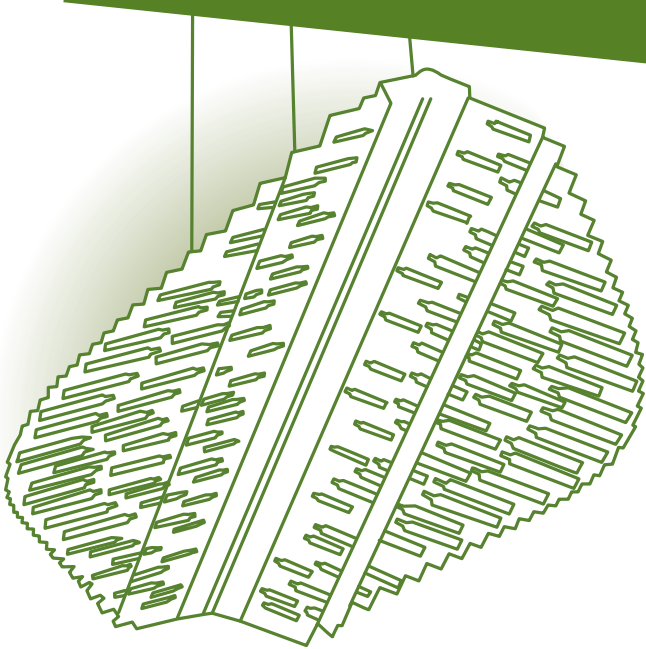
Chùm comataidhean orra a' sgrùdadh buaidh Covid-19 air na raointean-ùghdarrais aca cuideachd, a' cluinntinn bho riochdairean aig cuid den iomadh buidheann air an tug an galar lèir-sgaoilte buaidh mhòr.

- Chùm Comataidh COVID-19 seiseanan fianais gu tric air na diofar riaghailtean Coròna-bhiorais le Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na Bun-stèidh, na Roinn Eòrpa agus Cùisean Taobh a-muigh, Mìcheal Ruiseal BPA, agus leis an Àrd-ollamh Jason Leitch, stiùiriche clionaigeach nàiseanta Riaghaltas na h-Alba, a bha air rèidio agus telebhisean gu cunbhalach aig àm a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte.
- Chùm a' Chomataidh Cultair, Turasachd, na Roinn Eòrpa agus Cùisean Taobh a-muigh seiseanan fianais air buaidh a' bhiorais air feadh turasachd, pàipearan-naidheachd agus na roinnean cultair, dualchais agus aoigheachd.

Mar as àbhaist anns a' bhliadhna mu dheireadh de sheisean pàrlamaid, bha an eallach obrach reachdail trom. Chaidh an cuideam sin a chur am meud leis gum feumar grunn phìosan fo-reachdais a sgrùdadh – cuid co-cheangailte ris a' ghalar lèir-sgaoilte, ach mòran eile co-cheangailte ri mar a bha an Rìoghachd Aonaichte a' teannadh dlùth air an t-Aonadh Eòrpach fhàgail.

Dh'fheumar cuideachd àite a dhèanamh ann an clàr-ama trang na Pàrlamaid airson beachdachadh mionaideach na Comataidh air Làimhseachadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba air Gearanan Sàrachaidh, a chaidh a stèidheachadh gus sgrùdadh a dhèanamh agus aithris a thoirt seachad air gnìomhan a' Phrìomh Mhinistear, oifigearan Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus comhairlichean sònraichte ann a bhith a' dèiligeadh ri gearanan mun t-seann Phrìomh Mhinistear, Ailig Salmond. San t-Sultain, chuala a' chomataidh bho phrìomh dhaoine a' gabhail a-steach rùnaire seasmhach Riaghaltas na h-Alba, Leslie Evans, agus am Morair Tagraidh, Seumas Wolffe. Thàinig an obair gu crìch le seiseanan fada a' cluinntinn fianais bho an t-seann Phrìomh Mhinistear Ailig Salmond aig deireadh a' Ghearrain agus am Prìomh Mhinistear làithreach Nicola Sturgeon BPA aig toiseach a' Mhàirt. Dh'obraich a h-uile duine a bha an sàs gu cruaidh rè an rannsachaidh agus airson aithisg a dheasachadh mus deach a' Phàrlamaid gu fosadh air 24 Màrt 2021.





Legislative wheels in motion

Bills were scrutinised, agreed in principle, examined in detail, amended, debated and passed. Over the autumn, the Justice Committee acted as lead committee for the consideration of two high-profile bills in rapid succession—the Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Bill and the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill. Such was the level of public attention on the latter, which included strong criticism from some quarters, that, unusually, before the stage 1 process had even begun, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Humza Yousaf MSP, made a statement to the Parliament on amendments that he intended to make to the bill at stage 2.

Among the members' bills dealt with by the Parliament during this period were Neil Bibby MSP's Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill and Daniel Johnson MSP's Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Bill. The Parliament also made time to consider the implications for Scotland of various pieces of UK legislation, including the Agriculture Bill and the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill.

Reachdas ga dhèanamh

Chaidh bilean a sgrùdadh, aontachadh ann am prionnsapal, a cheasnachadh gu mionaideach, atharrachadh, a dheasbad agus gabhail riutha. As t-fhoghar, bha Comataidh a' Cheartais ag obair mar phrìomh chomataidh airson beachdachadh air dà bhile san robh mòran ùidh aig daoine, aon às dèidh a chèile – Bile Milleadh Cliù agus Foillseachadh Droch-rùnach (Alba) agus Bile Eucoir Gràin is Òrdugh Poblach (Alba). Bha uiread aire aig a' phoball air a' bhile mu dheireadh, a fhuair càineadh làidir bho chuid, gun do rinn Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas, Humza Yousaf BPA, aithris don Phàrlamaid fiù mus do thòisich pròiseas ìre 1, mu atharrachaidhean a bha e an dùil a dhèanamh ris a' bhile aig ìre 2.

Am measg bilean bhall ris an do dhèilig a' Phàrlamaid aig an àm seo bha Bile nan Taighean-seinnse Ceangailte (Alba) aig Niall Bibby BPA agus Bile Dìon an Luchd-obrach (Reic agus Bathar is Seirbheisean le Cuingalachadh Aoise) (Alba) aig Daniel Johnson BPA. Rinn a' Phàrlamaid cuideachd beachdachadh air a' bhuidh a bhiodh air Alba aig diofar phìosan de reachdas na RA, a' gabhail a-steach Bile Àiteachais agus Bile Margaidh Taobh a-staigh na Rìoghachd Aonaichte.

Engagement

Although Covid-19 significantly affected the ability of people to come together to engage with the work of committees, staff used digital methods to gather views and lived experiences. Many online focus groups were held, including with young people on the effect of Covid-19 on employment, with community groups on green recovery, and with the landlords of tied pubs in relation to the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill. The Parliament's Citizen Space digital tool was increasingly used as the standard method for committee calls for views because of its accessibility and its versatile analysis functions, with a call for experiences of social care at home during the pandemic receiving more than 600 responses from cared-for people, carers and front-line staff. In addition, creative methods were used to reach digitally excluded groups: for the green recovery inquiry, for example, community groups were contacted by postcard.

Conaltradh

Ged a thug Covid-19 buaidh mhòr air comas dhaoine a thighinn còmhla a dhol an sàs ann an obair nan comataidhean, chleachd luchd-obrach dòighean didseatach gus beachdan agus eòlas dhaoine a chruinneachadh. Chaidh mòran buidhnean fòcais air-loidhne a chumail, nam measg feadhainn le daoine òga air buaidh Covid-19 air cosnadh, le buidhnean coimhearsnachd air ath-bheothachadh uaine, agus le uachdarain thaighean-seinnse ceangailte a thaobh Bile nan Taighean-seinnse Ceangailte (Alba). Chaidh inneal didseatach na Pàrlamaid, Citizen Space, a chleachdadh barrachd is barrachd le comataidhean mar an dòigh àbhaisteach airson beachdan dhaoine a shireadh, air sgàth cho ruigsinneach 's a tha e agus na gnìomhan anailis sùbailte a th' ann, agus fhuair iarrtas airson eòlas dhaoine air cùram sòisealta aig an taigh rè a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte còrr is 600 freagairt bho dhaoine a' faighinn cùram, luchd-cùraim agus luchd-obrach loidhne-aghaidh. Chaidh dòighean cruthachail a chleachdadh gus buidhnean a bha a' fulang às-dùnadh didseatach a ruighinn: airson an sgrùdadh air ath-bheothachadh uaine, mar eisimpleir, chaidh fios a chur gu buidhnean coimhearsnachd le cairtean-puist.



Festival of Politics 2020
An Fhèis Phoileataigs 2020



Part 3 | Pàirt 3

November 2020 to December 2020

Samhain 2020 gu Dùbhlachd 2020

Festival of Politics

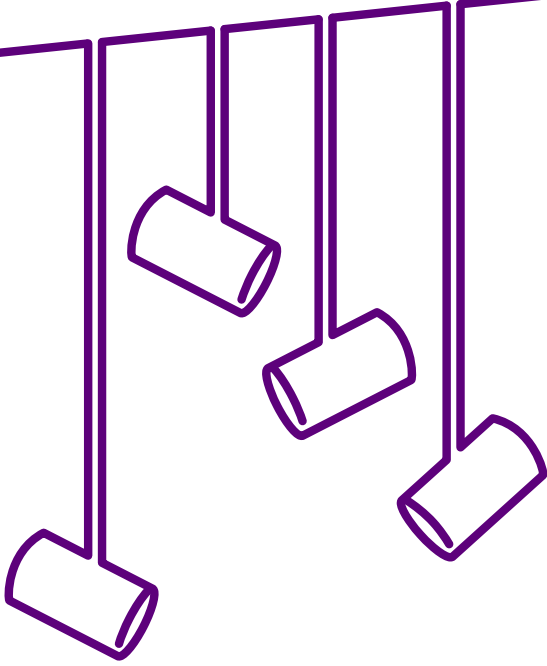
In another first, this year's Festival of Politics took place entirely online over three days in November. Its 14 events brought together global thinkers, academics and experts to debate solutions to the economic, environmental and human challenges and inequalities that had been brought into sharp focus by the pandemic.

Several partner organisations provided panellists and promoted events to which their expertise was relevant. For example, Mike Robinson from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society was a member of the panel that discussed the question "What should Scotland's top five aims be for COP26?", which elicited almost 100 questions from the public. Event chairs asked attendees to 'like' questions, prioritising the most popular ones to be put to their panel. The involvement of committee conveners in chairing events—such as when Gillian Martin MSP, convener of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee, chaired the COP26 event—enabled them to share their committees' work with a wider public.

Fèis Phoilitigs

Airson a' chiad turas a-riamh, chaidh Fèis Phoilitigs na bliadhna seo a chumail gu tur air-loidhne thairis air trì latha san t-Samhain. Thug na 14 tachartasan luchd-smaoineachaidh na cruinne, acadaimigich agus eòlaichean còmhla gus fuasglaidhean fhaighinn air na dùbhlain agus neo-ionannachdan eaconamach, àrainneachdail agus daonna a chaidh a nochdadh gu soilleir leis a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte.

Bha grunn bhuidhnean com-pàirteachaidh a thug seachad luchd-labhairt agus a chuir taic ri tachartasan san robh an t-eòlas aca buntainneach. Mar eisimpleir, bha Mike Robinson bho Chomann Cruinn-eòlais Rìoghail na h-Alba na bhall den phanail a bheachdaich air a' cheist "Dè na còig prìomh amasan a bu chòir a bhith aig Alba airson COP26?", a bhrosnaich faisg air 100 ceist bho muinntir a' phobaill. Dh'iarr cathraichean nan tachartasan air luchd-frithealaidh 'like' a dhèanamh air ceist, gus na ceistean a bu mhotha a thog ùidh dhaoine a thaghadh airson a chur air a' phanail aca. Bha luchd-gairm comataidh an sàs ann an tachartasan agus thug seo cothrom dhaibh obair nan comataidhean aca a mhìneachadh don phoball – leithid nuair a bha Gillian Mhàrtainn BPA, neach-gairm Comataidh na h-Àrainneachd, Atharrachadh Gnàth-thìde agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn na cathraiche air tachartas COP26.



Almost 2,000 people took part over the three days, and the post-festival survey showed that its digital nature helped a wider range of participants from postcodes across Scotland, including more people with disabilities, to get involved. British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation was provided for more than a quarter of the programme, with members of the BSL community helping to choose the events they wanted to see interpreted on Facebook Live. A Deaf BSL user—Dr Robert Adam—took part as a panellist for the first time.

Engagement with business

During December the Parliament hosted the first virtual version of its annual Business in the Parliament conference, which aims to facilitate engagement between business and politicians. More than 100 delegates, including members and representatives of the business sector in Scotland, came together during the one-day event, which was chaired by the Presiding Officer and featured keynote speeches from the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, and Mark Logan, former chief operating officer of Skyscanner. Workshops were organised by organisations including the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, the Institute of Directors Scotland and Young Enterprise Scotland.

Ghabh faisg air 2,000 neach pàirt thairis air na trì làithean agus sheall an sgrùdadh às dèidh na fèise gu robh nàdar didseatach nan tachartasan a' cuideachadh dhaoine bho chòdan-puist air feadh na h-Alba a' gabhail a-steach barrachd dhaoine air a bheil ciorram gus pàirt a ghabhail annta. Bha eadar-mhìneachadh Cànan Soidhnidh Bhreatainn (BSL) ann airson còrr is cairteil den phrògram, leudachadh mòr bho na fèisean roimhe. Gu dearbh, chuidich buill den choimhearsnachd BSL le bhith a' taghadh nan tachartasan a bu mhath leotha faicinn le mìneachadh BSL air Facebook Live. Ghabh cleachdaiche BSL Bodhar – an Dr Robert Adam – pàirt mar neach-pannail airson a' chaid turais riamh.

Conaltradh le gnìomhachas

Anns an Dùbhlachd chùm a' Phàrlamaid a' chiad dreach bhiortail den cho-labhairt bhliadhnail Gnìomhachas sa Phàrlamaid, a tha ag amas air conaltradh eadar luchd-gnìomhachais agus luchd-poilitigs a dhèanamh nas fhasa. Thàinig còrr is 100 riochdaire, a' gabhail a-steach buill agus riochdairean bho roinn gnìomhachais ann an Alba, còmhla aig an tachartas aon-latha, leis an Oifigear Riaghlaidh anns a' chathair. Bha prìomh òraidean ann bhon Phrìomh Mhinistear, Nicola Sturgeon BPA, agus Mark Logan, a bha na àrd-oifigear obrachaidh aig Skyscanner. Chaidh bùthan-obrach a chur air dòigh le buidhnean a' gabhail a-steach Comhairle Leasachaidh is Gnìomhachais na h-Alba, Institiud Stiùirichean na h-Alba agus Iomairt Òg na h-Alba.

Meeting will begin shortly



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JVC

Parliamentary business

Legislation continued to take up a large amount of the Parliament's time in the last months of 2020.

The Parliament's passing in November of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill, which was introduced by Monica Lennon MSP and received cross-party support, made Scotland the first country in the world to establish a statutory duty to provide free access to products such as sanitary pads and tampons. As such, it attracted a significant amount of international attention.

Because of the Parliament's passing in December of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill, a person can now self-refer for forensic medical services without first having to report an incident to the police, and health boards must store such evidence while the individual decides whether they want to report the incident.

Gnothaichean pàrlamaideach

Bha reachdas a' caitheamh mòran de dh'ùine na Pàrlamaid suas gu deireadh 2020.

San t-Samhain, nuair a ghabh a' Phàrlamaid ri Bile Bathar Fala-mìos (Solar An-asgaidh) (Alba), a thug Monica Lennon BPA a-steach agus a fhuair taic thar-phàrtaidh, b' e Alba a' chiad dùthaich air an t-saoghal a stèidhich dleastanas reachdail gus cothrom an-asgaidh a libhrigeadh air uidheam mìosail leithid badan slàintealachd agus tamponan. Mar sin, tharraing e mòran aire eadar-nàiseanta.

Mar thoradh air a' Phàrlamaid a' gabhail ri Bile nan Seirbheisean Meidigeach Foireansach (Luchd-fulaing Eucoirean Feise) (Alba), anns an Dùbhlachd, faodaidh neach a-nis an cur fhèin air adhart gu seirbheisean meidigeach foireansach gun a bhith ag innse don phoileas an toiseach dè thachair dhaibh, agus feumaidh bùird-slàinte fianais den leithid a chumail fhad 's a tha an neach a' co-dhùnadh a bheil iad airson aithris a thoirt seachad.



MSPs in the chamber
BPA san t-Seòmar

Recall of Parliament

For the first time since the Scottish Parliament was reconvened in 1999, the Parliament was recalled during the Christmas recess period. Meetings were held on Wednesday 30 December 2020 and Monday 4 January 2021 to allow statements from the First Minister on extended restrictions due to Covid-19 and to enable a debate to take place on the Trade and Co-operation Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union in the context of the passing of emergency legislation relating to the UK leaving the EU.

Ath-ghairm na Pàrlamaid

Airson a' chiad uair bho chaidh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba ath-stèidheachadh ann an 1999, chaidh a' Phàrlamaid a ghairm air ais aig àm fosadh na Nollaige. Chaidh coinneamhan a chumail air Diciadain 30 Dùbhlachd 2020 agus Diluain 4 Faoilleach 2021 airson aithrisean bhon Phrìomh Mhinistear mu chuingeadan leudaichte mar thoradh air Covid-19 agus gus leigeil le deasbad a dhol air adhart mun Aonta Malairt is Co-obrachaidh eadar an Rìoghachd Aonaichte agus an Aonadh Eòrpach ann an co-theacsa reachdas èiginneach a' buntainn ris an RA a bhith a' fàgail an Aonaidh Eòrpaich.

Part 4 | Pàirt 4

January 2021 to March 2021

Faoilleach 2021 gu Màrt 2021

Procedures

On 21 and 26 January the digital voting system was used successfully in wholly virtual meetings of the Parliament. It was the first time that members voted entirely virtually from locations throughout Scotland. Votes taken wholly virtually included the stage 1 votes on the Culpable Homicide (Scotland) Bill and the Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill. This further development enabled the Parliament to continue to scrutinise legislation and hold the Scottish Government to account while maintaining the safety of members and staff.

The Citizens Assembly of Scotland

Scotland's Citizens Assembly, a broadly representative group of 100 people from across Scotland resourced by the Scottish Government but totally independent of it, published its report in February. The assembly had discussed what kind of country we should seek to build, how best to overcome the challenges that Scotland faces and how to enable people to make informed choices about the future of the country. The Presiding Officer hosted an online meeting with members of the assembly to share and discuss the report, which was also debated in the Parliament.

Modhan-obrach

Air 21 agus 26 Faoilleach chaidh an siostam bhòtaidh didseatach a chleachdadh gu soirbheachail ann an coinneamhan gu tur bhiortail den Phàrlamaid. B' e seo a' chiad turas a bhòt buill gu tur bhiortail bho àiteachan air feadh na h-Alba. Am measg nam bhòtaichean a ghabhadh gu bhiortail bha bhòtaichean ìre 1 air Bile Marbhadh le Còire (Alba) agus Bile Sgrùdaidhean Post-mortem (Crìoch Ùine Dion) (Alba). Thug an leasachadh a bharrachd seo cothrom don Phàrlamaid cumail oirre a' sgrùdadh reachdas agus a' cumail Riaghaltas na h-Alba cunntachail fhad 's a bha i a' cumail suas sàbhailteachd bhall agus luchd-obrach.

Seanadh Shaoranach na h-Alba

Dh'fhoillsich Seanadh Shaoranach na h-Alba, buidheann fharsaing riochdachail de 100 neach bho air feadh na h-Alba air a mhaoineachadh le Riaghaltas na h-Alba ach gu tur neo-eisimeileach bhuaithe, an aithisg aca sa Ghearran. Bha an seanadh air bruidhinn air dè an seòrsa dùthcha a bu chòir dhuinn a bhith a' feuchainn ri togail, an dòigh as fheàrr air faighinn thairis air na dùbhlain a tha mu choinneimh na h-Alba agus mar as urrainn dhuinn leigeil le daoine roghainnean fiosraichte a dhèanamh mu àm ri teachd na dùthcha. Chùm an t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh coinneamh air-loidhne le buill den t-seanadh gus an aithisg a cho-roinn agus a dheasbad, agus chaidh a deasbad sa Phàrlamaid cuideachd.



MSPs in the chamber
BPA san t-Seòmair


Committee work

The Brexit transition period ended on 31 December, just days after the completion of the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement. This created much work for the Parliament's committees, with some turning their attention to common frameworks to ensure that rules and regulations in certain policy areas would remain consistent across the UK following Brexit. Other committees dealt with the impacts of Brexit. For example, in a specially convened evening session, the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee heard at first hand from those in the fishing, meat production and logistics industries about the impact of the new requirements on exports and supply chains.

Committees also continued exploring the effects of the pandemic and scrutinising the relevant regulations. The COVID-19 Committee convened a citizens panel to consider what priorities should shape the Scottish Government's approach to Covid-19 restrictions and strategy.

Four committees also responded to the Scottish Government's climate change plan update, published in December, taking evidence from ministers and others on how Scotland's climate change goals connect with plans for a green recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

As the session drew to a close, many committees published their legacy papers, setting out the work they had done and recommending actions for their successors to consider.

 **For more information about a committee, click on its link in the list opposite.**

Obair comataidh

Thàinig ùine thar-gluasaid Brexit gu crìch air 31 Dùbhlachd, dìreach làithean às dèidh crìoch Aonta Malairt is Co-obrachaidh Aonadh Eòrpaich-Rìoghachd Aonaichte. Dh'adhbharaich seo mòran obrach do chomataidhean na Pàrlamaid, le cuid a' cur aire air frèaman-obrach coitcheann gus dèanamh cinnteach gum fuiricheadh riaghlaidhean agus riaghailtean cunbhalach ann an cuid de raointean poileasaidh air feadh na RA às dèidh Brexit. Dhèilig comataidhean eile ri buaidhean Brexit. Mar eisimpleir, ann an seisean feasgair a chaidh a ghairm gu sònraichte, chuala a' Chomataidh Eaconamaidh Dhùthchail agus Co-cheangailteachd bho dhaoine ann an gnìomhachasan an iasgaich, giollachd feòla agus logastachd mu bhuidh nan riatanasan ùra air às-mhalairt agus sèineachan solair.

Chùm comataidhean cuideachd a' sgrùdadh buaidh a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte agus a' sgrùdadh nan riaghailtean buntainneach. Stèidhich Comataidh COVID-19 pannal shaoranach gus beachdachadh air dè na prìomhachasan a bu chòir dòigh-obrach Riaghaltas na h-Alba a stiùireadh a thaobh cuingeadan agus ro-innleachd Covid-19.

Fhreagair ceithir comataidhean cuideachd ri ùrachadh plana atharrachadh gnàth-thìde an Riaghaltas na h-Alba, a chaidh fhoillseachadh san Dùbhlachd, a' tional fianais bho mhinistearan agus feadhainn eile air mar a tha amasan atharrachadh gnàth-thìde na h-Alba a' ceangal ri planaichean airson ath-bheothachadh uaine bhon ghalar lèir-sgaoilte.

Mar a bha an seisean a' tighinn gu crìch, dh'fhoillsich mòran chomataidhean na pàipearan dileib aca, a' mìneachadh na h-obrach a bha iad air a dhèanamh agus a' moladh ghnìomhan air am faodadh an fheadhainn a leanas iad a bhith a' beachdachadh.

 **Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu chomataidh, cliog air an ainm aice air an liosta mu choinneamh seo.**

 **Committee
Legacy Report**
Aithisg Dhileib
Comataidh

 **Committee
Annual Report**
Aithisg Bhliadhna
Comataidh

**Committee on the
Scottish Government
Handling of Harassment
Complaints**
Comataidh air
Làimhseachadh Riaghaltas
na h-Alba air Gearanan
Sàrachaidh

COVID-19 Committee
Comataidh COVID-19

**Culture, Tourism, Europe
and External Affairs
Committee**
Comataidh Cultar,
Turasachd, na Roinn
Eòrpa agus Cùisean
Taobh A-muigh



**Delegated Powers and
Law Reform Committee**
Comataidh Chumhachdan
Tiomnaichte agus
Ath-leasachadh Lagha

**Economy, Energy and
Fair Work Committee**
Comataidh Eaconamaidh,
Lùths is Obair
Chothromach

**Education and Skills
Committee**
Comataidh Foghlam is
Sgilean

**Environment, Climate
Change and Land
Reform Committee**
Comataidh
na h-Àrainneachd,
Atharrachadh Gnàth-thìde
agus Ath-leasachadh
Fearann



**Equalities and Human
Rights Committee**
Comataidh
Co-ionannachd is
Còraichean Daonna

**Finance and Constitution
Committee**
Comataidh Ionmhais
agus Bun-stèidh

**Health and Sport
Committee**
Comataidh Slàinte
is Spòrs

Justice Committee
Comataidh a' Cheartais



**Justice Sub-Committee
on Policing**
Fo-chomataidh
a' Cheartais air Obair
a' Phoilis

**Local Government and
Communities Committee**
Comataidh
Riaghaltas Ionadail is
Chòimhearsnachdan

**Public Audit and
Post-legislative Scrutiny
Committee**
Comataidh Sgrùdadh
Poblach agus
Iar-reachdail

**Public Petitions
Committee**
Comataidh nan
Athchuingean Poblach



**Rural Economy and
Connectivity Committee**
Comataidh Eaconamaidh
Dhùthchail is
Co-cheangailteachd

**Social Security
Committee**
Comataidh
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta

**Solicitors in the Supreme
Courts of Scotland
(Amendment) Bill
Committee**
Comataidh Bile
Shoilisitairean ann am
Prìomh Chùirtean
na h-Alba (Atharrachadh)

**Standards, Procedures
and Public
Appointments
Committee**
Comataidh Inbhean,
Dhòighean-obrach is
Cur-an-dreuchd Poblach



Legislation

The final weeks of the parliamentary session saw rising levels of legislative business. A total of 12 bills—seven introduced by the Scottish Government, two by committees and three by members—went through their third stage during March, including the historic United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, to make Scotland the first of the four UK nations to bring the UNCRC into its national law.

One of those bills addressed Scotland's past: the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill established a system of redress payments for those who were abused while in the care of the state. In allowing organisations involved with residential care of children in the past to pay financial contributions to the scheme and providing survivors of abuse with other practical and emotional support, the bill is an important part of the process of facing up to the wrongs of the past with compassion.

Another of those bills—the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill—provides important new protections in the present. It gives police the powers to provide immediate protection for a short time for a victim of domestic abuse to keep them safe while they work out what to do next. It also provides additional protection to people in social housing who experience domestic abuse and enables landlords to apply to the court to end the tenancy rights of someone who has been abusive to their partner or ex-partner.

At the same time, the Parliament continued to plan for the coming election in the unique context of Covid-19. The Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill allowed for adjustments to the usual election process. The bill created more time to process an expected high level of requests for postal votes, and allowed for the possibility of an all-postal election or of polling being run over multiple days. While parliamentary business ended in late March, the Parliament was not dissolved until the day before the election, thereby allowing the possibility of recalls to deal with urgent Covid-related matters and even, had circumstances demanded, the postponement of the election. Although a number of the powers created by the bill were not used, they provided flexibility in a rapidly changing situation.

Reachdas

Annas na seachdainean mu dheireadh de sheisean na Pàrlamaid bha an uiread gnothach reachdail ag èirigh. Chaidh 11 bilean uile gu lèir – sia a thug Riaghaltas na h-Alba a-steach, dhà le comataidhean agus trì le buill – tron treas ìre aca sa Mhàrt, a' gabhail a-steach am bile eachdraidheil Bile Cùmhnant nan Dùthchannan Aonaichte air Còraichean an Leanaibh (Corpachadh) (Alba), a' fàgail gur e Alba a' chaid tè de na ceithir nàiseanan san RA gus an UNCRC a thoirt a-steach dhan lagh nàiseanta aice.

Bha bile eile a' dèiligeadh ri Alba san àm a chaidh seachad. Stèidhich am Bile Diolaidh do Luchd-fulaing (Droch Dhìol Cloinne ann an Cùram) (Alba) siostam de phàighidhean diolaidh dhaibhsan a dh'fhuiling droch dhìol nuair a bha iad fo chùram na stàite. Le bhith a' leigeil le buidhnean a bha an sàs ann an cùram còmhnaidheach cloinne san àm a dh'fhalbh airgead a phàigheadh don sgeama agus taic phragtaigeach is fhaireachail eile a thoirt do dhaoine a thàinig tro dhroch dhìol, tha am bile na phàirt chudromach den pròiseas de bhith a' cur aghaidh ri eucoirean an ama a dh'fhalbh le truacantas.

Gus luchd-fulaing droch dhìol san dachaigh a dhìon san latha seo fhèin, tha Bile Droch Dhìol san Dachaigh (Dìon) (Alba) a' libhrigeadh dìon cudromach ùr san latha an-diugh. Cho math ri bhith a' toirt chumhachdan don phoileas cuideigin a dhìon sa bhad airson ùine ghoirid ma tha iad a' fulang droch dhìol san dachaigh airson an cumail sàbhailte fhad 's a bhios iad ag obair a-mach dè an ath rud a nì iad tha e cuideachd a' toirt dìon a bharrachd do dhaoine ann an taigheadas sòisealta a tha a' fulang droch dhìol san dachaigh. Tha e a' toirt comas do dh'uaighdarain tagradh a dhèanamh don chùirt gus crìoch a chur air còraichean gabhaltais cuideigin a rinn droch dhìol air an cèile no an seann-chèile.

Aig an aon àm, lean a' Phàrlamaid air adhart a' planadh airson an taghaidh a bha ri thighinn ann an co-theacsa sònraichte Covid-19. Cheadaich Bile Taghadh Coitcheann na h-Alba (Coròna-bhioras) atharrachaidhean air a' phròiseas taghaidh àbhaisteach. libhrig am bile barrachd ùine gus ìre àrd de dh'iarritasan airson bhòtaichean puist a làimhseachadh, agus cothrom taghadh a dhèanamh uile gu lèir tron phost, no bhòt a chumail thairis air grunn làithean nam biodh feum air. Ged a thàinig gnothach na pàrlamaid gu crìch aig deireadh a' Mhàirt, cha deach a' Phàrlamaid a sgaoileadh gus an latha ron taghadh, a' toirt cothrom airson a gairm air ais gus dèiligeadh ri cùisean èiginneach co-cheangailte ri Covid agus eadhon, nam feumar, an taghadh a chur dheth. Ged nach deach grunn de na cumhachdan a chruthaich am bile a chleachdadh, bhuilich iad sùbailteachd ann an suidheachadh a bha ag atharrachadh gu luath.

International engagement

International engagement adapted to the circumstances created by the pandemic. Although visits in person were not possible, this was still a busy and productive year for the Parliament internationally. Between May 2020 and May 2021, the Presiding Officers and members took part in almost 50 video engagements with international partners, including the following:

- Discussions, via video call, between the Presiding Officer and colleagues from legislatures around the world on how parliaments were responding to Covid-19, through measures such as remote participation and meetings and online voting. Parliament officials also participated in virtual discussions organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy on strategic planning and business resilience.
- Deputy Presiding Officer Linda Fabiani MSP contributed to a virtual meeting of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly steering committee and, along with MSPs John Scott, Pauline McNeill and Willie Coffey, took part in the first ever virtual plenary of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, hosted by the Oireachtas.
- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), including Margaret Mitchell MSP and Dr Claire Baker MSP participating in the work of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, and Stuart McMillan MSP participating in virtual meetings of the CPA executive committee.
- Jeremy Balfour MSP contributed to several discussions on how parliaments can be made more accessible for members with disabilities.
- Deputy Presiding Officer Linda Fabiani MSP participated in a leadership programme for young women organised by Running Start, a US non-partisan organisation, and in a conference organised by the Parliament of Catalonia on gender-sensitive parliaments. She also met women members from legislatures in Québec, Belgium, Wales and Catalonia to share experience of the Parliament's Young Women Lead programme, which focuses on increasing political participation by women aged 30 and under living in Scotland.
- Gillian Martin MSP, convener of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee, took part in a virtual Q&A session arranged by the Arctic Circle.
- Angela Constance MSP participated in the newly established Committee of the Regions contact group, which connects local and regional leaders with the work of the European Parliament.
- The Presiding Officer took part in webinars on Scottish political and constitutional issues with Harvard University, Boston College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Canadian Federal Parliament.
- The Presiding Officer also discussed interparliamentary relations with the Nordic Council and the parliaments of Lower Saxony, Bavaria and Québec, and participated in events on New York's virtual Tartan Day.



Conaltradh eadar-nàiseanta

Dh'atharraich conaltradh eadar-nàiseanta air sgàth suidheachadh a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte. Ged nach robh e comasach tadhal gu pearsanta, b' e bliadhna thrang agus tàbhachdach a bha seo don Phàrlamaid gu h-eadar-nàiseanta. Ghabh na h-Oifigearan Riaghlaidh agus buill pàirt ann am faisg air 50 ceangal bhidio le com-pàirtichean eadar-nàiseanta, nam measg

- Còmhraidhean, tro ghairm bhidio, eadar an t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh agus co-obraichean bho reachdadaireachdan air feadh an t-saoghail a bha a' cuimseachadh air mar a bha Pàrlamaidean a' dèiligeadh ri Covid-19, tro cheuman mar eisimpleir com-pàirteachadh agus coinneamhan iomallach agus bhòtadh air-loidhne. Ghabh oifigearan na Pàrlamaid pàirt cuideachd ann an còmhraidhean bhiortail air an cur air dòigh le Stèidheachd Deamocrasaidh Westminster air dealbhadh ro-innleachdail agus foghainteachd gnìomhachais.
- Chuir an Leas-oifigear Riaghlaidh Linda Fabiani BPA ri coinneamh bhiortail de chomataidh stiùiridh Seanadh Pàrlamaid Bhreatainn-Èirinn agus, còmhla ri BPA John Scott, Pauline NicNèill agus Uilleam Ó Cobhthaigh ghabh iad pàirt anns a' chiad làn-choinneamh bhiortail de Sheanadh Pàrlamaid Bhreatainn-Èirinn a chumadh leis an Oireachtas.
- Chaidh pàirt ghnìomhach a ghabhail ann an Comann Pàrlamaideach a' Cho-fhlaitheis le Mairead Mitchell BPA agus an Dr Claire Baker BPA a' gabhail pàirt ann an obair Luchd-pàrlamaid Boireann a' Cho-fhlaitheis, agus Stiùbhart MacMhaoilein BPA a' gabhail pàirt ann an coinneamhan bhiortail de chomataidh stiùiridh CPC.
- Chuir Jeremy Balfour BPA ri grunn dheasbadan air mar as urrainn do Phàrlamaidean a bhith nas ruigsinnich do bhuill le ciorraman.
- Ghabh Leas-oifigear Riaghlaidh Linda Fabiani pàirt ann am prògram ceannais do bhoireannaich òga air a chur air dòigh le Running Start, buidheann neo-phàirteach sna Stàitean Aonaichte, agus ann an co-labhairt a chuir Pàrlamaid Chatalonia air dòigh mu Phàrlamaidean a tha mothachail air gnè. Choinnich i cuideachd ri boireannaich a bha nam buill de reachdadaireachdan ann an Québec, a' Bheilg, a' Chuimrigh agus Catalonia gus eòlas a cho-roinn air prògram Ceannardas Bhoireannach Òga na Pàrlamaid, a tha ag amas air com-pàirteachadh poiliteigeach a mheudachadh le boireannaich aois 30 agus nas òige a tha a' fuireach ann an Alba.
- Ghabh Gillian Mhàrtainn BPA, neach-gairm Comataidh na h-Àrainneachd, Atharrachadh Gnàth-thìde agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn, pàirt ann an seisean cheistean bhiortail air a chur air dòigh le Cearcall na h-Artaig.
- Ghabh Angela Constance BPA pàirt ann am buidheann conaltraidh Comataidh nan Roinnean a chaidh a stèidheachadh às ùr, a tha a' ceangal cheannardan ionadail agus roinneil ri obair Pàrlamaid na h-Eòrpa.
- Ghabh an t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh pàirt ann an co-labhairtean lìn air cùisean poiliteigeach agus bun-reachdail na h-Alba le Oilthigh Harvard, Colaiste Boston, Institiùd Teicneòlais Massachusetts agus Pàrlamaid Feadarail Chanada.
- Bhruidhinn an t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh cuideachd mu dhàimhean eadar-phàrlamaideach leis a' Chomhairle Nòrdach agus le Pàrlamaidean Saxony Iarach, Bavaria agus Québec, agus ghabh e pàirt ann an tachartasan air Latha a' Bhreacain bhiortail aig New York.



Presiding Officer
Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP

An t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh
am Fìor Urr Ken Mac an Tòisich BPA

The end of the session

Thirty-four members decided not to stand for re-election this year, including 13 who had been members since the first Scottish Parliament in 1999. Among those leaving were four cabinet secretaries, Presiding Officer the Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, and Deputy Presiding Officers Linda Fabiani MSP and Lewis Macdonald MSP.

Members' final speeches included thanks to their families and staff, references to principles defended and battles won, and warm memories of offices shared, babies admired, and career-long friendships strengthened by common causes and shared dinners.

The session closed with the party leaders speaking on a motion of thanks to the Presiding Officer for session 5, the Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, for his years of service to the Parliament, followed by his own thanks and his observations on the role of the Parliament in Scottish public life.

The Parliament entered recess on 24 March, but was recalled on 12 April for a motion of condolence following the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

Deireadh an t-seisein

Cho-dhùin trithead 's a ceithir buill gun a bhith a' seasamh airson ath-thaghadh am-bliadhna, nam measg 13 a bha air a bhith nam buill bhon chiad Phàrlamaid na h-Alba ann an 1999. Am measg na bha a' fàgail bha ceithir rùnairean caibineit, an t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh am Fìor Urr Ken Mac an Tòisich BPA, agus Leas-oifigearan Riaghlaidh Linda Fabiani BPA agus Lewis Dòmhnallach BPA.

Bha òraidean deireannach nam ball a' gabhail a-steach taing do na teaghaichean agus an luchd-obrach aca, iomradh air na prionnsapalan a sheas iad agus na blàran a bhuannaich iad, cuimhneachain bhlàtha air oifisean a roinn iad le daoine eile, dealbhan de bhèibidhean brèagha, agus càirdeas fad-beatha air a neartachadh le amasan coitcheann agus dinnearan còmhla.

Thàinig an seisean gu crìch le ceannardan pàrtaidh a' bruidhinn air gluasad taing don Oifigear Riaghlaidh airson seisean 5, Am Fìor Urr. Ken Mac an Tòisich BPA, airson a bhliadhnaichean de sheirbheis don Phàrlamaid, air a leantainn le a thaing fhèin agus a bheachdan air àite na Pàrlamaid ann am beatha phoblach na h-Alba.

Chaidh a' Phàrlamaid na fosadh air 24 Màrt, ach chaidh a h-ais-ghairm air 12 Giblean airson gluasad co-fharachdainn às dèidh bàs A Mhòrachd Diùc Dhùn Èideann.

Thirty-four MSPs from different parties chose not to seek re-election this year. They are pictured below.

Cho-dhùin trithead 's a ceithir buill bho phàrtaidhean eadar-dhealaichte gun a bhith a' seasamh airson ath-thaghadh am-bliadhna. Tha an dealbhan gu h-ìosal.



Bill Bowman MSP
Bill Bowman BPA



Aileen Campbell MSP
Aileen Chaimbeul BPA



Peter Chapman MSP
Peadar Chapman BPA



Bruce Crawford MSP
Bruce Crawford BPA



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Ròsanna Choineagan BPA



Rt Hon Ruth Davidson MSP
Am Fìor Urr Ruth Davidson BPA



Linda Fabiani MSP
Linda Fabiani BPA



Mary Fee MSP
Màiri Nic a' Phì BPA



Neil Findlay MSP
Niall Findlay BPA



John Finnie MSP
Iain Ó Finnaí (Finnie) BPA



Jeane Freeman MSP
Jeane Freeman BPA



Iain Gray MSP
Iain Gray BPA



Alison Harris MSP
Alison Harris BPA



Johann Lamont MSP
Johann NicLaomainn BPA



Richard Lyle MSP
Richard Lyle BPA



Angus MacDonald MSP
Aonghas Dòmhnallach BPA



Lewis
Macdonald MSP
Lewis
Dòmhnallach BPA



Rt Hon Ken
Macintosh MSP
Am Fìor Urr Ken
Mac an Tòisich BPA



Derek
Mackay MSP
Derek
MacAoidh BPA



Jenny
Marra MSP
Jenny
Marra BPA



Tom
Mason MSP
Tom
Mason BPA



Mark
McDonald MSP
Marc
MacDhòmhnaill BPA



Margaret
Mitchell MSP
Mairead
Mitchell BPA



Alex
Neil MSP
Ailig
Neil BPA



Gil
Paterson MSP
Gil
MacPhàdraig BPA



Gail
Ross MSP
Gail
Ros BPA



Mike
Rumbles MSP
Michael
Rumbles BPA



Michael
Russell MSP
Micheal
Ruiseal BPA



Elaine
Smith MSP
Elaine
Nic a' Ghobhainn BPA



Stewart
Stevenson MSP
Stiùbhart
Stevenson BPA



David
Stewart MSP
Dàibhidh
Stiùbhart BPA



Adam
Tomkins MSP
Adam
Tomkins BPA



Maureen
Watt MSP
Maureen
Watt BPA



Sandra
White MSP
Sandra
White BPA

Gail Ross MSP packs
up her office

Gail Ros BPA a' cur
air falbh nithean bhon
oifis aice



Bills passed between 12 May 2020 and 5 May 2021

Bilean a chaidh gabhail riutha eadar 12 Cèitean 2020 agus 5 Cèitean 2021



Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Bill

Bile Àiteachais (Lagh is Dàta Glèidhte an Aonaidh Eòrpaich) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **26.08.20**



Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Bill

Bile Ainmhidhean is Fiadh-bheatha (Càin, Dion is Cumhachdan) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **17.06.20**



Budget (Scotland) (No.5) Bill

Bile Buidseit (Alba) (Àir.5)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **09.03.21**



Children (Scotland) Bill

Bile na Cloinne (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **25.08.20**



Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

Bile Sgaoileadh Fios (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **10.06.20**



Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Bill

Bile Milleadh Cliù agus Foillseachadh Droch-rùnach (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **02.03.21**



Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill

Bile Coròna-bhiorais (Alba) (Àir.2)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **20.05.20**



Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

Bile Com-pàirteachas Siobhalta (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **23.06.20**



Dogs (Protection of Livestock)
(Amendment) (Scotland) Bill
Bile Chon (Dìon Sprèidh)
(Atharrachadh) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **24.03.21**



Domestic Abuse (Protection)
(Scotland) Bill
Bile Droch Dhiol san Dachaigh
(Dìon) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **17.03.21**



European Charter of Local
Self-Government (Incorporation)
(Scotland) Bill

Bile Cairt Eòrpach air Fèin-riaghladh
Ionadail (Gabhail a-steach) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **23.03.21**



Forensic Medical Services
(Victims of Sexual Offences)
(Scotland) Bill
Bile Sheirbheisean Meidigeach
Foireansach (Luchd-fulaing
Eucoirean Feise) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **10.12.20**



Pre-release Access to Official
Statistics (Scotland) Bill
Bile Cothrom air Staitistearachd
Oifigeil Ro Sgaoileadh (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **04.03.21**



Period Products (Free Provision)
(Scotland) Bill
Bile Bathar Fala-mìos
(Solar An-asgaidh)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **24.11.20**



Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill
Bile Lionraidhean Teas (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **23.02.21**



Hate Crime and Public Order
(Scotland) Bill
Bile Eucoir Gràin agus Òrdugh
Poblach (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **11.03.21**

MAIN ENTRANCE TO POLLING STATION



Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Bill

Bile Dion Luchd-obrach
(Reic agus Bathar is Seirbheisean le
Cuingalachadh Aoise) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **19.01.21**



Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill

Bile Diolaidh do Luchd-fulaing
(Droch Dhìol Cloinne ann an
Cùram) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **11.03.21**



Scottish Elections (Reform) Bill

Bile Taghaidhean na h-Alba
(Ath-leasachadh)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **03.06.20**



Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

Bile Taghadh Coitcheann na h-Alba
(Coròna-bhìoras)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **23.12.20**



Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill

Bile Shoilisitairean ann am
Prìomh Chùirtean na h-Alba
(Atharrachadh)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **03.12.20**



Social Security Administration and Tribunal Membership (Scotland) Bill

Bile Rianachd Tèarainteachd
Shòisealta agus Ballrachd
Tribiunail (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **29.09.20**



Scottish Parliamentary Standards (Sexual Harassment and Complaints Process) Bill

Bile Inbhean Pàrlamaid na h-Alba
(Sàrachadh Feise agus Pròiseas
Gearain)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **04.03.21**



Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Political Parties) Bill

Bile Pàrlamaid na h-Alba (Taic do
Phàrtaidhean Poilitigeach)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **02.02.21**



Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill
Bile Thaighean-seinnse
Ceangailte (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **23.03.21**



UK Withdrawal from the European
Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Bill
Bile Tarraing a-mach na RA bhon
Aonadh Eòrpach (Leantaileachd) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **22.12.20**



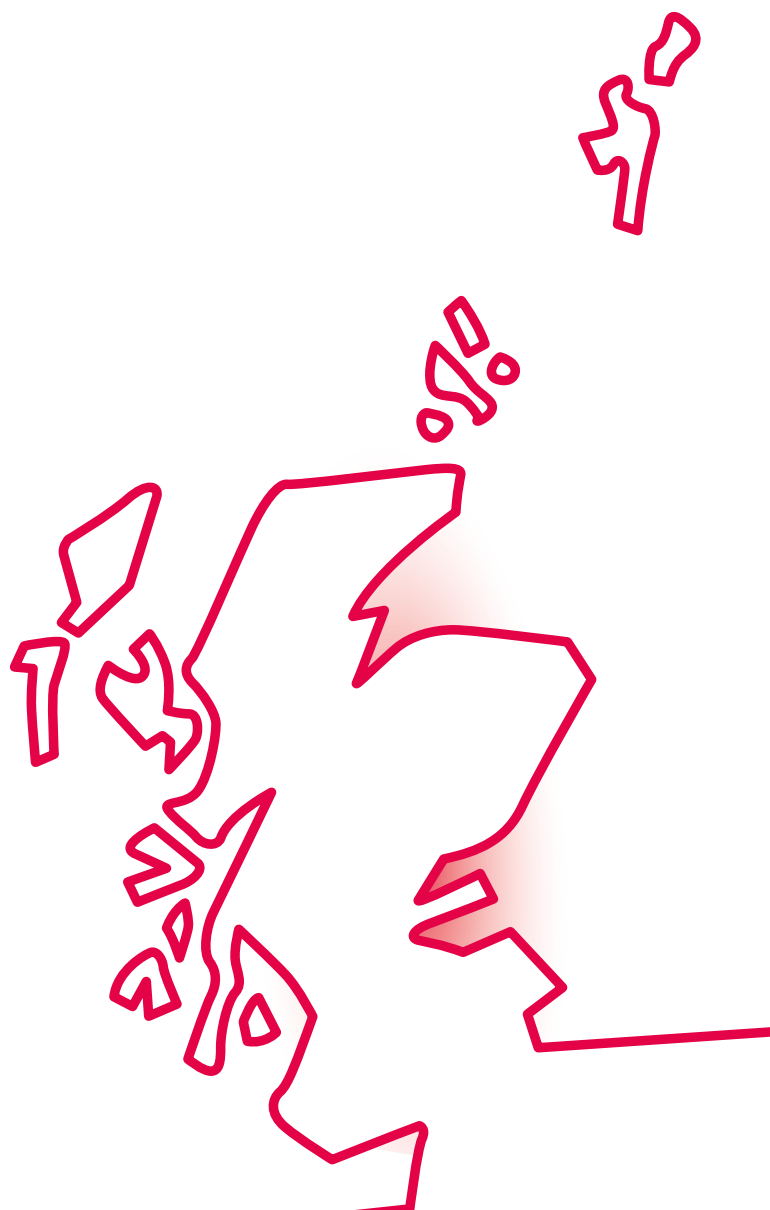
United Nations Convention
on the Rights of the Child
(Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill
Bile Cunradh nan Dùthchannan
Aonaichte air Còraichean Cloinne
(Gabhail a-steach) (Alba)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **16.03.21**



University of St. Andrews
(Degrees in Medicine and
Dentistry) Bill
Bile Oilthigh Chill Ribhinn
(Ceumannan ann an Leigheas is
Fiaclaireachd)

Passed / Air gabhail ris **10.03.21**



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